

Variance Request for Pet-Friendly Patio

The intent of this application is to be used as a Variance request for a pet-friendly patio. This application must be completed and submitted to be in compliance with the City of Columbia, Missouri Food Code, Chapter 3, Section(s):3-502.11 Variance Requirement, 6-501.115 Prohibiting Animals, 8-103.10 Modifications and Waivers, and 8-103.11 Documentation of Proposed Variance and Justification. Upon completion of application, an inspection of the pet-friendly patio will be conducted to verify minimum requirements before approval is granted. "Pet friendly" references dogs and cats only.

Please note that a Variance is not transferable from establishment to establishment and any significant changes in the process will require resubmission of the variance request for review. *Application for Variance* must be submitted annually.

Per the *City of Columbia, Missouri Food Code, Chapter 3, Section 3-502.11 Variance Requirement.*, an establishment

- 1) Shall obtain a Variance from the Regulatory Authority as specified in § 8-103.10 *Modifications and Waivers* and under § 8-103.11 *Documentation of Proposed Variance and Justification* before allowing pets on patios at a food establishment.

In addition to this application, the following information must be submitted per *Chapter 8, Section 8-103.11 Documentation of Proposed Variance and Justification*.

- A statement of the proposed Variance of the Code requirement citing relevant Code section numbers;
- An analysis of the rationale for how the potential public health hazards and nuisances addressed by the relevant Code sections will be alternatively addressed by the proposal as well as a diagram of the proposed pet friendly area. If clarification is needed, please contact PHHS at 573-874-7346.

The establishment must maintain a valid food service permit in good standing for the Variance to be approved.

Minimum requirements for a Variance for a pet friendly patio:

1. A separate entrance shall be provided from the exterior of the Food Establishment to the outdoor patio to allow the pet direct access to the patio without entering the interior of the Food Establishment. A patio area of any restaurant, bar or other commercial establishment may be designated by the owner or operator of the business as a pet friendly area; provided, that no more than fifty (50) percent of the patio area shall be designated as a pet friendly area and no area shall be designated as a pet friendly area if it must be crossed to obtain access to a non pet friendly area or a restroom.

2. Doors equipped with self-closing devices such as doors with a spring loaded system or electronically closing must be provided at all entrances to the outdoor patio from the interior of the food establishment.

3. Employees shall not touch, pet, or otherwise handle any pet while on duty at Food Establishment.

4. Separate cleaning equipment including mop, bucket, and supplies shall be used to clean the outdoor patio and shall be stored separate from the cleaning equipment used on the interior of the Food Establishment.

5. Waste created from a pet's bodily functions must be cleaned up immediately and the area sanitized with a sanitizer approved for food service establishments;

a. All pet waste must be disposed of outside of the Food Establishment in an appropriately covered waste receptacle

6. Signage must be posted at the front entrance of the Food Establishment and on the outdoor patio in a manner that is easily visible to the public. The signage must:

a. Be no smaller than 9.5" long by 12" wide and displayed in a landscape orientation.

b. Be printed in English in bold lettering a minimum of 4" high.

c. Read "PET FRIENDLY PATIO – PET ACCESS ONLY ALLOWED ON OUTDOOR PATIO. FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE PET FRIENDLY PATIO, CONTACT MANAGEMENT."

7. Pets must be kept on a short leash (no longer than four feet in length) and remain in the control of the customer while in the outdoor patio area.

8. Pets shall not be allowed on any seat, chair, table, patron's lap (exception of toy breeds), countertop, or similar surface in the outdoor patio.

9. Pet owners may bring their own water bowl. If the food establishment provides water bowls they shall be single use and disposable, or stainless steel. If using stainless steel, bowls shall be washed, rinsed and sanitized at the end of each day in a different sink than the establishment dishwashing sink. (3 tubs for wash, rinse, sanitize, mop sink, etc. are acceptable).

10. Patio shall be constructed of materials that are smooth, durable, and easily cleanable.

11. Ensure that if pets are readily observed by restaurant employees to be in poor health, aggressive to people or other pets, ill-behaved or disruptive, or which otherwise present an unnecessary risk to restaurant patrons and employees, they are immediately excluded from your Pet Friendly Area and the restaurant premises.

12. The establishment must have a written procedure on how complaints will be handled as well as clear processes on how to address aggressive or ill-behaved animals. The written procedures must be readily available to all employees.

12. Post this variance prominently in a conspicuous place for public view in close proximity to the restaurant permit issued by PHHS. If that permit is revoked, this variance is also revoked until the permit is reinstated.

13. This variance is not transferable to another facility or person.

14. The following requirements will be communicated to customers using signs, printed brochures, advisors, or other effective written means:

- a. Your pet must be well-behaved and on a leash at all times
- b. Keep your pet close to you but not on tables, chairs or your lap (exception for toy breeds)
- c. Do not let your pet eat or drink out of the restaurant's glassware or dishware.
- d. Clean up after your pet and immediately notify establishment personnel so the area can be properly sanitized

Failure to comply with the outlined variance conditions may result in regulatory enforcement action including, but not limited to, notices of violation, civil penalties, suspension or revocation of the variance, or suspension or revocation of your permit to operate a restaurant.