



01-A Boy's Best Friend.jpg

Carol Fuessenich

Cute image although I'm not so sure the dog's expression is reciprocal. The photo seems out of balance. The cropping could have been better. I'm thinking a tighter 3:2 crop instead of a 5:4 and bringing the top down as tight to the head as it is to the boy's elbow. Too much room past the shoulder and too little room on the right. The exposure is right on and the sharpness is good. Nice choice of aperture to throw the background out of focus too.



02-Beside Myself.jpg

Sandie McCafferty

Cute photo of this dog. Not sure the reflection adds to the photo. The crop is very nice and the exposure, sharpness and color balance are good.



03-Birdbath Guard on Duty.jpg

Ken Jones

This is an interesting photo because it captures both animals waiting for something to happen. Ideally, the cat would like the squirrel to come down for a drink and the squirrel would like the cat to leave to achieve that objective. Nice story, good photo techniques and allows the viewer to imagine what's going through their minds. Well done.



04-Curious Kitty of Cortona.jpg

Denice Loria Woyski

I love the black & white rendition and simplicity of this nice image. Soft lighting combined with perfect exposure and composition makes the stare of this cat really stand out. Well done.



05-Enjoying Carmel Beach.jpg

John Drum

Very good action shot with the right shutter speed for the action. The exposure is nice as is the soft fall off in the background. I'm wondering if the dog and the splash might look better centered in the frame using the same aspect ratio of this original. This off-center seems a little uncomfortable.



06-Hazel .jpg

John Drum

Nice photo of the dog. She's attentive to the photographer with the position of her ears but, I think the image is a bit over processed. I'd preferred to see this beautiful dog photographed with a longer lens and wide open aperture to naturally throw the background out of focus. Software doesn't create that look. There are some things better done in the camera.



07-Hi - I'm a Westie Named Pierre.jpg

Joel Gambord

Beautiful image. All the techniques are spot-on and the expression show a real connection with the owner. The angle of the head and perky expression are magic.



08-KiKi at Play.jpg

Jared Ikeda

A very nice image of this cat hugging her catnip toy. This photo captures the expressive moment very nicely. The image could possibly be enhanced by very slightly lightening the eyes to see her emotion. With any animal or human, it's always the eyes.



09-Let's Go.jpg

Patricia McKean

I like this very nice environmental portrait. Good exposure and detail and the composition perfectly follows the rule of thirds. Well done.



10-Lost.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

Cute image of a stray cat. The angle portrays a reportage approach to the subject compared to a lower angle to bring it into a portrait perspective.



11-My Little Angel.jpg

Sandie McCafferty

Here's a perfect example of the attentive connection between pet and owner. Great detail in focus and exposure. Post processing of the image isn't over done and allows the viewer to zoom in on the eyes. For me, it's the lifted paw that shows mutual love between dog and owner. Very well done.



12-Now Where Did She Go.jpg

Andrea Madsen

Nice photo. I think the 1:1 crop is a good choice but, I'd either get tighter or looser to include the entire paw. Good job of showing the environment with not too much car and nice lighting and color balance.



13-Out for Coffee with Friends.jpg

Ken Jones

A very nice street photography scene. The dog is patiently waiting for the conversation to be completed so he can continue his walk. I would like to have seen what the image would have looked like if the man were looking at his companions instead of looking away. His eyes see to draw attention away from the dog.



14-Play Time at the Beach.jpg

Carol Fuessenich

This is a great example of a pet in action. With today's cameras capable of 20-40 frames per second, it gives us photographers the ability to capture the exact moment we are looking for. A frame or two before this photo would have frozen the dogs mouth open and just about to snag the frisbee. It's a difficult decision to make when editing our images. Exposure, lighting, shutter speed and other techniques are e=well done as is capturing the moment. It's a shame the owner had to force the dog to repeat this over and over to get the right shot ;~)



15-Playful Pugsley.jpg

Denice Loria Woyski

This is the purr-fect portrait of a pet. It show its personality and playful attitude. In any portraiture, it's always in the eyes and this is outstanding. In post processing, you've maintained the highlights perfectly but, I'd like to see what the image might look like with the books darkened just a bit. They're a nice balance to the composition but seem to pull the eye away too soon. What a great portrait.



16-Portrait of Rex.jpg

Jared Ikeda

This is a wonderful portrait. The eyes are riveting and sharp. The ears show interest and just enough depth-of-field for the face and allowing the ears to gently fade into the perfectly dark background. Nice mastery of technique and personality.



17-Riley in the Flowers.jpg

Patricia McKean

Here's a great example of a dog doing what he likes to do best-explore. His nose slightly up shows his interest in his surroundings. This is a nice example of a location/environmental portrait. I think this smaller aperture or sensor brings in the background to support the location. Everything seems to come together to give the viewer a sense of time and place. Nice image.



18-True Love.jpg

Frank Penner

There is nothing more satisfying than seeing mutual love between a human and an animal. This is a heart-warming scene. Exposure, composition and lighting all fall into place in this image. This reminds me of a saying referred to in my journalism background... dog licks woman isn't news, woman licks dog - that's news. This is such a nice image.



19-Watch Dog.jpg

Lillie Grossman

The eyes in this dog really capture your attention but, they need to be sharp. Try using a single focus point and moving it to one of the eyes next time. The nose can be slightly out of focus but not the eyes. I like the focus fall off giving less emphasis to the background. Overall, a nice image.



20-Wet Dog.jpg

Lillie Grossman

It's all in story telling. We've all been there. We've played hard and now's the time to pause and collect our thoughts. Thinking, "do I go back in the water or sit here and dry off for a while". This is a nice environmental portrait of the wet dog. Soft background, good lighting, sharp details and perfect pose add up to an awesome image.



21-Where Is That Ball.jpg

Nicole Asselborn

This is a great image of a dog waiting for something to happen. Nice exposure, good sharpness and ideal composition make this a successful environmental portrait. Good post processing as well.



22-You Want Me to Do WHAT.jpg

Joel Gambord

Sometimes a tight crop to eliminate non-essential surroundings is the best way to go. This is well executed for this dog. The eyes have it in this photo. Well done.

Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

Enjoying Carmel Beach

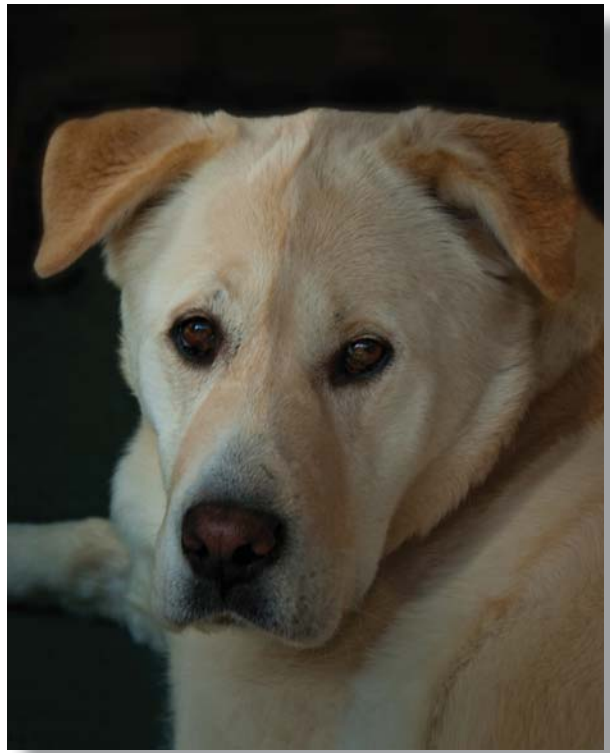
John Drum



My Little Angel

Sandie McCafferty

Portrait of Rex
Jared Ikeda



Third Place

Wet Dog
Lillie Grossman



2nd Place:

Playful Pugsley
Denice Loria Woyski



First Place:

Play Time at the Beach
Carol Fuessenich

