

5 TIPS

PET PHOTOGRAPHY

Nearly half of the world's households have a pet of some sorts. If you're one of those people who loves to snuggle up with your cat or go for walk with man's best friend, then read these **5 tips for taking amazing pet portraits** of your fluffiest family member.



TIP 1

Choose a location that evokes a strong memory for you and your pet.

For example, you might have a place that you take your dog all the time.

It will mean a lot in the future as you look back over the portraits.

TIP 2

Shoot in Shutter Priority mode to give you scope to quickly change settings depending upon the pet's reaction.

If they are quite active, then stop any motion blur happening by using a fast shutter speed i.e. 1/400th.



TIP 3

Action shots are not easy to capture at high speed, but you can use a focus mode that is available on all modern DSLRs called "Continuous/AF-C" (on a Nikon) or "AI Servo" (on a Canon).

This mode is used for tracking moving subjects and it is a must for shooting wildlife. Continuous mode will automatically readjust the focus if you or your pet moves.

TIP 4

One common mistake made by budding photographers is that they photograph their pet from a human height.

This rarely works well. Photos of cats and dogs taken on their own level tend to have more impact and show the animal's personality better, from the perspective of an equal.



TIP 5

If you are feeling very creative, then take some time to build a little scene or setting for your hamster, mouse or rat.

To overlook the cage bars, you can design an outdoor backdrop from card, so it looks like blue sky and flowery fields and place it inside the cage.

Add some natural elements like sticks, leaves and foliage to create the impression of them being in the wild.

WANT MORE?

If you want to find out more about how to take amazing portraits, then visit [iPhotography](https://www.iphotography.com) and join our incredible wildlife course. We've got in-depth modules covering the camera settings, composition and inspiration for taking great pet and animal photos and more.

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