

■ How to Take Better Photos of Your Pet

Capture your furry friend's best side — no professional gear required!

If you're like me, you're as amateur as it gets when it comes to photography. Still, you want to take, and maybe share, nice photos of your dog, cat, or other pet. You want your family, fellow pet lovers, and social media friends to see your pet looking its best.

Maybe you're a rescuer or foster pet parent trying to promote adoption. Or, maybe you want to enter some of those fun pet photo contests — and cute or creative shots will help your chances of winning.

■ Shoot for Cute: Tips for Pet Photography

■ Keep It Simple

Capture your pet's true personality. Try snapping photos when your pet is unaware of the camera — playing, lounging, or exploring naturally. Those candid moments often turn out the best.

■ Have Patience — and Take Lots of Shots

Great photos rarely happen on the first try. Keep your camera rolling so you can catch that perfect instant — whether it's a playful leap or a sweet expression.

■ Mind Your Background

Simple, uncluttered backgrounds make your pet pop. Avoid distractions like furniture or trees “growing” out of your pet's head.

Pro tip: Choose a background color that contrasts your pet's fur, or use editing tools later to tweak it.

■ Use Props

Toys, collars, or costumes can add personality and scale — showing off your pet's playfulness and giving viewers a sense of size.

■ Get Down to Their Level

Don't just shoot from above. Try crouching or lying down to meet your pet eye-to-eye. Changing your angle can transform an ordinary photo into something special.

■ Be Ready for Action

Pets move fast! Keep your camera or phone handy for those spontaneous moments. You might only have a few seconds to catch that adorable face before it disappears.

■■■■■■■■ Include Others

Group shots with people, kids, or other animals tell a story — and show your pet's personality in different contexts. If you're shooting for a contest, check the entry rules first.

■ Above All, Have Fun

Your pet can sense your mood! Stay relaxed, make it playful, and enjoy the time together. Whether or not you capture a “winning” shot, you’ll have made a happy memory with your best friend.

■ Bonus Idea: Create a photo series — like “A Day in the Life of Bella” — to tell a visual story and improve your skills over time.