



01 - A wistful gray poodle.JPG

Margret Cordts

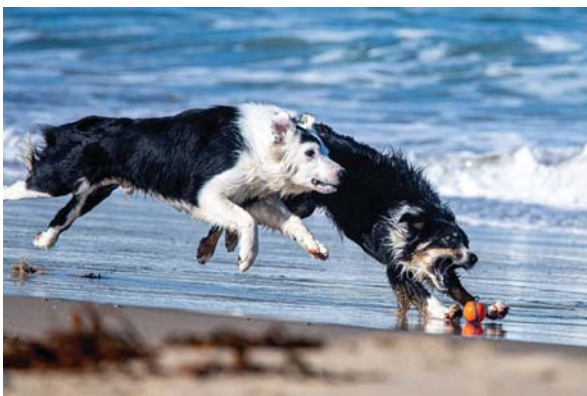
How can you not be mesmerized by these eyes. They demand your love and attention don't they? The right eye can use a bit of lightening of the black fur to bring out a little more detail. I like the choice of a wide aperture to keep the background out of focus. Nice image.



02 - Ball Banditl.jpg

Julie Chen

This is an eye catching image and demands attention because the dog's eyes are riveting and really expresses its wonderful, playful personality. I think another positive part of this image is the cropping. Using a wide aperture assures focus on the eyes and the great crop eliminates the rest of a softer subject. Use of a plain background means the subject doesn't have to fight for the viewers attention.



03 - Dogs on beach chasing ball.jpg

Dennis Giuffre

Great action capture. Everything's sharp with good lighting and nice lower shooting angle. I think this image could benefit from a nice 4:5 aspect ratio crop with the left border just behind the front dog's leg and the right border an equal distance to the right paw of the back dog. That would focus attention on the point of action in the photo. With action photos, almost always crop to the action. Excellent capture and shows the stay-with-it dedication of the photographer to get the shot.



04 - Dont' even think of touching my baby.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

This is a wonderful moment and to capture this parental love takes time. The image can be sharper using a higher ISO which would allow a faster shutter speed. A little more editing to darken the cloth on the right would help this dramatically lit scene. I love the attitude of the mother's stare. Cute image.



05 - Fetching in the Surf.jpg

Chris Johnson

Using a high shutter speed to freeze the water was a good idea in a fluid scene like this. I would like to have seen whatever caught the eye of the dog or have the dog looking toward or near the photographer. I'm left with wondering what the dog was seeing. Maybe a little less crop showing more environment next time.



06 - Happy Newfie Year.jpg

Rick Verbanec

This is an interesting image but I think the tree on the left is too imposing. Moving more to the right would help and using less telephoto would help to establish the environment the dog is in. Wildlife and pets don't always have to fill a frame. Sometimes a wider (looser) crop showing more location environment helps tell the story. The autofocus seems to have focused on the flurry instead of the dog. If this was the intension, then it was successful. Next time try a second shot using manual focus to make the dog sharp. Then, when you're at home in front of a warm fire, you can make the choice.



07 - Koi at play.jpg

Brian Spiegel

This is a tough subject to photograph. The orange fish on the left side is a distraction and the white one to its right, without a nose, doesn't help matters. But, in my experience, fish have a mind of their own and don't seem to want to listen to our directions. When working with multiple subjects and trying to make a pleasing composition, try composing with odd numbers such as three or five. This would have been better in this image. The nice thing about photographing with a digital camera is that you can shoot like crazy and don't have to process dozens of rolls of film to get the perfect image. Better focus and possibly using a polarizing filter to knock some of the sheen off of the water and wet fish might help. ***



08 - Lab concept of personal space.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

There is no doubt who this dog owns. This dog is both owner and protector of his human. This is a nice reportage/snap-shot image.



09 - Peggy.jpg

Carol Silveira

Wonderful, loving image and captures the love in this dog's eyes. As in all portraiture, it's all about the eyes. I like the soft background and warmer tone in this image. The angle of the head captures the mutual understanding of trust, calm and peace between the subject and photographer.



10 - Pure Happiness.jpg

Chris Johnson

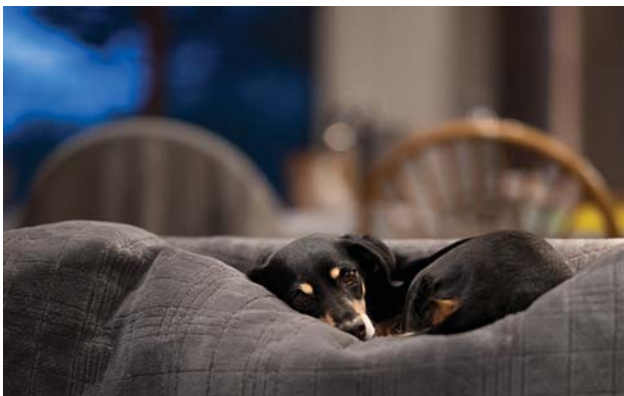
I just laughed at this carefree pup enjoying its freedom which was perfectly captured by the photographer. Nice framing or crop with the dog slightly off center makes a pleasing composition. Great use of aperture and shutter combination in freezing the action and setting the dog apart from the background. That, combined with the perfect lighting make this a winning combination. Well done.



11 - Reds Lake.jpg

Rick Verbanec

Nice photo documenting the dog and location. I'm not sure if this is a portrait of a dog at a lake or a lake with a dog. If it's a dog at a lake, I'd like the dog looking at or near the photographer with a wider aperture to make the lake softer. In either case, I think the dog should be looking toward the photographer with a looser composition.



12 - Sadie Rests.jpg

Bill Brown

My family owns four pets and I see this often. This is a great photo showing a dog at peace in its environment. Exposure, color balance and selective focus using a wide aperture makes this a very nice image. The telephoto lens helps isolate the subject from the background but, less light, no light or moving the dog's bed would eliminate the distraction of the chairs in the background. Great image.



13 - Shorthair cat focused on photographer.JPG

Margret Cordts

Very nice portrait of a loving cat. The eyes are riveting and command your attention which is essential in this type of portrait. The crop is perfect. The telephoto lens and wide aperture makes the background go soft and that allows the subject to stand out from it. Wonderful image.



14 - Stella.jpg

Carol Silveira

Here's a nice image of a dog, with its ears perked up, that means its all-in for having its portrait made. I like the telephoto compression allowing the background to become soft but, in portraiture, it's all about the eyes. And in this case the focus is on the nose. Next time maybe move the single AF point to an eye to make them crisp and possibly a smaller aperture for more depth-of-field to keep the nose more in focus. The nose doesn't have to be as crisp as the eyes-just close.



15 - Taking in the Scene.jpg

Bill Brown

How DID they keep the hat on this dog? Neither of mine would have tolerated that. Great soft light and perfect focus. Very cute image.



16 - The white sextuplet kittens.jpg

Kent Van Vuren

What a wonderful documentary type of image showing the family. What makes this image great, besides the warm cuddly feeling, is that there are several images within an image here. Try zooming in on the two cats with arms and legs draped over each other and then all three heads as a vertical. What a gift of having all these purr-fect subjects at your disposal. Hope you enjoyed them.



17 - Water Dog.jpg

Bill Shewchuk

Nice photo of a dog that loves water. I like the angled stare to the left and the higher angle makes for an uncluttered background. The exposure, color balance and focus are right on.



18 - Whiskey Sunset.jpg

Julie Chen

When I first saw this image I recalled that, in 1872, photographer Edward Muybridge was hired by Leland Stanford to photograph horses to prove that, at some point in their run, all four legs would be off the turf. This image is only milliseconds away from that perfection. All aspects of photography are perfectly captured here. The fast shutter speed freezes the dog, water droplets and sand on the beach. The low angle and a wide-open aperture produces a soft background, with circular specular highlights, that allow the dog to stand out from it making the subject not to have to fight for a viewer's attention. But, its the lighting that makes this image stand out. The rim lighting on the head and ears is wonderful. The modest image processing of the shadows in the face and body provide just enough detail to give the dog personality without looking too over processed. Excellent image. *****

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Peggy
Carol Silveira



The White Sextuplet Kittens
Kent Van Vuren

Third Place

Whiskey Sunset
Julie Chen



2nd Place:

Pure Happiness
Chris Johnson



First Place:

Shorthair Cat Focused on Photographer
Margret Cordts

