



Tips for Photographing Your Pet

By Leesia Teh

1. Get on your pet's level – don't always shoot standing up and looking down. Kneel, lie on your stomach – whatever you need to do to get that ideal eye-to-eye shot.
2. Use treats and toys to grab your pet's attention when you want him or her to look at you.
3. Realize that you don't always need your pets looking directly at you – capture moments where they are just doing the things they love and not necessarily looking directly into the camera.
4. Keep a camera handy in the place where your pet does the cutest/funniest things. Our dogs always congregate around the space heater during the winter and end up in the weirdest positions, so we keep a camera on the counter next to the space heater for those impromptu shots!
5. Try to shoot in bright areas instead of dark areas where you will have to use your flash. Pets' eyes are very reflective and the "red-eye reduction" function won't be enough to prevent the unattractive glare.
6. Make sure pets are comfortable. Don't try to pose them unnaturally or take them to unfamiliar places where they won't act themselves.
7. Hold their attention with treats, treats, and more treats! This will make them more willing subjects.
8. Black dogs are more easily photographed outdoors, where there is more available light.
9. Be patient. Some pets may take awhile to get used to the camera or the flash. The more you take their photo, the more comfortable they should become, so make the camera a fixture of their lives.

10. Have fun! Your pet will respond to your energy, so if you're enjoying the challenge, your pet will too.