



Great tips to

# TAKE YOUR DOG TO WORK

**THINKING ABOUT TAKING YOUR DOG TO WORK? MAKE SURE HE IS A GOOD CANDIDATE FIRST. IS HE SOCIAL, BUT NOT EXCITED WHEN MEETING OTHER PEOPLE AND DOGS? DOES HE KNOW HIS BASIC COMMANDS SUCH AS “SIT”, “COME”, “STAY”, “LEAVE IT”, ETC.? CAN HE IGNORE DISTRACTIONS? SO FAR, SO GOOD... HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL TIPS:**

## **THE LEASH IS YOUR 2ND BEST FRIEND:**

After your dog, your leash is your next best friend. Keeping your dog and your co-workers' dogs on a leash assures that you and your co-workers can always control the situation. This helps to establish your self-confidence and their natural focus on your commands.

## **RESPECT YOUR CO-WORKERS' FEELINGS:**

It might be hard to believe, but there are some people who are afraid or just don't like dogs. If you see that someone is nervous or they ask that you put your dog somewhere else, do it.

## **DON'T FORCE YOUR DOG TO BE FRIENDS:**

Since you have your dog at the office, we can assume that it is a “dog friendly environment”. If there are other dogs in the office, have them meet outside first to make sure they are comfortable with each other. If you see extreme canine social signs (tucked tails, retreat, growling, showing of teeth, lunging), they probably aren't good “cubical mates”. If the office is large enough, make sure they are widely separated. You can also set up a schedule of who comes to the office when (the dogs, that is!)

## **TAKE THE STAIRS:**

An elevator is a very enclosed, unfamiliar space for most dogs. Being in an enclosed space with a bunch of strangers in an environment that is moving and making weird “elevator” sounds can easily create a frightened dog. With no ability to “flight”, your normally calm dog may lunge, bark, jump, or even nip your unsuspecting co-workers. Take the stairs. You have control over that and can maintain your dog's safety.

## **BRING YOUR DOG'S SUPPLIES:**

Nobody wants to see you grabbing all the goodies in the break room for your dog. Besides that, it encourages him to take those same goodies from the hands or desks of your co-workers. Also, these goodies might be unhealthy for him. Bring your dog's water, food, and bowl from home.

## **COFFEE BREAK TIME:**

Just like you take a coffee break or a lunch break at work, your dog needs them too. Be sure to use your “free time” to exercise and stimulate your dog. Find a nearby park or quiet area you can play and eat your lunch together. This, just like us, helps to de-adrenalize and minimize your dog's anxiety. You hate working without a break; he does too!

## **CLEAN UP THE MESSSES:**

Get permission to have your dog potty in a specific area. Bring all the materials necessary to completely clean the area. Make sure you have the materials to clean up a mistake if it happens inside your work environment.

## **KEEP YOUR DOG AMUSED:**

Bring your dog's favorite toys and blanket to work. These will provide him with a feeling of safety and continuity. They will also keep him focused and challenged as you are working on the report your boss wants by the end of the day.

## **GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE EARLY, IF NEEDED:**

Dogs can be dogs and they sometimes just get out of control; even the best behaved ones. If that happens, make sure you have permission to take him home early. Do not solve the problem by leaving him in the car all afternoon!