

Purina celebrates Take Your Dog to Work Day to show how pets and people are better together at work

- Purina partnered with the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine to conduct a new workplace survey

- Results showed that more than half of employees who want pets at work will spearhead efforts to make their workplace pet friendly(1)

- Purina seeks to set world record by bringing most pets to work for Take Your Dog to Work Day

ST. LOUIS, June 26, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- More than 17 years ago, Nestlé Purina started encouraging its associates to bring their pets to work and the program has provided many benefits for employees and their pets through the years. Now, one of the pet-care industry leaders is celebrating national Take Your Dog to Work Day by encouraging other companies to join them in this movement and start their own pets at work policies.

"At Purina, we believe that pets and people are better together – whether at home or at work," said Dr. Kurt Venator, a Purina veterinarian. "As pet lovers and owners, we are passionate about the [Pets at Work](#) movement and encourage our associates to bring their pets to work every day so they can experience the benefits, including exercise from a dog walk during lunch break or having a calming companion nearby during stressful times. This is why we see hundreds of pets at our St. Louis campus every week."

Studies show that employees who bring pets to work have fewer signs of stress.² To get a better understanding of how people felt about pets in the workplace, Purina partnered with the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine to conduct a U.S. survey in June 2015 and found among 750 respondents: ³

- Almost two out of three employees agree pets should be allowed in the workplace if there is a general consensus among employees
- 85 percent of employees of companies with pets in the office say that pets at work policies are beneficial
- 72 percent of employees said that their jobs currently do not allow pets in the workplace
- More than half of those who want pets allowed in the office are willing to spearhead efforts to make their workplaces pet friendly

The 750 respondents include pet owners and non-pet owners, as well as people who can take their pets to work and those who cannot.

"The relationship humans and animals share is dynamic and over the years it has been shown that the bond can be beneficial to the well-being of both," said Dr. Sharon Fooshee Grace, clinical professor at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. "Through this survey, we now have a real opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the human-animal bond and how to maximize the potential of the special relationships shared between people and pets."

A World Record Attempt and an Invitation to Join the Pets at Work Movement

Purina will be celebrating national Take Your Dog to Work Day this year with fun-filled activities for employees at the Purina headquarters in St. Louis, highlighted by an attempt to set a RecordSetter.com World Record for 'Most Pets in a Workplace in One Day' by inviting employees to bring their pets to work on June 26.

The day-long event will also include performances by the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Team, pet check-ups by veterinarians, pet photographs by a professional pet photographer and a "Yappy Hour" with ice cream and Frosty Paws cold treats for associates and their pets.

Purina is calling for other employers to join the Pets at Work movement by asking companies to pledge their intent to implement their own pets at work program. The company has developed resources to help other companies become more pet-friendly, including an Employer Toolkit with tips and documents to help employers implement a pets at work program. The toolkit includes an etiquette guide, office checklist and an authorization and release form, among other helpful resources.

Purina has also provided pet lovers with their own Employee Toolkit to help encourage facility managers and employers to embrace pets in the workplace and recognize the positive impacts it can have on employees and the overall business. Employees can get access to tips, articles, printable guidelines and a petition to help make their workplace pet friendly.

The toolkits are available for download [here](#).

"Having pets walking through our offices every day makes for a warmer, friendlier environment at Purina, and we believe it helps with our productivity," Dr. Venator said. "We realize it won't work for every company and every pet owner, but we encourage other companies to try it and see for themselves how bringing pets to work can be a real benefit – for pets and their owners."

For more information about Purina's Pets at Work campaign, visit www.purina.com/petsatwork.

About Nestlé Purina PetCare

Nestlé Purina PetCare promotes responsible pet care, community involvement and the positive bond between people and their pets. A premiere global manufacturer of pet products, Nestlé Purina PetCare is part of Swiss-based Nestlé S.A., a global leader in nutrition, health and wellness.

¹ Penn Schoen Berland. 2015 Purina Pet at Work Survey. 2015.

² [Randolph T. Barker](#), [Janet S. Knisely](#), [Sandra B. Barker](#), [Rachel K. Cobb](#), [Christine M. Schubert](#), (2012) "Preliminary investigation of employee's dog presence on stress and organizational perceptions", International Journal of Workplace Health Management, Vol. 5 Iss: 1, pp.15 - 30.

³ Penn Schoen Berland. 2015 Purina Pet at Work Survey. 2015.

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For further information: Bill Etling, Nestlé Purina, 314.982.4825, William.etling@purina.nestle.com; Allison Cory, Burson-Marsteller, 312.596.3416, allison.cory@bm.com

Additional assets available online:  [Photos \(1\)](#)