



MY DOG!

ACTIVITIES

PICTURE-PERFECT PUPS: TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR DOG

Your dog is a member of your family, so, of course, you want pictures to share, frame, turn into greeting cards, or post online. Plus, it is important to have one clear, recent photo of your dog for an emergency "Lost Dog" flyer.

Photographing a dog isn't always easy: Dark coats hide details; the back of a dog's eyes look strange when they reflect light; fidgeting or motion create blurriness. Some dogs are simply anxious when you point a camera at them! Give these tips a try, and you'll be sure to capture that perfect picture.

1. TAKE LOTS OF SHOTS

The first way to get a great picture is to take lots of them! Unless you are using film, digital images are free, so go ahead and shoot many images in hopes of snapping that one terrific shot.

2. EXPERIMENT!

Rather than stand and aim your camera down at your dog, try different angles. Get down to your dog's level by kneeling, lying on the floor, or crawling under the table. Try to get a shot so that you are lower than your dog, pointing your camera upward. Zoom in and fill the frame with your dog, leaving out the background completely.

3. TURN OFF YOUR FLASH!

Natural lighting is usually the best for capturing a great shot, especially outdoors around dawn or dusk. Foggy days are beautiful, too. If you are shooting during the brightest hours in the day, try to move into a shady area.

If you're indoors, choose a room with bright, but not blinding, light—pull down the shades or close the curtains if you need to reduce the glare. Unless you're an expert, don't use the flash because it can create harsh shadows and washed out colors, or cause your dog's pupils to glow with a red or silver tint.

4. TAKE ACTION!

Action shots are exciting, show off your dog's special talents, and are especially good if your dog is still working on the SIT and STAY commands. So toss a favorite fetch toy and snap photos of him catching or retrieving! Many new cameras have a setting that allows you to snap a series of photos in fractions of a second—sometimes called the "sports" setting, which can help you capture that perfect moment.

5. PAY ATTENTION!

A candid, relaxed shot of your dog is always a sweet one, but why not try for a picture with a little more personality? Try to get your dog to look at you with his head tilted to the side, ears up and tuned into his surroundings. Or move to his side and photograph his face in profile, zooming in and trying to catch a little of the white in his eye. Get his attention by making kissing sounds or whistles. Try using a squeaker or making a surprising yip. Pretend to toss a ball or lob a treat straight up in the air.



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Two tips: Calling your dog's name will encourage him to come, rather than stay, so stick to the tricks above. Likewise, treats aren't the best rewards in a photo session because they lead to drooling and encourage your dog to come over for a second helping.

6. BE COOL!

If your dog doesn't want to sit still, give up. Photo sessions should be fun, so don't let it become all commands and frustration or your dog will retreat or skulk, and you won't be happy with your shots. Try again in another situation or on a different day, or walk the dog to burn up some energy. It's important—and more enjoyable for everyone!—that you stay upbeat.

NOW GET OUT THERE AND START SNAPPING SOME COOL CANINE PICS!