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 925-692-2500 or visit cchealth.org/eh