

15 PHOTOGRAPHER SECRETS

** shooting with your phone*

FURBABY GLAMOUR 101



YELLOW LAB

All photos © Yellow Lab by Salome Nourse



hello!



I love what I do.
My passion takes me on a daily journey of connecting the story of your pet and your love and 'painting' it onto a time piece that will stay with you forever.

In the next few pages I am going to be giving you some of my best kept secrets that I use when shooting.

Follow closely and in no time you will be taking amazing photos that your furbaby deserves.

All I ask for in return is that you give your companion a hug every day and show them love.

I would love to know if my secrets helped you.
Connect with me on Instagram @yellowlabpetphoto or Facebook @yellowlabpetphoto, post your amazing new photos and let me know.

“ We cannot image our lives without them. That is why its important to document them so that we can look back, wether it is to reminisce about the cute little puppy or to get closer to them when you are away from home and missing them or to show off to friends how incredible they are. There is nothing better than a happy furbaby in your heart.

~ SALOME

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1 TURN OFF YOUR FLASH

Most camera apps and their built in light meters are clever enough to compensate for more or less light in your photo. Make sure you turn off your flash. When you photograph your pet with a smartphone's built in flash, it creates an unflattering picture that makes subjects look flat and lifeless. See for yourself the difference it makes when you shoot a picture with and the same picture without flash.

You don't need it.

Personally, I turn my smartphone's flash on once a year when I take pictures of my furbabies sleeping in the dark.



2 CHOOSE YOUR OWN FOCAL POINT

Phone camera apps let you decide where the focus should be. If you don't do anything, a lot of the time, the background is in focus, making the picture look flat...but you can change this. Chose your focal point by tapping on the spot on your screen where you want the focus to be. If you put it on your pet and let the background be more blurry you will get some amazing effects.

Play around by having your pet close to you and a colourful background far away, tap on the part of your pet that you want in focus and experience the magic.



3 FOCUS ON THE EYES

When you're close enough to your pet/subject mainly have their face in the photo, be sure to focus on their eyes. It brings another element to a photo when the eyes are sharp and in focus.



4 LOOK FOR CATCHLIGHTS

One of the ways to make your pet look incredible, is to make sure there are catchlights in their eyes. Catchlights are created when light reflects off the eyes. To get catchlights, make sure your pet is facing a light source. Alternatively, try to change where they are looking, and simply look for the difference in their eyes. Once you start noticing catchlights, you'll see them wherever you are.



5 KEEP SHOOTING

The beauty of shooting digital is that you can take ten or many more pictures of the same thing. Shoot until you think you got the shot you were after. You can easily delete pictures, but you can't always go back to retake the photo.





6 SHOOT AT YOUR PET'S EYE LEVEL

We are used to seeing our pets from above as we mostly look down at them. You create a personal connection in an image when you're shooting right at their level.

7 KEEP IT SIMPLE

Check your surroundings and minimise distractions (trashcans, cars, shoes, dishes etc.) in your photos. Let your companion be the star of the photograph. Have the background as plain as possible. This makes for more professional looking photos and it puts all the attention on your beautiful furbaby.



8 PAY ATTENTION TO LIGHT

The best light is natural light. If you're taking a photograph indoors, try to take it close to a window where soft light is streaming in. Open curtains and get more natural light into the photograph. If you're outside, look for open shade. It is created by buildings and trees, so think of it as a giant umbrella blocking out the harsh sun in an open area.

In open shade shadows and highlights are softer and make for prettier portraits. Try to photograph your pet when they are in the shade. It also allows for really nice catchlights.



9 GET CLOSER

Use detail to tell your pet's story, however, don't use optical zoom. When you zoom on your phone, the image gets bigger, but in fact it gets pixelated, loses quality and doesn't look nice anymore. Rather, move yourself closer to your subject to have a better shot at getting a crisp image. Fill the photo with their paws, ears and hair. I once had a yellow labrador with the largest, softest ears that felt like velvet. What is it that makes your pet unique and gives them photogenic features?





10 GET DOWN LOW

When you're crawling around on the floor with your pet, turn your smart phone upside down. When you turn it upside down, you move the placement of the camera so the camera lens on your phone is now right next to the floor. So you get a completely different photograph.



11 HAVE FUN!

If you setup a little photo session at home, make sure it's enjoyable for your pet. Play with string to get your cat's intrigue or provide squeaky toys and treats for your dog. Don't let them go too long without giving them a reward though or they'll lose interest and be bored.



12 ACCESSORISE

If your pet doesn't mind being dressed up, use this to create fun portraits by dressing him in a hat, wig, bow tie, holding a rose or whatever you can think of! The photographs of animals in human attire is SO fun and happy.

13 SELF PORTRAIT

You love your companion and the two of you are inseparable. Capture your connection. Get in the photo yourself. You can lean your phone on or against something that's the right height and set the timer so that both of you are in the shot. If you are taking a selfie with your pet, shoot from slightly higher than your eye level.





14 ASK A FRIEND TO HELP

He can hold the treats and get your dog's attention while you snap away or try it the other way around. You hold the treats and your friend takes photographs. But be sure he reads the part on how to choose focus and that he shoots from your pet's level;-).

15 EXPERIMENT

Shoot through plastic.
Shoot through a window.
Look for reflections.
Never stop being creative.

...and if you need help, don't be
afraid to ask.

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I'm confident that if you only apply one of these tips to your photographs you will have show stopper material of your best friend.

Don't forget to show me your photos and let me know if the secrets worked for you.

I can't wait to hear from you!





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