



# Service Dogs in Food Facilities

## Are animals allowed in my restaurant?

**Service Dogs** are allowed anywhere the public can go (including dining room)

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) allows Service Dogs inside any area that the public is allowed to go.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), businesses that serve the public must allow service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where the public is normally allowed to go – including the indoor dining room.

**Q What qualifies as a Service Animal?**

**A** Only **dogs** that have been trained or are in training to perform a specific task are recognized as service animals under both the ADA and the California Health and Safety Code for food facilities.

**Only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions:**

- “Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?” and
- “What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?”

Staff cannot ask about the person’s disability, require documentation or ID, or ask that the dog demonstrate its work.

**Q Are Service Dogs allowed to be inside shopping carts or seated on furniture?**

**A** No. While the ADA gives a person with a disability the right to be accompanied, service dogs are not allowed inside shopping carts or on tables and chairs.

**Q I am allergic to dogs, can I refuse service to people using service animals?**

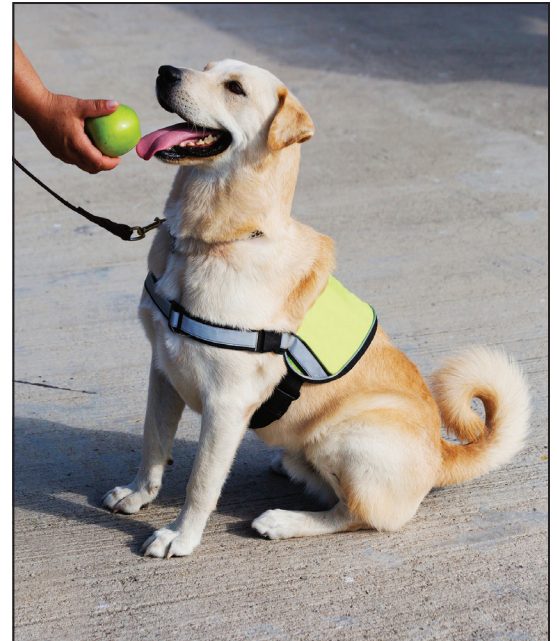
**A** No. Allergies are not a valid reason for denying access.

**A person with a disability may only be asked to remove the service dog if:**

- (1) the dog is barking or otherwise out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or
- (2) the dog is urinating/defecating in the restaurant.

**Frequently asked questions:**

<https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/>





# Pet Dogs in Food Facilities

## Are animals allowed in my restaurant?

Pet Dogs are allowed on patios only if a restaurant owner allows it



### California Law Allows Pet Dogs on Dining Patios at Restaurant Owner's Discretion

A law that took effect January 1, 2015 allows pet dogs to be in an outdoor dining area (patio) under certain circumstances. The following rules apply:

- ✔ It is up to the business owner whether or not dogs can be on their patio
- ✔ There must be a separate outdoor entrance so that pet dogs do not walk through the dining room
- ✔ Like service dogs, pet dogs are not allowed on chairs, seats or benches
- ✔ If food or water is provided to pet dogs, it must be provided in single-use disposable containers
- ✔ Food employees are prohibited from having direct contact with pet dogs while on duty.
- ✔ If a food employee does have prohibited contact, they must wash their hands immediately
- ✔ The patio area must be kept clean. Any surfaces, (including the floor) that has been contaminated by dog poop, pee, saliva or vomit must be cleaned and sanitized.
- ✔ The pet dog must be on a leash or confined in a pet carrier and under the control of the owner.
- ✔ The restaurant owner must comply with any local ordinances related to sidewalks, public nuisance, and sanitation.