

*I Love Cats* magazine

## “How to Work Like a CAT” Essay Contest Winner

By Dena Harris

**T**here’s a reason the nouns within the phrases “cat nap” and “work like a dog” aren’t interchangeable. For those foolish enough to follow the canine instincts of fidelity, trust and honor—good luck to you. For the rest of us who will actually be running the world, a little primer on why cat shenanigans will always trump a strong work ethic:

**Dog:** Do as your told, without question and for little to no pay.

**Cat:** Adopt a thoughtful look when asked to do something, as though actually considering such an inane request. Blink slowly once, then loll down the hall, swishing your ass.

**Dog:** A positive attitude goes a long way. Greet everyone with an eager tail wag and a lick of appreciation.

**Cat:** Draw blood from those who dare question you.

**Dog:** When the boss keeps you waiting over an hour for your scheduled appointment, take it in stride and be grateful for what time he/she has to spare for you.

**Cat:** “Oh, is my being in your face as you’re trying to work bothering you?”

**Dog:** “I hope my co-workers like me.”

**Cat:** “I wasn’t aware others worked here. Have one of them fetch me a rodent, will you?”

**Dog:** “The people are the heart and soul of our company.”

**Cat:** “What’s in it for me?”

**Dog:** “What, quitting time already? Oh no! I’ll miss all of you until tomorrow!”

**Cat:** “Wake me up when it’s 5 so I can get leave this hellhole on time, will you?”

**Dog:** “What? Me? A promotion? This is so unexpected! Thank you for your confidence in me! I won’t disappoint you!”

**Cat:** “I just crowned myself King. Your new title is ‘Num-Nums’ and I want you to hum ‘Mr. Mistofolees’ non-stop for the next week or you’re fired.”

Dena Harris ([www.denaharris.com](http://www.denaharris.com)) is author of the award-winning humor book, *Lessons In Stalking: Life With Cats* ([www.lessonsinstalking.com](http://www.lessonsinstalking.com)). Her work also appears in *Chicken Soup for the Cat Lover’s Soul* and *For The Love of Cats*. Although fiercely allergic to felines, Dena is the proud caretaker of two strays and is constantly plotting how to get a third cat into the house without her husband noticing.