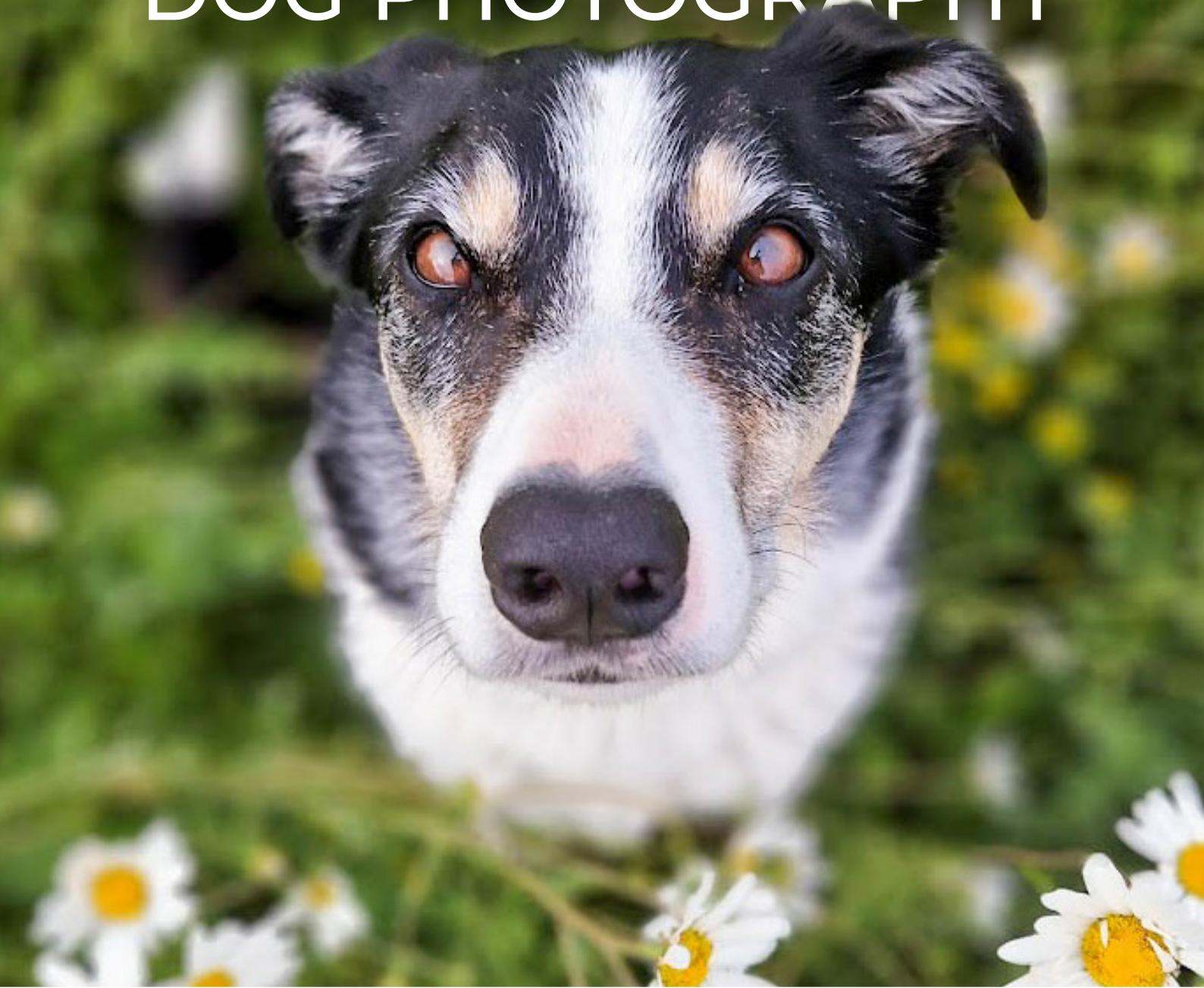


CAMERA PHONE DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



5 Simple steps to transforming your
dog photography on your phone

FUR & FABLES



Thanks so much for downloading my 5 top tips PDF!

As with any kind of photography, there can be some frustration but it's all about practice and training your brain to look at things a little bit differently so don't be disheartened if you ever feel like you are struggling, you will see progress before you know it.

I hope you have fun, feel free to tag me on social when you have a shot you are proud of, or if you are struggling and need help!

Kerry
x

PRE-TIP TIPS



PHONE SETTINGS

Most phones now if you tap the screen, you can set the focus where you want to make sure your hound is in focus - most will also allow you to tap and hold to lock the focus so it doesn't move (only helpful if your hound doesn't move either!)

Switching to portrait/aperture or selective focus mode on your phone gives you a nice blurry background.

Set a timer on your phone of e.g. 5 seconds so that you can concentrate on looking at your dog while you take the photo.

What I really want to do with these tips is get you thinking about your photography and coming away with at least 2 photo's that you want to print. I know that doesn't sound much, but actually, if you have 2 you love it's better than 10 you will never look at again!

It's a good idea to set up a folder in your phones gallery and name it e.g. 'Furdography' so you can quickly find images that you want to print.

Phone camera's are amazing, you always have them with you, so can practice wherever you are!

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Tap the screen, you can set the focus
- Portrait/aperture or selective focus mode are your friend
- Set a timer
- Allocate and name a folder
- Practice, practice, practice!



ATTENTION



FOCUS ON THE CAMERA

One of the struggles that people seemed to have was getting their dog focused on the camera. These are some of the tricks I use to get my clients dogs to look at me.

Make unusual sounds that your dog wont have heard before, ones that work for me are high pitched 'keening', 'pa pa pa', 'brrrrrr' in

different tones, crumpling a crisp packet above the camera (this is where putting a timer on helps).

For those who aren't sound orientated, one that seems to always work is the fake overhead throw. Pretty difficult to do if you are on your own, but not impossible!



MY DOG
HATES THE
CAMERA

For those who seem to not like the camera at all, maybe treat this as a trick training exercise. Bring out your camera and put a treat next to it – get them comfortable coming close and seeing it as a positive thing.

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LOVE THE LIGHT



LEARNING TO READ THE LIGHT

For me, this is THE most important lesson (and the one I get the most excited about) for taking a great photograph of your dog. All the other lessons can contribute to it, but without getting this right, nothing else matters.

Before you even raise the camera to take a photo of your dog, I want you to look at their face and see how light is hitting it.

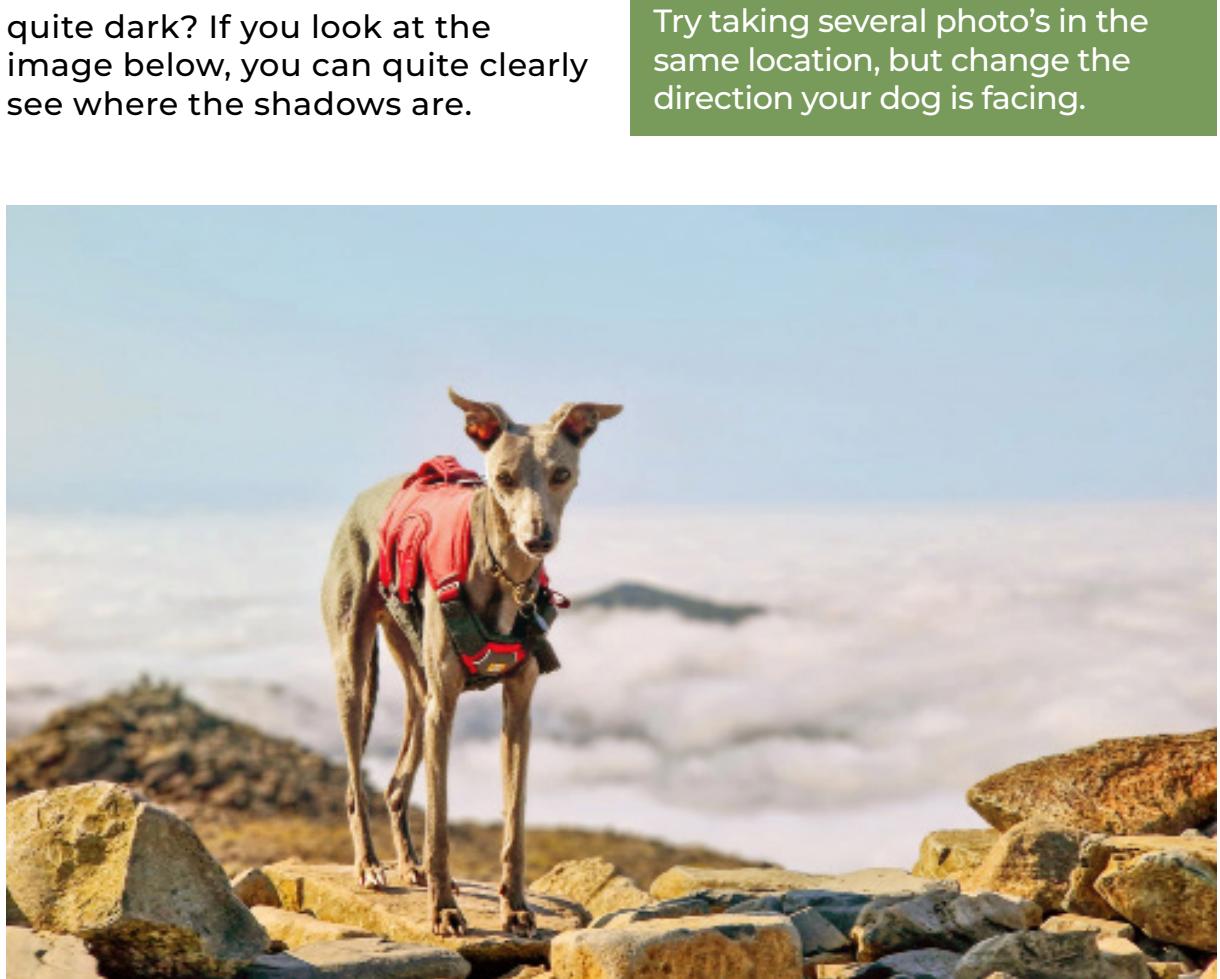
Is one side in shadow? Is the face quite dark? If you look at the image below, you can quite clearly see where the shadows are.

If the dogs face is in shadow and dark, can you move them round? Can you move around? One thing to steer clear of is having your dog face the harsh sun, not good for your dogs eyes, and hard sun can over saturate colours.

A great indicator of good light is if you can see any nice little spots of lights in the eyes?

PRACTICE:

Try taking several photo's in the same location, but change the direction your dog is facing.



PERSPECTIVE



CHANGING POSITION

One of the most common things I see, particularly with camera phone shots of dogs, is that people tend to take it from a standing position.

Look at the difference just bringing your camera down towards the floor can make - this was shot in exactly the same place!

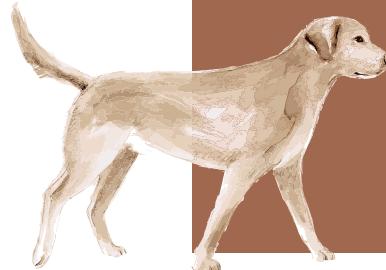


COMPOSITION

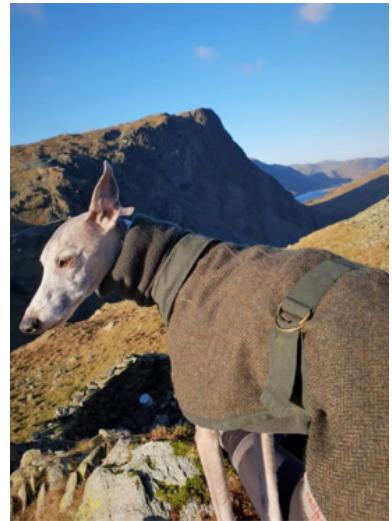


GIVE SPACE

If your dog is looking in a certain direction, it makes an image feel quite 'tense' if there isn't much space in front of the dogs nose in the shot.



Hopefully this example will give you an idea of what not to do!



For example, if you are doing a shot with a lot of landscape in, try moving your camera slightly so either all of the dog is e.g. more to the bottom left, bottom right or bottom centre.

If you are doing a head portrait, move the camera so the eyes are to the left or right of the image slightly, or more towards the top. In photography this is called the Rule of Thirds.



EDITING



WHY EDIT?

Most phone camera's are pretty smart at trying to guess how to expose the scene correctly (this means that it tries to even out anything that it thinks is too bright or too dark), unfortunately this can lead to images which are a little 'flat'.



Before: left
After: right



I think pretty much every phone now has a basic editing app attached to it (usually in the form of a pencil or slider icon when you open a photo in your gallery), and with it so simple editing tools, and that's all you need!

Here are the things I adjust to help my phone photo's pop. My suggestion is to go to the furthest end of the sliders so you can see the difference before choosing a setting you are happy with.



CONTRAST

This will either lessen or strengthen the difference between the darks and the lights; so if you push the slider one way you will notice the darks/shadows get very dark, and the lights/highlights get very bright. This is personal preference, I push my slider up a about quarter as I like the image to pop, but taking it the other way helps give a soft, dreamy image.

EXPOSURE

Lightening or darkening the images - if it's a fairly even photo, I'll usually increase the exposure slightly.

VIGNETTE

I love using this tool, it creates dark edges to your image which helps brings the eyes focus more towards the centre - it should be subtle though! If you look at the corners of the top image, you should be able to see the darkening of the edges.

TEMPERATURE

I like my images a little 'warm' so I'll increase the temperature slightly. The only time I go cooler is if it's a snow scene or if it's overcast and warm just doesn't suit the image.





I hope you enjoyed the tips!
Feel free to tag me on social with
your successful photos. Or if you
have any questions, drop me a
message and I'll try and help.

Kerry
x



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