

# Pet Portraiture

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# What kinds of pets have I photographed?

## Traditional:

- Dogs
  - Chihuahuas to Mastiffs
- Cats
  - 4 weeks to 19 year old
- Horses
- Rabbits
- Ferrets
- Birds
- Fish



## Not so traditional:

- Skunks
- Snakes
- Lizards
- Pot-belly Pigs
- Short-tailed Possums
- Hedgehogs
- Insects and Spiders
- Goats
- Sheep
- Bison
- And more....

# My Equipment

- Nikon D3
- Sigma 28-70 F2.8
- Sigma 70-200 F2.8
- Nikkor 60mm F2.8
- Nikkor 300mm F2.8
- Bogen Travelite 700 & 350
  - Softbox and Umbrellas
  - Beauty Dish
- Interfit EXD200's
  - Softbox and Umbrellas
- Nikon SB600's and an SU800
  - Diffusers and Umbrellas
- MicroSync system

# Before you shoot...

- Get to know the pet
- Prep your gear
- Have an idea



# Get to know the pet



- What perks their interest?
- What scares them?
- How obedient are they?
- What are the most interesting features?
- Treats/Rewards?
- Eye, hair/skin/fur/feather color, textures?
- Is it dangerous, hazardous or could it bite (and how bad is that bite)?

# Prep your gear

- Secure wires
- Plan the what ifs
  - They won't stay still
  - Pet gets aggressive or agitated
  - They won't pay attention?
- Set your equipment
  - Camera
  - Lights



# Have an Idea

## ■ Who

- Kind of pet
- Breed/Species

## ■ What

- Type of styling
- Simple/Complex
- Concept

## ■ Where

- Studio
- Location
  - Where will the pet fit?
  - Where will it look best?
  - Backgrounds? Match or Stand out?



## ■ When

- Time of day
  - Pet's normal schedule?
    - Daytime
    - Nocturnal
- Schedule
  - Heat
  - Shedding/Molting

## ■ Why

- What kind of output?
  - Website
  - Facebook
  - Wall-hanging?
  - Billboard

## ■ How

- Convey your message?
- Pet's personality

# General Pet Tips



- Keep them safe
- Don't stress them
- Watch the eyes
- Have fun
- Know their limits
- Take more than you think





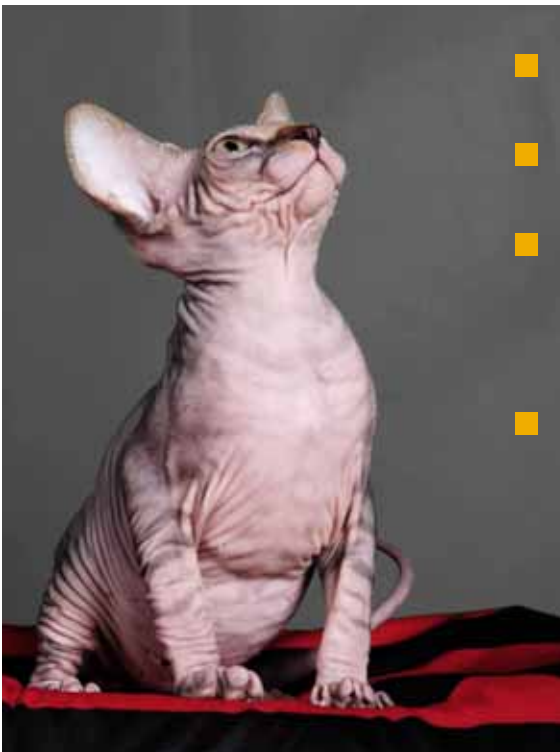
# Working with Dogs

- Treats tend to be your friend
- Sounds work the ears most times, but movement can be better
- Eye Contact with Camera



# Working with Cats

- Movement over sounds.
  - Subtle or very quick
- Patience is key
- Know their limits
- Make it fun for them
- Simplicity, Simplicity, Simplicity!!!
- Keep them comfy



# Working with Everything Else

- Horses

- Can be spooky with flash, and loud noises

- Birds

- Enclosed spaces to shoot
- Enticed by movement and unusual
- Perches
  - Dowel
  - Natural Stick



- Fish

- Dark room
- Watch light placement and reflections



- Reptiles

- Always with handler

- Others

- Owners/Breeders/Knowledge are your friends



# Any Questions?

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