



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 9 April 2019

UK SAVERS PREFER LABRADORS WITH THE BREED TOPPING THE *BEST-BARK TABLE* OF REGULAR DOGS THAT VISIT SKIPTON BRANCHES.

- Labradors are the top dog and a savers best friend
- Spaniels are just a sniff behind in second for the top 10 breeds in branch

For many dogs, they have to sit outside on a cold pavement while their owners sort out their financial affairs. At Skipton though, all dogs are allowed in branch, not just assistance dogs. And following a recent survey of the Society's 88 UK branches, the most popular building society breeds can be revealed.

Labradors, spaniels and cockapoos are among the most common four-legged customers in Skipton's branches.

And it's not just parents taking the time to open ISAs for their children, but proud pet parents are taking to Skipton branches to open savings accounts for their dogs, cats and even horses (perhaps saving for a rein-day?).

It's important to be prepared for when life gets ruff, and that's likely why many of Skipton's pet parents are regularly setting money aside in the event of an unexpected vets bill.

As man's best friend, it is unsurprising that customer's often bring along their furry counter-parts on their daily errands. Skipton branches across the UK on average are visited by dogs twice a week, with some seeing at least one a day.

With its *Dogs Allowed* policy, all furry-friends are welcome at Skipton and water and treats are always available in branch.

Gareth Barlow, Skipton's Director of Branch Distribution, said: "At Skipton, we want everyone to feel like they are in a good place and there is no exception when it comes to our canine customers we labr-adore!

"Our branches see such a wide range of breeds and our colleagues love seeing them grow up, with regulars including Poppy the spaniel in our Chesham branch and even guide dog-in-training Whinny the black Labrador puppy in Exeter branch. We have even been made aware of some of our branches agreeing to dog-sit well-behaved regulars while their owners nip in to nearby shops – where dogs are *not* allowed.

Skipton Building Society, Principal Office: The Bailey Skipton, BD23 1DN

Skipton Building Society is a member of the Building Societies Association. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, under registration number 153706, for accepting deposits, advising on and arranging mortgages and providing Restricted financial advice. Principal Office, The Bailey, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1DN.

“As a nation of dog lovers, our dogs are not just companions – they are family. They are integrated in to our way of life. That is why at Skipton all dogs are allowed.”

Skipton’s Best-Bark table:

1. Labrador
2. Spaniels
3. Cockapoo
4. Staffordshire Bull Terrier
5. English Sheep Dog
6. Yorkshire terrier
7. Dachshund
8. Pug
9. Whippet
10. Labradoodle

For further in-fur-mation, and to meet some more of our four-legged friends, visit Skipton’s Dogs Allowed pages: <https://www.skipton.co.uk/dogs-allowed>

ENDS

For further information, or to arrange interviews, please contact the Skipton Press Office on 03456 017247, email newsline@skipton.co.uk or visit the press section of our website at www.skipton.co.uk.

Kayleigh Hunt, Corporate Communications Assistant

If outside Press Office hours (8.30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday), please call 07793 699 878.

Editors’ notes

1. Research was carried out amongst the Skipton Building Society branch network of 88 branches.
2. Skipton is the UK’s fourth largest building society, with over one million members, £23bn of assets and a national presence represented by its network of 88 branches. Skipton offers mortgages, savings and restricted financial advice. It heads the Skipton Building Society Group, whose subsidiary companies include Skipton International Limited and significant interests in estate agency and related businesses through the Connells group.
3. In October 2018, Skipton Building Society received a Gold award at the UK Customer Experience Awards for ‘Best Financial Services – Banking and Investments’.
4. Skipton Building Society was also named as a Which? recommended provider of mortgages and savings for 2018 and was named Best National Building Society for the fifth year running in the 2018 What Mortgage awards and Building Society of the Year in the 2018 Moneyage Mortgage Awards.
5. Skipton Building Society is rated by two major credit rating agencies. Moody’s assigns a long term local and foreign currency bank deposit rating of Baa1 with a positive outlook and a short term rating of P-2. Fitch assigns the long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) as A- with a stable outlook and a short-term IDR rated F1.
6. 2018 saw Skipton named for the fourth year running as one of the UK’s Top 100 Companies to Work For. The *Sunday Times* list is widely acknowledged as the most searching and extensive research into employee engagement carried out in the country.

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7. In August 2017, Skipton achieved Investors in People Platinum, of which there are only 2% of accredited organisations to achieve this level (as of December 2018).
8. Skipton was the UK's first Cash Lifetime ISA provider with over 130,000 accounts opened to date.

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