



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION - FOOD SAFETY

Variance Application for Pet Dogs in Food Establishments

Under WAC 246-215-06570(4)(5), Washington State food code prohibits pet dogs from entering food establishments and patios. In recognition of our community's interests, Whitman County has developed a variance process that allows food establishments to welcome pet dogs in dining areas and on patios once approved. The food establishment must apply for this variance and demonstrate they have implemented adequate practices to reduce the health risks associated with having pet dogs in food areas. These practices are necessary to reduce the risk of food workers coming into contact with potential sources of disease and passing those germs onto guests.

The variance does not allow:

- Pet dogs in food prep areas
- Any other species of pet or animal in dining areas or on patios of food establishments

Note: Service animals who are trained to perform a specific task to aid an individual with their disability are always welcome in dining areas and on patios of food establishments, regardless of the establishment's variance standing. For more information about service animals in Washington State, please visit the Washington State Human Rights Commission's website:

<https://www.hum.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/publications/Service%20Animals%20and%20the%20Washington%20Law%20Against%20Discrimination-032019.pdf>

Ownership & Establishment Information

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Owner(s) Name: _____ Owner Phone: _____

Select Plan

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pet dogs allowed on patio only</p> <p>Submit a plan to Whitman County Public Health and have the plan approved in advance</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pet dogs may not go through inside the food establishment to reach the 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pet dogs allowed on patio and indoors</p> <p>Submit a plan to Whitman County Public Health and have the plan approved in advance</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify the Health Department in advance before you allow pet dogs
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<p>outdoor area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No food or drink preparation may occur in the outdoor area • Utensils may not be stored in the outdoor area 	<p>indoors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No food or drink preparation may occur in the indoor area where pet dogs are allowed • The sign must be posted notifying customers that pet dogs are allowed inside the food establishment
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Pet Dogs on Premises

Include the following items in your plan:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>General requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with local ordinances related to sidewalks, public nuisance, and sanitation • Comply with local ordinances on pet licensing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Dogs must be under control of the dog owner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leashed • In a carrier • Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Protect food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not prepare food in areas with pet dogs • Employees may not have direct contact with pet dogs while serving food or beverages or handling tableware • Employees may not wash food and water containers for pet dogs within the food establishment • Dogs may not have contact with reusable dishes or utensils used for food service
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Protect surfaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep dogs off tables, chairs, and other fixtures in the food establishment • Keep the area free of animal waste • Train employees on how to clean up pet waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have a cleanup kit ○ Move guests from the affected area and block off contaminated areas until area is properly cleaned up ○ Use disposable absorbent material if needed to soak up liquid waste and scrape into trash bag ○ Clean and disinfect the soiled surface, if needed, following disinfectant label directions ○ Bag, seal, and discard waste and disposable cleaning materials ○ Schedule steam cleaning for surfaces that cannot be adequately disinfected ○ Ensure proper employee handwashing

Please describe your food establishment's plan to enforce these requirements.

Animal Safety

In the event of a dog bite, the incident must be reported to Whitman County Public Health to screen for potential rabies exposure.

Who will report the incident to WCPH?: _____

Note: Animals with a known illness should not be allowed in or outside of the food establishment.

Assemble a Pet Waste Cleanup Kit

Kit should include the following items:

- Scoop or scraper
- Paper towels
- Absorbent material
- Caution tape or signs
- Disposable gloves
- Soap/hot water
- Garbage bags

Make a disinfectant (reference product label)

- Disinfectant (EPA registered): Bleach Other:
- Amount of chemical: _____
- Amount of water: _____
- Contact time: _____
- Instructions: _____
- Location of kit: _____

Note: Tools used to clean up animal waste should not be used near food preparation areas or stored or cleaned in the kitchen.

Describe the contents of your kit and disinfectant here

Employee Training

Employee Training: Employees must be properly trained on the pet dog procedure.

<input type="checkbox"/>	How are employees trained? Read and sign the plan Kit demonstration Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	How often are employees trained? Once Quarterly Annual Other

Worker assignments: Assign non-food workers clean-up duties when possible.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Who is responsible for cleaning the soiled area? Manager Janitor Server Cook Other:
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Describe your employee training plan here

Addition Facility-Specific Information

On what days are pet dogs allowed on the premises of your food establishment?

Include additional information if needed:

Plan Maintenance

Where is the plan kept in the food establishment?

How often is the plan reviewed and updated? Annually Other: _____

Note: The Health Department must be notified of any changes to your plan that are made after the initial approval.

Owner Acknowledgement

- I intend to allow pet dogs outside of the food establishment. I will follow health and safety guidelines as detailed above.
- I intend to allow pet dogs inside and outside of the food establishment. I will follow health and safety guidelines as detailed above and will ensure no food preparation is performed in the areas where pet dogs are allowed. I will also provide a copy of our plan to guests upon request.

Plan prepared by: _____

I, _____, certify that the information provided in this application is accurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____