GENERAL CRITERIA NEEDING MET FOR DOG ON PREMISES VARIANCE

Clark County Public Health

Last revised: June 20, 2019

Background

Per Washington State Retail Food Code WAC 246-215, only service animals are allowed on the premises of a food establishment. General criteria has been established to ensure that any food establishment requesting a variance for allowance of dogs on a patio (or other outdoor area of the food establishment premises) have adequately planned to maintain safe food handling standards and reduce risks imposed by the presence of dogs in outdoor areas of a food establishment.

Minimum Variance Criteria:

- Only dogs may have the use of the patio area; cats, birds, lizards, etc. are not allowed on the premises.
- Signage must be posted to make customers aware that **only service animals** are permitted inside the restaurant.

  Pets and therapy animals are not allowed inside the establishment.
- Signage must be posted to identify dogs must access the patio area of the establishment through a separate entrance. CCPH can provide digital signage.
- Signage must be posted to alert patrons of that dogs are not allowed on any seat, chair, a patron's lap, table, countertop, or similar surface in the outdoor patio area. CCPH can provide digital signage.
- All food and drink preparation must take place within the confines of the establishment. Dogs are not allowed in the vicinity of where outdoor food preparation, including mixing beverages, occurs.
- The outdoor patio must be continuously maintained free of visible dog hair, dog dander and other dog-related waste and debris.
- The outdoor patio shall be hosed down or mopped with animal-friendly chemicals every six hours that the food establishment is open for business.

- Waste created from a dog's bodily functions must be immediately cleaned up with animal-friendly chemicals.
- All dog waste shall be placed in a fly-tight container located adjacent to the patio/outdoor dog area. Dog waste must be disposed of outside of the food establishment in an appropriately covered waste receptacle.
- Each employee must wash hands immediately after touching, petting or otherwise handling any dog. Employees shall not touch, pet or otherwise handle any dog *while* serving food or beverages or handling tableware.
- All dogs shall be kept on a short leash and remain in the control of the customer at all times while on the food establishment premises.
- All dogs shall wear a collar or harness and *have a current license.*
- Dogs shall not be allowed to have any contact with reusable *food service* dishes or utensils. If reusable feeding and watering dishes are use, these are to be washed and filled only in the service (i.e. mop) sink.

Please note

There is a difference between service animals and pets, therapy animals, and emotional support animals. Information and resources are available on our website: https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/animals-food-service-establishments