



ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health Division

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Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, FACPM
Health Director

Application Guidelines for Dog Friendly Outdoor Dining Area

1. Name of Restaurant: _____
2. Name of Permit Holder: _____
3. Restaurant location: _____
4. Mailing address: _____
5. Name/telephone for contact person: _____
6. E-mail address: _____
7. The permit holder hereby applies for a variance from the provisions of 12 VAC 5-421-3310(A) and Alexandria City Code 11-2-3(a): FDA Food Code 6-501.115(A), in order to [check as many as apply]:

- A. Permit patrons' dogs on the restaurant premises, in that portion of the outdoor dining area designated on the attached diagram as "dog friendly area," while patrons are being served food and/or beverages by restaurant employees. Restaurant does not offer or serve food to dogs in the dog friendly area.
- B. Permit patrons' dogs on the restaurant premises, in that portion of the outdoor dining area designated on the attached diagram as "dog friendly area," while patrons are consuming food and/or beverages carried to the table by the patrons. Restaurant does not offer or serve food to dogs in the dog friendly area.
- C. Permit patrons' dogs on the restaurant premises, in the outside area designated on the attached diagram as "dog friendly area," adjacent to the outdoor dining area, where food and beverages for people are not sold or consumed. Restaurant does not offer or serve food to dogs in the dog friendly area.
- D. Other (describe fully, attach separate sheet if necessary): _____

8. Please describe the days of the week and hours of operation of the dog friendly area:

9. Please describe the types of food and/or beverages to be served or consumed in the dog friendly area (e.g., snacks, beer and wine, mixed drinks, cold buffet, full menu, etc):

10. Please attach a diagram, with dimensions, of the outdoor dining area. Show the number and location of tables and chairs, entrance doors to the restaurant building, entrance ways to the outdoor dining area, the dog friendly area, other outdoor dining areas, fences or barriers between areas (please describe in detail), surrounding property lines and sidewalks, and any other features which you would like to have considered in reviewing this application. The diagram should be accurate, but need not be prepared by an architect or professional engineer.

11. Please describe the measures you propose to ensure that food sanitation in the dog friendly area is maintained, and that any risk from the presence of dogs is contained within the dog friendly area. If approved, these measures will become conditions of the variance. Check as many as apply:

- A. All restaurant employees must wash their hands promptly after touching, petting or otherwise handling dogs. Restaurant employees are prohibited from touching, petting or otherwise handling dogs while serving food and/or beverages, handling tableware, utensils, etc., or before entering other restaurant areas.
- B. Patrons will be advised that they should wash their hands before eating. In addition, waterless hand sanitizer shall be provided at all tables in the dog friendly area.
- C. Restaurant employees will be instructed that they may not allow dogs to contact serving dishes, utensils, tableware, linens, paper products, etc.
- D. Patrons will be advised that they may not allow dogs to contact serving dishes, utensils, tableware, linens, paper products, etc. Patrons will be informed that all dogs must be on a leash.
- E. Only disposable serving dishes, utensils, tableware, paper products, etc. will be used in the dog friendly area, and once used, will be not be transported through other areas of the restaurant premises except in a sealed trash bag or other sealed container.

- ___ F. Patrons will be advised that dogs are not permitted on chairs, tables and other furnishings.
- ___ G. All table surfaces and surfaces of chairs, which are likely to be touched by employees or patrons, shall be cleaned and sanitized with an approved product between seatings of patrons. Spilled food will be removed from floor or ground areas between seatings of patrons.
- ___ H. "Accidents" involving dog waste will be cleaned immediately and the area cleaned and sanitized with an approved product. A kit of appropriate materials for this purpose will be kept in the dog friendly area. Used materials shall not be transported through other areas of the restaurant premises, and shall be removed from the restaurant premises immediately. Restaurant employees shall wear disposable gloves when dealing with waste materials. A log of any such incidents will be kept by the permit holder, indicating the date and time of the accident, and whether the area was cleaned and sanitized by the dog owner or restaurant employee, and the log will be shown to the Alexandria Health Department upon request.
- ___ I. A sign or signs reminding employees of the applicable rules will be posted on the restaurant premises as determined by the Alexandria Health Department.
- ___ J. A table placard reminding patrons of the applicable rules will be provided at each table in the dog friendly area.
- ___ K. Appropriate mats to prevent dog hair, dander, etc., from being tracked from the dog friendly area into other restaurant areas will be installed at locations specified by the Alexandria Health Department.
- ___ L. Dogs which are readily observed by the food service manager to be in poor health, infested with parasites, aggressive to people or other dogs, ill behaved or disruptive, or which otherwise present an unusual risk to restaurant patrons and employees, shall be excluded and/or immediately removed from the dog friendly area and restaurant premises.
- ___ M. Periodic training of existing employees at the start of the spring, summer and fall seasons, and training of all newly hired employees, concerning the conditions and requirements of this variance will be required, and a log of such training kept, and shown to the Alexandria Health Department upon request.
- ___ N. The dog friendly area, including all furniture, fixtures and floor surfaces, will be hard surface, and will be brush cleaned with soap and water, hosed down and sanitized with approved products at the end of each day of operation.
- ___ O. The permit holder will promptly notify the Alexandria Health Department and Alexandria Animal Control in the event a patron or restaurant employee is bitten or attacked by a dog on the restaurant premises. A log of any such incidents will be kept by the permit holder, indicating the date and time of the incident, contact information for the dog owner and victim, a brief description of the incident, and if available the rabies tag number of the dog, and the log will be shown to the Alexandria Health Department upon request.

___ P. Other (describe fully, attach a separate sheet if necessary): _____

12. Please describe the measures you propose to advise patrons of the existence of the dog friendly area, and provide other outdoor dining areas for patrons who do not wish to be seated in the dog friendly area. If approved, these measures will become conditions of the variance. Check as many as apply:

___ A. A commercially reasonable number of tables, in a discrete location, as shown on the diagram attached pursuant to Paragraph 10, will be provided outside the dog friendly area.

___ B. A sign or signs, indicating the existence and limits of the dog friendly area will be posted.

___ C. Other (describe fully): _____

13. If there is any other information which you would like to have considered, please attach a separate sheet or sheets. In order to approve a variance, the Virginia and Alexandria Health Departments must be able to find that the hardship imposed on your business, which may be economic, from the prohibition on dogs in outdoor dining areas, outweighs the benefits that may be received by the public from enforcement of this prohibition, and that granting the variance will not subject the public to unreasonable health risks from the presence of dogs, because alternative measures to protect against such potential health risks have been provided. 12 VAC 5-421-3570, Alexandria City Code, 11-2-3(a): FDA Food Code 8-103.10.

14. Please be advised that a variance, if approved, under the Virginia State regulations, 12 VAC 5-421-3310(A), will run concurrently with the variance, if approved, under the Alexandria City Code, 11-2-3(a): FDA Food Code 6-501.115(A). An Alexandria City Code variance is valid for one year from the date of approval, and may be renewed. A

variance may be revoked by the Virginia or Alexandria Health Departments, or a renewal denied, if there has been a violation of the conditions of the variance.

15. You will be advised of the time and date for a meeting with representatives of the Health Department at which your variance request will be discussed. Because a variance request must be individually considered in light of the facts and circumstances of each case, approval of an individual application cannot be guaranteed, even if the standard measures described in this application are included in the application.

16. For additional information or assistance, contact:

Rachel Stradling, Environmental Health Manager
Environmental Health Division
Alexandria Health Department
4480 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
703.746.4910
E-mail: Rachel.Stradling@vdh.virginia.gov

17. Submit your completed application to:

Rachel Stradling, Environmental Health Manager
Environmental Health Division
Alexandria Health Department
4480 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Date: _____

Signature

Printed Name

Title