



## EAST SHORE DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Bringing good health to the towns of Branford, East Haven and North Branford

October 29, 2019

Dear Licensed Food/Beverage Service Establishment:

It has come to our attention that some food/beverage service establishments are allowing customers to bring their dogs into licensed restaurants, breweries, bars, ice cream shops and other types of food/beverage operations.

As defined by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, the East Shore District Health Department, like other local health departments throughout the State, would like to remind all food/beverage owners and operators that dogs are **not allowed** on the premises of licensed food service facilities. Please be advised, this is a State Law, *not* a local city/town ordinance. As a matter of clarity, I direct you to the below section of the State of Connecticut Public Health Code:

*"No live birds or animals shall be allowed in any area used for the storage, preparation or serving of food, or for the cleaning or storage of utensils, or in toilet rooms or employees' dressing rooms or areas, in vehicles used for the transporting food, or in any other area or facility used in the conduct of food service establishment operations;*

However, there is an exemption provision to this law as outlined below:

*"Guide dogs or assistance dogs accompanying blind, deaf, or mobility impaired persons and dogs accompanying persons training such dogs as guide or assistance dogs as defined pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes Sections 46a-42 and 46a-44, **may be permitted in dining rooms**".*

While we acknowledge that some adjacent States allow dogs in some types of food/beverage establishments, and there may be some customer's that strongly support having their pets accompany them that at food/beverage operations, at this time the State of Connecticut does **not allow** domestic animals in licensed food/beverage service establishments.

We thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions, and/or require additional clarity, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael A. Pascucilla', written over a horizontal line.

Michael A. Pascucilla, M.P.H., REHS  
Director of Health