



Tips for Dog Photography

1. Get down on their level

Get down to your dog's level to take a picture. This will help you fill the frame of your photo with your dog and will also capture their personality a lot easier. Taking a picture of your dog at their eye level makes them look more inviting.

2. Use a plain background

Before taking a picture check the area behind your dog. Is it too noisy or busy? A cluttered background will be too distracting whereas a plain background will emphasize your dog. Photograph your dog against as plain a background as possible

If you have a dog with a dark coat, try to photograph it against a light coloured background. If you have a dog with a light coloured coat, try to photograph it against a dark coloured background. This will stop your dog blending in with the background and avoid losing detail.

3. Use a flash outdoors

Even outdoors use the fill flash setting of your camera to improve the quality of your pictures. Use the fill flash in bright sunlight to lighten dark shadows around the face and eyes, especially when the sun is directly above or behind your dog. Use the fill flash on cloudy days to brighten up faces and make them stand out from the background.

4. Move in close

To create pictures with real impact move in close and fill the frame with your dogs face. Move a few steps closer or use the zoom (if movement will unsettle your dog) and fill your picture with your dog. You will eliminate background distractions and show off the details of your dog. For smaller dogs, try using your camera's macro or 'flower' mode to get sharp close ups.



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5. Take some vertical pictures

Many dogs will look great if you turn your camera and take a picture. This will produce a picture in 'portrait' rather than 'landscape'. Make a conscious effort to turn your camera and get some vertical shots.

6. Lock the focus

Lock the focus to create a sharp picture of an off centre dog;

1. Centre your dog
2. Press the shutter button half way down
3. Re-frame your picture (while still holding the shutter button halfway down)
4. Finish by pressing the shutter button all the way

7. Move it from the middle

Bring your picture to life by placing your dog off centre. Imagine a Naughts and Crosses Grid in your viewfinder. Now place your dog at one of the intersections of the lines. Since most cameras focus on whatever is in the middle, remember to lock the focus on your dog before re-framing the shot.

8. Know your flash's range

Pictures taken beyond the maximum flash range will be too dark. For many cameras the flash range is about 3 metres (about 4 steps). Check your camera's manual to be sure. If your dog is further away than about 3 meters the picture may be too dark.

9. Watch the light

Great light makes great pictures. Study the effects of light in your pictures. For good dog pictures choose the soft light of cloudy days. Avoid harsh sunlight that casts shadows over your dog's face.

10. Be a picture director

Take an extra minute and become a picture director, not just a passive picture taker. Add some props, rearrange your dog (into a drop, a sit etc) or try a different viewpoint (such as an angled picture or extreme close up). Let your dog's personality shine through a photo.



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11. Take your time

BE PATIENT! It may take many shots to get that one perfect shot of your dog. Your time and patience will pay off. Fortunately digital cameras allow us to take as many photos as we like. Keep what you like and delete the rest.

12. Picture quality

When using a digital camera be sure to set the quality (mega pixels) at maximum. You can always scale a photo down but you cannot enlarge a photo without losing quality.



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