



Taking *Blissful Dog* Photos



Taking Blissful Dog Photos

Photos You Can't Wait to Share!

Never again will someone ask to see a picture of your dog and you slowly show them your phone home screen with a puppy picture from the day you got your dog as wallpaper. We feel your pain and vow to help you never have to go through dog photo shame again!

This series of bliss books shares tidbits, tips and hints on how to capture your dog's essence in a photograph, how to organize the photos and more.

We offer four free Blissful Dog booklets in this series. [Download](#) them all and enjoy!

Taking Blissful Dog Photos, this PDF, covers the nuts and bolts of planning and executing a successful photo shoot with your dog. This one is a must-have!

Capturing Blissful Memories shares prompts and templates for ensuring you record milestone events with your dog. It includes milestone prompts of events to record, templates to record the events, digitally or with pen and paper and more.

Blissful Dog Inspirations shares 200+ images and info of, yep, dogs to inspire your photography journey.

Your Blissful Dog's Record Keeper has forms (both digital and analog aka paper) for vet records, shot records, medications, info for pet sitter forms, plus, templates for recording memories, milestones and more.

Visit TheBlissfulDog.com to sign-up for our newsletter to get new DIY projects, Arts & Crafts ideas, and more fun downloads! Plus, info on new products, newsletter-only discounts and more. Visit [The Blissful Dog Downloads Page](#) to download all current PDFs.

Tag us on any of the pictures you take...
we LOVE seeing your blissful dogs.
[#theblissfuldog](#) [#blissfuldog](#)

Blissfully,

Kathy

Kathy Dannel Vitcak
CEO & Founder
The Blissful Dog Inc.
TheBlissfulDog.com

Photo of Larkan by Nick Kelzer,
shot with iPhone 12 Pro Max





Capture Your Dog's Bliss

Taking Blissful Dog Photos Info Includes

- Setting Goals for Your Successful Photo Shoot
- Capturing Your Dog's Essence
- What Makes Your Dog Unique?
- Research What Your Dog's Breed or Mix Was Bred To Do
- Pulling Together Props That Pop
- Breed Specific Photography Tips
- Action Shots Made a Bit Less Intimidating
- Last Minute Tips
- Choosing the Most Blissful Site
- Keeping Your Cool
- Getting the Dog's Attention
- Last Minute Tips

Worksheets, To-Do Lists, Checklists

- Setting Goals for Photo Needs Worksheet
- Defining Your Dog's Essence Worksheet
- Worksheets to Guide You Through Every Step
- Last But Not Least, Record What Worked (or Didn't)

The Legalese

Ugh, loathe this part, but here goes. Please, don't copy my hard work, and don't sell this workbook or any part of it. Don't alter it or use bits and pieces for monetary gain.

TERMS OF USE: For Your Personal Use Only

- You are licensed to use the following PDFs for personal use.
- Personal use is no part of the following may be used or altered for sale.
- You can share it in its original, unaltered format, only.
- The following titles may not be redistributed, resold, or relicensed; Capturing Blissful Dog Memories, Taking Blissful Dog Photos, Your Blissful Dog Record Keeper, Blissful Dog Inspirations [3]



Taking Blissful Pictures of Your Dog

Whether your goal is for your dog to be Insta-Famous or want to take some good pictures of your dog to share, we've got your info!

First, we will determine what you want to achieve with your dog's first Blissful Photo Shoot. This step may seem unnecessary, but take it from the Queen of "Let's Just Do It," it truly does save time to have at least a general plan.

Goals for Your Dog's Shoot

- 1) Have you done photo shoots of your dog before? If so, how did it go?
- 2) Are you building a portfolio/album of pictures of your dog to use on social media?
- 3) Do you want to redo past attempts at editing and organizing your dog's photos on-line or in person?
- 4) Are there themes you want to include?
- 5) Will you use the pictures on social media?
- 6) Do you need photos for a specific event?



Expectations

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters." -Epictetus

If we expect our dog, who has never had any obedience training, to sit and stay because we say "Sit Stay" in a loud, slow voice, we will probably be disappointed.

Some of the most successful and fun photo sessions I've done with my dogs were casual. If I relax, sit down, and allow them to do their thing around me, I always get fun, shareable pictures.



How To Capture Your Dog's Essence

In a Photograph





Define Your Dog's Unique Essence

es-sence • /esəns/

noun: essence

the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, especially something abstract, that determines its character.

Before we jump into the actual photography part, let's determine what aspect of your dog's essence we need to uncover and embrace to get photos you'll treasure forever.

On page 5 is a shot of our smooth Brussels Griffon, Cinnabar (Shann's Cinnabar at Jackpot!). I have probably taken 100+ pictures of her on the sofa in my office or living room. Most are indistinguishable from one to the next. But the moment I snapped that one and looked, I knew that was it. Her sweet disposition and loving demeanor are evident at a glance.

What Makes Your Dog Unique?



What do you feel is your dog's essence, the spark that makes them unique? We're going to find just that in this next section. Taking photos that make you smile and allow you to share your dog's uniqueness is the hallmark of a successful photo shoot!

Describe Your Dog In ONE Word

Is your dog goofy, protective, intelligent, playful, silly, serious, regal, stately, bold, trickster, rugged, shy or spoiled?

Bliss Tip! Ask friends and family who know your dog how they would describe them. The answers might be eye-opening.

Here are a few basic, general dog personality types to kick-start the process.

Boss Dog - This charismatic dog owns the dog park. Confident in their own skin, this dog loves being them! Never picks a fight, never pushy; this dog rules naturally.

The Baby - When a perpetual puppy enters the room, people squeal, "Aww,

so cute," or "Awww, sweet baby." In the presence of complete preciousness, we all melt.

Very Good Dog - This people-pleasing, obedient dog plays by the rules. They never jump on people, would never tear up the trash, or go potty inappropriately. They are... A. Very. Good. Dog.

You're Not the Boss of Me Dog - This dog knows with every fiber of their being that they are more intelligent than you. They may go along with you on some things... or not. As independent thinkers, Livestock Guard Dogs fall into this category almost universally.

The Let's GO! Throw the Ball! Run Now! Can We SWIM in the Lake?! Dog - Energetic and active, these dogs are fun to be around and make a perfect jogging/running buddy. Many hunting dogs fall into this group also.

Your dog may not fall into one category. Your dog could be a blend or not fit any of the general types outlined. Have fun with this to give you ideas for the next part.

What Was Your Dog's Breed Bred To Do?



If you have a Lagotto Romagnolo, we beg you to do a photoshoot of your dog with truffles. A truffle (no, not the chocolate kind) is a type of ectomycorrhizal fungi (mushroom for us truffle newbies).

Truffles are coveted by chefs the world over for their unusual flavor. Truffles grow underground, intertwined with tree roots, and are hard to find. The Lagotto is the only dog bred to sniff them out. With prices going for thousands an ounce (really), Lagotto's have an important job.

Dig into your breed's history, or mix, and find out their original breed function. You might be surprised!

The American Kennel Club has an A-Z list of dog breeds. Each page has info on that breed and their origins. Scroll down on the individual dog page for history/ purpose info.

<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds>

Herding Dogs (Australian Shepherd, Australian Cattle Dogs, Collies, Shelties, Border Collies, Old English Sheepdogs, etc.)

Imagine what fun you would have photographing your Aussie or Border Collie cavorting with a herd of sheep. But, unless you know people with farms, it may be easier to photograph your Aussie with a stuffed sheep toy.

Corgi lovers have an easy photo opportunity with their Royal Connection!



Sporting Dog; Retrievers, Spaniels, Vizslas, Weimaraners+

Lakeside pictures can be stunning without either of you getting wet. Any body of water, forest, or thicket would be an outdoorsy opportunity.

Not feeling outdoorsy? Set up an English country estate vibe with some tweed and leather, and don't forget the tea.

We've seen some spot-on hunting dog-style photos with camouflage, wicker baskets, ammo, and blaze orange.



Toy or Companion Breeds

For a memorable photo grab a page from the history books and choose settings with the mood of your breed's founding country.

Of course, we must mention Marie Antoinette's Papillon, Thisbe. Thisbe accompanied her to the guillotine and ran out from her dress pocket. Her maid supposedly grabbed him and kept him for the rest of his life. Or so it is told.

Livestock Guard Dogs, Cart Pulling Breeds, and Water Rescue Breeds such as the Great Pyrenees, Leonbergers, Newfoundlands, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Swissies, etc., offer endless opportunities for great pictures.

Newfies look great in or near water, of course. In a pinch, have a kiddie pool in your backyard or a basin of water for them to enjoy.

A surefire eye-catching picture is of livestock guard dogs posed with a bale of hay. If you have access to a local riding stable or pumpkin patch, check into the possibility of arranging some time.

Of course, we are not condoning having your Bulldog grab a bull or forcing your Affenpinscher to kill rats. There are fascinating aspects of each breed's history, the country or region of origin, etc., that offer chances for eye-catching photo opportunities... safely! Have fun!





Props Make Your Pup's Personality POP

Does your dog have a "thing" that is theirs?

Do they greet you at the door with their fave ball, ready to start the daily game of fetch?

Or do they grab their plush pig when it's bedtime?

If so, pose them with their toy, either playing with it, holding it or just having it in the picture.



Props Can Put Your Pup At Ease

If your dog is a snuggly cuddler and loves nothing better than curling up in your lap, consider taking pictures of them swaddled in blankets. Blankets MUST compliment their coloring, of course. Pose them on the sofa and celebrate their best Netflix Buddy-ness.

Your dog may be more of an outdoorsy type, always ready for a hike or a run. The two of you will hit the trail to capture their essence. Find an area in the woods, beach, etc., near you that allows dogs and plan their shoot for the outdoors. Kudos if you have mountains for a backdrop!

A regal, stately personality deserves a royal photoshoot. Find a crown that compliments your dog's good looks and, if possible, a robe and scepter. Who knows, a throne may be available.

If your dog is a super bright, over-achiever of a dog, like most Border Collies and Aussies, you could use school-type props. Books, blackboard, create a big report card on poster board, anything that shows off your dog's smarts.

A tough guy or gal may need a fake tattoo or leather ensemble. Renowned dog photographer and Bulldog breeder, Tammy McAllister, is known for capturing the essence of that unique Bulldog vibe.





Note the expression on the Frenchie and the Pug's wearing birthday hats. They are disgusted with it all and that is Prop Perfection!



Tammy MacAllister, of Willie Cole Photography and Bulldacious Bulldogs, knows how to bring out the best look she needs in her photography models. Her usage of props adds to the vibe of the photo without taking away from the subject. That makes her a Prop Master also!

For more of her work & Bulldogs visit BulldaciousBulldogs.com



Looks like the holiday festivities wore our Bulldog and French Bulldog models out! Frenchie Santa below may need some extra reindeer help in the morning!





Proper to the Props!

The photographers caught the essence of their subjects in each shot by using props as shorthand.

The Border Collie's attention (top left) shows their love of a favorite toy and the Border Collie's intense FOCUS. That is THEIR ball. Period. The. End.

The Fairest of Them All above is an easy set-up. Simply prop a mirror up at a park, in the woods, backyard, or outdoors, and you've got the shot.

The two pictures with Husky puppies and toys required minimal set-up but will be treasured forever!

Pug Puppy napping with a much-loved toy is a true heart-melter. (I said, "Awww," out loud).



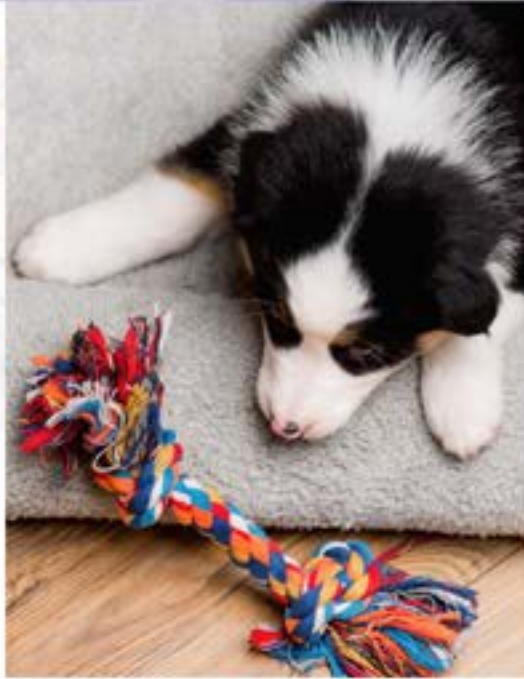


As a dog photographer and Bulldog breeder, Tammy McAllister, shows how simple props, just as the chubby Pug on the scale or the Bulldog's too full food bowl can convey the message succinctly.

Bliss Tip! Check out newborn photo shoot props. There are a plethora of fun, easy for a dog to wear props to be found in newborn or preemie shops. Again, stalk the sales.

Not everyone has a closet full of dog clothes, depending on your dog's size you can substitute human clothes, from infant on up. Also, if you enjoy this process consider grabbing dog costumes on Halloween clearance sales at your fave on-line or brick & mortar pet store..





What's the Angle?

These photographers used angles for maximum effect. Experiment with different angles!



The four central angles used in photography are; Eye-Level, Within the Shot, Bird's Eye View, and Worm's Eye View.

The Chihuahua, above, and French Bulldogs, below, were shot at an Eye-Level View. This photo angle helps us feel more connected to the subject, especially animals, as we usually look down toward them.

A Bird's Eye View (from above) was used for the photos of the Corgi and Border Collie. This angle evokes various emotions, from feeling protective to analytical, like an observer or even detached. FYI, shooting from below is called...Worm's Eye View, which isn't an angle we would use unless your dog is incredibly tall.



Within the Shot is an angle from the perspective of those in the picture. The Parsons Russell Terrier to the left is shown from that POV.

Photography Tricks & Tips For Specific Dog Breeds or Characteristics



Attention to Detail

This Bulldog family is masterfully photographed to highlight the essence of Bulldog-ness.

The almost 3/4 angle shot highlights the structure of the Bulldog mom's face. The two puppies were captured showing off their Bully Beauty.



For many years I worked as a graphic designer creating ads and doing production for several specialty dog magazines and private dog show clients. Over that time, I learned a bit about what makes certain dog breeds look their best.

Photographing Flatter-Faced Breeds

Affenpinscher	French Bulldog
Boston Terrier	Japanese Chin
Boxer	Maltese
Brussels Griffon	Pekingese
Bulldog	Pug
Bullmastiff	Shih Tzu
English Toy Spaniel	Yorkshire Terrier

Most flat-faced dogs look their best when looking up or straight at the camera. Part of their look is the smooshy face, and if you snap them looking down, you lose the desired look. Puppy below right looks perkier and more engaged with ears in proper position and looking straight at the camera, plus the coveted head tilt. Puppy on the left looks timid and sad.



Keep That Mouth Shut

Most flat-faced dogs have somewhat restricted breathing and overheat rather quickly. The excitement of having their picture taken can cause many dogs to pant.

A dog can bite their tongue out and look relaxed and happy in the photo. A panting dog with a swollen tongue does not look good in a picture.

If they struggle to breathe, their eyes can also become glassy, red, and bug out. Again, not ideal for the dog and not the look you want for a happy photo.

Time your photo shoots for cooler times of the day or indoors under the a/c. Also, have plenty of cool water and even a cool coat or damp towel available if your dog gets overheated.

Of course, any dog breed or mix can become overstimulated by the excitement of all the attention focused on them, so keep a close eye on how they react.



Ear Erections (Made You Look)

That got your attention, didn't it? Dogs with up, erect ears look better when the ears are at attention and perked up. If you get the oh-so desirable combo of up ears and the head tilt...you nailed it!

- **Basenjis**
- **Boston Terriers**
- **Boxers**
- **Chihuahuas**
- **Corgis**
- **French Bulldogs**
- **German Shepherds**
- **Papillon**



EARS, EARS, GIMME EARS!

Of course, our adored pets do not have to adhere to a dog show-level standard, but they deserve to have their photo shoot capture their essence.

Any dog or breed with more prominent open ears, like the ones mentioned, will look more attentive and alert with their ears positioned properly.

Every dog will appear more alert and focused if they are looking at/near the camera and watching the photographer or assistant.

Tammy MacAllister, of Bulldacious Bulldogs and Willie Cole Photography, knows how to capture the Bully Best in her subjects. She makes it look easy! For more of her work visit Bulldacious-Bulldogs.com





Capturing A Soulful, Sweet Vibe

Many breeds or individual dogs have a soulful vibe, a loving, sweet, genuine essence of pure cuddly angel-ness. Spaniels all seem to have those lovely, chocolate eyes and ooze love all around them. Note: As a rule, we don't use sweeping generalizations, but when describing the vibe of dog breeds, there is usually a commonality.

To capture a sweet, calm essence, go the opposite direction of striving for alert ears. Quiet, warm, and serene is the mood to set.

You'll get great shots like the one above by relaxing with your dog and allowing them to be themselves.

Set the stage with a fluffy solid-colored throw or blanket in a color that works with their coat color. The pale blanket with the Ruby Cavalier works as the tone is good, and it allows the focus to be on the puppy's sweetness.

Tip - Play with your dog until they are a little bit tired, not exhausted, but almost ready for a nap.



Kids & Dogs

This is a perfect kids and dog picture. The child is gazing adoringly at the Pug as they sit and look out the window.

Patience + More Patience is key to photographing kids and dogs.



Lights, Camera...ACTION!

Some breeds demand action shots! They must be photographed doing what they do best, running, jumping, and moving. Belgian Malinois, Border Collies, German Shorthaired Pointers, any breed that epitomizes action, are prime candidates for action shots. Of course, you can get stunning still photos of these breeds or personality types, but capturing them in action is natural.

To capture this classic shot, you must position yourself in the best spot to catch the desired angle. Duck hunting? You better grab your waders!

Finding THE Spot for Action

Chart out where you think the dog will be and get into a position that allows you to capture a series of pictures. For example, get in the water and wait for

the dog to swim toward you with the bird/decoy. Make sure your camera/phone is waterproof or in a proper case.

Catch the Unexpected

Smaller dogs can be amazingly FAST! A stellar photo of a Toy Breed flying through the air will give you bragging rights for years to come. Be prepared and anticipate their actions. My Brussels Griffons get a gleam in their eyes before they take off, and yes, they are WICKED fast!



Last Minute Tricks & Tips For Nailing Blissful Pictures

What? More Tips? When Do We Take Actual Pictures?

Does it seem like we are spending ALL our time planning and getting ready to take pictures of your dog? We promise some of these random tips and tricks will pop into your mind and help you snap that one elusive picture you've always dreamed of capturing! Or at least you'll take less frustrating shots that you have just missed in the past.

While we're on the subject...don't hesitate to grab your phone and take pictures anytime you think you might get a good picture. As one who lived during the era of waiting a week to have photos developed to learn you didn't get one decent shot, our pro cameras in a phone is heavenly!

Wear 'Em Out

If your dog is active, take them for a run, throw their ball, etc., before you attempt to take Portrait shots. A tired dog is a still dog.

Get Down to Their Level

One tried-and-true tip on capturing great dog photos is to get down on their level. If your dog is not used to your being on ground level with them, you might ease into it. See Page 9.

Double Check Backgrounds

Sure, Portrait Mode will blur the background a bit, but make sure there is nothing you don't want your grandmother to see back there.

Try New Angles for Head Shots

Some dog breeds have arresting profiles, some look stunning in a 3/4 head shot, and others look their best shot directly. Big ears don't require you to photograph your German Shepherd or Frenchie full-on every shot. Again, experiment.



Focus on Feet or Ears or Noses or Tails

Snapping one part of your dog, not their face, can be a fun exercise. Think of a Pug's curly tail, your Basset's ears, Newfie feet, or a Bloodhound's nose.





The Final Nuts & Bolts

Choosing the Site

Select a site that is 100% safe for your dog to be off-lead. Your backyard, a friend's fenced yard, or any setting with a safe, secure fence around it will work. Then you can relax and let the shoot unfold.

If possible, have some props that allow your dog to be up off the ground a bit. Big rocks, logs, a retaining wall, a picnic table, etc. will all work. Must say it, ensure everyone's safe!

The best time of the day for an outdoor shoot is earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Sunlight is more flattering at that time.

Enlist the help of a tolerant, patient friend who can take direction. You will appreciate having someone to help position your dog for the best shots.

Bathe your dog, or have them groomed, a day or so before the photo shoot. Start their Nose Butter a few

days before the shoot so their nose will be picture perfect.

Check to be sure you have enough room on your phone, as you will need it. Pro photographers say getting one decent shot out of 50 is an excellent average.

Special Accommodations

If your subject is a flat-faced or senior dog or one with any health challenges, adjust accordingly.

Do not shoot a flat-faced breed, like a French Bulldog or Pug, in the sun or temps over 60-70° F. Not only is it dangerous for them, but they will probably also pant and be bug-eyed, neither of which is the look you want.

Cool, Calm, and Collected is Key! This tip applies to heavily-coated dogs, as well.

The Zen of Dog Photography

Your cheerful state of mind will ensure the success of the photo shoot. Your dog probably does not understand, “Look at the camera, Mr. Wiggles.” But Mr. Wiggles will respond to your calling their name ONCE. Keep it happy, upbeat, and fun.

Take your time, and don’t rush to get the perfect picture. Remember, your dog will pick up on any frustration. Do whatever it takes to be positive.

You’ll be ahead of the game if your dog knows basic obedience, such as sit and stay.

The Day of the Shoot

Dress accordingly, as you may be lying on the ground to get the right shot.

Here’s a short list of supplies to have.

Photo Shoot Supplies

- Phone charger/battery pack
- Water & bowls
- Snacks for you
- Treats for your dog
- Poop bags
- Longer leash, if needed
- Sunglasses

- Squeak toys
- Chair or stool and blanket
- Do Not Disturb Sign (if needed)

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare yourself, your dog, and your assistant.

Walk the area and check for anything that could injure/annoy/distract you or your dog.

Make sure the background that will be in the picture is appropriate. You do not want to get THE best shot and have poop in it. Or a pooper scooper! Or someone scooping poop!

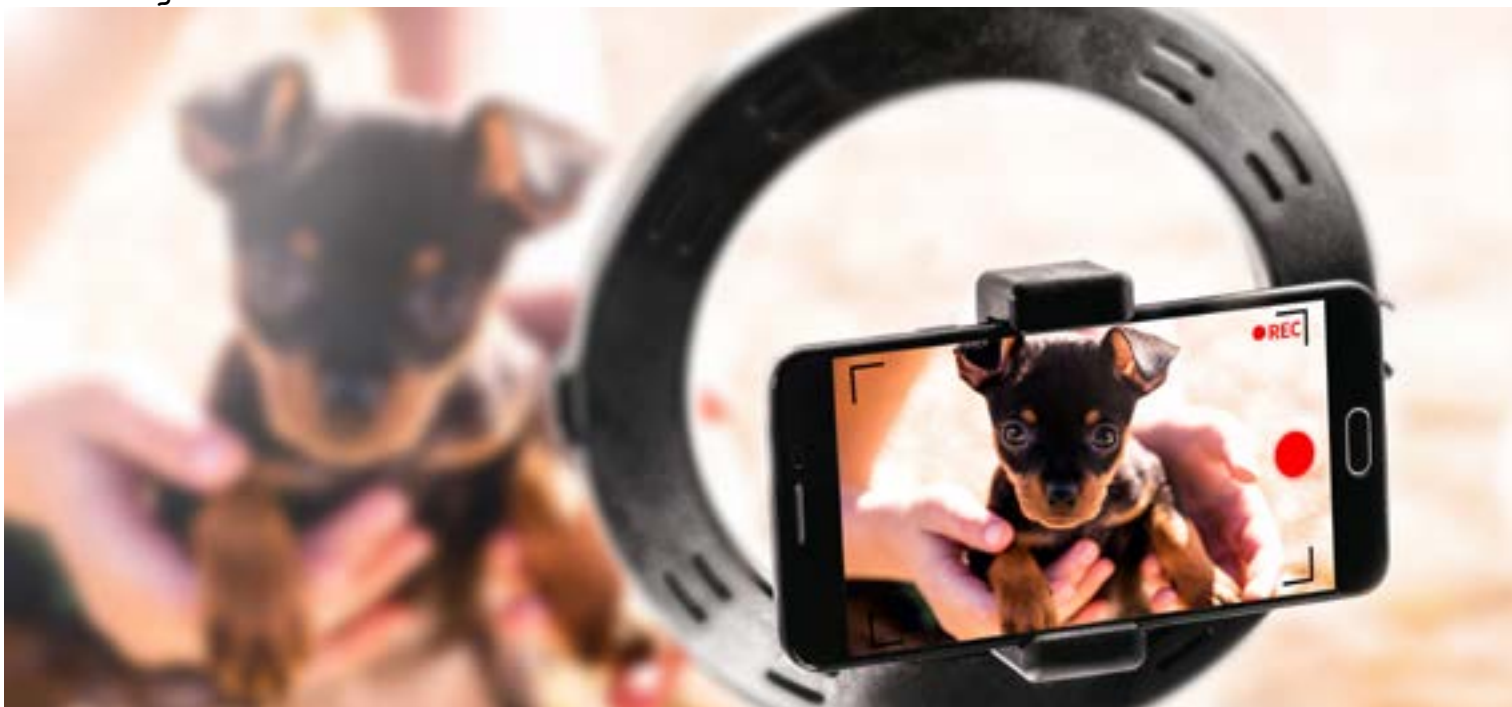
Warming Up

Let your dog explore and play to get used to the area and diffuse the excitement. Not enough for your dog to start panting, just a bit of controlled exploration.

Please take a few pictures to get your dog used to what you are doing and show them you will be having fun.

Get down on your dog’s level. This may mean lying on the ground or sitting on a stool.

Alternatively, safely pose your dog on the table, rocks, etc. mentioned earlier.



Capturing the Perfect Expression

Look At Me!

The most challenging part of photographing your dog is getting their attention. You need your dog to look at you for at least a few shots, maybe even cock their head and give you that uber-cute “Who me?” expression. The Holy Grail of Dog Photography!

Get Some Help

If you can, find someone to be your trusty photographer’s assistant. They must be willing to listen to directions and do as requested. (I am refraining from any snide remarks about potential helpers).

FOCUS and Get the Shot

- Pose dog with assistant ready to take over
- Communicate what shots you are striving for
- Assistant holds dog & lets go when ready
- Helper holds dog & edit them out of final image
- Have assistant squeak toy behind you
- Toss the toy in direction you want dog to look
- Make a click, squeak or cat meowing noise
- Have something hard and knock on it
- To capture an alert expression have the focus be on the your face or right behind you

Catching the Moment Solo

Uh-oh. Your helper bailed, and it’s just you and your dog. You can get that great shot. Y’all can do this!

Remember, keep your expectations real depending on your dog’s level of obedience or attention span.

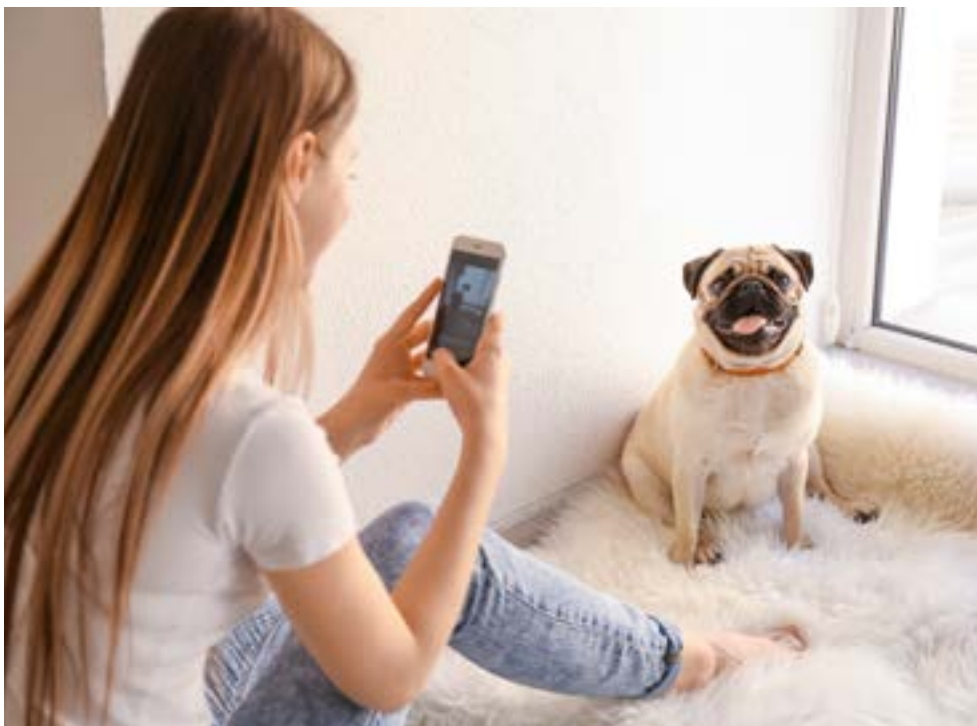
Set up the shot as best you can. Step back and make the noise you’ve decided on during setup. A quick, sharp noise works well. I put some bass in my voice if I’m calling my dogs. Then make your noise (click, whistle, meow), and when they look at you or the camera, snap as many pics as you can.



Top Three Tips for Photo Bliss

1. Plan ahead
2. Take a lot of pictures
3. Keep it fun

You’ll be the envy of your dog friends when your cute dog pics goes viral!



This young photographer is doing everything right.

- #1 - Good natural lighting
- #2 - Cute, comfy rug
- #3 - neutral background.

This Pug is gonna be Pug Perfect in their photos.



Attention, Please!

If you are doing an important shoot and really need a few great pictures, have someone help you. It will make getting and keeping your dog's attention much easier.

How To Get Your Dog's Attention Without Causing Chaos & Losing Any Chance of "The Shot"

These tips are not only great for getting ears in place, but also helpful for getting your dog's attention and looking at the camera.

You may get one chance per noise if your dog loses interest quickly. Bring at least 3-4 noise-making tools. The helper should be standing behind the camera/photographer/you with the noise making thing (or their mouth) positioned to make the dog look up.

Noise Making DO's & Don'ts

DO's

- Clicker
- Squeak toy
- Recorded cat meow
- Recorded dog bark
- Knock on piece of wood
- Yell once, Boo or Hey on a deep voice
- Wave a scarf/fabric above your head
- Toss a ball up
- Take a break if having zero success
- Try a whisper if loud noises don't work

DON'Ts

- Do NOT allow everyone to yell the dog's name
- Only one person is the official noise making attention getter
- Keep yelling the dog's name
- Be TOO animated and distracting (makes everyone nervous)



Bliss Tips for Fabulous Photos

This section has a few iPhone specific tips, but we're not neglecting those of you with other phones. Most of the info is general phone photography tips. Plus, the phone photography software is updated so often we didn't want to get too deep into specifics that are or will soon be outdated.

Apple iPhone Photography Tips

[Apple's Tips for Great iPhone Pictures](#)
[iPhone Photography School](#)

Android phone Photo Tips

Android phone tips - [Popular Science](#)
[MakeUseOf Android Phone Photo Tips](#)

#1 Clean the Lens

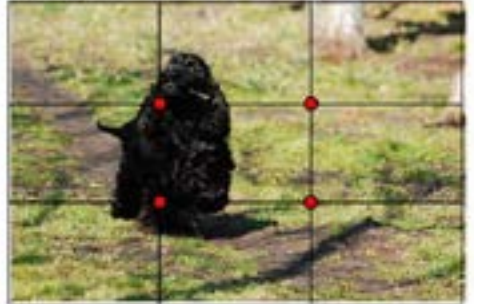
A few years ago Ashley and I were on our way to a trade show, I grabbed my iPhone to snap

a pic of some long forgotten thing. I glanced at the picture and was horrified to see a melted looking mess. My iPhone was destroyed! After a few moments of shrieking I realized it was donut glaze on the lens. Ashley had to pull over, as she was laughing too hard to drive safely. I may or may not have licked the donut glaze off the phone.

The moral, clean your phone camera lens. Second tip is use an eyeglass cleaning cloth or microfiber cloth. Please, please not your shirt tail. Check out this [iron-on microfiber fabric](#). You can cut a piece and iron it onto your shirts! No affiliate, just sharing.

#2 Balance

Composing your photo using the **Rule of Thirds** can help your photos be more interesting and balanced. This comes naturally to some, but not



for everyone. The theory is that if you frame the focus of the photo where the lines meet or cross the photo organically feels more balanced.

You can achieve this by making sure your shots have some extra room to work with on the edges. In other words, take a picture with more background and then crop it to be interesting.

Plus, your iPhone has a built-in option that helps you use this scientific tool.

Turn on the "Grid" option on your iPhone, you will see grid lines on your camera screen.

Tap on Settings > Camera> Grid

#3 Don't Flash

To eliminate the dreaded red-eyed monster, try to not use the flash when taking pics of your dog. Play with a few with and without flash and see what works for your environment.

You can usually brighten the picture a bit in the Edit area of your phone.

#4 Don't Zoom

The zoom feature is great, but you lose quality when you rely on zooming in too much.

#5 Snap the Volume

You can snap the picture using your volume buttons on the side of the phone, rather than the jiggly button. You can also use the volume on your headphones to click pictures. For many shots these methods will be faster, give you more control and keep the phone steadier.

These few iPhone specific tips can be adapted for other types of phones.

Add these iPhone specific tips to all of the blissful photo taking tips in the previous section and you are on your way to taking photos of your dog you can both be proud of!

Plus, you never have to worry about missing a shot, look and see and keep shooting if you need to!

One more piece of advice, HAVE FUN!



Photo Shoot Checklist



- Phone charger/battery pack
- Water & bowls
- Snacks (people & dog)
- Poop bags
- Longer leash, if needed
- Sunglasses
- Squeak toys
- Ball
- Chair, stool & Blanket
- Do Not Disturb Sign if needed

Bliss Pic Tip!

Phone Tip! Hold your arms tight to your sides so you don't shake the camera.

What Worked & What...Didn't

Defining Your Dog's *Blissful Essence*



What is your dog's name? Why that name?

Describe your dog's personality in ONE word (see page 7).

Go deeper...use as much room as needed, no one will read this unless you share.

What dog breed or mix is your dog?

What purpose was that breed(s) bred for?

Where did you get your dog?

Why did you pick your dog at the shelter or breeder?

What is their favorite game? Or activity? Yes, getting petted counts as an activity.

Work with me on this one...shut your eyes and imagine your dog in a photograph. Jot down what you imagined. Next, how can you make that image come to life? Or as close as you can get realistically. Note: I have imagined photos of Larkan being cuddled by Jason Momoa, but so far no luck.

Photo Shoot Bliss Plan

<input type="checkbox"/>	Location 1st Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location 2nd Choice
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Portrait
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headshot
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	Selfies with My Dog
<input type="checkbox"/>	Props? Yes or No
<input type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, What Props?
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helper? Whom? Contact Info
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Checklist Completed?
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Random Info
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Ideas for Specific Photos



<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	



Props Needed

Blissful Dog Perfect Picture Notes

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

Countdown to Dog Photo Bliss!

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Notes



Snapped with my iPhone Pro Max 12 from across the room. Cinnabar checking Skadi's teeth for small animals makes me smile.