



HOUSTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

8000 North Stadium Drive, Second Floor, Houston, TX 77054

Bureau of Consumer Health Services

Phone: (832-393-5100)

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Application for a Variance / Exemption for Food Establishments Seeking To Permit Dogs in Outdoor Eating Areas

1. Establishment Name: _____
2. Address: _____
3. Account Number: _____
4. Contact Name: _____
5. Contact Phone Number: _____ FAX Number: _____
6. Type of Variance and Houston Food Ordinance Section Affected: 20-21.28. (f)(1).

Pursuant to Section 20-19 (e) (1), the above named food establishment applies to the health officer for a variance of Section 20-21.28 (f) (1) of the Houston Code of Ordinances which prohibits animals on the premises of a food establishment. The application must be submitted with a non-refundable pre-operational inspection fee of \$121.73 (2016). An inspection will be conducted to determine compliance with the conditions of the requested variance.

If pursuant to Section 20-21(e) (2), the health officer grants a variance to Section 20-21.28 (f) (1) to allow dogs to be present in the outdoor patio area of a food establishment, the food establishment shall comply with the following conditions to ensure that a health hazard or nuisance will not result from the modification or waiver:

- a. Except as allowed under 20-21.28 (f) (2), no dog may be present inside the food establishment or on any playground area of the food establishment.
- b. A separate entrance must be provided from the outside of the food establishment to the outdoor patio so that a dog will have direct access to the patio without entering the interior of the food establishment or any playground area of the food establishment.
- c. An approved sign shall be posted at the front entrance of the food establishment so that it is easily visible to the public. The sign must state: "DOG FRIENDLY PATIO: DOG ACCESS TO OUTDOOR PATIO ONLY." The sign shall also include "To report violations, contact Houston Department of Health and Human Services at 832-393-5100."
- d. Doors at all entrances to the outdoor patio from the interior of the food establishment must be equipped with self-closing devices and kept closed when not in use.
- e. No food preparation may be performed in the outdoor patio area, except that a beverage glass may be filled on the patio from a pitcher or other container that has been filled or otherwise prepared inside the food establishment.
- f. Hand sanitizer shall be available to customers and employees in the "Dog Friendly Patio."
- g. The outdoor patio must be continuously maintained free of visible dog hair, dog dander, and other dog-related waste or debris. The outdoor patio must be cleaned with animal friendly chemicals at the beginning of each shift during which food or beverages will be served. Waste

