

May contest 2021 Judge: Kim Christensen/ Graduate/ Pet and Real Estate photographer

Animal/Pets

Big Yawn-score 6.4

The photo is a bit blurry. Background is a little distracting which takes away from the cat. Could you have moved to the left a little to avoid the house? Could you have centered the cat more into the frame as to not cut off his ear and paws? Maybe not such a tight crop.

It's a great action photo and I am guessing the camera wasn't ready, but the cat was which explains why it might be blurry. Cats in itself are hard to work with as they have a mind of their own. So good job for what you got. A good setting to remember when photographing animals is to have your shutter speed higher than normal as they move quick. Good job!

Baby Geese-score 6.3

The photo is a little dark and hard to see the little goslings with no detail. The weeds in the forefront are very distracting and takes away from the geese. Not sure if you could have moved more to the right to get away from the weeds and also to center the geese more in the frame, or shoot lower to get some background? I wasn't there, but something to think about. The head of the goose on the far left should have been cropped out, all or none. Would've been nice to see them looking at you versus away.

With wildlife you have to be willing to move with your camera to get better angles. Looks a little blurry, what aperture were you using? May want to play around using different numbers depending on the light.

I love the warm light you got on them, beautiful! Baby goslings always follow their mama, so the picture represents this well and tells their story. You captured the environment that we like to see them in. Happy and serene. Good job!

Baby Geese #2-Score 6.5

The photo is a little dark and hard to see the little goslings with not very much detail. Would have been nice if you could have had them looking more at you, not sure if that was possible? The crop is a little bit tight for me, I would have liked to see more space on left and a little on the right. A bit blurry, but I am not sure if I am looking at a low-res file which would explain. Maybe waited a couple seconds for the last goose to pop his head up to have the picture flow better. Could you have been down lower to the ground to get more trees in the background? Would have been nice to see what was there along the shoreline.

The light is nice, soft & beautifully. Again, you photographed them in their safe natural habitat which gives the viewer a feeling of comfort. The story you are telling is how they raise their young as a family. Good job!

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Violet – Score 6.9

The tree is distracting for me as it goes through her head, could you have moved to the left a little to avoid that? Always try and get the tail in the shot, don't cut it off as its part of them and their little bodies especially if your doing full body shots. Dog photography is usually headshot, ¾ or full body, just like people. Try and get both eyes lite well & clean up sleepers in eyes If you have access to lightroom/photoshop use tools to the photos advantage. Background is a little blown out.

A wonderful expression of a happy dog. The dog looks very comfortable with you taking her photo. You have some good even light on her as it appears to be a very sunny day. Nice light going into the left eye. Love the ear tilt. The forefront of the green grass looks good. The important parts of the photo look sharp from what I can tell. Overall a good start to dog photography. Great job!

Happy Dog – score 7

A little bright on the right side. Sleepers in right eye I would have removed using lightroom/photoshop. Distracting green spot that could have easily been removed on right side.

Good composition, a dog and her ball go hand in hand. You captured her essence. Nice exposed sky for such a sunny day. Good job!

Joyful Puppy – score 6.2

Background distracting with person, maybe would have asked her to move to the right or redo the shot so she's not in it or have a tighter crop. Check color balance on dog's body, guessing its coming from the spill off from the hoop?

Also, a larger crop might have been interesting to show the entire hoop.

You captured the emotion of the dog. Good job.

Puma – score 9.3

Very nice photo for the capture you were able to get, however the white branch in the background is a bit distracting as well as the front branch sticking up by his paw. Perhaps a different camera angle may have helped. Always try cropping to see what may look better, which you may have already done?

This has great composition and lighting. How you captured his position from his head leading back to his body leads your eye right into the photo. Guessing this was taken at the zoo and not always easy to get the shot so great job.

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Bluebird – Score 9.8

Stunning photo! The only thing I may have done differently is to leave more room on the left side.

This is a beautiful image; the bird appears to be sharp with a beautiful background. In the rule of 3rds. Super job!

Fall Wolf – Score 9.6

Great job! The only thing I would have done is cleaned up the grass in photoshop especially the one on the left of his head along with removing the dark branch sticking out of his head and the other **on** his back or blurring it a little more so it's not so prominent.

Really good composition showing the almighty wolf. You can almost look into his soul through his eyes. Job well done!

New Puppy! Instant Happiness! Score 5.4

There's a lot going on with this photo, not sure where I am supposed to look? I Believe the main subject is the puppy and human showing interaction so I would crop them and get rid of the left side distractions that are cut off anyway, this would make the photo more impactful. More room for the head and position the puppy differently on the lap so you can see more of the puppy.

The photo shows happiness between the human and the puppy telling a story. Good exposure and appears to be sharp with the faces of the puppy and human. Keep up the good work.

Arabian Mystery – Score 6.1

When going for the focus on an animal's eye, you want it to stand out over anything else. In this photo there is too much mane going over the eye hiding it. I would have gone into photoshop to remove some of the strays on the far-right mane to smoothen it out. Lightroom to brighten the eye up a little to show it has life.

Good exposure all around. Great background. I like the concept you're going for. Keep trying and you will eventually get it.

Dogs Allowed – Score 4.4

A lot going on in this photo, not sure where I am supposed to look? Distracting hand on steering wheel coming out of dog's head. Them sitting inside the car is distracting as it adds to a super busy photo.

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Good exposure. I like that it's a happy photo of the girl and obviously her dog who she is happy to see. Try again outside the car with less going on. Good luck to you!

Winter Squirrel – Score 9.0

Would have been nice to see more room for the squirrel in the frame. Not sure if you already cropped this photo. I would also crop some of the tree on the right side just a little. The branch coming out of head is a little distracting, maybe do a little photoshop so it's not so prominent. Could you have moved your camera over to miss it altogether?

Exposure is good. The eye is sharp. Beautiful composition with the curly tail and how the Squirrel is eating in its own environment. Overall, beautiful capture!

Sheep Herding Score 9.4

Love this photo. It would have been nice to see more room on the right side for the sheep to run.

A great action shot with the dog herding the sheep. Great composition Exposure Is good and appears to be very sharp. This photo tells a wonderful story of the Alaskan Shepherd/Collie doing the job he was bred to do. Awesome job capturing their story.

Pelican Rush Hour Score 5.8

Not sure where to look, a lot going on here. Too many birds and most are not sharp. Some too close to the top of your frame.

I would concentrate on focusing on one set of birds or one bird instead of a bunch that are doing a lot of different things. Bring your shutter speed up to capture them in the air without getting the blurry look. Good exposure. I like the title as it works well with this photo.

Bella's Portrait Score 6.0

The lighting is not the best for this kind of kitty with all the different array of tortoise colors. He would show better on a lighter background. The crop is way too tight as you cut off one ear and I can't see the body.

I love the green eye almost as if he's winking at his person. Keep trying to do animal shots, always remember head shot which includes the full head, $\frac{3}{4}$ shot or full body is the best way to showcase animals, just like people. Good luck to you!