

TOP TEN TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING PETS



1. Get down at eye level with your pet

This maintains perspective and keeps the proportions of your pet accurate.

It's also the view from how your pet sees the world around them, which in most cases, is different from us. That makes for a more dynamic and interesting image visually for the viewer.

Remember to always focus on the eyes.



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2. Have a helper

Trying to photograph your pet and keeping them at a distance from you can be tricky.

Having a helper means they can position your pet and maintain their attention so you can be ready to capture the perfect moment when it happens.

Be patient though, it can take some time for your pet to settle. Making sure your pet is comfortable and not worried is important, as it will show if your pet is stressed or tense.



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3. Include your pets toys

Including some of your pet's favorite toys, or their special blankie, will make your photos that much more special and meaningful.

Remember, photos are about preserving memories, so while it might not seem important today to include your pet's favorite things, it could mean the world to you when they are no longer here.

It also let's your pet have some fun while you photograph them.



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4. Use your pet's favorite treat

Using your pet's favorite treat to encourage them to pay attention and sit still for you, is a good idea.

This will also help you to get them to look where you want them to look and keep their expression looking engaged.

It can also act as a reward for good behavior, which your pet will love



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5. Think about 'where' you're going to photograph your pet.

Can your pet be taken out in public? The beach? The Park? Your back-yard?

Remember if you're in a public location, not all areas allow your pet to be off-lead, so do some homework before you decide.

Be mindful of other dogs/animals around you as they can be distracting or potentially dangerous to your pet.



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6. Don't be afraid to use a lead.

In some cases you won't have a choice if you're in a public space. A lead also helps control your furry friend and keep their mind on the job at hand, and they can be removed with a quick edit.

If you can't remove it, don't worry, they can add context to your image as long as they are not too distracting.

Stick with neutral, earthy colours if using a lead. You'll find this more flattering and less likely to date your photos.



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7. Take the light into consideration.

Natural light is perfect for photographing your pet. Just watch out for strong bright areas or shadows that are too dark.

Soft, even light is the most flattering and will enhance your pet's features perfectly.

Don't be afraid to experiment with the light though, you might be surprised at the results. The sun doesn't always have to be behind the photographer.



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8. Give your pet a groom

Give your pet a good brush before you start.

Remove loose hair and add some shine with a wipe-over using a damp towel.

Be sure to check that their eyes and nose are clean and free of goop.

Your pet will look their best and LOVE the attention.



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9. Take notice of distracting things in the background.

Scan the area that you are photographing in and see if there are any things that might not look great in the background of your photos.

Bins, fences, rubbish, and backyard 'stuff' can all become annoying in photos.

Take the time to look around and move items out of the way if you can. If you can't, move to a different spot. You might only need to shift a few inches to make all the difference.



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10. Make it fun.

If your dog is active, let them run and be busy before you ask them to sit still

Capture them playing, running, jumping and doing all the things they love to do.

Using burst mode on your phone or camera will help you keep up with the action.

When they do sit still, make funny sounds and use squeaky toys to get their ears pricked and be ready to capture all their different expressions.

