

# ***SHUE NEWS***

## ***OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR SNOWSHOE CAT LOVERS***

***SEPTEMBER***



***2012***

Photographer - Ken Bullock



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# ***SHUE NEWS POLL***

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE VIA EMAIL**

**katsn1@yahoo.com**

**TO ALL WHO READ THIS NEWS, PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST AND HELP TO MAKE THE SHUE NEWS BETTER.**

- 1. Please select your preference for the format from the following:**
  - a. Power Point (slides)**
  - b. MS Word (older version)**

**Note: A PDF format file will still be used for the web site.**

- 2. Would you prefer a standard/fixed font?**

- 3. Do you have a suggestion for content? If yes, please make a recommendation for a subject that you would like included in the Shue News.**



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**BY MYRA RENAULT**

## **I. START WITH YOUR PET'S PERSONALITY.**

Before you start photographing your pet, ask yourself  
'what sets her apart from other pets?'

Think about what type of personality she has and  
then attempt to capture some of that in your shots.

For example: if everyone knows your pet as a sleepy,  
lazy or placid little girl set up your photo shoot  
around her bed or where she goes after a meal to lie  
in the sun, and you'll have every chance of capturing  
a shot that sums your pet up just right.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **2. GET IN CLOSE.**

Pets come in all shapes and sizes but in most cases they are smaller than a human and they often end up getting lost in photos unless you make an effort to get up close to them.

Of course, getting close is not always easy, especially if he likes to move around.

But it's worth making the effort: the detail that can be gained, and the personality that can be captured by a 'close up and personal' photo shoot with him can really lift a photo to a new level.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **2. GET IN CLOSE (CONTINUED).**

If you can't physically get close to him get your camera equipped with a zoom lens if at all possible. (Even some of the bargain cameras now come with automatic zoom lenses).

You will then be able to use a large focal length on the camera that will help with isolating your pet as the main subject when you focus the camera on him.

If working with a manual zoom f-8 is the about the best aperture for most lenses. It has good depth of field and will give you a somewhat blurred background so that your pet is the center of attention with no distractions.

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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **3. THINK ABOUT CONTEXT.**

In choosing the location to photograph your pet you might want to consider a variety of other factors also.

For starters choose a place where she will be comfortable and at ease. Also consider the familiarity of the location which could mean a lot in the future as you look back over your photos of her.

Last – but not least, consider the background of your shots. You certainly don't want your backgrounds to be a distraction from the main subject – your pet - in your photo.

Sometimes the best locations are the plainest ones - a large patch of green grass, a well-lit room with white walls and plain carpet, etc. can be ideal.

**GOOD ADVICE** is that if the different elements in the background of the shot don't add to the picture - eliminate them.

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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **4. GET ON THEIR LEVEL.**

Get down on your pets level where you can look upon them eye to eye.

Images taken by a photographer standing up and looking down on them not only leave you too far away from your subject but they also mean the shots end up having a very 'human perspective'.

Getting down on his level means you enter his world and get a glimpse of what life looks like from his angle - you'll be impressed by the results as they are more personal and have a real element of intimacy!



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **5. MIX UP YOUR FRAMING.**

Pets, like human subjects' look different from different angles and framing them in a variety of ways can bring out different perspectives to your shots.

In your photo shoot take some tightly cropped facial shots (even focusing right in on single features like eyes, noses, ears, whiskers etc) but also make sure you take three quarter body shots as well as full body shots.

In this way you end up with a series of shots that give viewers of your photos a full perspective on who your pet is.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **6. LIGHTEN UP.**

Light makes any photograph what it is and when it comes to pets, it's especially important.

In general it is not recommended to use a flash as they tend to distract pets and in some cases will even frighten them.

Using a flash can create red-eye problems with pets, in the same way they do with people.

Natural light is a much better option than using a flash and when possible, going outside to take photos is best. If that's not possible, then at least take your photos in a room that is well lit with natural light from a large window or door.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **6. LIGHTEN UP (CONTINUED).**

The only exception for using a flash is when your pet has very dark (or black) fur which tends to absorb light and a flash will then add detail.

With dark furry pets you might want to slightly over expose your images for this same reason.

Alternatively with white-furry pets you run the risk of over exposing shots so try to find a location out of direct sunlight and definitely avoid a flash.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **7. KEEP THEIR EYES SHARP.**

Having sharp eyes is important in any kind of portrait photography.

As they say, “Eyes are the Window to the Soul” and your pet’s can be very expressive.

So focus on your pet's eyes and keep them sharp.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **8. GO TO THEM.**

It's very important that your pet feels comfortable and at ease, so instead of forcing him to come to you: go to him.

Most important is to get down to his level! We all know how a pet looks when viewed from above, this is the way we always see them.

Show us the way they see the world! Sit on the floor or lie on your belly and remember to shoot from his/her eye level or below.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **9. GIVE VALUE TO THEIR CHARACTER.**

You know your pet better than anyone else and a successful picture is one that conveys the character of its subject.

If you have a lazy cat, show her yawning;

If your pet is playful show her in action performing her favorite trick.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **10. SURPRISE THEM.**

One of the most difficult things to do is to get your pet to hold still.

An easy trick is to let him play quietly and once you have everything ready, let someone call for him or whistle – make a commotion.

This will surprise him and catch his attention and you will then have a few seconds to capture him in a still but alert posture.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **II. SCHEDULE YOUR SESSION.**

If you want a formal pet portrait shot, try to schedule the photo session when your pet is somewhat sleepy, or has just awakened:

It will be much easier to keep her still then.

If you want a more dynamic shot then pick a time when she is energetic.

If she is feeling 'under the weather' it is probably better to just postpone it for another day or so.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **12. BE PATIENT.**

**Pet photography requires a lot of patience!**

**No matter how excited your furry friend is, if you are patient enough he will soon relax and you will have the opportunity to get a good shot.**



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **13. EXPERIMENT.**

**Take your time and enjoy the photo session,  
try different approaches, angles and compositions.**

**Shoot a lot of pictures - you will have plenty of time  
to look at the results later.**



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **14. OTHER ESSENTIALS CONCERNING YOUR CAMERA.**

As important as the above tips are – there are two more important questions to ask:

- how sharp is the photo?
- How clearly does the subject stand out?

All the other things are of no consequence if the photo is blurry and unfocussed.

Using good light and a fast shutter speed are necessary for a sharp, focused picture of your pet.



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# ***PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR PET***

**CONTINUED (BY MYRA RENAULT)**

## **14. OTHER ESSENTIALS CONCERNING YOUR CAMERA (CONTINUED)**

Last but not least: it is very important to keep your camera absolutely steady too.

Press the exposure button gently for no camera movement.

If you are still having troubles with keeping the camera steady, try holding your breath before and during the time you press the exposure button.

Sharpness is paramount.

READ MORE TIPS AT: <http://digital-photography-school.com/9-pet-photography-tips#ixzz24tS5WgvR>

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# ***HEALTH TIPS***

**BY MEMBERS**

**GOT A HEALTH TIP?**

**SHARE YOUR HEALTH TIP IN THE SHUE NEWS!**

**SEND YOUR HEALTH TIP TO [KATSNI@YAHOO.COM](mailto:katsni@yahoo.com)**

**SEND YOUR HEALTH TIP AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE TO ENSURE YOUR TIP GETS  
INTO THE NEXT SHUE NEWS**



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# **THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION (TICA)**

**BY HELLEN POUNDS**

**IN THE INTERNATIONAL CAT ASSOCIATION (TICA) THE BREED HAS IN INACTIVE STATUS BECAUSE ONLY TWO PEOPLE APPLIED FOR THE BREED COMMITTEE WHEN IT CAME UP FOR RENEWAL.**

**CURRENT REPORT OF KITTENS BEING SHOWN:**

- ONE KITTEN**
- ONE CHAMPIONSHIP CAT**
- THREE ALTERS**



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# ***AMERICAN CAT FANCIERS ASSOCIATION (ACFA)***

***BY HELLEN POUNDS***

## **BEST OF BREED CHAMPIONSHIP CATS**

**IN THE AMERICAN CAT FANCIERS ASSOCIATION (ACFA) THE BREED CHAIR IS NOW VACANT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ACFA RECOGNIZED THE SNOWSHOE CAT AS A BREED.**

**ACFA IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SNOWSHOE BREED COMMITTEE.**

**ACFA DOES NOT LIST SHOW REPORTS OR STANDINGS SO NO STATUS IS AVAILABLE ON HOW MANY SNOWSHOES ARE BEING SHOWN IN ACFA.**



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## **SNOWSHOE STORIES - 'BY' MEMBERS**

Snowshoe stories by members

*Submit your story for inclusion here. Examples of possible topics are:*

- How I met my Snowshoe
- My Snowshoe's favorite pastime
- Amazing things my Snowshoe does
- How I rescued my Snowshoe
- Showing my Snowshoe as a household pet
- How I spoil my Snowshoe
- What I have taught my Snowshoe
- What my Snowshoe has taught me

*Feature your Snowshoe on this page/ in this section. Include a photo with your Snowshoe's name and at least your first name as the person 'owned by your Snowshoe' (hint, you can do a story and add a photo of the Snowshoe in the story)*



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