

Guidance on New Ohio Law,  
Effective October 29, 2018:

# Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas



## Beginning October 29, 2018, owners of licensed food facilities (restaurants, markets, grocery stores, etc.) in Ohio are permitted to allow dogs in the outdoor dining areas.

Licensed food facilities that wish to allow dogs in the outdoor dining area **must comply** with the following standards in the new law:

- **Adopt and enforce a policy** that requires patrons to control their dogs by leash or other means while in the outdoor dining area.
- **Dogs may not go through the interior** of the facility to get to the outdoor dining area.
- **Comply with ALL sanitation standards**, including cleanliness and maintenance of the outdoor dining area; hand washing; handling and storage of food, equipment and utensils; and washing and sanitizing of equipment and utensils.
- **Dogs must be properly vaccinated** as required by state and local laws.

*Note: Service animals are permitted to enter licensed food facilities as specified in Ohio Administrative Code.*

The following additional guidance is encouraged:

- **Have supplies and materials available to clean up** urine, feces or other matter from the outdoor dining area.
- **Require employees to wash their hands** after touching or feeding a dog; cleaning up urine, feces, vomit or other matter; and as required by the food code.
- **Do not allow dogs to enter areas** located in an outdoor dining area that are used for food preparation or for storage of food, equipment, utensils, single use items and single use articles.
- **Report any dog bites that occur** in an outdoor dining area to the local health department.
- **Develop written policies** for patrons and employees to follow, including information on cleaning of dog waste, controlling of dogs, posting of signage that includes a statement about allowing dogs in outdoor dining areas, local health department and local dog warden contacts, and rules of conduct.

**Questions?** Contact Columbus Public Health at 614-645-7005 or [health@columbus.gov](mailto:health@columbus.gov).