

# HUSKIE'Z HAPPENING'Z



## LEADING FROM BEHIND: A Lesson on Leadership

In our office at the front door, we have a picture of a pack of wolves traveling through the snow. We all walk past it every day and know what it means and the importance it should have for every one of us. The following story, provided by J. Ashley Panter, is a wonderful example of how we work around here, in and out of the office.



**“A Group of Wolves:** The three in front (red circle) are old and sick. They walk in front to set the pace of the running group to ensure they get don't left behind because more than likely, if an ambush happened, they would be sacrificed. The next five (yellow box) are the strongest and best of the pack. They are tasked with the job of protecting the front of the pack if there is an attack. Naturally, the pack in the middle are always protected from any attack. The last (almost) five behind them (green square) are also among the strongest and best; they are tasked with the job of protecting the back of the pack if there is an attack. The last one wolf pictured (blue arrow) is the LEADER. He ensures that no one is left behind. He keeps the pack unified and on the same path. He is always ready to run in any direction to protect and serve as the 'bodyguard' to the entire group.

### HUSKIE'Z HUMOR OF THE MONTH

I just saw a man slumped over a lawn mower crying his eyes out... He's just going through a rough patch!

### How Does This Relate to Business?

If you think about the qualities and characteristics of the Alpha wolf, you will think of confidence, loyalty, trusted, strong, and knowledgeable of the pack. Right?

Those characteristics remind some of a CEO of a business. But is that entirely true?

Unlike the wolf who has so much confidence in his ability to fight off a “disruptor” during an attack and who would sacrifice everything to protect his pack, not every CEO has wolf like traits.

In larger corporations, many questions whether their CEO (or C-Suite) have what it takes to fend off unexpected disruptive attacks. And as we've seen from many top C-Suite members, often when the going gets tough, they cash out before they're “eaten alive.” However, owning a small business is a bit different. Your employees tend to be like family. Often, many business owners become great friends with many of their customers.

So, to tie this all together... are you considered to be a trusted Alpha? Are you a strong leader? Would you protect your pack at all costs?

Leadership isn't about being the most visible, the loudest, or even the highest earner. Leadership is truly about leading from behind. Real leaders are the types who want to share their success rather than bask in the glory, and those who when things go wrong, take ownership, and take the fall to ensure their team is taken care of. As I always like to say, “Teamwork makes the dream work.””



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