

TAKE YOUR DOG TO WORK DAY

Friday, June 26, 2009

Today marks the 10th annual Take Your Dog to Work Day, sponsored by Pet Sitters International.

The goal of the day is to encourage adoptions and celebrate dogs, said Beth Stultz, a spokeswoman for Pet Sitters International.

Studies have shown that dogs in the workplace encourage camaraderie, cooperation and creativity among employees. Workers are also more willing to log longer hours with a dog in the office, Stultz said.

Some local business people have realized the value of having a dog in the workplace. They bring their pets to work several days a week.

After all, if you have to work like a dog, you might as well work with a dog.

Deb Pierson and Annie, Pierson Computing Connection, Inc.

When Deb Pierson's company office moved from her home property to its current location in Mechanicsburg, she told her staff that Annie, her miniature schnauzer and a staple at the original location, could not come along.

Their reaction was dismay, so Pierson changed her mind.

"Everybody loves Annie," Pierson said. "Annie became the mascot."

Each morning, Annie must greet every employee before she can receive a treat. Throughout the day, she gets snacks and belly rubs from mail carriers and delivery personnel.

"It creates a very non-stressed work environment to have Annie around," Rick Loffredo, director of business operations, said. "She's the happiest employee to be at work."

Frank Levy and Chloe, Antique Marketplace and PA Fabric Outlet

Frank Levy owns the Antique Marketplace and PA Fabric Outlet in Lemoyne, but Chloe, his black Labrador retriever, is the "prima donna," he said.

The cafe in the marketplace is named for her. Each year on her birthday, Nov. 12, the staff throws a party in her honor, complete with cake, party hats and gifts, Levy said.

"Obviously, we adore her," Levy said.

"She's just really sweet to be around, and that just makes you more happy" employee Candy Ward said. "You want to be more like Chloe."

Andy Courtney and Lizzie, Morris Laundromation

Lizzie, a 5-year-old soft-coated Wheaten terrier, has been coming to work with her owner, Andy Courtney, since she was a puppy.

She greets customers, and the regulars bring her treats on her birthday, June 5, and at Christmas.

With Lizzie around, the workplace is a little less formal and a little more friendly, Courtney said.

"Dogs live in the moment, and they help us reconnect with that a little bit," Courtney said. "There's something about a dog."