

# GONE TO THE DOGS

A two-minute monologue

by JANE CAFARELLA

*ANGELA, 40s+, is hosting an important Teams meeting from her home computer.*

Hi, Tina, can you hear me?

You need to take it off mute.

I see we're waiting on *(peering at her screen)* Sue and Craig...

Between you and me ... at the last meeting – I think you were away – there were almost as many dogs as people.

Ridiculous!

Ever since everyone started working from home, they turn up with their dogs on their laps.

So unprofessional!

The first 20 minutes is always spent talking about Rover and Max and ...

*Calling off.*

Out! Out! Pete? Who let Barry in? Into bed!

*Back to her computer.*

As I was saying, so many dogs! *Calling off again.* I said, 'Into bed!'

Anyhow ... *Peering at screen* ... Oh ,here's Sue.

Hi! We're just about to start.

*Calling off.* Get out! Pete? Can you come get Barry?

Shut the door! I'm trying to host a meeting here! Thank you!

*To those on screen.* Sorry!

Nice to meet you Sue, finally.

Nice coat –*(peering at screen)* or is that a scarf?

Oh my God, it moved!

Chiquita? A chihuahua! Oh!

Six weeks?

Wow!

Of course!

*Dryly.*

Adorable.

Have you thought of crate training?

*She looks at her phone.*

Oh, Craig just texted. He'll be late.

*Reading on, incredulously.*

Oh, an emergency! He had to go to the vet. Boris swallowed a scrunchie. Oh dear.

*Sigh. She picks up a report.*

I guess we'll just start. I thought we'd go through the recommendations?

*A timer goes off.*

Oh! Was that timer?

You're potty training? Now?

Fine. Fine! Absolutely fine! I guess we'll leave the report till next week.

Of course.

*Beat.*

Hang on ... I just need to ask Pete something.

*She gets up and calls off.*

Pete? Pete? Can you let Barry in? And Nicholas and Jessie ... and Isabelle. Yes!

*Calling off to BARRY...*

Up! Up!

Good boy!

*To the team.* He's a schnauzer, he's four.

*Signaling for kids to come in.*

And this is Nicholas ... he's five - school next year ... and Jessie's three ... say hello! And Isabelle is eight months. My change-of-life baby.

*She starts to unbutton her blouse.*

You don't mind if I breastfeed?

## **265 spoken words**

jane.cafarella@gmail.com

+61 408 880 185

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