

For a great office get your dogs on the job

Carin Pickworth

STOP working like a dog and work with one.

By doing so, you'll join the legion of pet lovers who have found an integrative way to raise productivity in the workplace.

Research has shown having pets in the workplace can reduce stress and increase the feeling of wellbeing in the office.

Friends of the furry kind can take the lead from internet giants like Google, which claims its dog-friendly office policy has been part and parcel of its snowballing success. A survey by American Pet Products Manufacturers Association has found a decrease in employee absenteeism in staff allowed to bring their pets to work, and with the

proliferation of small to medium enterprises across the globe, more and more businesses allow pets at desks.

Brisbane company Majer Recruitment's Fortitude Valley premises would not be the same without valued team members Pepe and Hollie — two lovable daschunds.

Majer Recruitment director, Suzie Majer, says she took advantage of her warehouse setting by bringing her dogs along, and now no working day is complete without them.

"We work in a converted warehouse which is a big open space and we thought it would be a nice touch to have the dogs at work for employee morale,"

Ms Majer says of her three-year-old business.

"What we found is that our clients actually really warmed to the idea too, and Pepe and Hollie ensure things are kept really down-to-earth and relaxed around here, which is the sort of place we all prefer."

Ms Majer says the presence of the dogs has even encouraged a regular exercise regime among her employees, who take the dogs for a lunch time walk each day.

"I think having the dogs around actually helps to promote healthy living," she says.

"Not only do they have enough character and person-

ality to keep us all upbeat, but they force you to get some outside time during work hours which is healthy for the body and productivity."

Majer Recruitment is a specialist recruitment firm working on behalf of job seeking candidates and several of Australia's well-recognised corporate players.

Ms Majer says the presence of Pepe and Hollie adds yet another element of difference to the business.

"It means our office is much more friendly and welcome," she says.

"It's like proof that we are genuine."



PET friendly ... Suzie Majer with her daschunds, Pepe and Hollie, at Majer Recruitment.