



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Office of Health Protection

Pet Dogs in Designated Outdoor Dining Areas

Unless the local municipal or county government has adopted ordinances to the contrary, and acknowledging exemptions for service animals in indoor or outdoor dining areas of food establishments, pet dogs may be permitted in designated outside areas of a food establishment, provided, however:

1. The facility:
 - a. Completes an application requesting a variance to allow pet dogs in a designated outdoor area;
 - b. Pays the re-inspection fee set forth in MSDH Food Protection regulations (Title 15, Part 13, Subpart 75, Chapter 5, Rule 5.1.1);
 - c. Passes a full site inspection ensuring the facility is also in compliance with the requirements listed below for pet dogs in designated outdoor areas; and
 - d. Agrees to be classified as a Risk Level 4 facility as long as it allows pet dogs in designated outdoor areas due to the potential of cross-contamination and assumes the costs and inspection frequency associated with a Risk Level 4 facility.
2. Written procedures are maintained at the food establishment that include:
 - a. A diagram of the designated outdoor area for dogs;
 - b. The establishment's procedure for assuring that employees do not touch, pet, or otherwise handle pet dogs and for immediately cleaning accidents involving dog waste. The procedure must also describe the location of the materials and equipment necessary to clean up accidents involving dog waste; and
 - c. The establishment's procedure for notifying employees and patrons of the requirements of this policy.
3. Other than service dogs, no dog shall be present in the interior of any restaurant or in any area where food is prepared;
4. The food establishment shall have the right to refuse to serve the owner of a dog if the owner fails to exercise reasonable control over the dog or the pet dog is otherwise behaving in a manner that compromises or threatens to compromise the health or safety of any person present in the food establishment;
5. The person in charge shall not permit dogs to physically contact food, serving dishes, utensils, tableware, linens, unwrapped single-service and single-use articles or other food service items that may result in contamination of food or food-contact surfaces and shall not permit animals to physically contact employees engaged in the preparation or handling of food;



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6. All tableware used for the designated outdoor area shall be restricted to single-service or single-use articles;
7. The person in charge shall instruct employees and patrons that dogs shall not be allowed to come into contact with serving dishes, utensils, tableware, linens, paper products or any other items involved in food service operations. Employees shall wash hands after any contact with dogs, dog supplies, and dog waste;
8. Patrons shall keep their dogs on a leash at all times and keep their dogs under reasonable control;
9. Dogs shall not be allowed on tables, chairs or other furnishings;
10. Tables and chairs located in the designated outdoor area shall be easily cleanable. Cleaning supplies and sanitizers shall be provided and stored in the designated outdoor area for exclusive use in the designated outdoor area;
11. The person in charge shall ensure that any accidents involving dog waste are cleaned immediately and the area sanitized with an approved product. A kit with the appropriate materials for this purpose shall be stored in the designated outdoor area. Pet waste shall be removed immediately, and the area shall be cleaned and sanitized;
12. A covered refuse container shall be located in the designated outdoor area and shall be used exclusively to store all pet waste generated by the designated outdoor area;
13. The permit holder shall post signs at the entrance of all dining areas stating the facility is dog-friendly and has a designated outdoor area for dogs, that dogs are only allowed in the designated outdoor area, and dogs may only access the designated outdoor area from an outside entrance; and
14. Pet dogs shall not be permitted to travel through indoor or non-designated portions of the food establishment, and ingress and egress to the designated outdoor portions of the food establishment shall not require entrance into nor passage through any indoor area of the food establishment.

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