



Bring Your Dog To Work Day Friday, June 25

Taking Pets to Work

A survey by the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association indicates that having pets in the workplace can create a more productive work environment, lower stress, decrease employee absenteeism and make employees more willing to work overtime. Companies that allow pets at work also have experienced improvement in employee morale.

Please consider the following guidelines and ideas to help make pets in the workplace a positive experience.



Plan for a safe, successful visit:

Take only well-behaved pets who are comfortable and reliably safe around strangers. Leave pets who show aggressive tendencies toward people at home.

Make sure your dog understands the basic commands, such as SIT, STAY and DOWN.

Take only pups or dogs that have been socialized to people and other animals.

Leave pets with contagious conditions at home. Make sure pet vaccinations are up to date and that you have a current Rabies certificate with you on that day. Also, it is best if your pet is spayed or neutered. Do not bring a pet who is in heat.

Do not take a pet who displays aggression to other animals.

Use a flea preventive before taking your pet to work. Also, brush and clip nails before office visits. And remember, smelly and dirty pets can result in complaints.

Make sure your cubicle or office can comfortably accommodate your dog.

Make a list of items to bring, including bowls, food, treats, leash, pet carrier, toys, poop bags, clean up supplies (in case of an accident), etc. Use a leash that does not tangle easily.



At work:

Supervise pets closely. Each owner needs to act responsibly. Dogs must be kept on leash, and/or in a closed office or cubicle or in a crate.

Post the Bring Your Dog To Work Day flyer at your door indicating you have a pet in your office.

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Owners can put a small folding fence or other sturdy barrier in front of their cubicle door so their pups cannot roam. Also, not all dogs like delivery people, providing another reason to keep dogs on a leash.

Bring chew toys and a water bowl. Do not bring loud squeak toys and other items that will distract co-workers. Bring along a dog pillow or blanket so he has something familiar to comfort him.

Reward your dog frequently for good behavior.

Be respectful of people with allergies and those who are uncomfortable around dogs.

Keep the dog quiet, especially during conference calls.

Avoid taking dogs to company meetings.

Designate pet-free zones such as conference rooms, restrooms and cafeterias.



Potty and exercise breaks ... and cleaning up:

Plan your day so you can walk your dog outside a few times during the day. He or she may have to potty more often due to the excitement of visiting a new environment and people.

Owners must clean up after their pets. The company should have poop bags handy and a garbage can located in a convenient location outside so owners can easily clean up after pets.

Do not leave water and food bowls and pet food out. Put them away before you leave the office.

