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2 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

Vincent E. Gray  
Councilmember Vincent E. Gray

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4 Brandon T. Todd  
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Charles Allen  
Councilmember Charles Allen

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13 A BILL  
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18 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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23 To enable food establishments to permit dogs in outdoor dining areas and unenclosed sidewalk  
24 cafés.

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

28 Sec. 2. Definitions.

29 For the purposes of this act, the term:

30 (1) “Carrier” means a crate designed for carrying dogs or a front-pack or  
31 backpack designed to safely carry a dog.

32 (2) “Food establishment” means any business that offers outdoor seating and sells  
33 food for consumption on its premises.

34 (3) “Leash” means a line held by a person on one end that is for leading or  
35 restraining a dog.

36 (4) "Outdoor dining area" means an outdoor area on private property where food  
37 is served by a food establishment.

38 (5) "Unenclosed sidewalk café" means any authorized use of public space  
39 adjacent to a food establishment that contains tables, chairs, railings, or planters, which is open  
40 to the sky and at the sides, but may include awnings or umbrellas, and which is able to be  
41 removed within a 24-hour period.

42 (6) "Waste bag" means a plastic bag designed for disposing of dog excrement.

43 Sec. 3. Outdoor dining with dogs.

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

47 (2) A food establishment permitting dogs may restrict types of dogs based on size  
48 or temperament.

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

51 (1) Post signage outside the food establishment clearly stating dogs are permitted  
52 in outdoor dining areas of the food establishment or unenclosed sidewalk café adjacent to the  
53 food establishment, along with any restrictions on dogs based on size or temperament;

54 (2) Provide a separate entrance to any outdoor seating areas or unenclosed  
55 sidewalk cafés that does not open into an indoor seating area;

56 (3) Provide patrons with waste bags and a sanitary means of disposing waste  
57 bags;

58 (4) Meet the requirements of 25A DCMR 503.1, ensuring that food employees do  
59 not care for or handle dogs;

60 (5) Require a patron to keep his or her dog in a carrier or on a leash at all times;  
61 and

62 (6) Prohibit a patron from leaving his or her dog unattended.

63 (d) A food establishment may require patrons to take the dog off the food establishment's  
64 premises or away from the food establishment's unenclosed sidewalk café.

65 (e) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent live animals, as described in 25A  
66 DMCR 3214.2(b) and (c), from having access to food establishments.

67 **Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement**

68 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
69 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
70 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

71 **Sec. 5. Effective date.**

72 The act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by  
73 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
74 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
75 24, 1973, (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
76 Columbia Register.

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