
NATIONAL REPORT

Pets in the Cottage Kitchen

Whether a dog or cat may be in the home kitchen used for cottage food. Not a pet-treat license. 50 states + DC.

COVERAGE**50 States + DC****BAN IN THE HOME****1****DATA DATE****August 2026****PUBLISHED BY****Crosodo.com****LEGAL DISCLAIMER**

Research and information only. Not legal advice. Confirm with the state food program and with local Health before you bake. Empty cells stay silent: we do not invent a gate-and-door ordinance for a state that never published one.

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Executive Summary

1**BAN IN THE HOME**

A pet that lives in the dwelling can disqualify the home-processor kitchen

11**OUT DURING BAKE**

Pets may live in the house if they stay out of the prep room during production

39**SILENT (GMP)***

No cottage-food pet sentence. GMP still says keep animals off the work surface

States do not share one pet rule. North Carolina is the hard line: a pet that lives in the house can disqualify the home-processor application. A closed door is not enough if the animal is still in the dwelling. Oregon used to be close to that and now says pets may live in the house if they are out of the prep room during production. A baby gate or a door on the kitchen is the usual fix there, and in Kentucky, Louisiana, Hawaii, Rhode Island, New Mexico, and Washington. Most other states, including Virginia, never wrote a cottage-food pet sentence. They still expect the kitchen to be sanitary while you produce. That usually means the dog is not on the counter during a bake. It does not mean you have to build a second kitchen unless this place's dedicated-kitchen line is Yes.

How to read the flags

Ban in the home

North Carolina is the hard line in this file. A pet that lives in the house can disqualify a home-processor applicant. A closed kitchen door is not enough if the animal is still in the dwelling.

Out during bake

The published rule or agency guidance is to keep pets out of the prep room while you produce. A baby gate or a door on the kitchen is the usual fix. Oregon used to be close to a dwelling ban and now sits in this group.

Silent (GMP)*

No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.

* GMP = Good Manufacturing Practice (21 CFR 117 Subpart B). Even when the cottage-food statute never names pets, GMP still says keep animals off the work surface during a bake.

Pets in the kitchen, 50 states + DC

STATE	PETS IN THE KITCHEN	NOTE
AL	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
AK	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
AZ	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
AR	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
CA	Out during bake	CDPH guidance: exclude pets from the food-prep area during production. Not a statewide ban on pets in the house.
CO	Out during bake	State guidance: exclude pets from the food-prep area during production.
CT	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
DE	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
DC	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
FL	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
GA	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
HI	Out during bake	Pets must be excluded from food-preparation areas during production.
ID	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
IL	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
IN	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
IA	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
KS	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
KY	Out during bake	Pets and children must be out of the kitchen during production (KRS §217.136 and regs).
LA	Out during bake	Pets must be excluded from food-preparation areas.
ME	Out during bake	Statewide home-food-processor license: animals typically excluded from production areas during production.
MD	Out during bake	Local health typically requires animals out of the prep area. Confirm the county.
MA	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
MI	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
MN	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
MS	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
MO	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.

STATE	PETS IN THE KITCHEN	NOTE
MT	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
NE	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
NV	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
NH	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
NJ	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
NM	Out during bake	Homemade Food Act: keep pets and children out of the kitchen while producing.
NY	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
NC	Ban in the home	Pets in the home disqualify a home-processor applicant (GMP / 21 CFR 117 Subpart B). Strictest published rule.
ND	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
OH	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
OK	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
OR	Out during bake	Pets may not be in the prep area during production (ORS §616.723 / ODA). Presence elsewhere in the dwelling is no longer an automatic fail.
PA	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
RI	Out during bake	Pets must stay out of food preparation and storage areas during production.
SC	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
SD	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
TN	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
TX	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
UT	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
VT	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
VA	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
WA	Out during bake	Only the permittee and people under their direct supervision may be in the kitchen during production. Pets are out.
WV	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
WI	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.
WY	Silent (GMP)*	No cottage-food pet sentence in the state statute. Good manufacturing practice still says keep animals off the work surface while you bake.

* GMP = Good Manufacturing Practice (21 CFR 117 Subpart B). Even when the cottage-food statute never names pets, GMP still says keep animals off the work surface during a bake.

Not pet treats

This report is about whether a cat may walk through the kitchen you bake in. Selling dog biscuits is a different license. Most states treat pet treats as commercial feed, not cottage food. A Yes on the human-food line does not authorize pet products.

County law reports store a Pets allowed field for the local kitchen. That field is the county overlay on this state matrix. It is not a pet-treat permit.

National pet-treat hub: crosodo.com/resources/pet-treats.

Sources

Classifications reuse the state-mode text Crosodo stores for county comparison pages and the citations in `data/research/state_cottage_food_statutes.csv`. Empty cells stay a silent/GMP row. We do not invent a gate-and-door ordinance for a state that never published one.

Good Manufacturing Practice, 21 CFR 117 Subpart B.

North Carolina home-processor pet rule (GMP / 21 CFR 117 Subpart B).

Kentucky: KRS §217.136 and regulations (pets and children out of the kitchen during production).

Oregon: ORS §616.723 / ODA (pets out of the prep area during production).

New Mexico Homemade Food Act: keep pets and children out of the kitchen while producing.

California CDPH cottage-food guidance: exclude pets from the food-prep area during production.

County overlay: Crosodo county law reports, Pets allowed field.

State matrix CSV: `docs/50-state-pets-kitchen-2026.csv`.