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**Animal Photos Not Just For Kids Anymore**

**By I Henman**

Many people think that pictures of animals are just for children, but boy are they all mistaken. They

might look at cute animal photos when they are small, but as they grow, they assume that, like cuddly stuffed bears, these pictures of animals are best left to childhood. Oh sure, trying to be cute, their boss might leave animal photos up around the office as a pleasant, if boring decoration, but no one ever thinks about these pictures at all. I really do think that this is a great shame. As a professional animal photographer, it should be no surprise that I like animal photos, but the reasons might be things that you have never thought about.

One of the greatest things about animal photos is that they really can capture any emotion that you can think about. People are often reserved about showing what is going on inside them, but reserve is not really anything that shows up too frequently among the members of the animal kingdom. In animal photos, we have the chance to see practically any emotion, from the tenderness of a mother cat caring for her young, to the fierceness of a lion pouncing for the kill, to the sly disdain of a baboon, leaving its friends behind for new fun.

Many people believe that we are not really seeing these expressions in animal photos, and that what we are seeing is just a reflection of our own emotions that we want to pin on animals, but anyone who has spent any time with animals at all knows that this is simply not true. When we look at animal photos, we are looking out at our own emotions, not because we put them there, but because animals are really very strikingly similar to us. Dogs really do feel loyalty and friendliness quite often. You can tell if you have a pet dog what the expressions in dog animal photos really mean. Cats really are quite evil and sneaky, not because their tiny, creepy eyes look that way in animal photos, but because that is their natural temperament. Animals are less intelligent than we are, and are more driven by instinct, but that does not change the fact that they feel real emotions the same as we do. It does not take animal photos to show most of us the truth of this statement, but looking at pictures of animals can help to confirm it again and again.

For more information about animal photos, and other types of photos and photography please check out website at Photography Tips.

<http://www.allphotographytips.com>

## **How to take Great Photos of Your Pet**

**By Kelly Paal**

We all love our animals. They do such funny, adorable, and cute things. But somehow when that camera comes out they run and hide or they just seem to always be pointed away from the camera when you push the button. Well here are some tips to help you have a better chance at getting great photos of your pet.

1. Don't wake your pet out of deep sleep and attempt to coerce him into performing for the camera. It won't happen. Try to take photos of your pet during their routine playtime.
2. If there is enough daylight to take photos then turn the flash off. My cat has learned to close his eyes just before the flash goes off. He learned that little trick quick too! Many times a camera flash is just too bright for them, that's why they point away from you when they know that you're taking photos.
3. Don't try to get them looking into the camera. If there is someone around who can play with your pet just get a shot of them playing with someone else. You can have the photo with the person and the pet or get close to crop the person out of the shot.
4. If your pet always runs away from you every time you pull the camera out try leaving the camera sit out where it can be seen. Take photos of other things in the home and try turning the flash off.
5. Be prepared to grab your camera and take photos when your pet is ready, read "doing something cute." I've been able to get some of the best photos of my cat when he's just doing something on his own.

Remember don't put pressure on your animal to perform for the camera. Think more on the lines of catch them in their natural habitat. Our pets want to make us happy and you can easily confuse them by pressuring them to look good for the camera. Also be prepared to take a whole lot of bad photos for that one really good one.

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Kelly Paal is a Freelance Nature and Landscape Photographer, exhibiting nationally and internationally. Recently she started her own business Kelly Paal Photography (

[www.kellypaalphotography.com](http://www.kellypaalphotography.com)

). She has an educational background in photography, business, and

commercial art. She enjoys applying graphic design and photography principles to her web design.

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