

# Tips for Dog Owners: Dining with Your Dog

**Beginning in January 2015, some restaurants in Contra Costa County have the option to allow pet dogs in outdoor dining or patio areas. If you would like to visit a restaurant with your pet, these tips can help ensure a safe and pleasant dining experience for everyone.**

## Before You Go

- Make sure that the restaurant allows dogs. Businesses have the right to allow or prohibit dogs in outdoor dining areas.
- Consider your dog's personality. Do they behave well in crowded spaces full of movement, people and other dogs? Aggressive, nervous or untrained dogs are probably not a good fit.
- Please only bring clean, well-groomed dogs to restaurants.
- Walk your dog beforehand to avoid accidents.
- Remember, the new law only allows for pet dogs, not other animals, at the restaurant.
- Do not walk your dog through the restaurant. A separate patio entrance should be provided.
- Always follow the restaurant's rules for dogs.
- Make sure your dog is leashed or in a pet container at all times.
- Be responsible for your pet's behavior – it is not enough to say “don't touch” or “keep away.”
- NEVER tie a leash to a table (your dog might spill food and drink if it moves the table).
- Tie the leash to your chair, making sure your dog is out of the way of servers and customers.
- Dogs are not allowed on chairs or other furniture.
- Do not let your dog eat or drink from glassware, dishware or utensils. The restaurant will provide separate dishes for pets.
- If your dog has an accident, immediately clean up the mess and notify the restaurant staff so they can do the necessary additional cleanup afterwards.
- Avoid feeding your dog from your plate. Remember that not all food is safe for pets.

## Questions?

For more information, contact Contra Costa Environmental Health at 925-608-5500 or visit [cchealth.org/eh](http://cchealth.org/eh)

