



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

2525 GRAND AVENUE • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90815 • (562) 570-4000

July 30, 2012

Subject: Approval of Dogs on Outdoor Dining Patios by City Council on July 24, 2012

Dear Food Facility Operator:

On April 17, 2012, the Long Beach City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Health Department to craft a policy that gives restaurant operators the flexibility to allow pet dogs on outdoor patios where food is served to customers. The City Council's request follows the implementation of more flexible policies by other health jurisdictions such as Marin County, Santa Barbara County, Monterey County and, most recently, Los Angeles County. These policies are in response to a greater acceptance of dogs in public places and a greater number of restaurant patrons accompanied by their dogs.

The concept behind the new policy is centered on the definition of food service. Food service normally includes, assembling ingredients (salads, guacamole, etc), plating, portioning, pouring (drinks) and serving. In many cases, the food service on an outdoor patio involves only the handing off of a plate of food. Simply handing a plate to a customer does not constitute the full range of food service and is therefore not prohibited under the Health and Safety Code. The Health Department supported the adoption of this new policy which includes specific sanitary and hygiene requirements for participating facilities and the posting of a "dog-friendly patio" sign or sticker (see attached information).

On July 24, 2012, the Long Beach City Council approved this new policy, to allow dogs on outdoor dining patios. The policy only applies to the outside dining areas of the facility. Pet dogs will not be allowed inside of the facility. The policy is 100 percent voluntary. As such, it will be at the individual restaurant operator's discretion as to whether or not to allow dogs on their patios. It should be noted that police dogs and service dogs will still be permitted in customer areas of food facilities under the new policy.

Color copies of the Dog-Friendly Patio sign and informational handouts are available online at: <http://www.longbeach.gov/health/eh/food/default.asp>

Dog friendly outdoor dining window stickers are being developed and will be distributed when available. Please e-mail us at foodinspectors@longbeach.gov with your name and food facility address if you are interested in a window sticker.

Please contact me at 562-570-4144 or e-mail me at Jackie.hampton@longbeach.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jackie Hampton

Jackie Hampton, REHS
Food Program Supervisor
Bureau of Environmental Health