

**GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENCE OF PET DOGS WITHIN DINING AREAS  
PERTAINING TO A FOOD ESTABLISHMENT**

Guidelines title	<b>1.</b>	The title of these guidelines is ‘Guidelines for the presence of pet dogs within dining areas pertaining to a food establishment’.
Scope	<b>2. (1)</b>	EU Regulation 852 of 2004, Chapter IX, 4 states that: “Adequate procedures are to be in place to control pests. Adequate procedures are also to be in place to prevent domestic animals from having access to places where food is prepared, handled or stored (or, where the competent authority so permits in special cases, to prevent such access from resulting in contamination).”
	<b>(2)</b>	The responsible person of a food establishment shall follow the following guidelines if the premises is to become pet dog friendly.
Definitions	<b>3.</b>	In these guidelines unless the context otherwise requires –
		<p>“Act” means the Food Safety Act (Cap. 449);</p> <p>“dining area” means any area used for dining, drinking or both drinking and dining and is not used for the preparation, handling or storage of food;</p> <p>“food establishment” has the same meaning as “restaurant” and “snack bar” as defined in S.L.409.15</p> <p>“responsible person” has the same meaning as in the Act;</p> <p>“food” has the same meaning as is assigned to it in the Act;</p> <p>“food handler” has the same meaning as is assigned to it under LN 178 of 2001 as amended by LN 137 of 2007.</p> <p>“pet dog” for the purposes of these guidelines shall also mean guide dog and assistance dog.</p>
Duties of patrons, responsible persons and food handlers	<b>4. (1)</b>	The patron responsible for the pet dog entering the dining area of the food establishment shall ensure that the dog has been fully vaccinated by a warranted veterinary, clean, in a good state of health.

	(2)	The number of pet dogs accompanying a patron entering a food establishment shall be limited to one.
	(3)	Pet dogs shall be kept on a leash at all times and must be kept next to their responsible patron.
	(4)	Pet dogs shall not allowed to sit on tables, seats, benches or chairs; or allowed to reach table tops and/or seats, benches or chairs.
	(5)	Pet dogs shall be well behaved so as not to be of nuisance to other patrons.
	(6)	<p>(a) Any food given to pet dogs within the food establishment shall be provided by the person accompanying the dog.</p> <p>(b) Containers for the placing of such food shall be provided for by the patrons themselves. Provided that food operators may provide disposable single use containers that are easily distinguishable from patrons' crockery.</p>
	(7)	It is the responsibility of the person accompanying the dog to clean up after their dog in case of any discharge. Such waste is to be disposed of appropriately in ways as to eliminate any risk of contamination.
	(8)	The responsible person of the food establishment shall remain responsible for general cleaning and upkeep of the food establishment and hence should disinfect any soiled areas.
	(9)	Food handlers shall follow food hygiene principles and hence shall refrain from coming in touch with dogs so as to avoid any risk of food contamination.
	(10)	No crockery, cutlery, or any form of utensils, with which food may come into contact, and napkins shall be stored, displayed or pre-set on tables in the food establishment.
	(10.1)	Food that is delivered from the kitchen to the customer's table shall be covered in transit.

	(11)	Business operators and customers shall follow and adhere to regulations related to prohibition of public nuisances and animal welfare.
	(12)	Dogs shall in no time be treated in a way that is in breach of regulations relative to animal welfare.
	(13)	The patrons shall carry and be in possession of “Biodegradable Poop Scoop Bags” when entering the food establishment.
	(14)	<p>The food establishment shall provide the disposal facilities for such “Biodegradable Poop Scoop Bags” in the form of a particular rubbish bin intended for such use and that is sealable so that there will be no odours or contamination on the premises. This rubbish bin shall be situated outside the food establishment and shall not cause any nuisance or inconvenience to passers-by.</p> <p>The food establishment shall seek the necessary permits from the competent authority for the installation of such bins as necessary.</p>
	(15)	The food establishment shall display a sign in a prominent place at the patrons’ entrance of the premise indicating that dogs are accepted in the given food establishment.
Duty of responsible person	<b>5</b> (1)	Responsible person shall ensure compliance with the every applicable legislation relative to the food establishment at all times.