



Environmental Services  
Department

## Are Animals/Pets Allowed in Food Establishments?

***Pets are generally not allowed in food establishments.*** There are, however, specific circumstances in which certain animals may be allowed:

### **Approved Circumstances**

- **Service animals**, such as guide dogs, signal dogs, or other animals individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability are allowed to be present ([MC Health Code](#)).
- **Service animals** and **patrol animals** are allowed in areas that are not used for food preparation and that are usually open for customers, such as dining and sales areas, as long as a health or safety hazard will not result from their presence ([§6-501.115 \(B2-3\)](#)).
- **Pets** in the common dining areas of institutional care facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, or residential care facilities are allowed to be present at times other than during meals as long as food and food equipment is protected and the dining tables are cleaned before the next meal service ([§6-501.115 B4](#)).
- **Dogs** are allowed on Environmental Services Department approved outdoor dog patios (see below)

### **Food employee requirements:**

- Food employees may not care for or handle dogs, service animals, or pets that are allowed. ([§2-403.11](#)).
- Food employees with service animals may handle or care for their service animals if they wash their hands after handling the animal as required. ([§2-403.11](#)).

### **Dog friendly patios requirements (Please go to our website for all [dog friendly patio requirements](#)):**

- A separate entrance to allow dogs onto patio (do not have to walk through restaurant to patio).
- "Dog Friendly Patio" sign issued by Environmental Services is posted.
- No food preparation or mixing of drinks allowed on patio.
- Patio is free of visible dog hair and waste.
- Dogs must be kept on leash and in control of customer.
- Dogs are not allowed on any seat, patron's lap, table, countertop, etc.
- Dogs are not allowed to have any contact with reusable food service dishes or utensils.
- Dogs can only have contact with disposable single service containers to provide food or water to the dog.

### **If you have additional questions or concerns:**

- Please speak with the person in charge at the establishment.
- Contact the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department (ESD) by calling (602) 506-6616 or by visiting the ESD website at [esd.maricopa.gov](http://esd.maricopa.gov). Please note that ESD only enforces provisions contained in Maricopa County Environmental Health Code. For questions specific to the American's with Disabilities Act, call 1-800-514-0301.

### **Additional References:**

- FDA 2013 Food Code Annex 3:  
<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/UCM374510.pdf#page=387>
- Americans with Disabilities Act: [http://www.ada.gov/service\\_animals\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)
- Arizona Revised Statutes: <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/11/01024.htm>