

AN ACT  
**D.C. ACT 22-154**

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**OCTOBER 23, 2017**

To allow, on an emergency basis, food establishments to permit dogs in outdoor dining areas and unenclosed sidewalk cafés.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Dining with Dogs Emergency Act of 2017”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

- (1) “Carrier” means a crate designed for carrying dogs or a front-pack or backpack designed to safely carry a dog.
- (2) “Food establishment” means any business that offers outdoor seating and sells food for consumption on its premises.
- (3) “Leash” means a line held by a person on one end that is for leading or restraining a dog.
- (4) “Outdoor dining area” means an outdoor area on private property where food is served by a food establishment.
- (5) “Unenclosed sidewalk café” means any authorized use of public space adjacent to a food establishment that contains tables, chairs, railings, or planters, which is open to the sky and at the sides, but may include awnings or umbrellas, and which is able to be removed within a 24-hour period.
- (6) “Waste bag” means a plastic bag designed for disposing of dog excrement.

Sec. 3. Outdoor dining with dogs.

(a)(1) Notwithstanding any District law or regulation to the contrary, a food establishment may elect to permit dogs in outdoor dining areas or designated portions thereof, or in unenclosed sidewalk cafés.

(2) A food establishment permitting dogs may restrict types of dogs based on a dog’s size or temperament.

(b) A food establishment that permits dogs in outdoor dining areas or unenclosed sidewalk cafés shall: