

National Hot Dog and Sausage Council Announces Official Policy On 'Hot Dog as Sandwich' Controversy

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Washington, D.C., November 6, 2015—Just as politics and religion can both unite and polarize, the question of whether a hot dog is a sandwich has stirred its followers' fury, and unless settled soon, may go down as one of American history's most polarizing disagreements. The deep philosophical divide has played out this week following National Sandwich Day on the NBC [Today Show](#), ESPN's [Sportscenter](#), in [NFL locker rooms](#) and across the internet. Presidential candidate Carly Fiorina has also [weighed in](#).

As the official voice of hot dogs and sausages, the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council (NHDSC) is primed to settle this debate once and for all, and our verdict is...a hot dog is an exclamation of joy, a food, a verb describing one 'showing off' and even an emoji. It is truly a category unto its own.

“Limiting the hot dog's significance by saying it's 'just a sandwich' category is like calling the Dalai Lama 'just a guy.' Perhaps at one time its importance could be limited by forcing it into a larger sandwich category (no disrespect to Reubens and others), but that time has passed, said NHDSC President and 'Queen of Wien' Janet Riley. “We therefore choose to take a cue from a great performer and declare our namesake be a “hot dog formerly known as a sandwich.”

The Council has often followed American history and USDA guidance on the issue and fallen on the side of the hot dog as a sandwich. When it first arrived on American shores from Europe in the late 1800s, it was often referred to as a “Coney Island Sandwich” or “Frankfurter sandwich,” but much like an “ice cream sundae” is simply referred to as a sundae, terminology changes.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidance also suggests the hot dog, as meat between bread, falls into the sandwich category, but the regulations paint a muddy picture as they hinge on the question of 'open' or 'closed' which could ignite a second round of debate where the hot dog on a bun is concerned.

“While we thank the USDA for their careful regulation and inspection of our products, regulatory brevity is not their strength. We hope our position offers America some clarity

and peace of mind. No matter how someone defines a hot dog, this much we can all agree on— it is THE great American food, beloved by all.”

Established in 1994 by the American Meat Institute, the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council serves as an information resource to consumers and media on questions related to quality, safety, nutrition and preparation of hot dogs and sausages. The Council also celebrates hot dogs and sausages as iconic American foods.

<https://www.hot-dog.org/press/national-hot-dog-and-sausage-council-announces-official-policy-hot-dog-sandwich-controversy>

Comprehension Questions

1. What has stirred controversy and polarized opinions, similar to politics and religion?
2. Where has the hot dog sandwich debate played out, according to the text?
3. What is the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council's (NHDSC) official verdict on whether a hot dog is a sandwich?
4. According to the text, what historical names were used for hot dogs when they first arrived in America from Europe?

Answers

1. What has stirred controversy and polarized opinions, similar to politics and religion?

Answer: The question of whether a hot dog is a sandwich has stirred controversy and polarized opinions.

2. Where has the hot dog sandwich debate played out, according to the text?

Answer: The debate has played out on the NBC Today Show, ESPN's Sportscenter, in NFL locker rooms, and across the internet.

3. What is the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council's (NHDSC) official verdict on whether a hot dog is a sandwich?

Answer: The NHDSC declares that a hot dog is an exclamation of joy, a food, a verb describing one 'showing off,' and even an emoji. It is considered a category unto its own.

4. According to the text, what historical names were used for hot dogs when they first arrived in America from Europe?

Answer: When hot dogs first arrived in America from Europe in the late 1800s, they were often referred to as a "Coney Island Sandwich" or "Frankfurter sandwich."