



Application and List of Requirements for Food Establishments Seeking to Permit Dogs in Outdoor Eating Areas

1. Establishment Name: _____
2. Address: _____
3. Account Number: _____
4. Contact Name: _____
5. Contact Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____
6. Contact e-mail address: _____

This application is to inform the Houston Health Department of the above-named establishment's intention to begin allowing dogs onto their patio, in accordance with Section 437.025 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as altered by Senate Bill 476 from the 86th session of the Texas Legislature. The application must be submitted with a non-refundable preoperational inspection fee of \$130.78 (2021). An inspection will be conducted to determine compliance with the conditions of these requirements.

If pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 437.025, the health officer grants approval to allow dogs to be present in the outdoor patio area of a food establishment, the food establishment shall comply with the following conditions to ensure that a health hazard or nuisance will not result from the presence of dogs:

- a. Except as allowed under 20-21.28 (f) (2), no dog may be present inside the food establishment or on any playground area of the food establishment.
- b. A separate entrance must be provided from the outside of the food establishment to the outdoor patio so that a dog will have direct access to the patio without entering the interior of the food establishment or any playground area of the food establishment.
- c. An approved sign shall be posted at the front entrance of the food establishment so that it is easily visible to the public. The sign must state: "DOG FRIENDLY PATIO: DOG ACCESS TO OUTDOOR PATIO ONLY." The sign shall also include "To report violations, contact Houston Department of Health and Human Services at 832-393-5100."
- d. Doors at all entrances to the outdoor patio from the interior of the food establishment must be equipped with self-closing devices and kept closed when not in use.

- e. No food preparation may be performed in the outdoor patio area, except that a beverage glass may be filled on the patio from a pitcher or other container that has been filled or otherwise prepared inside the food establishment.
- f. Hand sanitizer shall be available to customers and employees in the "Dog Friendly Patio."
- g. The outdoor patio must be continuously maintained free of visible dog hair, dog dander, and other dog-related waste or debris. The outdoor patio must be cleaned with animal friendly chemicals at the beginning of each shift during which food or beverages will be served. Waste created from a dog's bodily functions must be removed and cleaned with animal friendly chemicals immediately after each occurrence. Appropriate materials for this purpose shall be kept near the designated outdoor area. All dog waste shall be placed in insect and rodent proof containers located adjacent to the patio and must be disposed of outside of the food establishment in an approved covered waste receptacle. Equipment used to clean the outdoor patio must be kept outside of the food establishment.
- h. While on duty, wait staff, bus staff, or other food handlers at the food establishment may not pet or have contact with any dog.
- i. A dog must be kept on a leash and remain in the control of the customer while in the outdoor patio area. The dog must have proof of current rabies vaccination. The dog must also have a current license issued by the local jurisdiction where the dog resides. Contact the Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC) at 713-229-7300 for information about a City of Houston Dog License. Any human bite from a dog shall be reported to BARC.
- j. A dog is not allowed on a seat, table, countertop, or any other surfaces that customers use in the outdoor patio area.
- k. A dog is not allowed to have contact with any dishes or utensils used for food service or preparation at the food establishment.
- l. Food establishment personnel may not serve any food to the dog. Kibble, biscuits, and edible treats may be given to the dog by the customer. Water for dogs shall be provided by the food establishment in a disposable container.

I hereby certify that the above-named food establishment will comply with the above conditions and standards and any other conditions and standards that may be established by the health officer for the application. I also understand that dogs are not allowed on the patio(s) until this application is approved. If the application is approved and the permit holder/person-in-charge fails to comply with the standards and conditions established by the health officer, the health officer reserves the authority to remove authorization / issue citations.

Applicant Name (PRINT)

Applicant Signature

Date

Below this line for HHD use only

Date Received: _____ Received by: _____

Pre-operational inspection invoice #: _____ Payment Received: _____

Inspection Conducted by: _____ Date: _____

Approval Granted Signature: _____ Date granted: _____

Approval Denied Signature: _____ Date denied: _____

Reason(s) for Denial: _____

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