**DeBaTe**

Should Dogs Be Allowed in Restaurants?

They can sit, and now they can stay! A law that was passed in New York in October allows people to bring their dogs to restaurants. The dogs may sit only in outdoor eating areas, and they must wear a leash. Pooches still might not be allowed in some eateries, though, because the law gives restaurant owners the option to keep them out. California, Florida, and Maryland already have similar laws.

Some people think dining with dogs is a great idea. Jonathan Liska is the manager of the Cornelia Street Café in New York City. He says his restaurant’s dog-friendly policy attracts customers.

“It’s good for business,” he says. “The people love it, the dogs love it.”

Supporters of the new law also argue that it helps dogs. They say dog owners will now be less likely to leave their pets home alone or stuck in cars while they dine out.

But some people are worried about customers eating next to Rover. Officials at the New York City health department argued against the law. They say shedding dog hair can create unclean conditions in areas where food is served. Others worry that dogs could annoy diners by barking or making a mess.

Here’s what two of our readers think about dining with dogs.

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**Yes!**

Dining out with dogs can be fun for pets and owners.

As long as dogs are well behaved and clean, there’s no reason they shouldn’t be allowed in restaurants with their owners.

When restaurants allow dogs, people can spend more time with their pets, which makes them both happier.

If someone doesn’t want to eat near dogs, they can dine in the indoor part of the restaurant. Or they can go to a restaurant that doesn’t allow dogs.

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**No!**

People should leave their furry friends at home.

Dogs shouldn’t be allowed in restaurants because they can pose a serious health risk. Some people are allergic to dogs, so being around canines could be dangerous for them.

Also, some pups could disturb diners by jumping on them or trying to steal their food. Some dogs might even bite customers. If something like that were to happen, restaurant owners could end up losing customers and money.

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