

WORKING *like a dog*

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We all love our dogs. They are man's best friend after all. While some of us have to leave our beloved pets at home for the day, these Ottawa business owners take their dogs to the office.

◀ Gina Purcell and Gaston, a Shih-Tzu Urban Era Stone

HOW OFTEN IS GASTON IN THE OFFICE WITH YOU? Pretty much every day. I just adore him and many customers look forward to seeing him. He loves when they fuss over him. When he isn't at work he is missed and people will ask for him. He's very patient and loves to be around people.

DOES HE DISTRACT YOU FROM YOUR WORK? Occasionally, but only because he's so cute. He's like a living, breathing teddy bear and he makes us all smile. He also has me wrapped around his paw. He knows how to get my attention, plus he's only one so he still has the playful puppy in him. His favourite toy at Urban is a green dragon that squeaks. He runs like a wild man through the showroom with it, shaking it and hoping someone will take notice and chase him a bit. Which isn't always the best when we are on the phone!

WHERE DOES HE SIT DURING THE DAY? Gaston has his own office chair that sits beside me. He thinks he is a person. Gaston knows how to say Mom or Momma – everyone laughs and says we are crazy! He also has a comfy dog bed he likes to lay in under my desk or he will sit in front of the door and watch the activity outside waiting for someone to come in.



▲ Luc Crawford with Rio, a Havanese Luc Crawford Design Inc.

WHY DO YOU TAKE RIO TO WORK? I think that bringing Rio to the office can be beneficial for the company and the employees. He has increased morale and productivity and makes the employees happier. Having him around reduces the level of stress and lightens the mood.

WHAT DO YOUR CLIENTS SAY ABOUT RIO? All of our clients love Rio! He is a really social dog and loves to make friends with our entire clientele. Dog lovers get particularly attached to him. Some of them even spoil him by giving him treats!

HOW DOES HE GREET PEOPLE? As soon as Rio hears the door open he runs to greet the visitor, requesting attention. He always makes a point to show his excitement when new people join us at the office.

Continued on page 66



◀ Caroline Castrucci with Bruno and Nero, Dorkies (a Dachshund and Yorkie cross)
Laurysen Kitchens
WHERE DO BRUNO AND NERO HANG OUT AT LAURYSSEN? Bruno and Nero are in my gated office while I work during the day.
HOW DO THEY SPEND THEIR DAY? They lounge around all day, either on my lap, or on their Spiderman couch (a purchase of Caroline's especially for the dogs) or they play with their toys around the office.
HOW DOES IT HELP YOU TO HAVE THE DOGS AT WORK WITH YOU? It helps because I have to get up and let them out, so it gives me a break from my computer. It's great when I have people in my office because they play with them and that gives me (in most cases) an instant connection. It's a great stress reliever too! *Continued on page 68*



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▼ Fred Carmosino, Brian Saumure and Coco, a Portuguese Water Dog
Maple Leaf Custom Homes

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT HOW COCO ENDED UP IN YOUR OFFICE. We constructed a house in Dunrobin, on the street where our office was located, for clients who also happened to be related to Brian's partner. A year after they moved in, Coco seemed to develop some separation anxiety. To help Coco with her anxiety her family decided to try leaving Coco at Brian's place (where she stayed upstairs, out of the office environment). It wasn't long before she had migrated down to the office space. She's pretty much been here ever since. Like most other members of the Maple Leaf team, she reports to work in the morning, puts in a full day and gets picked up after work.

WHAT DOES COCO DO IN THE OFFICE ALL DAY? Coco drives us crazy... in a good way. She basically relaxes. When she's not relaxing she's clawing the door to get out or clawing the door to get in. She has assumed ownership of one specific chair at the meeting table. If her chair is tucked in she'll moan until someone adjusts the chair so she can sit in it.

DOES SHE CAUSE MISCHIEF IN THE OFFICE? Coco, like most dogs, has a nose for food. However, unlike some dogs, she's relentless in her pursuit to get it. We often find her digging through garbage looking for wrappers. Other than her neurotic behaviour, going in and out of the office all day, she's pretty good. **OH**

▲ Greg Gaylord and Tia,
a Pomichon (a Pomeranian/Bichon mix)
Gaylord Hardwood Flooring

WHAT DOES TIA DO IN THE OFFICE? Accounts receivable and security. Just kidding. She mostly just lays in her bed.

HOW DOES SHE GREET CLIENTS? Sometimes with a few barks if she's startled, but she mostly just gets out of her bed, stretches out and then walks over to them.

DOES SHE HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE OFFICE? She has a fancy leopard-print sofa, which sits by my feet in my office.

