

Parade

Take Your Dog to Work Day 2016

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(iStockPhoto)

Friday, June 24 is Take Your Dog to Work Day, created in 1999 and modeled after the wildly popular Take Your Daughter to Work Day, which eventually became Take Your *Child* to Work Day. [The folks at Pet Sitters International \(PSI\)](#), an educational association for professional pet sitters, founded Take Your Dog to Work Day to celebrate the great companions dogs make, promote their

adoptions and encourage employers to experience the joys of pets in the workplace for one day.

This annual event is celebrated on the Friday following Father's Day. According to PSI, nearly 300 businesses participated in that first Take Your Dog to Work Day. FYI, this year June 20-24 is considered to be Take Your *Pet* to Work Week.

While researching this story, I learned that the following three companies will be participating in Take Your Dog to Work Day. They are:

Bissell

Bissell, [which has the Bissell Pet Foundation](#), always allows dogs in certain areas of its Grand Rapids, Michigan, corporate office, but on Friday, June 24 will be letting pets spend a day in the office with their parents. Some of the perks include water bowls and biscuits around the building.

Purina

[Purina, already a pet-friendly workplace](#), will also be having a celebration at their St. Louis headquarters with puppy portraits, mobile grooming and a Yappy Hour with Frosty Paws and ice cream for associates and their pets.

Wellness Natural Pet Food

At [Wellness](#), where pets are allowed in the Tewksbury, Massachusetts, offices on a monthly basis, its celebration on Take Your Dog to Work Day will include doggy ice cream trucks, local pet celebrities and pet caricature artists.

There are plenty of companies where *every workday* is Take Your Dog to Work Day. Some of the better-known employers that welcome pets include:

- Google

- Mashable
- Etsy
- Ben & Jerry's
- GoDaddy
- Build-a-Bear Workshop

Not surprisingly pet-centric companies allow pets in the workplace every day as well. These include:

- Mars Petcare
- Petsmart
- Purina

Having pets in the workplace can help encourage people to work for you. “More and more companies are likely to jump on the pet-friendly bandwagon as they seek to attract millennials who are set to soon surpass baby boomers as the largest pet-owning generation and who will be making up almost half of the workforce by 2020,” says a PSI press release. Storm8, a mobile gaming network in the Silicon Valley, promotes its pet-friendly office on [its career page where it lists job openings](#).

In addition to attracting sought-after employees, having pets in the workplace can have positive health benefits—assuming there are no allergies—[according to Virginia Commonwealth University researchers](#). They found that when it came to stress in the workplace, “The differences in perceived stress between days the dog was present and absent were significant. The employees as a whole had higher job satisfaction than industry norms.”

[Banfield Pet Hospital](#), with more than 900 pet hospitals nationwide and a pet-friendly workplace at its Portland, Oregon, headquarters, found similar results in its 2016 survey of pet-friendly workplace benefits. These included:

- Reduced stress
- Improved workplace relationships
- Greater work-life balance
- Increased productivity
- Decreased guilt over leaving pets at home

[A 2015 Society for Human Resource Management survey](#) found that 8% of American workplaces allow employees to bring their furry loved ones to work, up from 5% in 2013.

Curious to hear how these pet-friendly policies come to life in real life? Here are two companies I found (besides the biggies mentioned above) that welcome pets in the office and how they do it.

Pet Supplies Plus

This pet supply franchise promotes the fact that it has a cockatoo in the corner office—it's CEO **Chris Rowland**'s bird. The Livonia, Michigan-based corporate headquarters location provides employees with myriad pet-related perks, ranging from “Pet-ternity” for new puppy owners to “Furr-idays” where employees can bring their pet to work every Friday.

Tayne Law Group, P.C.

This Melville, New York, law office became pet friendly after founder **Leslie Tayne** began raising puppies for the Guide Dog Foundation in nearby

Smithtown. The firm receives new puppy “ interns” every month with each new puppy trainee she receives. Employees are encouraged to take care of the dogs at the office with their dog walking and feedings throughout the day, which helps relieve employee stress and provides an outlet for mental release as well as physical activity.