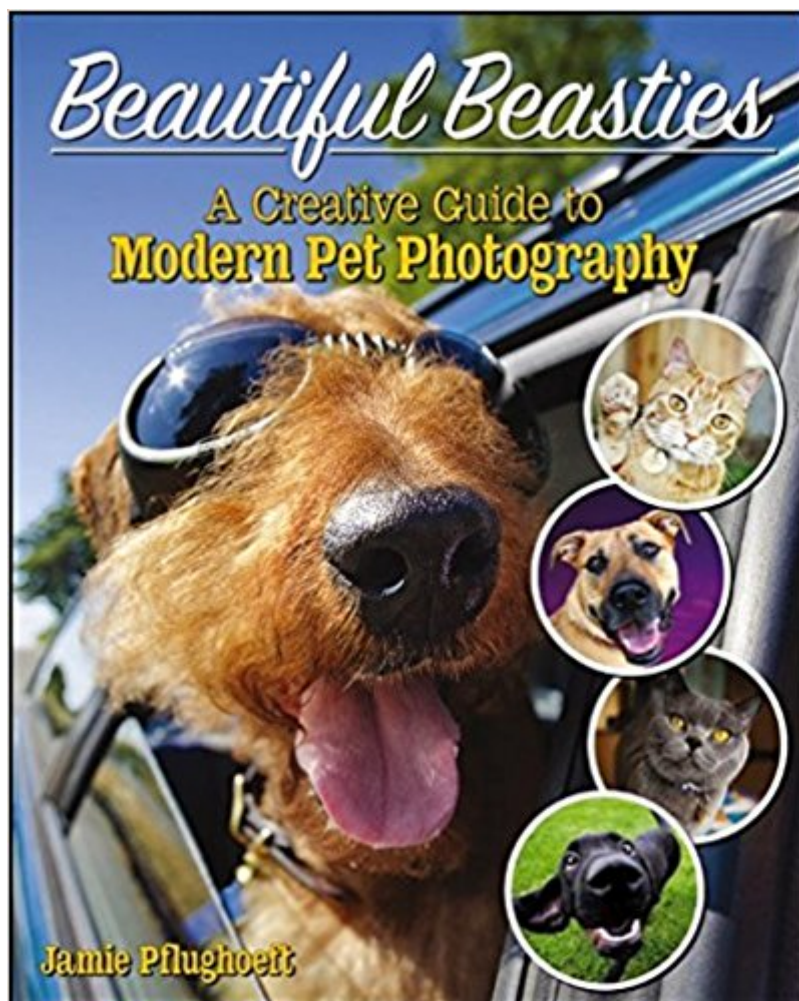


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# Beautiful Beasties: A Creative Guide To Modern Pet Photography



## Synopsis

The book pet photographers have been waiting for: a comprehensive guide to professional modern pet photography. Everyone who has ever trained their camera on a domestic animal knows how challenging it can be to get great shots of them. These unpredictable 'beautiful beasties' won't hold poses, smile and say "cheese" like a human will, and their erratic movement can have you spinning dials and pushing buttons on your camera so fast it will make your head spin. Whether you are an advanced amateur with a passion for photographing pets, or a professional pet photographer generating revenue with your services, this guide will show you how to create engaging, high-quality, professional pet photos from start to finish. With pet owners comprising more than 62 percent of Americans, pet photography has become a popular trend among photographers, with more and more pet owners wanting to have their furry family member's mugs captured for posterity. Zeroes in on pet photography as a professional service, and offers advice on how to price, how to brand your business, how to work with clients, build your portfolio, create a solid workflow and develop your own unique style. Explains how to work with animals from a behavioral standpoint, capture engaging expressions, create variety in photo sessions, pick interesting locations, edit for better images, work with multiple animals, photograph pets in a studio, and much more. As the first serious comprehensive professional guide to pet photography on the market, Beautiful Beasties has what passionate hobbyists and professional photographers need to capture memorable pet photos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

5 Pet Photography Tips from Beautiful Beasties

1. Have fun with it! Make it a game. Be upbeat. Bring out the toys, participate in an activity your pet finds fun. For cats this may be a game involving tinfoil balls or a feather toy, for dogs this may be a squeaky toy. For horses, rodents and other pets, this is whatever puts them in the best mood--whatever their 'favorite' thing is.
2. Get on their level Scoot, crouch, bend, scuffle, lay, twist, roll- whatever you need to do to get down and create photographs on the pet's level. Wear dirty clothes. No pet photographer ever wore expensive jeans and sneakers to a photo shoot. Animals experience the world on a different plane than we do, and being able to create photographs captured on their level makes them more emotional, more engaging, and more connected, to the person that views the images.
3. Pay your model You wouldn't expect a human model to work for you without payment right? So why should you expect an animal to work without getting paid? Figure out what's the most appreciated item for payment. A toy, a treat, an old rag, a carrot- whatever it takes to keep them engaged and motivated.
4. Pay attention to backgrounds Nothing can ruin a perfectly good photo better than ugly, cluttered backgrounds. Nobody needs to see that old garden hose, or your dirty sock on the floor, in an otherwise beautiful photo of Rupert the cat. Spend a few minutes before your photo session eyeballing the scene behind the animal. A few quick pickups of distracting 'junk' can mean you never having to say "Oh man, I wish that \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't in the photo" again, or spending unnecessary time in Photoshop or Lightroom. (Unless of course the offending object is something like a house or someone else's car, in which case--just move the animal).
5. Focus on expressions Forget technical skill. Any pet owner will respond to an expressive, 'aww-inducing,' 'laugh-inspiring' photo over a technically perfect yet emotionally lacking photo any day of the week. Capture a pet in the moment where it is expressing the essence of its personality, showing you it's true colors (whatever those may happen to be!), and the owner of the pet will forgive all manner of exposure, composition and other issues. All they really want is to say "You got him, you really got him!". If you hear "squeals", "oohs," or "ohhhs" coming from the pet's owner upon seeing your images, you know you've done something right.

Featured Photos from the Book:

I was laying on the floor on my belly playing with Taz the kitty, swishing his toy back and forth with my left hand, as my right hand controlled the camera. He didn't seem to mind me sticking my lens in his face, as long as we kept playing.

Technical information: 1/640 second at f/2.8, ISO 400, evaluative metering, 24-70mm f/2.8 L USM lens

View larger.

I had fleeting light here in which to capture Fergie launching herself into the air to catch a frisbee on the Pacific Coast in Washington. I metered off the sky and opened up my aperture to f/2.8 so I could make sure I had a fast enough shutter speed in the dying light to

capture the action. Technical information: 1/1250 second at f/2.8, ISO 400, evaluative metering, 20mm f/2.8 lens View larger. When I spotted the flowers at the nearby flower stall, I just knew I needed to have Skylark the puppy surrounded by them. Luckily she was an easygoing, mellow little girl who happily let me place her wherever I pleased. Here she looks out inquisitively at people and children passing by pointing and making "awwww" sounds at her. Technical information: 1/60 second at f/5.0, ISO 125, evaluative metering, 20mm f/2.8 lens View larger.

Tells you everything you could possibly need to know about pet photography the book is great for those looking at, or are already involved in pet photography. (ePhotozine.com, November 2012) A very comprehensive guide to all elements of pet photography fun and enlightening. (What Digital Camera?, May 2013)

This book is wonderful! Though simple and basic for the pros, it's great for beginners (I believe that was the author's intended audience). This is not one of those books that talks primarily about the manual camera settings as if you should already know the ins and outs of manual mode shooting. Rather, it explains each step of photography. A nice part of Beautiful Beasties is that Jamie Plughoeft is not at all against point and shoot, affordable cameras (unless you are starting a professional business). Without a doubt, Beautiful Beasties is the best pet photography book I've found (at least for beginners). The book alone helped me understand photography better (Jamie Plughoeft is great at explaining in simplicity). I also was extremely grateful that this informative book lead me to my dSLR: the Canon EOS Rebel T3i- a camera I'd definitely recommend to anyone interested in SLR photography. Informative, engaging, helpful, gracious: That's how I'd define the author's writing and skill. A MUST HAVE without a doubt. What this book includes: Chapter 1: The history of Pet Photography and getting starting your own pet photography Chapter 2: Talks about different kinds of cameras, camera accessories, and computer photo editing software Chapter 3: Working with different kinds of animals, animal behavior and different personalities Chapter 4: Preparing for a photo shoot Chapter 5: Using manual settings, RAW vs. JPEG Chapter 6: Lighting Chapter 7: Rule of thirds, needed and un-needed space in a photo, composition, Scenes and Settings Chapter 8: Challenges in photography (black & white dogs, sick pets, weather, bad lighting) Chapter 9: Editing with different software Chapter 10: Finding and Defining your own personal photography skill Chapter 11: Should I become a pro and start my own business? Chapter 12: Step by step help in starting your own professional pet photography business Overall, this book is great and has helped my photography skills. The author's photographs are gorgeous too; they

take up a good portion of the book, which is nice. Great buy, easy to understand, and is worth it whether you are interested in capturing pets in your own photos or if you just love photography in general!!! Five stars for sure! FYI: Don't buy this book if you're strictly interested in photographing anything other than dogs and cats. Though it does touch on other pets briefly and still can prove helpful, the author's main subjects are dogs and cats.

Cannot say enough great things this book. Tells you anything and everything you need to know about the business and taking great photos, as well as Jamie's incredible photography and her tips to being successful in the industry. As an aspiring pet photographer, this book could not have been more helpful and will give you a true inside look at what really goes on in owning your own business. Very easy and even fun to read while still containing crucial information. I could tell it took a considerable amount of time to put the book together being as lengthy as it is as well as all the extra information on every photo that is featured. Although I wish there were more photographs (some were reused) every one of them was stunning unlike other pet photography books where the information was good but photography was blah. Jamie is realistic and practical while still being relatable and entertaining. It is so refreshing to see an excellent photography book dedicated solely to pets. The pet photography industry is growing rapidly, but there are not nearly enough resources as there should be to learn the ins and outs of the industry. Jamie even refers you to her website (beautiful beasties) to take online classes and learn tips as well as other great pet photographers and resources with extended information. This book is well worth your money, and I believe the best one you can buy on the market to gain insight into the pet photography world. Buy it!

If you want to take great photos of pets or go into pet photography as a profession, buy this book!!! Pros: 1. Communicates the 'hows' of pet photography, but more importantly tells you the 'whys'. 2. Organized in a logical way, similar to the Idiot's Guides. Makes it easier to hunt for specific information you need without having to read every page of the book. 3. Exercises at the end of each book are great for helping you organize all those things you need to do and planning to do, but didn't know quite when or how to do so. 4. Includes a self evaluation list to see if pet photography is right for you. 5. List of sequential steps to take to start a pet photography business. 6. How to price your images and why. 7. Lists tons of online and printed resources. 8. Has a sense of humor. I have laughed out loud reading this book a time or two. but not silly. 9. It gave me a lot to think about and invaluable tips. 10. Covers the technical end of photography and post production. 11. Lots of detailed and specific information. 12. Great photos, they are NOT page fillers, because the author did not

have enough info to give you. I do not know the author in any way. I bought the book, because I am thinking about starting a pet photography business.

This book is incredibly informative, clearly written and a joy to read. This purchase turned out so much more than I expected. I've bought my fair share of 'informative' books and most I can't finish - I couldn't put this one down. The author breaks everything down in nice segments, explains everything very well (This is the first book/source that managed to teach me how metering works - and I've tried to look up a lot of things! That was the only thing on my camera that I didn't fully grasp) My only gripe is that I would have liked it if the business section was a little bigger - but on the other hand, the author also says she doesn't have enough room for this and recommends other books on that subject. All in all, I'm incredibly happy I bought this book. I plan on starting my own pet photography business sometime within a year, and this book is invaluable. If you're on the fence - buy it! you won't regret it. After reading it I would've happily paid DOUBLE of what it is currently listed at - it's that good. Thank you Jamie Pflughoeft!

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