

Top Dogs

Local leaders and their pooch pals



Jim Brandt and Jade

Photo by Tanya Lundine

Dog's name: Jade

Dog's nickname: The Jadester

Owner: Jim Brandt

Owner's company and position: President and founder, Sun Insurance Services Inc.

Dog's age, sex and breed: 2-year-old female, ancestry undetermined; appears to be a pit bull terrier

Dog's distinguishing features and capabilities: Her fur and eyes are the same beautiful fawn color. And she climbs trees in pursuit of squirrels.

Special pampering: Sleeps in cozy queen-size bed with her big "brother," Chris, 15. Neighbors drop off used tennis balls for chasing. We turn the water hose on for a special treat: doggie water ballet.

What does your dog do that helps you make it through the day? Insists on play at every opportunity, providing much needed exercise and stress relief

Do you take your dog to work? Occasionally on Saturdays. During the week, everyone is too busy to take care of her.

Has the dog ever attended a meeting? She attended a software demonstration once, but kept dropping the tennis ball in the sales rep's lap.

Risk-taking abilities: Afraid of her own shadow. She's dominated at home by Molly, a 16-year-old dachshund.

What do you like best about your dog? She's totally laid back and loves everyone she meets: adults, kids, strangers, friends and family. Plus, she's hilarious.

If you employed your dog at your company, what title would you give her? Anything but security guard. She would welcome an ax-murderer into the office.

"Top Dogs, Phat Cats" is a weekly feature in our Entrepreneur section. To nominate a CEO or president and their dog or cat, contact Cindy Barth at cbarth@bizjournals.com.