

15 Tips for Better Pet Photos

You

Dress Comfortably

Shooting pets requires the ability to move quickly and get low to the ground. Wear loose clothing and good shoes.

Get On Their Level

Avoid image distortion by photographing your pets at their eye level. Get down low, or place a smaller animal higher up on a table, bench, etc.

Move

Step a little to the right or left to check out various angles. Take shots along the way. Magic happens with the slightest adjustments at times.

Steady Hand

Ditch the tripod and monopod to keep up with the action, but use a steady hand to avoid blur. Image stabilization lenses are awesome for this.

Be Patient

Communication barriers prevent directing the pet on how to pose. Pay attention and wait to capture the best shots.

Pet

Focus on Eyes

Images of animals are always improved by getting their eyes in sharp focus. Capture their essence by focusing on the eyes.

Anticipate Action

You cannot ask a pet to make adjustments for a better angle. You can, however, read body language and plan your shots accordingly.

Capture Attention

Make strange noises, call the pets name or use a trigger word such as “treat” to get the pet to look toward the camera.

Use Treats

You can use treats to get pets to move directions you want them to go. Just be prepared for slobbery pet kisses and soggy lenses.

Have a Helper

Having an assistant allows you to manage the camera while someone else manages the pet. Besides, it's more fun to have company.

Tech

Create Bokeh

Blur the background to focus on your pet. Use a telephoto lens and put your pet midway between you and the background. Wide apertures help.

Find the Light

Early morning, late evening, cloudy days, or shady areas work best for pet photos. Avoid harsh sunlight and flash photography.

Take Burst Photos

Take a series of 10 to 15 images by holding down the camera shutter button. This helps capture the fast action and fleeting expressions.

Check Background

Pay attention to what is behind your pet. Pets with trees growing out of their head may look funny, but it could also ruin a great image.

Print Hard Copies

Cameras break and technology advances. Be sure to print out some of your best images every month or two. Don't lose precious keepsakes.

