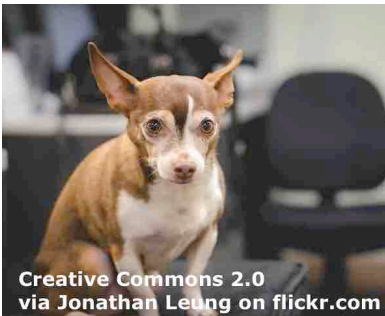


Japanese company allow pets into the office

26th September, 2022



The coronavirus pandemic has changed working conditions worldwide. Millions of people have switched from working in their offices to working remotely at home. A Japanese company has initiated a novel

measure to entice workers back into the office. The technology giant Fujitsu is allowing some of its workers to bring their pet dogs to work with them. Executives set up an experimental "dog office" at a building in Kawasaki, near Tokyo. Members of staff are being encouraged to return to the office by bringing their dogs to work. It is part of a trial aimed at making workers more comfortable in the workplace. More people may be willing to give up working remotely from home.

Japan's workforce is renowned for spending long hours in the office. The pandemic greatly changed this. Many workers started working from home. They preferred this new culture of teleworking. They also decided that working remotely was better than enduring two-hour commutes from the suburbs. They got attached to the idea of spending more quality time with their pets. Fujitsu's experiment is an incentive for workers to return to the office and be with their pooches. One worker said he could "communicate with other people with the help of our dogs". Reuters says the Fujitsu "dog office" has space for up to six dogs "and features stain-proof carpets and a range of pet supplies".

Sources: reuters.com / nypost.com / usnews.com

Writing

All offices and workplaces should allow pets. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

coronavirus / pandemic / offices / remotely / workers / technology / dogs / trial / workforce / long hours / teleworking / commutes / suburbs / quality time / help / pet

True / False

- 1) Coronavirus changed the working conditions of billions of workers. T / F
- 2) A company that publishes novels introduced new measures. T / F
- 3) Workers at the Kawasaki motorbike company can bring pets to work. T / F
- 4) If workers can bring their pets to work, more workers may come into the office. T / F
- 5) Japan's workers are well known for working long hours. T / F
- 6) Some workers have a two-hour journey to work. T / F
- 7) Up to 60 dogs can use the trial office. T / F
- 8) The company has put carpets that cannot be stained in its special office. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. switched | a. action |
| 2. initiated | b. prepared |
| 3. measure | c. inducement |
| 4. experimental | d. started |
| 5. willing | e. coping with |
| 6. renowned | f. pilot |
| 7. enduring | g. blemish |
| 8. commutes | h. shifted |
| 9. incentive | i. journeys to work |
| 10. stain | j. well known |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How long should people spend in an office?
- c) What are the disadvantages of working remotely?
- d) What are the downsides of people taking their pets to work?
- e) How do dogs help people communicate?
- f) How would you feel about dogs being in your workplace?
- g) What can companies do to keep pets happy?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the company execs?

Phrase Match

1. The coronavirus pandemic has changed
 2. a novel measure to
 3. members of
 4. It is part
 5. be willing to give
 6. renowned for spending
 7. two-hour
 8. an incentive for
 9. stain-proof
 10. a range
- a. of pet supplies
 - b. of a trial
 - c. up working remotely
 - d. long hours in the office
 - e. workers to return
 - f. entice workers back
 - g. carpets
 - h. working conditions worldwide
 - i. commutes
 - j. staff

Discussion – Student B

- a) Did the pandemic change how you work or study?
- b) What are the advantages of working remotely?
- c) Should pets be allowed in offices?
- d) What are the benefits of people taking their pets to work?
- e) Would you rather work at home or remotely?
- f) What do you think of the idea of a dog office?
- g) How else could companies make workers feel more comfortable?
- h) What advice do you have for people who work remotely?

Spelling

1. The coronavirus inpdmeca
2. ietindtia a novel measure
3. eienct workers back into the office
4. deurgaoenc to return
5. part of a irtla
6. working yoltmere from home
7. Japan's workforce is wneoernd
8. enduring two-hour cmmueost
9. from the bbusurs
10. an ceveinitn for workers
11. be with their spoohec
12. ntsia-proof carpets

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. a	4. f	5. b
6. j	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – More Sleep

You think more sleep is the best thing about remote working. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): greater productivity, no commuting or Zoom meetings.

Role B – No Commuting

You think no commuting is the best thing about remote working. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): more sleep, greater productivity or Zoom meetings.

Role C – Greater Productivity

You think greater productivity is the best thing about remote working. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): no commuting, more sleep or Zoom meetings.

Role D – Zoom Meetings

You think Zoom meetings are the best thing about remote working. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): greater productivity, no commuting or more sleep.

Speaking – Remote working

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about remote working at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Zoom meetings
- Home cooking
- Time with pets
- Time with family
- More sleep
- Greater productivity
- Boost to local economy
- No commuting

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.