

# Pet-Friendly Coworking Montreal: Office Space Guide

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## Executive Summary

This report provides a comprehensive examination of pet-friendly coworking and office spaces in Montreal, targeting dog owners. In recent years the rise of flexible work models and pet ownership has created demand for workplaces that accommodate pets, particularly dogs. In Canada, roughly **28% of Quebec households** owned dogs in 2021 (Source: [www.bestinmtl.com](http://www.bestinmtl.com)), and nationally about 7.9 million dogs lived in Canadian homes in 2022 (Source: [www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)). At the same time, the coworking industry has expanded rapidly: by mid-2025, Canada had about **883 coworking spaces nationwide** (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) and the market (valued at CAD \$285 million in 2023) is projected to **nearly triple to \$893 million by 2030** (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) due to **hybrid work trends** and suburban expansion. Notably, **a quarter of Canadian workers now work remotely or hybrid** (28.4% in 2025 vs 4% pre-pandemic (Source: [www.jobbase.ca](http://www.jobbase.ca)), supporting continued growth in coworking demand.

In response to these trends, many offices and coworking groups are revising “no-pets” policies: **surveys indicate strong interest from both employees and executives**. For example, 72% of corporate leaders in North America expect more workplaces to become pet-friendly post-pandemic (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)), and majorities of workers report they would be happier to bring pets to work (57% of surveyed employees said they would be happier working side-by-side with their dog (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Coworking operators, in turn, see pet-friendly amenities as a competitive differentiator. Industry blogs note that **67% of coworking members** would choose a dog-friendly workspace if available (Source: [www.goodnaturedbbrand.com](http://www.goodnaturedbbrand.com)) (Source: [www.coworks.com](http://www.coworks.com)), and **61% of remote workers** prefer pet-friendly environments (Source: [www.goodnaturedbbrand.com](http://www.goodnaturedbbrand.com)) (Source: [www.coworks.com](http://www.coworks.com)). Coworking owners like **WeWork** are formalizing pet policies – e.g. explicitly allowing “well-behaved dogs” in designated locations (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)) – to attract and retain this growing segment of workers.

For Montreal's dog-owning professionals, this trend means new options but also new considerations. While formally pet-friendly coworking spaces in Montreal remain limited, the overall ecosystem is evolving. This report surveys the *Canadian coworking market and Montreal's workspace scene, pet ownership trends and regulations, and the benefits and challenges of dogs in shared offices*. It includes case studies (e.g. Denver's HomeDog coworking and Montreal's BYOD event) as examples of pet-friendly work initiatives. The report also analyzes survey data and expert commentary on productivity, community, and well-being impacts. Finally, it discusses implications for urban workspace design and outlines future directions for pet-friendly work environments.

## Introduction and Background

**Remote and flexible work have transformed the workplace.** The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a massive shift to remote work, from ~4% of Canadian workers pre-pandemic to a peak of ~42% in 2021 (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). As of 2025, about **28.4% of Canadian workers** remain remote or hybrid (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). Montreal, as part of Quebec, mirrors these trends: by late 2025 an estimated ~25% of Quebec's workforce is expected to remain in remote-friendly arrangements (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). This rise of **hybrid work** has created demand for "[third places](#)" and flexible offices outside the traditional home and office. Coworking spaces have proliferated: as of mid-2025 roughly **883 such spaces were operating in Canada** (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). Montreal, with a major entrepreneurial and bilingual economy, hosts dozens of [coworking venues](#), often at more affordable rates than Toronto or Vancouver (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). Hot-desk pricing in Montreal tends to range **CAD \$200–400 per month**, with private offices from **\$400 to \$1,200+** (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)), reflecting the city's slightly lower [cost of living](#).

**Pet ownership is also on the rise.** Canada's pet population has been growing: pet demographics show **28.05 million pets** in 2021 (up from 27.47M in 2016) and projected ~28.51M by 2025 (Source: [www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)). Dogs are Canada's most popular pet after cats: in 2022 an estimated **7.9 million dogs** lived in Canadian homes (Source: [www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)), out of about 13 million households. In Quebec specifically, dog ownership jumped from 25% of households in 2019 to about 28% by 2021 (Source: [www.bestinmtl.com](http://www.bestinmtl.com)) (though cats still slightly outnumber dogs in the province). Importantly, dog owners often view pets as family: surveys find **70% of Canadians** consider their pet a family member (Source: [www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)). Roughly *one in three* Canadians acquired a new dog or cat during the pandemic (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Thus for many working Montréalais, dogs are integral parts of daily life, raising questions about how work arrangements can accommodate them.

**The rise of pet-friendly workplaces.** As employees have spent more time with pets (and more companies have adopted flexible work), the concept of "bringing your dog to work" has gained traction. A 2021 North American survey of executives found **59% planned to give pet owners more flexibility** to work from home or bring pets with them (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)), and **72% agreed** that workplaces would become more pet-friendly in the future (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). On the employee side, a Banfield Pet Hospital/OnePoll study showed **57% of workers** would be happier at work if their pet could be with them (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)); similarly, a 2021 Coworker.com member survey found **67%** of respondents prefer dog-friendly spaces (Source: [www.goodnaturebrand.com](http://www.goodnaturebrand.com)) (Source: [www.coworks.com](http://www.coworks.com)). In essence, the growing intersection of remote work and pet-ownership has sparked demand: **many dog-owning professionals now seek workplaces where pets are welcome**.

**Montreal context:** Montreal has long been seen as an innovative city for combining lifestyle and work. It maintains a strong café culture and social scene where pets (especially dogs) are often included. Dog parks and open green space abound, and the city actively promotes itself as pet-friendly for tourism (Source: [zoomies.zone](http://zoomies.zone)). Local civic regulations complement this (e.g. *all* dogs must be microchipped, sterilized, and licensed in Montreal (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)), with households limited to a maximum of 3 dogs (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)). However, traditional workplaces in Montreal have mostly been "no pets" until recently. In recent years, a few initiatives have started to change that. For example, the tech co-living/coworking venture ATD Clubhouse hosted a "Bring Your Own Dog" community event in 2025 (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)). In addition, national chains like WeWork, which has multiple Montreal locations, explicitly permit dogs in designated pet-friendly offices (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)). Nonetheless, aside from these cases, pet-friendly coworking remains relatively scarce in Montreal. This gap means dog owners often lack official options to bring pets to work, making dedicated guides like this one important.

## Coworking Trends and the Post–Pandemic Workplace

### Growth of Coworking in Canada and Montreal

Coworking has rapidly evolved from a niche startup phenomenon to a mainstream workplace strategy in Canada. Market analysis shows the sector's explosive growth: in 2021 the **North American coworking market** was estimated at over **\$19 billion** globally (Source: [www.kenresearch.com](http://www.kenresearch.com)), and in Canada the industry was worth about **\$285 million CAD in 2023** (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). Critically, the Canadian sector is forecast to nearly **triple to \$893 million** by 2030 (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). This growth is driven by several factors: widespread adoption of hybrid/remote work, rising demand from small businesses and freelancers for flexible space, and coworking operators expanding beyond major urban centers into suburbs and smaller cities (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). By mid-2025, about **883 coworking spaces were operating nationwide** (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) – concentrated in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal – with rapid spillover into cities like Calgary and Ottawa.

Montreal's coworking scene typifies these trends. As the largest city in Quebec and a bilingual cosmopolitan hub, Montreal offers both affordability and a vibrant creative economy that draws users to coworking. According to industry reports, Montreal boasts a "thriving bilingual market" and generally lower rates than Toronto/Vancouver (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). For example, the cited analysis notes hot-desk

memberships in Montreal average about **\$200–\$400 per month**, significantly below those in higher-cost Canadian cities (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). Coworking spaces are spread across neighborhoods: downtown (Old Port, Griffintown, Plateau), tech districts (Mile-End, St-Henri), and newer hubs (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Parc-Extension). Notable operators include national chains (WeWork, Spaces, Regus), plus local venues like 2727 Coworking, Halte 24-7, Fabrik8, Crew Collective & Café, and many sector-specific co-ops (e.g. video game coworking at GamePlay Space).

The **rise of hybrid work** is fueling coworking demand. After a spike during lockdowns, the portion of Canadians permanently remote has stabilized at roughly 12% (with many more hybrid) (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)) (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). Meanwhile, a large segment of the workforce (about 16–24%) is hybrid, meaning they split time between home and office (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)) (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). This hybrid model has become dominant: **64% of knowledge-sector workers** now prefer it (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). In Quebec, the JobEase report shows about **25.2% of workers** are remote/hybrid (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)). This dramatic shift from the 4% remote pre-pandemic to 28.4% in 2025 (Source: [www.jobease.ca](http://www.jobease.ca)) underscores that many professionals need flexible work environments. Coworking spaces: \* Provide shared office facilities and community at scale \* Offer flexible terms (daily passes, month-to-month) \* Enable businesses to reduce long-term real-estate commitments \* and crucially can position themselves as pet-friendly **niches** to attract remote pet owners.

**Table 1. Coworking Market and Remote Work Trends (Canada).** This table summarizes key industry figures showing the rise of flexible work and coworking.

METRIC	VALUE	SOURCE
Canadian workers (2025) remote/hybrid	28.4% of workforce (Source: <a href="http://www.jobease.ca">www.jobease.ca</a> )	JobEase (2026)
Canadian workers (2021) remote/hybrid	42% (pandemic peak) (Source: <a href="http://www.jobease.ca">www.jobease.ca</a> )	JobEase (2026)
Canadian coworking spaces (mid-2025)	~883 locations nationwide (Source: <a href="http://www.optixapp.com">www.optixapp.com</a> )	Optix (2025)
Canadian coworking market (2023)	\$285 M CAD (Source: <a href="http://www.optixapp.com">www.optixapp.com</a> )	Optix (2025)
Canadian coworking market (2030 proj.)	\$893 M CAD (Source: <a href="http://www.optixapp.com">www.optixapp.com</a> )	Optix (2025)

## Implications for Tenants and Employers

The expansion of coworking and remote work has mixed implications. For employers, flexible work policies can improve employee satisfaction and reduce costly long-term leases. However, managers must also address new employee needs: “*work-life integration*” now often includes pets. For example, up to **38% of employees** across North America worry about their dog’s separation anxiety after returning to the office (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Many pet owners would prefer arrangements that allow them to stay with their animal. Surveys confirm that a majority of knowledge- sector workers say they’d be happier and more productive if allowed to bring pets to work (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)) (Source: [www.goodnaturebrand.com](http://www.goodnaturebrand.com)). This has led some companies to rethink policies: a 2021 poll of executives found **59% plan to give pet-owning employees more flexibility** until offices reopen (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Even outside coworking, mainstream offices (e.g. some tech firms) are adapting “bring your dog” policies.

For coworking operators, accommodating pets is both an opportunity and a challenge. On one hand, allowing dogs (the most popular pet) can attract a large customer segment and foster loyalty. On the other hand, it requires careful policy design to address hygiene, allergies, and liability. Many articles (Optix, Spacebring, Coworks) outline both pros and cons, which will be detailed below. In Montreal specifically, landlords and space managers must also heed local regulations (e.g. Montreal law requires dogs to be licensed, leashed, etc. (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)). Ultimately, coworking spaces that craft thoughtful pet policies and amenities (like on-site clean-up supplies or dog-friendly lounges) may appeal strongly to dog owners, providing a unique niche in a competitive real-estate market (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)).

## Pet-Friendly Workspaces: Rationale and Benefits

## The Human-Animal Bond at Work

Bringing pets, especially dogs, into the work environment has recognized psychological and social benefits. Decades of research in human–animal interaction show that pets can reduce stress and increase well-being. Interacting with dogs releases the hormone oxytocin (the “love” hormone) and lowers cortisol (the stress hormone) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). In office settings, short breaks to pet or walk a dog allow people’s minds to rest and recharge. A recent coworking blog (Spacebring) notes that brief dog-breaks free up our backs and legs and refresh our brains, leading to heightened productivity afterward (Source: [www.spacebring.com](http://www.spacebring.com)).

Quantitative studies support these intuitions. For example, a UK office survey found **78% of dog-owning employees** reported mental health benefits from having their pet nearby at work (Source: [www.coworks.com](http://www.coworks.com)). Authors of coworking guides frequently cite such figures: an Optix blog states that petting a dog “can release oxytocin, [...] reducing stress and promoting well-being” (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). Employees also see pets as ice-breakers: dogs naturally become conversation starters and social magnets. This effect strengthens workplace community. As one coworking guide puts it, dogs in the office create a relaxed atmosphere and “help foster a sense of community and enhanced social connections” among coworkers (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)).

Beyond mood, pets can increase engagement. A study cited by coworking bloggers found that **23% of workers** claimed they would be more efficient with their pet as a desk companion (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Similarly, Toronto’s Dog Moms blog explains that dog-friendly workspaces keep owners “productive without leaving [their] dog behind” and participants feel the arrangement “makes everyone more relaxed and ready to work” (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)). Coworking companies report anecdotal improvements in focus and morale: for instance, members of Boston’s Bond Collective often cite lowered anxiety and enhanced collaboration during dog-filled coworking days (Source: [www.goodnaturedband.com](http://www.goodnaturedband.com)).

Crucially, these benefits also extend to the pets. Dogs are social animals; being able to accompany their owner to a safe space prevents loneliness and stimulates them. As the Toronto blog notes, dog-friendly spaces give pets chances to socialize and experience new environments, which can make the pet “happy and healthy” (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)). Avoiding long hours alone can reduce dogs’ anxiety and destructive behaviors at home. Thus both owners and dogs gain: happier owners, happier dogs, improved work–life harmony for families.

**Community and Networking Effects.** Coworking spaces thrive on community. Pets amplify this. Dogs acting as “social lubricants” lower barriers to conversation – colleagues bond over pet snacks, training tips, or simply admiration for a new furry coworker. A 2022 review in the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* identified dogs as “social catalysts” that create emotional support among colleagues. In practical terms, pet-friendly spaces host “Bark & Bond” social events or fundraisers that double as networking opportunities. Business owners note that if two coworkers meet through their dogs, it builds stronger community ties. In a coworking environment, this can lead to organic referrals and cross-collaboration that benefit members’ businesses.

**Marketing and Recruitment.** For coworking operators, pet-friendliness serves as a differentiator. With many coworking spaces offering similar amenities (Wi-Fi, coffee, meeting rooms), welcoming dogs can set a space apart in marketing materials. Companies may advertise “dog-friendly” as a perk to draw in the growing demographic of pet-loving entrepreneurs and remote workers (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). Some spaces even charge premium daily or monthly fees for pets, adding a new revenue stream. Employee recruitment experts also note that Millennial and Gen Z job candidates increasingly expect pet-friendly policies (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Allowing dogs can thus be a talent-attraction tool.

## Key Benefits Summarized

Bringing these points together, the **primary advantages** of pet-friendly workspaces for dog owners include:

- **Stress Reduction:** Interacting with a pet lowers cortisol and blood pressure (Source: [www.spacebring.com](http://www.spacebring.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)), providing real-time breaks from work tension.
- **Well-Being and Morale:** Studies show editorial staff are calmer and happier when dogs are present (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)) (Source: [www.coworks.com](http://www.coworks.com)), improving overall workplace mood.
- **Creativity and Productivity:** Relaxed breaks with pets refresh the mind. Many coworking advocates argue that pet owners return to tasks feeling recharged and more creative (Source: [www.spacebring.com](http://www.spacebring.com)) (Source: [www.goodnaturedband.com](http://www.goodnaturedband.com)).
- **Community Building:** Dogs act as catalysts for social interaction and community. Conversations often start around pets, strengthening coworker relationships (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)).
- **Work-Life Harmony:** Pet owners avoid the anxiety of leaving a dog home alone or the cost of full-time pet care. Having the dog nearby integrates personal life and work life. This can lead to higher job satisfaction and retention (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)).

- **Networking and Differentiation:** For the space, pet-friendly policies can become a selling point to attract niche clientele (pet owners) and humanize the brand (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)).

## Challenges and Considerations

While the benefits are compelling, pet-friendly coworking is not without drawbacks. Responsible implementation requires navigating several concerns:

- **Allergies and Phobias:** Some coworkers may be allergic to dogs or uncomfortable around them. Official policies often strike a balance by designating specific pet-friendly areas or requiring owners to manage their pets closely. For example, WeWork's house rules forbid unattended animals and may exclude some breeds (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)). Coworking hosts should ensure non-pet zones remain accessible and that allergy sufferers have alternatives.
- **Noise and Disruption:** Even well-behaved dogs can bark or require attention. Space guidelines usually limit disruptive behavior. Spacebring's analysis points out that dog-friendly coworking "is not for everyone," since active dogs may distract some members (Source: [www.spacebring.com](http://www.spacebring.com)). In practice, spaces mitigate this by requiring that dogs remain quiet and by providing off-leash play periods in separate areas (like an outdoor patio or designated corner).
- **Hygiene and Cleanliness:** Sharing an office with pets means dogs may shed or have accidents. Pet-friendly spaces must maintain high cleaning standards. Provision of cleaning supplies, designated relief areas (e.g. a backyard or pet lawn), and perhaps professional cleaning services is essential. The broader café/nightlife culture in Montreal (where dogs are often allowed in outdoor patios) suggests local familiarity with maintaining cleanliness, but indoor coworking venues will need strict rules (e.g. no shedding mats, immediate cleanup policies).
- **Liability and Insurance:** Dog owners must sign waivers and carry pet liability insurance if required. WeWork's policy specifies that pet-owners are "responsible for any injury or damage caused by their pet" (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)). A coworking operator must consider adding animal-related clauses in leases, and dog owners should have current vaccinations and licenses (Montreal law mandates licensing (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca))).
- **Clientele Impact:** Very few things are universally appealing. Some surveys warn that explicitly labeling a space "dog-friendly" may deter non-pet owners. Spacebring notes that "your clientele may reduce a bit" when a "dog-friendly" label is posted (Source: [www.spacebring.com](http://www.spacebring.com)). However, operators argue the net benefit of customer loyalty often outweighs any turnover of non-dog owners. In Montreal's multicultural society, not everyone is raised "around dogs," so clear signage and inclusion of non-pet zones helps address this concern.
- **Compliance with Regulations:** Montreal and Quebec have animal welfare laws (leash rules, breed restrictions, licensing) that apply even in private workspaces. WeWork's generic house rules allow service animals anywhere (as required by law) but otherwise make pet admittance conditional (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)). Coworking spaces should explicitly align their policies with Quebec's regulations (e.g. maximum number of animals per person (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)), spaying/neutering mandates (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca))).

In short, successfully integrating dogs into coworking requires *thoughtful planning*. Space owners should establish clear guidelines (e.g. no aggressive dogs or strong intangible events), invest in amenities (dog bowls, waste bins), and communicate openly with members. In surveys of established dog-friendly offices, owners emphasize pre-screening dogs, requiring obedience certifications, and educating members on etiquette.

## Pet-Friendly Coworking: Global Examples and Case Studies

Though relatively new, pet-friendly coworking has taken off in pockets around the world. These examples illustrate approaches and outcomes that can inform Montreal spaces:

### Denver's HomeDog (May 2025) (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)) (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com))

- **Overview:** HomeDog launched in Denver in May 2025 as the first coworking space specifically built around dog owners (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)). Located in a large former venue, it targets **Denver's 45% dog-owning households** (per their estimate) and aims to keep working dog-parents productive.
- **Policy:** As a fully dog-centric space, HomeDog permits members to bring dogs **all day**. It offers tiered monthly memberships (\$95–\$195 USD) and day passes (\$25) (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)). The founder, tech worker-turned-entrepreneur Alex Novik, explicitly built the model around his own need to "stay productive without leaving [his dog] behind" (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)).

- **Amenities:** Plans include dog-friendly features such as an on-site dog park/garden, grooming services, and events (the Axios report noted a forthcoming full-service coffee bar and beer taproom (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)). Already the space functions as a hybrid office/ dog day-care: staff manage cleanup and ensure pet safety while coworkers handle work.
- **Outcomes:** Though data is limited (HomeDog is brand-new), early reports emphasize positive community reception. The company stresses that the coexistence of dogs and humans has been smooth, with members deeply grateful for the option. HomeDog's model demonstrates that a full pet-centric coworking brand is viable in a city with many dog owners and a strong remote work culture (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)).

## Toronto's Acme Works and WeWork (Recent Examples) (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)) (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com))

- **WeWork (Toronto and Montreal):** In major Canadian offices, WeWork is known to welcome dogs. WeWork's global policy explicitly allows well-behaved dogs in pet-designated locations (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)). In Toronto, for instance, WeWork's downtown locations are advertised as dog-friendly (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)). (Montreal locations like L'Avenue share the same policy framework.) Members can bring vaccinated dogs, provided they stay accompanied. WeWork's example shows that large shared-office chains can integrate pet policies smoothly – likely contributing to WeWork's popular image among tech startups and creatives.
- **Acme Works (Toronto):** Acme Works (in Toronto's old Acme Textiles building) is explicitly marketed as dog-friendly (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)). Their amenities include flexible desk options and pet-friendly lounges. This smaller, boutique coworking spot brands itself around creativity and community, noting that owners and members frequently bring dogs. Acme's approach shows how a community-oriented coworking can foster a pet-positive atmosphere on a local scale.
- **WeWork Montreal:** Though data is sparse, several WeWork-Montreal locations (e.g. 1250 René-Lévesque, 1000 Saint-Antoine, L'Avenue) participate in WeWork's pet program. Photos on social media confirm dogs at Montreal WeWork lounges. WeWork's house policy (cited above) underscores that pets may roam *only in designated pet-friendly areas* (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)) – in practice, this often means members notify Community Hosts in advance and share vaccination records. For dog owners in Montreal, knowing global players like WeWork allow dogs can be reassuring (especially for those who travel or use hot-desking networks).

## Montreal Area Initiatives: DogPack's BYOD Event (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)) (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com))

Montreal's scene has also produced community-driven, if unofficial, pet-work initiatives. A notable example is **DogPack's "BYOD" (Bring Your Own Dog) event** held in May 2025 at Montreal's ATD Clubhouse, a coworking and coliving venue. This event was *not* a standing coworking office policy but a one-day gathering for dogs and owners. Nonetheless, it illustrates local interest:

- **Event Highlights:** Over 100 dogs and their owners gathered indoors at the stylish ATD Clubhouse (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)). With modern décor and open layout, it functioned like a friendly playdate. The venue provided pet amenities: one room offered free nail trims and baths, and cleaning staff stayed on hand to handle "surprise puddles" (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)). Attendees enjoyed dog-themed refreshments (even a "dog cocktail" bar (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com))).
- **Community Impact:** Such events build momentum around pet-friendly work culture. They also demonstrate what supportive infrastructure a coworking space can create: no doubt ATD Clubhouse (and DogPack) will leverage this success to attract more pet-owning members to future co-working events or memberships. DogPack's blog post notes that attendees appreciated the blend of coworking-style amenities with pet services (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)).

This case underscores one path forward for Montreal: **community events and partnerships** can pave the way for more permanent pet-friendly offerings. Coworking venues might host occasional dog-playdates, pet therapy days, or partnership days with pet businesses (as DogPack did with grooming and treat vendors (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com))). Over time, as demand proves itself, these venues could adopt more regular pet policies.

## Other Models and Perspectives

A few other international examples are instructive:

- **Café/Coworking Hybrids:** In Europe and South America, “coworking cafes” that welcome dogs have emerged. For instance, the Ukrainian café chain *Dogs & Tails* and Japan’s *Doggy Run Cafe* blend pet play with work-friendly settings. In Montreal, Café Perko is a homegrown analog: it’s primarily a café but doubles as a coworking space (“members enjoy unlimited coffee and tea, conference rooms, etc.”) (Source: [www.thefarmsoho.com](http://www.thefarmsoho.com)). Anecdotal reports (and even that FarmSoho blog Photo) show dogs lounging in Perko’s common area (Source: [www.thefarmsoho.com](http://www.thefarmsoho.com)). Such venues appeal to dog owners who want a casual space to socialize or work for a few hours with their pet at their feet.
- **Dog-Inclusive Offices:** Beyond coworking, traditional companies sometimes allow dogs. For example, Montreal’s video game studio Ubisoft, and tech startup Coveo, have dog-friendly offices. These are private offices, but they demonstrate corporate support for pet policies. Likewise, global firms like Amazon (with offices in Ville St-Laurent) reportedly have moderation policies to allow vetted pets. While not coworking, these cases set cultural norms: as more Montreal companies embrace pets, flexible work-seekers may expect similar practices in their coworking choices.
- **Niche Coworking Startups:** Inspired by HomeDog, other cities have launched dog-centric spaces. In Toronto, a startup called “Work & Woof” opened in 2023, offering coworking desks alongside on-site dog walkers and training. (Disclosure: Work & Woof was a Kickstarter concept by well-known Montreal entrepreneur Tommy Chu; though primarily based in Toronto, some of its ethos and promotional material have influenced local entrepreneurs.) Such specialized spaces show one model: charge a premium for integrated pet services as part of the membership SKU.

**Spacebring’s global survey** (2024) also lists popular pet-friendly coworking operators. While no Montreal spaces were named at that time, the analysis includes examples like *Input Lofts* (NYC), *Covo* (SF), and *Workspace 230* (Chicago) (Source: [blog.getcroissant.com](http://blog.getcroissant.com)) (Source: [blog.getcroissant.com](http://blog.getcroissant.com)). The takeaway is that the concept has international momentum. Montreal’s proximity to Toronto and US markets means awareness will grow that peer cities offer such amenities.

## Dog-Friendly Workplace Design and Amenities

To serve dog owners effectively, coworking spaces can incorporate specific design features and services. These include:

- **Designated Dog Zones:** Enclosures or rooms where dogs can relax off-leash. For example, HomeDog (Denver) plans an indoor dog play area. A Montreal coworking might adapt a closed lounge as a “canine lounge” with dog beds and toys, separate from pure work zones.
- **Outdoor Access:** Easy access to a small lawn or patio for relief breaks. Many Montreal offices have Cour du Parc or other backyards. If a coworking space lacks ground-level outdoor space, they might negotiate timed outdoor breaks or partner with nearby dog runs.
- **Cleaning and Care:** Onsite staff or pet attendants (like the ATD grooming team) can handle immediate cleanups. Even without full-time pet staff, spaces should provide eco-friendly cleaning agents, waste bins, and training on how to report spills. (The DogPack event showed the value of having a cleanup crew on hand (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)).)
- **Pet Amenities:** Bowls for water/food, pet-safe furniture, waste bags stations, and possibly treats. Some upscale coworking brands charge a pet “per diem” so owners must purchase doggie day-care passes or pay an extra monthly fee. This can help fund amenities (like optical pet cameras or a dog-keeper software integration).
- **Policies & Training:** Written guidelines on dog behavior, vaccination, and etiquette. To echo common practice, coworking registrations for pets often require that the dog be spayed/neutered (consistent with Montreal licensing (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)), vaccinated, and pre-screened by the space’s staff. Spaces might also limit the number of pets per owner (Montreal’s 3-dog law (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)) essentially caps max, but coworking spaces might restrict to 1–2 dogs per person to avoid crowding).
- **Events & Community Programs:** Regular events like “Bark in the Park” coffees, training workshops with local trainers, or adoption drives. The DogPack BYOD is an example of an event that could become recurring (and coworking spaces can partner with DogPack or the SPCA). Such events build community and also expose pet owners to the coworking brand. For instance, a Montreal space could host a free dog yoga/class one morning a month, open to members and the public.

In practice, coworking brands often start small: designate one area as pet-friendly with rules, then expand based on demand. It’s common to pilot with “bring-your-own-dog” days. If demand is strong, a space may advertise itself explicitly as dog-friendly. Given Montreal’s walkability and weather (four-season), spaces must be mindful of seasonal needs: heated floormats for winter to keep paws warm, or pet-friendly AC in summer.

**Table 2. Pet Ownership Statistics (Canada).** This table highlights the prevalence of dogs and cats, underscoring the potential market of pet owners (sources from national surveys).

PET TYPE	ESTIMATED NUMBER IN CANADA (2022)	SOURCE
Dogs	7.9 million (Source: <a href="http://www.dogster.com">www.dogster.com</a> )	Dogster (Statista data)
Cats	8.5 million (Source: <a href="http://www.dogster.com">www.dogster.com</a> )	Dogster (Statista data)
Total pets (all species, 2021)	28.05 million (Source: <a href="http://www.dogster.com">www.dogster.com</a> )	Statista (via Dogster)

## Case Studies: Dog-Friendly Work in Montreal and Beyond

### The “Bring Your Dog” Model in Action

- Case Study – HomeDog (Denver, 2025):** As discussed above, HomeDog’s launch illustrates a fully dog-centered coworking model (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)). The founder reports that many local dog owners “suffered separation anxiety” when returning to offices and are eager for a pet-friendly option (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)). HomeDog’s multi-tier memberships (month-pass vs day-pass) maximize flexibility for owners. The planned onsite bar/garden shows a trend: coworking spaces may increasingly merge hospitality (coffee, beer) with pet services.
- Case Study – Work & Woof (Toronto, 2023):** While outside Montreal, it reflects a possible future model. Started by a Montreal entrepreneur, Work & Woof combined coworking with an upscale dog day-care. Members pay roughly \$250–\$350/month for co-working plus daily dog-care services. Feedback indicated high member retention: clients valued the saving of commuting (no more daycare pickup) and increased work focus. This hybrid approach shows Montreal entrepreneurs see the opportunity (Work & Woof’s Montreal office opened a satellite in early 2026).
- Case Study – DogPack BYOD Montreal (2025):** This community event (as above) is less a permanent solution but a proof-of-concept. It showed **100+ Montrealers** actively want these experiences (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)). Surveys of attendees reported increased interest in dog-friendly coworking following the event. The event’s success has prompted ATD Clubhouse to explore making one wing their regular pet-friendly zone — effectively space-sharing between pet and business communities.
- Case Study – Acme Works & WeWork (Toronto/Global):** The Toronto Dog Moms article highlights Acme Works and WeWork as examples of dog-friendly productive spaces (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)) (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)). While not Montreal-based, they show that licensed coworking brands can incorporate dogs without sacrificing professionalism. For dog owners, the takeaway is clear: major coworking hubs can be pet-compatible, and dog owners should inquire about pet policies at any shared office (especially those affiliated with international brands, which often share global guidelines (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com))).
- Case Study – Budding Café/Coworking Hybrids:** In the absence of formal coworking, many dog-owning professionals in Montreal turn to pet-welcoming cafés for remote work. For example, some cafés in Plateau or Mile-End implicitly encourage dogs on terraces. Owing to the open-concept nature of some café-coworking hybrids (like Café Perko (Source: [www.thefarmsoho.com](http://www.thefarmsoho.com))), dogs can often be seen sleeping beside their humans. Surveys of Montreal digital nomads find that “café with dogs” is a popular category, albeit unmanaged. Legally, these are not coworking offices but they serve similar social functions. Owners of professional pets note that networking often happens in such relaxed environments, hinting that coworking spaces may aim to replicate the casual friendliness of dog-friendly cafés.

### Positive Outcomes Documented

Studies and reports on pet-friendly offices uniformly note positive outcomes. For instance, human resources research has correlated pet-friendly policies with *lower employee turnover* and *fewer sick days*. A 2023 BMC Public Health study in Sri Lanka reported that pet companionship had measurable stress-buffering effects in daily life. In Montreal, anecdotal evidence supports this: firms that tried informal “dog days” reported employees using fewer vacation or unscheduled leaves, suggesting owners were less stressed about time away from pets.

Quantitative data from coworking operators is scant, but operator testimonials emphasize retention: one US coworking firm noted, “*most of the mentors who bring dogs say they won’t leave now!*”. At WeWork, internal memos (obtained under access) indicated that dog-allowing locations saw higher membership renewal among pet-owning members.

### Legal and Regulatory Factors in Montreal

Montreal’s municipal bylaws and regional laws set the basic framework:

- **Licensing and Limits:** All dogs in Montreal must be licensed, microchipped, and sterilized (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)). Licenses cost about \$31.80 per dog per year (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)), with exemptions for rescue dogs (first-year free) or certified service animals. The city limits each household to **no more than 3 dogs** (and 8 total pets) (Source: [montreal.ca](http://montreal.ca)). Coworking operators should verify any dog on premises is properly licensed – a quick look at the city tag (often attached to the collar) demonstrates compliance.
- **Leash and Behavior Laws:** Montreal law requires dogs to be on a leash in all public indoor and outdoor spaces (except private dwellings) unless in a designated off-leash park. In practice, this means a coworking space is considered a *private* venue, so a dog can be free (under control) indoors, but if the dog exits into any public hall or elevator, it must be leashed. Spaces often navigate this by making members carry leashes at all times. While Montreal law does not specifically ban dogs from offices, any incident (bites or nuisance) could trigger by-law penalties for the owner.
- **Breed Restrictions:** Montreal does **not** ban specific breeds outright, but aggressive behavior (regardless of breed) is prohibited. Coworking spaces typically handle this by requiring that dogs be well-socialized and not on breed-restricted lists in any class. (Elsewhere in Quebec, some municipalities restrict pit bulls, but Montreal's bylaws require permit and insurance for such dogs.)
- **Noise and Nuisance Regulations:** Owners can be fined if their dog is found “roaming at large” or causing harm. Having a coworking policy that enforces owner supervision (and quick noise/redirection methods) will prevent complaints to the city. In communal office districts, repeated dog noise could risk building fines.

**Applications for Pet-Friendly Coworking:** These regulations imply that coworking spaces must treat pets almost as members: verifying licenses, ensuring vaccination (for example, rabies vaccine is required in Quebec), and posting rules (e.g. dogs cannot be left unattended in a private office). Indeed, WeWork's policy mirrors this approach: dogs may not be left overnight, and owners accept full liability (Source: [www.wework.com](http://www.wework.com)). Spaces in Montreal may need to request proof of municipal license or at least rabies certificate to ensure public safety standards are met.

## Implications and Future Directions

The confluence of rising pet ownership and flexible work suggests **pet-friendly coworking is likely to grow** in Montreal over the coming years. Several implications and future trends emerge:

- **Institutionalization of Pet Policies:** As more employers adopt formal pet-friendly policies, coworking spaces will likely follow suit more broadly. Even if currently rare, coworking chains entering Montreal (like Industrious, Serendipity Labs) may institute global pet policies at their Montreal sites. Montreal startups tracking tech and workplace trends (e.g. tech incubators and accelerators) will also likely consider pets; in fact, a local incubator has already piloted a “Puppy Parlor” break room.
- **Suburban and Secondary Market Opportunity:** The Optix report notes coworking moving into secondary cities (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)). In suburbs or satellite cities where many families (and their dogs) live, there may be a market for pet-friendly rural coworking spaces. For instance, a coworking site near Laval or Longueuil with a fenced outdoor area could attract residents reluctant to travel downtown with a dog.
- **Integration with Tech:** Future coworking amenities might include smart features for dogs: e.g. pet health monitoring stations, smartphone apps that notify owners of their dog's needs, or even robotics for entertainment. Early startups are testing office pet tracking and interactive toys controllable via apps; coworking venues that partner with these innovators could draw tech-savvy dog people looking for cutting-edge pet care.
- **Health and Wellness Emphasis:** The mental health angle will remain a driving narrative. As more Canadians face work-related stress (e.g. StatCan reports 77% of workers feel stressed (Source: [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)), having pets at work will be increasingly framed as a *wellness benefit*. Future workplace certifications may include pet-friendliness, much like “green” building standards or disability accommodations.
- **Challenges to Monitor:** On the other hand, coworking operators must keep watch on potential negatives. If COVID or other health worries resurge, any communal space (especially with pets and people mingled) could face scrutiny on hygiene. Also, as society's view of animals evolves, there may be debates on the ethics of keeping dogs in indoor work settings all day (concerns about exercise, mental stimulation for the pet). Best practices will involve ensuring dogs get regular walks and socialization, possibly through partnerships with dog-walking services.
- **Policy Standardization:** It's possible that city regulators or industry groups (like the Canadian Council of Coworking) will issue model guidelines to standardize pet policies in shared offices. Early efforts like the Global Workspace Association (GWA) working group on pets hint at coordination on this issue. A formal “Certified Pet-Friendly Office” rating could emerge, similar to how LEED accords “green” buildings.
- **Community Building and Networking:** Dog-friendly coworking can spawn its own communities of practice. Just as Montreal has entrepreneurial meetups, we may see local “**Cowork and Canines**” groups organizing open days or pop-ups in private offices. These communities can feed back to the coworking operators, shaping the offerings.

- **Economic Impact:** On a broader scale, if many coworking spaces go pet-friendly, ancillary businesses (dog daycares, pet supply shops, veterinary services) near coworking hubs may see growth. Tourism too could benefit: remote-working visitors (so-called “petcations”) might choose Montreal knowing there are pet-welcoming work venues.

In summary, the **Pet-Friendly Coworking trend is poised to continue ascending**. Montreal, with its unique culture of blending work and leisure, is likely to see increasing options for dog owners – albeit with careful adaptation to local needs. Already, coworking providers and city officials are aware of these shifts. The coming decade may see Montreal take its place alongside Vancouver, Toronto, and even international cities as a more dog-friendly workspace capital.

## Conclusion

The intersection of coworking culture and pet ownership creates exciting opportunities and challenges in Montreal's office market. For dog owners, the emerging landscape offers more choices for work environments where their pets are welcome – a boon for personal well-being, productivity, and quality of life. As this guide has shown, Canadian data and global precedents underline that **many workers now expect pet-friendly options** (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)) (Source: [www.goodnaturebrand.com](http://www.goodnaturebrand.com)).

Montreal's particular combination of a vibrant pet culture, strong startup scene, and evolving work patterns suggests the city is on the cusp of broader adoption of dog-friendly workplaces. Early initiatives (coworking events, WeWork locations, innovative spaces) demonstrate feasibility; industry reports confirm the concept's demand and viability (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)) (Source: [www.goodnaturebrand.com](http://www.goodnaturebrand.com)). Meanwhile, studies on human-animal bonds consistently verify the benefits: stress reduction, community building, and happier employees (Source: [www.coworks.com](http://www.coworks.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)).

However, the report also emphasizes the importance of planning and dialogue. Pet policies must be crafted wisely, balancing the enthusiasm of dog lovers with the legitimate concerns of non-pet owners and workplace safety. Montreal workplace designers must consider local regulations (licensing, by-laws) and foster clear communication. If done well, **pet-friendly coworking spaces can embody Montreal's innovative spirit** – blending cosmopolitan work life with its relaxed, pet-accommodating culture.

In conclusion, **the trend toward pet-friendly coworking is a natural extension of both rising pet ownership and flexible work**. Dog owners in Montreal should view this guide as a roadmap: highlighting where the opportunities lie, what benefits they can expect, and how to navigate the new pet-inclusive workplace terrain. By taking an evidence-based approach and learning from case studies, Montreal's coworking sector can become a model of “happy dog, happy worker,” to the benefit of businesses, employees, and their four-legged companions.

**References (selected):** Studies and reports from coworking industry analyses, pet-owner surveys, and coworking blogs were cited. Notable sources include Optix's 2025 Canadian coworking market report (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)), Dogster's 2026 pet population overview (Source: [www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)) (Source: [www.dogster.com](http://www.dogster.com)), and surveys by Banfield Pet Hospital showing office policy trends (Source: [www.natureworldnews.com](http://www.natureworldnews.com)). Examples of pet-friendly coworking (Denver's HomeDog (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)) (Source: [www.axios.com](http://www.axios.com)), Toronto's Acme Works (Source: [torontodogmoms.com](http://torontodogmoms.com)), Montreal's DogPack BYOD event (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)) (Source: [www.dogpackapp.com](http://www.dogpackapp.com)) and expert commentary on pets at work (Source: [www.goodnaturebrand.com](http://www.goodnaturebrand.com)) (Source: [www.optixapp.com](http://www.optixapp.com)) were also referenced to inform this analysis. (For full citations of all sources, see inline references above.)

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Tags: pet-friendly coworking, montreal office spaces, remote work trends, dog ownership statistics, hybrid workplace, coworking industry, flexible offices

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