

**P**adre Trails Camera Club  
Pictorial Competition - Pets - February 15, 2023  
Group Red Comments  
Judged by: David Henry



**01-Caught in the Web.jpg**

*Karen Schofield*

A great photograph should have instant appeal incorporating commanding composition, crisp focus, good lighting and create a bond between viewer and photograph. This image has it all. As in all successful portraits, the eyes have it! This photo has it all.

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**02-Chihuahua Robe Cuddle.jpg**

*Charlie Gibson*

This image says it all. Complete submission, lack of fear and implicit trust is all incorporated in this wonderful image. Add to that, perfect focus, great color balance and tight composition make this an awesome image.

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**03-Coco Bean at Pebble Beach.jpg**

*Rick Thau*

Nice environmental portrait of man's best friend. Good sharpness where it's needed and nice tight composition. I'm a bit ambivalent on the bright background but am glad it's soft. Nice photo.

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#### **04-Cole and his Sheltie pal.jpg**

*Don Eastman*

Very cute image of these two friends. I bet they'd make a great couple interacting with each other such as the Sheltie licking his popsicle or sharing Cheetos! Food for thought?

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#### **05-Contented.jpg**

*Carole Gan*

The perfect portrait. Remembering that a good portrait pulls the viewer into the photo and creates a bond between them. This photo has it all. Sharp focus on the eyes where it's needed, soft uncluttered background and good exposure makes this a real winner.

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#### **06-Dalmatian Beach Day.jpg**

*Charlie Gibson*

This is a nice clean shot of a pet. The composition implies action but it isn't shown. The lighting, focus and exposure are all there. Nice image.

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**07-Finch in Glass Cage.jpg**

*Dick Light*

A long-tailed finch is quite a sight to see in this hemisphere. This is well lit and the eye is sharp. All elements of a nice bird photo. Clipping of the tail doesn't bother me but, I'm guessing it might not fare as well with documentarian approaches to bird photography. As a pet, it's fine. Nicely done and a refreshing change of scenery.

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**08-Jimmie in SF.jpg**

*Rick Thau*

Nice eye contact with the viewer and good sharp focus on the eyes. I wonder what the subject would look like if you used a longer focus lens with a wider open aperture to allow the background to fall out of focus. That might direct more attention to the dog's face. Good first attempt.

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**09-Ken & Max read the Sunday Post.jpg**

*Brooks Leffler*

This is such a funny photo. I wonder what the expression on the bird would be if the owner was reading a magazine about cats? This image is quite pixelated from having been enlarged too much. Maybe a longer telephoto lens would require less enlargement. Nice environmental image.

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### 10-Man's best friend wants to Surf.jpg

*Carole Gan*

This is more of a documentarian approach to pet photography. As a documentarian, it needs to tell a story and it's difficult to tell if this dog belongs to the surfer or simply in the vicinity of the surfer. This style of image needs to have the subjects interacting with each other and entering the frame and not leaving the frame. Sort of like an eagle shot from the rear after it has passed the photographer. This is a nice heads-up approach to this type of photography. Spending more attention to telling a story would go a long way toward bringing this image up a notch. \*\*\*



### 11-Romeo-0.jpg

*David Eisen*

This is a nice image we see every day of our pet. The photographer needs to work at getting the right expression in their pet and position of the head, eyes and ears really help. Attention to technical details is equally important. A longer telephoto lens instead of heavy magnification would help eliminate the excessive pixelation and more attention to exposure and/or post processing would allow us to see the eyes. In any portraiture, it's all in the eyes. \*\*\*



### 12-The New Toy.jpg

*Karen Schofield*

This has all the potential of being a great portrait and tells a story. Focus is critical in any photo and unconstrained autofocus will always focus on the foreground such as this toy. Either changing to a single autofocus point and moving it to the eyes or switching to manual focus will solve this problem. Focus notwithstanding, the lighting, low angle, tight composition and uncluttered background all work together well in this photo. Work on the focus and it becomes a winning combination. \*\*\*



### 13-Toffee's first play with big dog Karma..jpg

*Don Eastman*

"Wanna Play!" This has so many humorous elements and most of all, it is telling a great story. This kind of image allows the viewer to enter the scene and conjure up whatever story that comes to mind. A nice simple background that gradually falls out of focus allows the viewer to concentrate on the humorous expressions of the animals. A bit more depth-of-field could possibly have the left dog's face a little sharper. Over-all a nice pet story. Well done. \*\*\*\*\*



### 14-Wise Old Goat.jpg

*Brooks Leffler*

This is a great example of a well lit animal with the right amount of background blurring to allow the sharpness of the face to grab your attention. Nicely executed technicals. \*\*\*\*\*



### 15-Zoe.jpg

*Dick Light*

Here's a perfect pet portrait because the eyes have it! Great connection with the viewer and the eyes are sharp. That's not easy to do with such a furry nose to throw off the autofocus. Nice soft out-of-focus non-competing background combined with nice lighting and well executed technicals make this a winner. Well done.

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Winning Images:

Honorable Mentions:

**Finch in a Glass Cage**  
*Dick Light*



**Zoe**  
*Dick Light*

Third Place

**Toffee's First Play with Big Dog Karma**  
*Don Eastman*



2nd Place:

**Contented**  
*Carole Gan*



First Place:

**Caught in the Web**  
*Karen Schofield*

