

# Fat cats who love dogs



Unconditional love is hard to get when you're the boss. Perhaps that explains why so many choose canines.

Patrick Durkin, Julie-anne Sprague and Nick Lenaghan

Former prime minister Paul Keating was one of several leaders who was fond of saying that if you are looking for a friend in business or politics, get a dog. Many of the bosses of our biggest companies have done just that.

Westpac boss Gail Kelly regularly emails staff with updates about her pooches, while the head of Centro Properties, Robert Tsenin, takes his dog for "puppychinos" on Saturday morning.

"It's lactose-free milk that is whipped up and heated, and then they put some chopped liver on top so it looks like a cappuccino," Tsenin says.

Foster's and Lend Lease chairman David Crawford still runs five kilometres with his two ageing border collies every morning, although the older one now sometimes waits at home.

Crawford likes his dogs so much because "they never answer back".

Elders chief executive Malcolm Jackman, who has a miniature poodle called Max and a shih tzu called Jess, jokes: "dogs show unconditional love which is a hard thing for a CEO to find".

The founder of Brumby's Bakeries and rich-lister Michael Sherlock says that some of his top business ideas have come while out with his dogs before work.

"I do some of my best work when I am walking my dogs in the morning because you are clear, you can think through the day and plan things.

"One of my claims to fame was inventing chocolate hot-cross buns. The idea came to me while I was walking my dogs."

Sherlock has a 14-year-old maltese-bichon frise cross called Stewie and a straight bichon frise called Penny.

"They are great for a suit-wearing CEO because they don't shed, so you don't get any hairs on you," Sherlock says.

Tsenin admits he has been known to shift board meetings to his dog's favourite time called

Call to heel

## Dog Whisperer shows how to be a p



... knows is an illegal Mexican immigrant who crossed the border with no money at the age of

... what is more important is that I can produce products which people can trust and rely on."

... calm but assertive. "Exercise discipline and then affection. Discipline is how you

about how he can stay social and intellectually active. He goes to day care a couple of times a week," Tsenin says.

"We take him for walks in the morning, at dusk and before going to bed. My wife says he brings a bit of normality to my behaviour. She thinks I am actually human when I am with him."

Treasury Wine Estates CEO David Dearie has a labradoodle called Coco. "I promised my daughter if we moved, we would get a dog. I never wanted one," he says. "When we moved to the UK [from the US] about 3½ years ago we got her."

Dearie later moved to Australia to lead the Australian arm of the then-Foster's business and

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adviser Gresham, David Feetham says he gets his highly athletic chocolate labrador Lachie to fetch his papers each morning. He also has a 10-year-old Jack Russell terrier called Tinkerbelle. "Lachie's speciality is finding and fetching the newspapers each morning and bringing the inside.

"The thing I find amazing about dogs is that they are always in a good mood. They never wake up on the wrong side of bed and are always pleased to see you," Feetham says.

"There are people who are cat people and people who are dog people. The people who are cat people love their dogs and the people who are dog people love their dogs and the family