



## Shooting Your Pet Like A Pro

Pets are part of the family, and we all want to have great photos of them. Unfortunately, it isn't always easy to get the shot you want. Here's some advice I've gotten on how to get more winning photos of your furry (or not so furry) friends:

**No. 1: Get down to their level.** One thing most photographers agree on is that when shooting pets, it's nice to shoot at their level. From fish and frogs, to cats and dogs, if you get on their level, you can create a shot that lets the viewer into their world and shows off their beauty. Pro photographer [Keith Barraclough](#) has shot portraits of both his own pets as well as hundreds of others for shoots, like the Puppy Bowl on [Animal Planet](#). To get the best shot, he says to "lie on the floor, or kneel, so that you are looking directly at them."

**No. 2: Toys work.** "Have a toy, or even a person, near the camera to attract the pet's attention," says Barraclough. Place the toy at different levels so that your pet is not only looking at the camera but also to the left or right. Be patient. It will take a lot of shots to get the one you really like

**No. 3: Light to the side.** I once interviewed pet photographer [Emilee Fuss](#) who told me that getting shots of black-furred animals (like her own black lab that she began her career with), can be very difficult. Lighting people or pets from the side can give you a beautiful photo. Position your pet near a window, or notice where the sun is coming from, and guide your pet into a spot where the light is hitting them from the side as opposed to head on.

**No. 4: Use a fast shutter.** On a point-and-shoot camera there is often a setting for kids and pets. It automatically gives you a faster shutter speed so that you don't get a blurry image when your pet moves suddenly. If you use an app such as [ProCamera](#), you can set a higher shutter speed, or use the rapid-fire setting, to make sure you get a clear shot.

**No. 5: Have fun.** Pets pick up on your energy – the more relaxed and happy you are when you are shooting, the happier they will be when you are taking their pictures.

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