

/THE URBANIST  
July 27, 2016 8:00a.m.

By: Katie Van Syckle

## The Best and Worst Cities to Be a Dog

### There's a Golden Retriever in Chicago Named Sporty Who Walks Himself

*And he's become somewhat of a local celebrity, according to his owner, David Duncan.*



Sporty strutting.

“I was told that when he was a puppy, he liked having something in his mouth — whether a toy or a treat or just a stick. A few months after I got him, he started biting at the leash, and he would just put it in his mouth and kind of [lead the way](#), and then maybe six months after that, I let him walk himself. We would start small, just around my block, and then we expanded the circle. He has learned he can’t go into the road without me, and I can tell if he wants to go a particular way, or what he is thinking ahead of time. We’ll hit Michigan Avenue, the Magnificent Mile, Wacker Drive, then La Salle, then Ohio Street. Whenever we get within a quarter-mile of Peet’s coffee, he’ll start going whatever direction he needs to go to get there because he knows he’ll get a treat. Whenever it is really, really hot out, I’ll put the sunglasses on him. The majority of people are like, ‘Oh my God, there’s a dog walking himself.’ He just brings so many smiles to people’s faces, and Sporty feeds off it; if he sees a crowd of people and any of them look interested in him, he’ll get that extra little strut going, that extra tail wag, and he’ll motor on over. He likes to be the focus of attention. I think he knows how good-looking he is. The pictures don’t always do justice to how thick and luxurious his fur coat really is, and that gives him his swagger.”

To view the whole article click the link: [http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/07/best-and-worst-cities-for-dogs.html?mid=emailshare\\_di](http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/07/best-and-worst-cities-for-dogs.html?mid=emailshare_di)