

Total time:  
1-3 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

Skill Points:

- Portrait lighting, exposure and framing
- Capturing expressions
- Timing and Patience

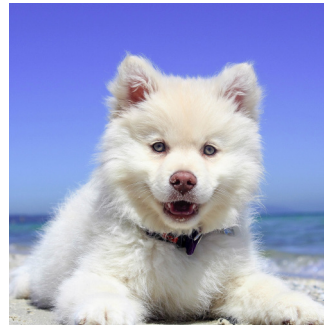
# CREATING LOVING PET PORTRAITS



Pet portrait photography requires patience; equipment knowledge, exposure knowledge, basic lighting knowledge, and it wouldn't hurt to know a little bit about animal behavior as well.

**KEY LESSON:** There are a few key considerations in pet portraiture. You may have to contain the pet based upon their behavior. The best shots often happen when you get down to their level. Focus on the eyes, and frame them up close. Capture interaction with humans when appropriate.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

- **Camera**
- **Lens + lens hood**  
50mm lens, or a zoom lens anywhere between 18-300mm
- **White & silver bounce cards**  
Window light, outdoor natural light, and large bounce cards
- **Helper + Treats and toys**



### TIPS!

Shooting Mode	M or A / Av	Metering	<input type="checkbox"/> Center weighted
Drive Mode	<input type="checkbox"/> High speed burst	White balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AWB <input type="checkbox"/> AUTO
ISO	400 then adjust	Format	RAW + JPG
Shutter Speed	1/250th & faster (telephoto) 1/125th (normal lenses)	Focus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Center grouping
Focus	AF-S or AF-C	Aperture	f/5.6 - f/11



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Select two pets, one pet for indoors and one for outdoors.
- 2- **Indoor pet photograph:**
  - Pick a shooting location with a bright window & indirect light.
  - Elevate the pet using a table or chair so that the window light is even with their entire body.
  - Use a large white or silver bounce card (available at any art supply store) to bounce light back into the shadows.
  - Get the attention of the pet toward the camera with toys or treats (Use a helper)
- 3- **Outdoor pet photograph:**
  - Photograph on a lightly bright overcast day or in the shade.
  - Lower the camera down to the pet's level
  - Set up the silver bounce cards on either side of the pet
  - Get the attention of the pet toward the camera with toys or treats (Use a helper).

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes?
- Is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Is your background neutral and free of distracting objects?
- Did you capture an interesting expression, action, or interaction with the pet?
- Is your color accurate?