



Dogs in restaurants in the City of Cape Town

The National Department of Health has published Regulation R638 that governs General Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises, which indicates that except for a guide or service dog an animal may not be permitted in a room or area where food is handled. "Handle" includes manufacture, process, produce, pack, prepare, keep, offer, store, transport or display for sale or for serving, and "handling" has a corresponding meaning.

However, the same Regulation allows a person in charge of a food premises to apply for an exemption from any section of the Regulation apart from the need to have a valid Certificate of Acceptability in place. The National Department of Health has confirmed that Local Authorities have the mandate to consider applications for exemptions to R638.

Should owners/operators of restaurants decide to apply for an exemption from the regulation to allow dogs on the premises the City requires the following:

- An application for a Certificate of Acceptability, specifying the particulars of the exemption being applied for in terms of Regulation 14(1) on the prescribed application. This can be done via [e-Services](#).
- The premises must have a designated outdoor space which does not require the traverse of animals through any indoor area of the premises and does not require the traverse of any clients not wanting to be exposed to dogs through the outdoor space to gain entry or exit the premises.
- A lay out / floor plan of the premises, drawn on scale 1:50, which indicates the designation of the various areas must be submitted with the application.
- Written support from adjoining premises must accompany the exemption application.

On receipt of an application for exemption to permit dogs on a premises the Environmental Health Practitioner will assess the premises against the requirements listed in the standard operating procedure relating to this matter.

As per Regulation 14(2)(b) an exemption may not be granted unless the Environmental Health Practitioner has submitted a report to the effect that he or she is satisfied that the granting of the exemption does not or will not result in conditions that constitute a health hazard.

An exemption referred to -

- (a) is subject to the conditions listed by the City in the Certificate of Acceptability or notice of exemption and,
- (b) may be withdrawn by the City on the grounds of an inspection report and a recommendation by an Environmental Health Practitioner to the effect that he or she is of the opinion that the exemption has resulted in conditions that constitute a health hazard.

Applicants are advised that the submission of an application does not constitute approval.

Email your enquiries to Health.Applications@capetown.gov.za.