

How to Photograph Your Pet

Patience is the key to photographing pets. Pure luck plays a part too! By learning a few simple secrets – the ones used by professional photographers – and by understanding how your camera works, you should be able to capture the essence of your pet on film!

- First, study animal pictures you like in magazines and on television. The background is usually uncluttered and contrasts the color of the animal. The angle is almost always at or below the eye level of the animal.
- As an animal lover, you already know that animals are not predictable and their actions are usually very fast. So you need to be ready to shoot when they are doing something worthy of recording on film. You can't order the action or pose.
- Plan to shoot several pictures in rapid succession to be sure you capture that amusing expression, that big yawn, or that lightning-fast pounce.
- Make use of your cat's natural curiosity. A cat will always climb into an open drawer, or pop into the kitchen cabinet if left ajar, or explore a bit. Cats love paper bags and newspapers, and mysteriously moving objects. Pick your spot, show your cat the props, and shoot!
- Dogs are a little more predictable than cats. Spot wants to please you and he'll try, though not always successfully, to perform on command. If your dog knows sit-stay, put him in this command and make a strange noise while he is in this position to try to catch that cocked-head, quizzical look. If he likes to play games have your camera ready to catch him retrieving the stick, leaping for a ball, or playing tug-of-war.
- Familiarity with your pets own temperament and habits is the key to success!



Basically, you need only a loaded camera and a good working knowledge of how to use it. You can snap a picture of your pet with any kind of camera – from a simple disposable camera to a high-tech, state of the art digital camera.