



Animal Photography

Photography

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WHAT MAKES IT MEANINGFUL

Photography is a great way to express your creativity, and taking photos of animals is no exception! This can be a great way to capture memories of animal companions, to take photos of some animals you think are cute, and have fun creating art. This activity will create products that you can look back on and cherish memories made.

TIME

Like many creative activities, taking photos can be a quick activity, taking very little time, especially now that we have cell phones with cameras in them. Photography with animals can take a while, though, especially if you are looking to get a specific photo and you'll have to work with the animal to get the right shot. You can spend anywhere from minutes to hours taking photos of animals.

MATERIALS

- Point-and-shoot camera (\$200+) (optional, if you have a phone camera or can borrow someone else's camera)
- Cellphone or tablet with a built-in camera (\$100+)
- Notebook and pencil/pen to write down your ideas for photos (\$5+)
- Water and snacks
- Treats for the animals you are photographing (if the owner of the animal agrees for them to get treats). Note: if you are taking photos of wild animals, do not feed them.
- Something to get the animal's attention (ie: treats or a squeaky toy). Again, if you are photographing wild animals, do not bring them treats and instead photograph them in their natural state.

INSTRUCTIONS

Include any instructions needed:

1. Plan a day to take some photos, or pull out your phone to capture candid photos of a pet!



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2. Choose an animal or animals that you have in your life, or plan an event to go and see some animals. For example, you might have a nearby park to go to that has some squirrels in it, or maybe your best friend has the cutest dog who's just waiting for their photo to be taken.
3. Once you know who your subject will be, start taking photos! Once you've taken a few, assess what you have to see if you like the kinds of shots you got.
4. Figure out whether you'd like to adjust where you are standing and how you hold the camera to get different photos.
5. If the animal's handler says it's okay, use treats or sounds (like playing a dog's bark for a dog, or a horse noise for a horse) to get the animal's attention before taking a photo. This will result in a much nicer photo as the animal will look more alert.
6. Be careful around animals that are skittish, like horses. Be aware of what kinds of things might scare the animal that you're taking photos of, like loud noises, and try not to scare them. The animal's handler will likely be able to give you instructions on this.

RESOURCES

- [A guide for how to buy your first camera](#)
- [Tips for pet photography](#)

SUPPORTS NEEDED

This activity can be done alone, with friends or family, or as a group activity. You might want to bring a friend if you're working with a pet like a dog or horse, so your friend can help handle the animal while you take photos.

OTHER THINGS TO NOTE

When working with animals, it is always very important to recognise that animals are not like people and can act very unexpectedly. For example, a dog might leap at a nearby squirrel and run away if you don't keep a hold of their leash. A horse might get scared of just about anything and move very suddenly to get away. You want to keep some distance from animals you don't know, or large ones who can hurt you if they move quickly. A good rule is to communicate with the person who knows the animal best, like their handler or their owner, so that you and the animal stay safe.

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