

The (not so) secret life of pets...

It's safe to say that working from home has allowed us to both see and hear lots of each other's pets... be it cats trying to sit on laptops, snoring dogs or dogs barking at the postman.

As a result, pets are often a topic of conversation amongst the team and with our clients. So we thought, what better time to share some of the office pets with our readers?



Tia Yemm

AGE: 7

"We've had Tia for 2 years now. Tia actually belonged to my eldest daughter, Vicky. However, once she found out that she was pregnant with twins, she decided to gift Tia to me to help her out. Since then, Tia has never left my side.

As she is a cross between a Labrador and a Shar Pei, she loves her food and will generally gobble up almost anything – roast lamb is a particular favourite!

Although Tia is a lady, she always gets mistaken for a strapping lad when out on walks by people that do not know her... this very much annoys her."

Clive Yemm, Tia's human



Bertie Hartley

AGE: 7 MONTHS

"Meet Bertie, our Working Cocker Spaniel – we got him in August when he was just 8 weeks old!

We originally planned to rehome a rescue dog but everywhere we looked wouldn't do this if you have children under 5 (my son, Oscar, is 4) so we took the plunge and welcomed this crazy pup into our life.

His registered name with the breeder was Shadow but Oscar can't yet pronounce 'Sh' so was calling him Saddo! We therefore came up with a few names and took a vote before we decided on Bertie.

However, Shadow would have been an appropriate name as he never leaves my side! He is the most lovable little chap and I cannot imagine my life without him now."

Hayley Hartley, Bertie's human



Flick Wynard

AGE: 12 OR 13

"Flick came to us from Dogs Trust just before Christmas in 2013. We aren't quite sure exactly how old she is but she's thought to be around age 12 or 13.

Whilst we are clearly biased, we tell her frequently that she's the best dog in the world and she's one of the best decisions my husband and I ever made. The first year or so of her being with us was a little difficult as she was scared and hadn't had the best life up to that point but with lots of love, attention and care, she has become a very happy and much loved dog.

Flick loves food, walking, going on holiday and more food! One of my favourite pastimes is taking her on long walks and she will very happily walk for miles.

The picture sums up all of Flick's favourite things... it was taken at a beach café in Cornwall whilst out walking one day. Sadly, for Flick, the portion of chips wasn't for her... although she may have stolen one or two!"

Karen Wynard, Flick's human



Poppy Appleyard

AGE: 11

"Here is Poppy and as you can see from the photo, she's trying to keep her paws warm! I first saw Poppy advertised on a pet website but didn't realise Macclesfield was so far away – especially with 3 small children in the car! After a brief stop at McDonald's, we eventually managed to find Poppy's home.

We hadn't told the girls why we were going just in case we didn't bring her home. But after trailing all that way we couldn't not bring her home! Needless to say, Poppy was ill in the car on the long journey home...

Over the years, there's been numerous occasions in which Poppy's chased birds and mice... and even brought them home as "presents". She's getting on a bit now and can't really be bothered to chase them anymore though!"

Lynne Appleyard, Poppy's human



Coco Dutton

AGE: 14

"Coco Dutton (as in Chanel not the clown darling!) is a Springer Spaniel who has been our family pet since she was 12 weeks' old – and came all the way from Cambridge!

When Coco was around 9 months' old she was attacked by two dogs who between them nearly finished her off, it was touch and go for a week or so but thankfully she was a little fighter and pulled through.

Coco's favourite activities are flushing out birds and retrieving tennis balls. She also absolutely loves DentaStix and carrots in equal measures. Although not as obedient these days following a couple of canine vertigo episodes she still ceases to amaze us all with her lovable 'get up and go' Spaniel character and is a much loved family pet".

Michelle Dutton, Coco's human



Jakey Devlin

AGE: 17

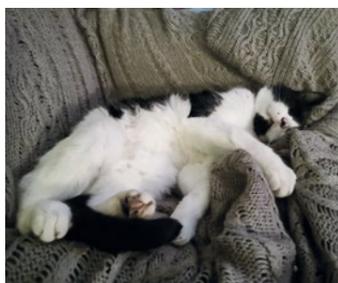
"Jakey has been with us for 9 years now (and part-time for 5 years prior to that). Weighing over 6.5kg without ever becoming a fat cat, he was a typical big bruiser alpha male in his youth which meant lots of fighting with other cats, dogs, rats and even foxes!

He was a street cat that left his previous home with his sister, Shadow, that a number of us used to feed and look after. However, on one occasion 8 years ago, he lost one of these fights and developed a nasty abscess on his leg which required treatment and staying indoors for a few weeks. We were the ones that took him in and he has stayed with us ever since.

As previously mentioned, he's a bit of a big bruiser so likes plenty of treats – chicken, turkey, ham, and tuna are amongst his favourites. He also likes going round to see his best friend, a fluffy white cat called Milo, for Sunday dinner.

An effective hunter back in the day (and still able to catch mice up to a year ago despite suffering from severe spondylosis), rumour has it that his most exotic catch was a guineafowl that made the mistake of taking up residency on our old street."

Ian Devlin, Jakey's human



Woody Ball

AGE: 4

"Here's a photo of Woody the cat, who belongs to both myself and Tim - he's approximately 4 years old and we've had him for almost 3 years.

He actually used to belong to our previous neighbours. We were looking after him for a week when they moved out but that week turned into two, then three... they eventually agreed we could keep him due to a change in their circumstances.

He loves most foods and his hobbies are eating and sleeping".

Kayleigh Senior and Tim Ball, Woody's humans



Lennie and Amber Gibbs

AGE: 6 AND 3 MONTHS

"This is Lennie, the cat, 'keeping out of the way' on Christmas day. He is our oldest pet resident and has helped bring up 3 children, another cat, a dog, 2 rabbits, 2 guinea pigs and a hamster.

He also lost half of his tail when my eldest Daughter closed a door on it 5 years ago! He's had a tough life but he gets a lot of love.

Here is also Amber, our dog, looking like butter wouldn't melt on Declan (my son's) birthday... but don't be fooled by her puppy dog eyes!"

Ash Gibbs, Lennie and Amber's human

