



GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF DOGS IN OUTDOOR DINING AREAS

As Boston continues to become a more dog friendly city the Inspectional Services Department's Health Division is expanding its dog friendly policy to include restaurant establishments and beer gardens to ensure safe spaces where dog owners and their pets can enjoy Boston's numerous restaurants. All restaurants and beer gardens with outdoor space in Boston can now apply for a new **Dog Friendly Spaces** variance.

This guide will provide you with a list of rules and regulations the restaurant establishments, beer gardens and staff must follow and also the dog owners responsibilities.

Requirements

Restaurant establishments and beer gardens must fill out the checklist and receive a variance from Boston Inspectional Services Department prior to permitting patrons' dogs on the premises. To be approved, establishments must provide the Health Division with a clear diagram and a description of the outdoor dining area to be designated as a Dog Friendly Space. The diagram (which must be accurate and to scale but does not need to be prepared by a licensed design professional), must include the following:

- The dimensions of the designated outdoor dog friendly area;
- The number and placement of tables, chairs, and restaurant equipment, as applicable;
- All entryways and exits for the designated outdoor dog friendly area (to include dog areas and any non-dog areas, including back of house spaces);
- Any and all fences or other physical barriers in the designated outdoor dog friendly area;
- The surrounding property lines and public right-of-way, including sidewalks and common pathways; •
- Any other pertinent information relating to the designated outdoor dog friendly area.

Once all pertinent information has been submitted and the waiver has been approved, the owner/manager of the establishment must comply with the following:

- Employees cannot touch a dog while working
- Tables must be clean and sanitized after every use
- The owner of the establishment must provide signage indicating the area is a dog friendly zone •
- Tableware cannot be stored in dog friendly areas
- Preset tableware is not allowed in dog friendly area
- Food prep is not allowed in "dog friendly zone" (includes food, beverage and ice)

The owner/manager of the establishment must provide outdoor accommodations, including but not limited to:

- Provide waterless hand sanitizer on every table
- Designate trash can for waste
- Serve dogs water (only) in bowls provided by dog owners or in single use containers
 - Dogs are not permitted to enter the interior of restaurants, unless they are licensed service dogs.



Dog owners responsibilities

For the safety of your pet, other diners and dogs we ask all dog owners follow the guidelines listed below:

- Bring a disposable water bowl (*recommended*)
- Make sure your dog is controlled on a leash or pet carrier at all times
- Dogs are not permitted to eat off of plates
- Dogs must have all required [licenses](#) and rabies vaccinations
- Dogs are not allowed on the table nor chairs



Learn [rules and regulations](#) of owning a pet in the City.



Health Division

Date Requested: _____
 Name of Establishment: _____
 Name of Owner: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____

S: Satisfactory N: Needs Improvement

Item	Entrance	S	N
1	Separate entrance for dog permitted area		
2	Entrance clearly labeled with "Dog Friendly Zone" or similar language		
3	Entrance labeled with Rules and Regulations		
	Outdoor accommodations		
4	Dog friendly area must be outside and well ventilated		
5	No tableware stored in dog friendly area		
6	No preset tableware on tables in dog friendly area		
7	No food prep in dog friendly area (food, beverage or ice)		
8	Dogs being served only water by restaurant in owners bowl or single use container		
9	Tables equipped with waterless hand sanitizer		
10	Designated trash cans present for dog waste, accessible to but away from diners		
	Employee/Patron Responsibilities		
11	No dog/employee contact, immediate handwashing if employee contact made with dog		
12	Employees have access to kit equipped with all needed cleaning materials		
13	Proper cleaning of tables, chairs and area around table after each use		
14	Employee responsible for sanitizing area immediately		
15	Tables, chairs and area around table cleaned after each use		
	Dog Requirement		

16	Evidence of current license and rabies shot for each animal		
17	Dog leashed at all times, not fastened to table		
18	No dogs allowed on chairs, benches, tables etc.		

Listed below are the specific improvements which must be made prior to permit recommendation by Boston Inspectional Services Department, Health Division.

Description of items needing improvement:

Inspector Signature: _____



Variance

Dog Friendly Space Request Form

Date: _____
 Establishment Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Owner: _____
 Phone No. _____ Fax No. _____

I request a variance of 105CR 590:00 Chapter 6 Section 501.115
 Paragraph _____. For the Following reason(s):

I attest that the above stated information is true: _____
 Owner's Signature

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Your request for a variance has not been approved for the following reason(s):

Your request for a variance has been approved with the following stipulation(s):

However, if in the future you extensively remodel the establishment or have a change of ownership, this variance approval is voided.

 Reviewed by Director

 Health Division Supervisor

Please email completed form to isdhealth@boston.gov