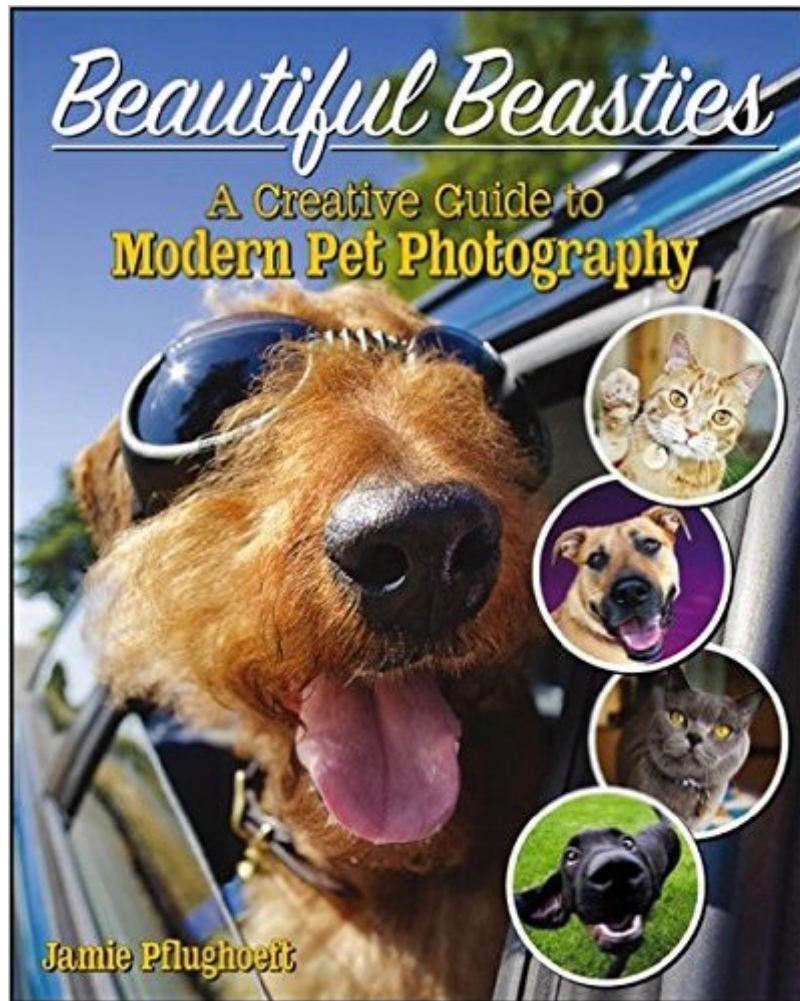


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# Beautiful Beasties: A Creative Guide To Modern Pet Photography



## 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

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Wiley; 1 edition (September 11, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0470932279

ISBN-13: 978-0470932278

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (75 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #336,020 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Arts &

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of those niche books that is a must have if you are into pet photography either as a hobbyist or professional. The recent increase in the popularity of pet photography has produced a small but growing list of books dealing with the subject which is, admittedly, a rather specialized branch of photography. This is one of the better books issued so far on the subject and warrants the readers consideration. The author is a self-taught pet photographer that obviously loves her work and is willing to share some hard learned lessons for those interested in the subject for business or pleasure. She is a down to earth writer that provides highly readable material and does so in that rare manner that makes the reader feel they are visiting one on one with the author in a very informal, friendly setting. The book consists of twelve chapters, an index, copious photo's and is chock full of advice for any aspiring photographer of animals. While she spends most of her time on photographing dogs and cats the basic lessons and suggestions she offers will also help with photographing other animals as well. The chapters cover the subject from the history of pet photography thru lighting, equipment, compositions, animal behavior, and for the professional, becoming a professional pet photographer and business essentials. It is amazing just how much advice and material is covered in the 340 pages. I really liked the section in Chapter 8 dealing with the challenges inherent in photographing Black and White dogs. She calls it the Black Dog and White Dog problem and not only does she discuss the problem and reasons behind it, she also offers some interesting solutions.

When I first heard about this manual on pet photography, I expected things like a camera primer, pet taming techniques, and general advice about working with animals, moving objects and light conditions and such. What I did not expect was a detailed analysis of equipment, suggestions for working with different kinds of pets (and pet owners), how to operate a pet photography business, how to price your services, best practices for selling, advertising and supporting your services, and all the other nitty gritty details of becoming a professional pet photographer. That is to say, if you have never taken a picture of an animal, never used a camera, never owned your own business, never purchased a camera, never made money selling a marginal service like pet photography, this book will tell you all you need to know to do it. As an experienced photographer who has taken more than a few pictures of his cats over the years, I didn't really appreciate how much there is to consider when taking pictures of animals professionally, from preparing treats and slobber rags, to making considerations for a sick or elderly pet. And as a businessman, while I vitally understand the concept of making money, I certainly had no idea about pricing, packaging, and marketing. And,

again, as a photographer, I expected some amount of photography advice, but my assumption was that the author would assume a certain amount of capability on the part of whoever might buy this book. The author, however, makes no assumptions at all and includes detailed discussions of equipment, lenses, lighting, add-ons, editing software, how to use all those things together effectively, and even notes on film cameras and developing. (Who does that anymore?)

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.

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