

Total time:  
4-8 hours



Difficulty Level: Normal

Skill Points:

- Dealing with obstructions
- Difficult lighting
- Working within boundaries
- Timing and patience

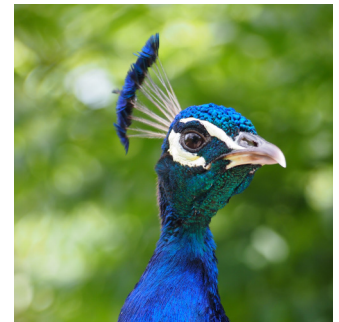
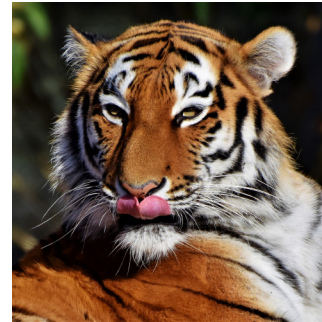
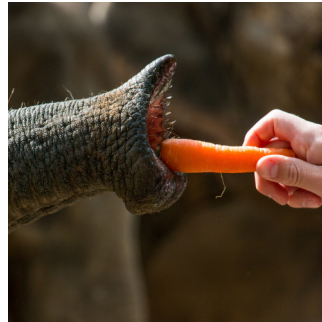
# CREATING DRAMATIC ZOO PHOTOGRAPHS



Zoo photography presents very specific problems that you will need to overcome: wire fencing, glass reflections, limited mobility, crowds, low light levels, or possible highly contrasting light levels, and an unpleasant or unrealistic background.

**KEY LESSON:** Zoo photography requires planning; the time of day and weather are important factors. Evaluate the habits and activity times for the animals that you wish to photograph. Practice patience. Learn the zoo rules. Ask a zookeeper; you may get special access.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS



## EQUIPMENT

### - Camera

Any camera with a longer focal length lens – higher ISO capability a plus

### - Lens + lens hood

200mm telephoto lens, or a zoom lens of 18-300mm, or a fixed lens of 5-12X

### - Monopod with ball head (optional)

### - Flash (optional) Check zoo rules



## TIPS!

Shooting Mode	M or A / Av	Aperture	f/5.6 or wider
Drive Mode	High speed burst	White balance	<b>AWB</b> <b>AUTO</b>
ISO	800 then adjust	Format	<b>RAW</b> + JPG optional
Focus Mode	AF-S	Metering	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-distance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wider shots & closeups
Shutter Speed	1/300th Telephoto 1/125th Wider lenses		



## ACTION ASSIGNMENT!

- 1- Pick two animals. Limit yourself to two. Follow the key lesson and research your chosen animals. When are they most active? What type of enclosure are they in? When will there be fewer crowds? (Times/days of week).
- 2- Plan on a minimum of 4 hours, 2 hours for each animal.
- 3- Arrive on the scene and choose your camera position – **Consider:** Direction of the light. Background. If shooting through wire fencing keep the camera right up to the fence. Try to position the camera in the shadows. If shooting through glass, position the camera close and angled at a 45-degree angle to the glass to prevent reflections.
- 4- Check Exposure settings. Is your shutter speed fast enough? If not adjust it to a higher number.
  - Keep your aperture wider than f/5.6 – the wider the better
- 5- Always be alert to the following as you move: Focus placement on the eyes, backlighting, objects in the background, visible fencing or reflections, animal expressions or movement.

## HOW DID YOU DO?

- Did you properly place the focus on the eyes? If so, is your image sharp and free of camera shake?
- Did you capture an interesting expression, action, or interaction with the animal?