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Surprise: Dogs easier to shop for than Dad

Denver Post Wire Reports

Article Last Updated: 06/16/2007 02:33:58 PM MDT

This week's award for "Most Obvious Press Release" goes to the folks at Yahoo Shopping, who issued this earth-shattering headline: "Fathers Day stat proves dad harder to buy for than family pet."

They go on to note that 51 percent of survey respondents who buy Father's Day gifts said Dad was the hardest member of the family to shop for. That compares to just 4 percent of people who said they struggle to find that perfect gift for Fido.

Of course, this statistic isn't surprising. Dogs and cats aren't picky. And even if they do hate the gifts we buy them, they're certainly not going to tell us. Nor will they take them back to the store behind our backs.

Now if only Dad would be content to get a chew toy.

Pay car bills, even if you drive them in

Missing just one payment on a car loan can make a huge difference in a person's credit score, according to a study from Experian, a credit rating agency.

The average credit score for consumers with no late auto loan payments in Colorado is 706. The average for those who have missed one or more payments is 605.

Only about 12 percent of borrowers in the state, however, have missed a payment.

The average amount financed per auto loan is \$16,252 in Colorado, with the average monthly payment at \$497. Slightly more than a third of borrowers in the state pay more than \$500 a month.

CEO fathers put in their daddy time

You might think big-shot CEOs have little time to spend with their kids, but many of them are making an effort worth more than a goofy tie this Father's Day.

According to a new survey of chief executives at Fortune 1000 companies, 80 percent of CEO dads said they spend as much or more time with their kids than their father spent with them.

Nearly 70 percent said they would leave a late meeting to see their child in an event like a play or piano recital, and 59 percent knew the

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names of their kids' three best friends.

The survey revealed some room for improvement, however. Nearly three-quarters of CEO dads admitted to missing an important milestone in their child's life and 62 percent regretted it. Less than half knew their kids' bedtime.

While nine out of 10 CEOs said they wanted to spend more time with their kids, just under half said they were doing what was best for their children's future. That should earn Dad a thoughtful gift or two this Sunday.

The nonscientific survey, conducted by Ericho Communications, was sent to all the Fortune 1000 CEOs, and 11 percent were returned by CEOs identified as parents. Another 39 percent of the responses resulted from follow-up phone calls.

Many think they can outperform boss

Think you could do your boss' job better than he or she can? You're not alone.

Nearly three-quarters of employees think they could outperform their boss if given the chance, and most of them would jump at the opportunity, according to a recently released survey. A full 65 percent of workers said they aspire to their boss' position.

At the same time, 42 percent rated their boss'

performance as excellent or above average, and 66 percent said they trust their supervisor. It's a sign that while many employees respect their boss, they feel underutilized at work, said Bob Damon of the executive recruiting firm Korn/Ferry International, which conducted the nonscientific quiz.

Companies should single out workers with high potential early on and recognize them for their talents, or risk promising employees leaving or languishing in the lower ranks, Damon said.

"Make sure that you customize a professional development plan for each one of these people," he said.

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