Outdoor Studio- Photographing Animals with Youth

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Where do we see photos?

Why do you take photos?

- What makes a good picture/photograph?

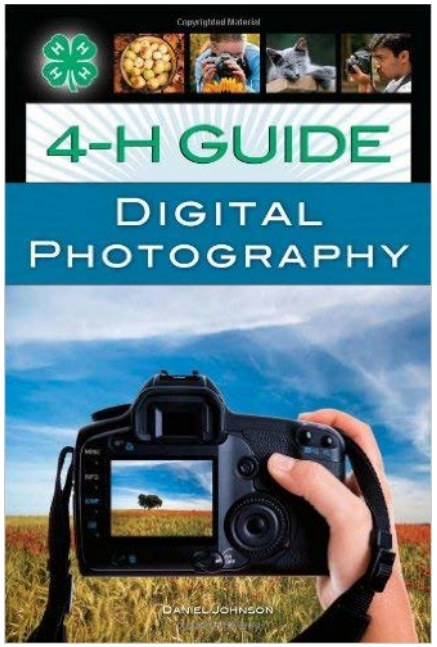
- Why does _____ make it a good picture?

- What do you need to make a photograph?

Basic photo principals to review or learn

- What *is* my Subject?
- Bracing/steady/tri-pod
- Using the viewfinder and focus
- Composition
- Rule of Thirds/Golden Mean or Golden Rectangle/ Golden Triangle
- The rules of reciprocity, example “Sunny 16” Rule
- Exposure = Shutter Speed + Aperture + ISO
- Tell a story
- Entering photo contests

Where can I find this info?



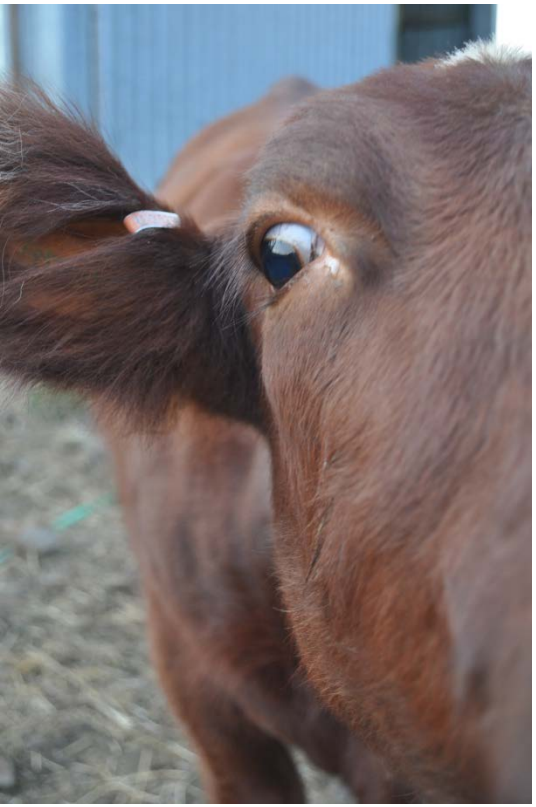
Subject: What is it? Where is it?

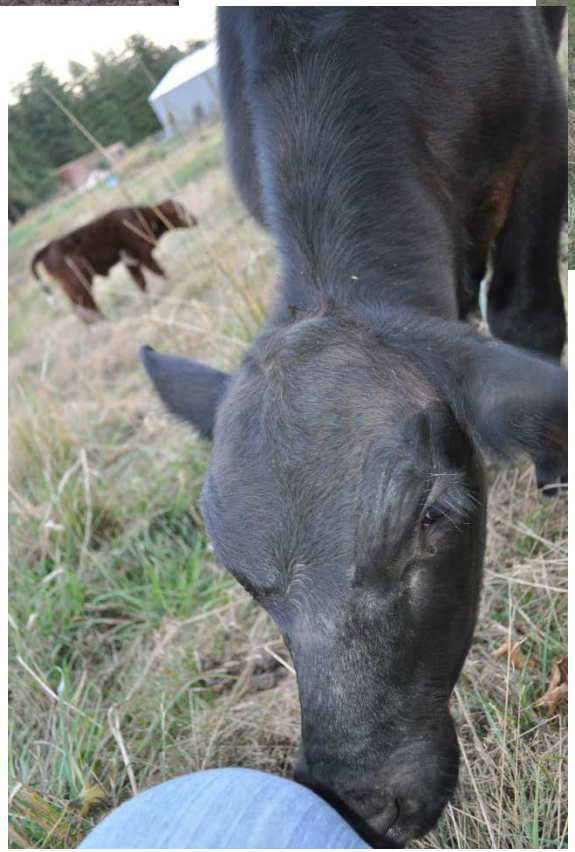
Get in close to your subject, see the eye!?!?

BE SAFE! How close is too close?

- Is it a pet?
- Domesticated?
- Wild?
- Restrained?
- Controlled?
- Controllable?

Safety, use a zoom lens





Animals can be … unpredictable, get as close as you can, but not too close!

Wait for your shot!

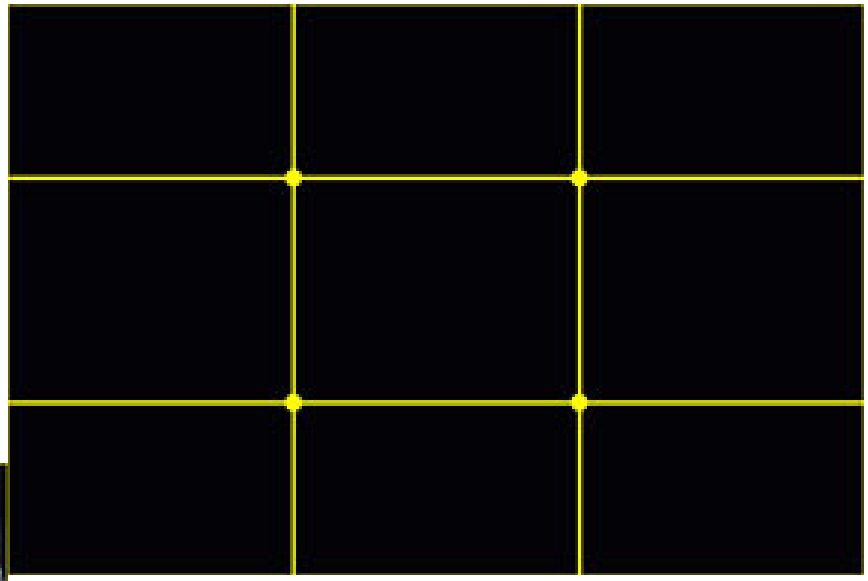
Focus vs. Movement

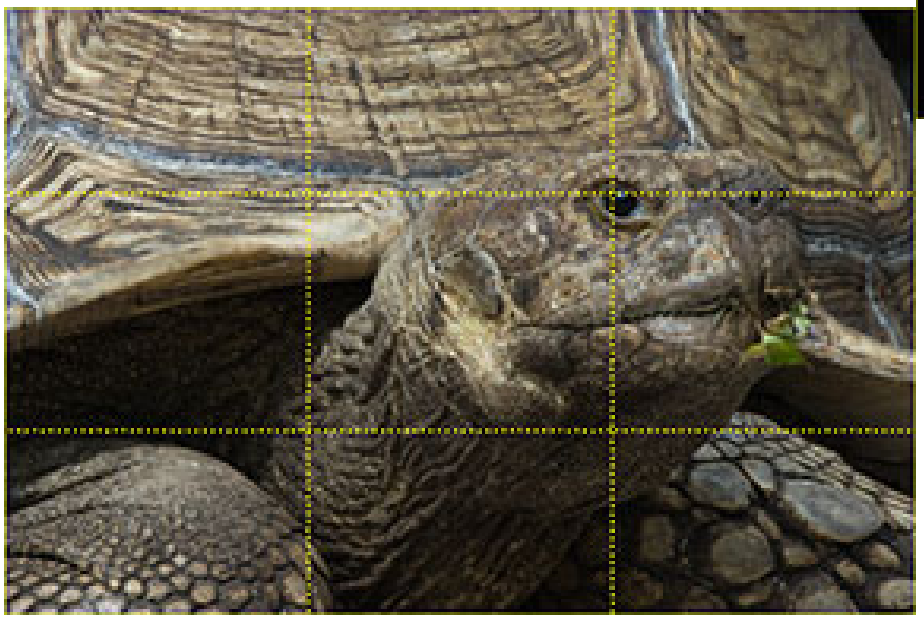
Tri-pod or bracing yourself for photos

STEAM not STEM

- Science
- **Technology**
- Engineering
- Art
- Math

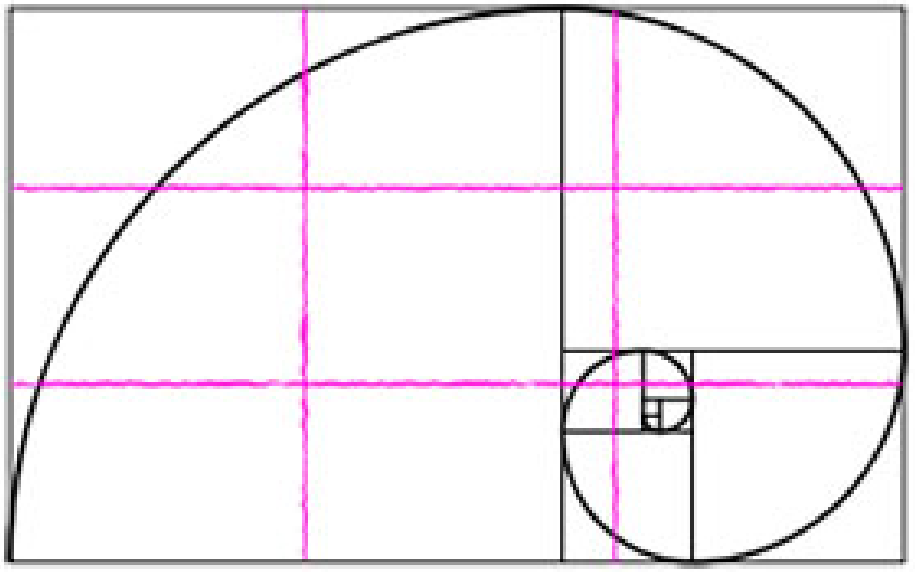
The Rule of Thirds

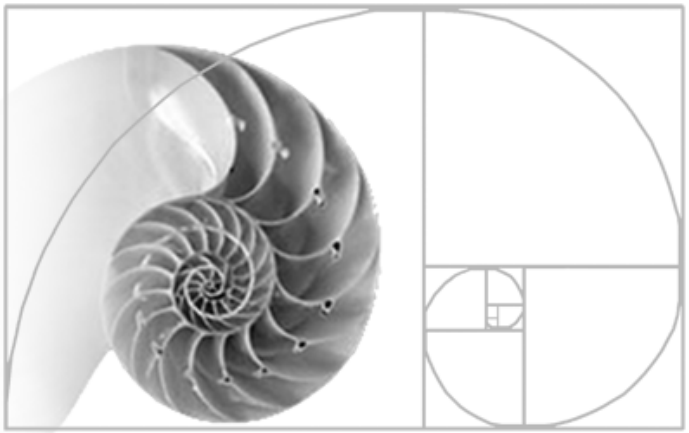




Vertical or Horizontal, move your camera

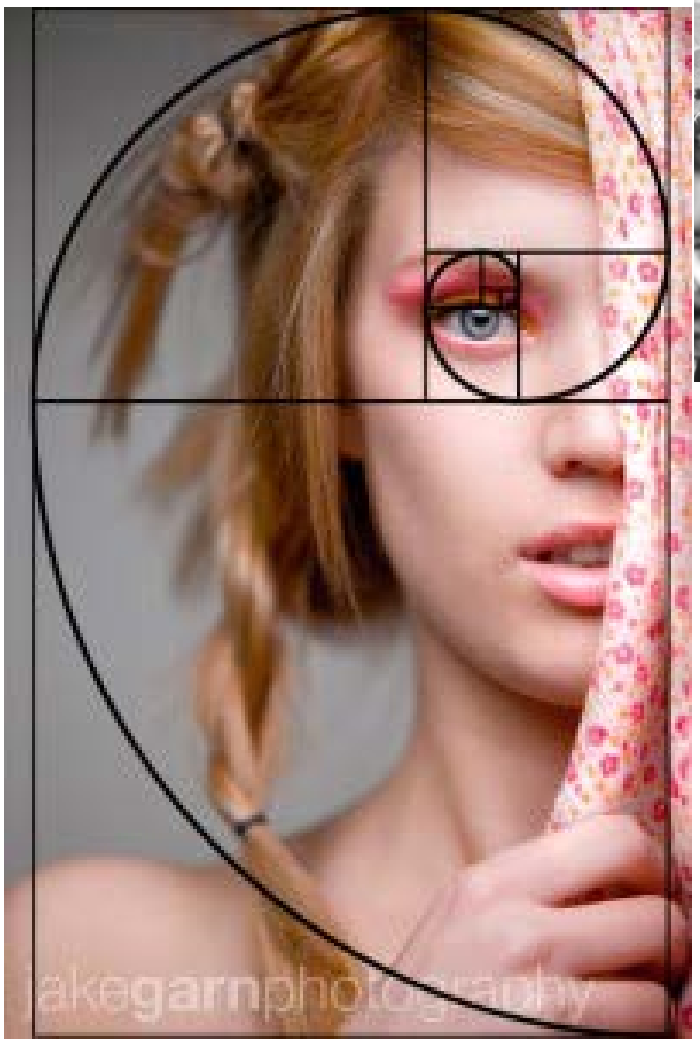
The Golden Mean (spiral)





The Golden Mean compared to the Rule of Thirds

Flip, Flop, and Rotate



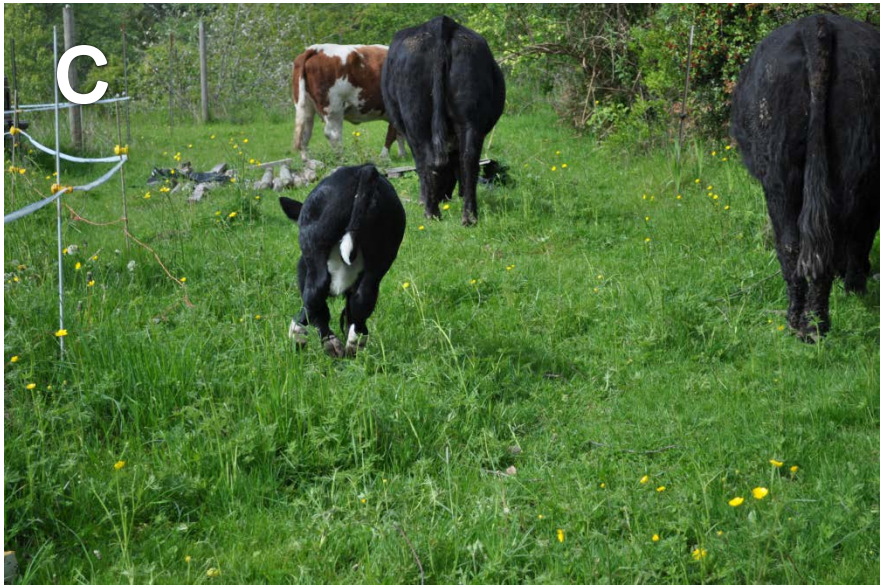
Exposure = Shutter Speed (light), Aperture (depth), and ISO (sensitivity to light)

Shutter Speed, stop the action!

You can stop action with a flash or set your aperture to f-11 or higher and then shutter speed greater than 1/250s, you can also adjust your ISO (film sensitivity to light)

A. ISO 200, F-6.3, 1/160s
B. ISO 200, F-9, 1/160s
C. ISO 200, F-5.3, SS 1/500s

Follow movement with your camera to get shots!



Shutter Speed & Movement

Leave room for your subject to move out of frame;
try to predict movement.

Aperture or F-stop

Determines how close the focus is from the photographer:
A. ISO 500, F-5.6, SS 1/125s
B. ISO 560, F-4.5, SS 1/60s

ISO, F-stop and SS

A. ISO 200, F 5.6, SS 1/125

B. ISO 220, F 8, SS 1/60

C. ISO 450, F 5, SS 1/250

Entering Photo Contests

- Read the rules (Community art show, Grange, calendar, fairs)
- Check for size, margins, and mounting requirements
- Leave a slightly larger bottom margin on frames or matting
- Check entry dates/ pick up dates
- Judging method Danish or American

Quick Tips

- Safety
- ***NO*** camera phones
- Take your camera off of manual
- Know your equipment
- ***Safety***
- Know your subject
- Eyes are important, get at least one!
- Get a different perspective
- Lighting is everything = Exposure!
- Break the rules!
- ***Safety***

Know Your Equipment

- Lens
  - Interchangable or not
  - Zoom
  - Special – fisheye 12mm or lower, wide angle 35-18mm, telephoto 100mm or higher, pinhole

- Film, Compact Flash (CF), or Secure Digital (SD) cards
- Tripod
- Release cord/remote release
- Flash
- Computer or ???

Camera Formats

- Camera Phone ***(NO)***

- One-time-use Camera

- Pinhole Camera (various size formats)
- Point and Shoot Camera (film or digital)

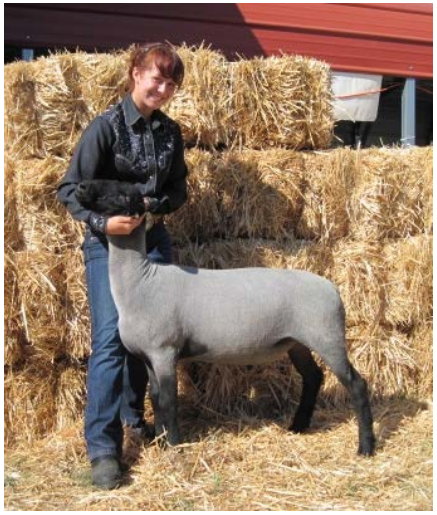
- Hybrid Camera (interchangeable lens???)
- Twin Lens Reflex (TLR)
- Single Lens Reflex (SLR) Camera / Lens (interchangeable lens)
- Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera / Lens (interchangeable lens)

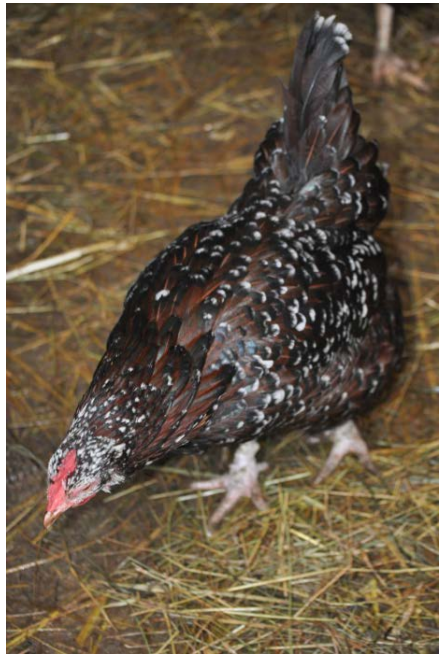
Practice on still objects

What looks good?

What doesn't look good?

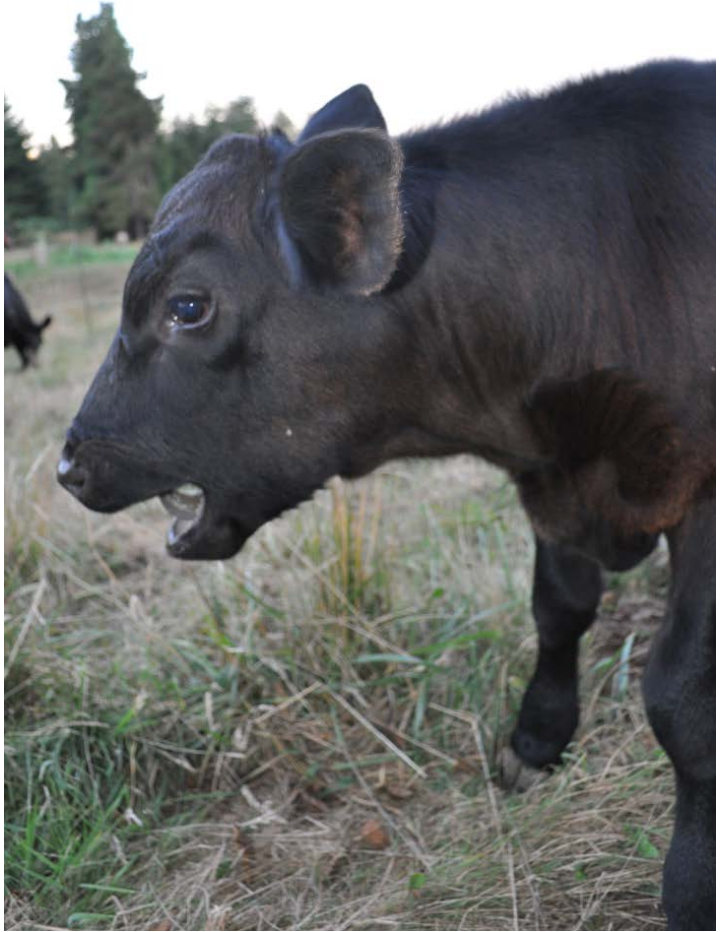
Know Your Subject





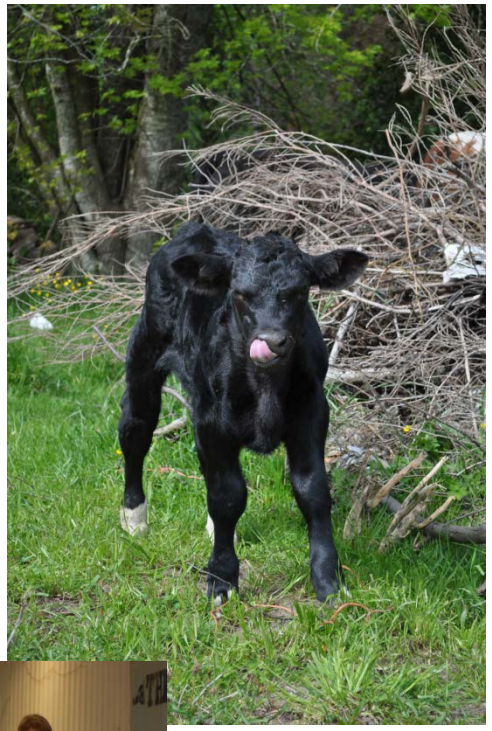
Personality

Try to show relationships between animals and their owners.



Animals (and people) can be … funny

Do you need props?



…or formal …or uncooperative

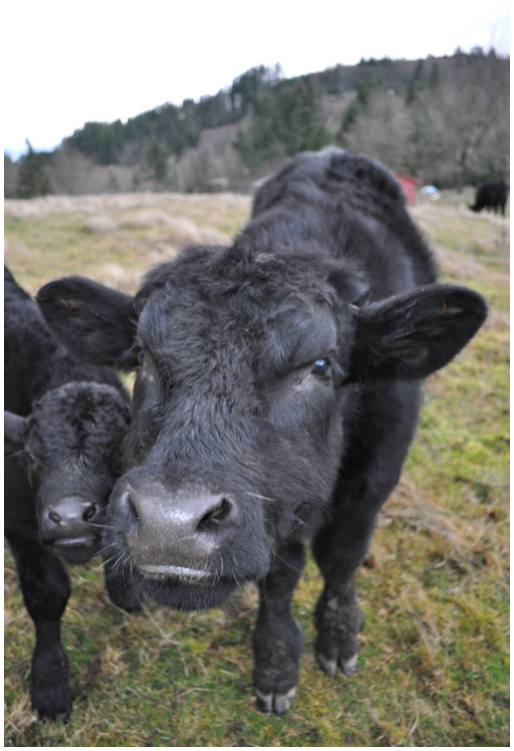
Can you or a friend pose the subject?

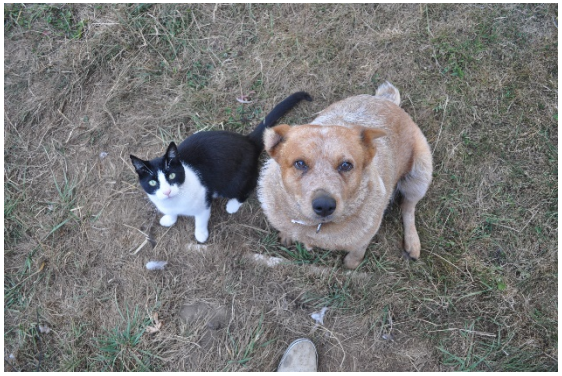
Does your photo tell a story with or without people?

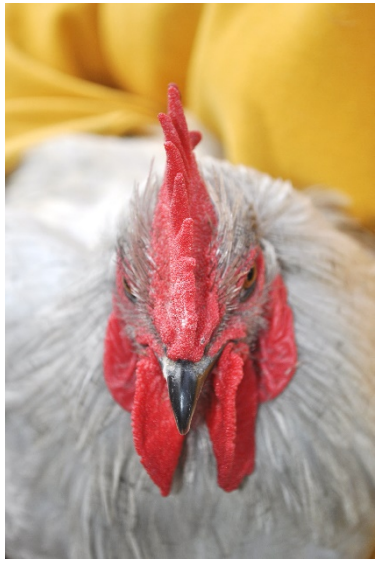
A caption or title may enhance your photo!

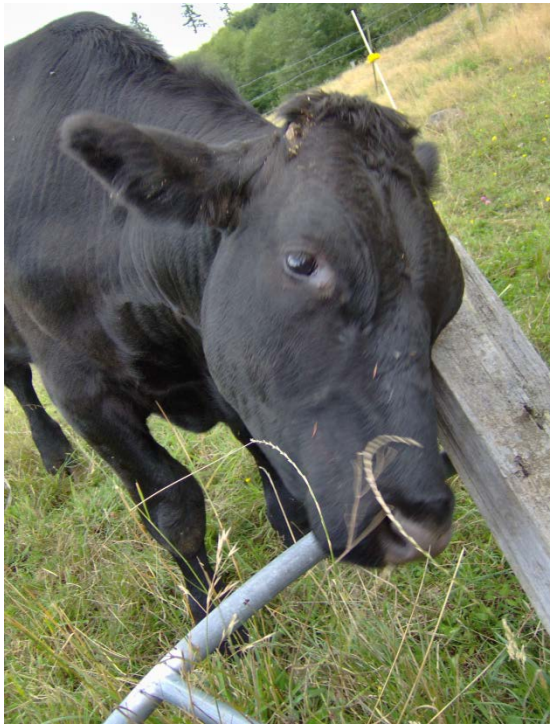
Can you create a series or storyboard using multiple shots?

Perspective









Composition

10 tips for animal photos

10. Find an area the will be clean, simple, uncluttered, and attractive in photos, shaded area/natural light
9. Outdoor shots are best in early morning or late afternoon sunlight; hazy days offer diffused light
8. Move in close to fill view finder or just do upper (head) part of body with some shoulder; center between person & animals eyes if both are in photo
7. Use a flash indoors with the “red eye reduction” setting, or indoors and out for fill lighting in shadows
6. Use 200 to 400 ISO setting or film to catch motion, shooting animals can be like shooting sports, FAST!

Tips continued

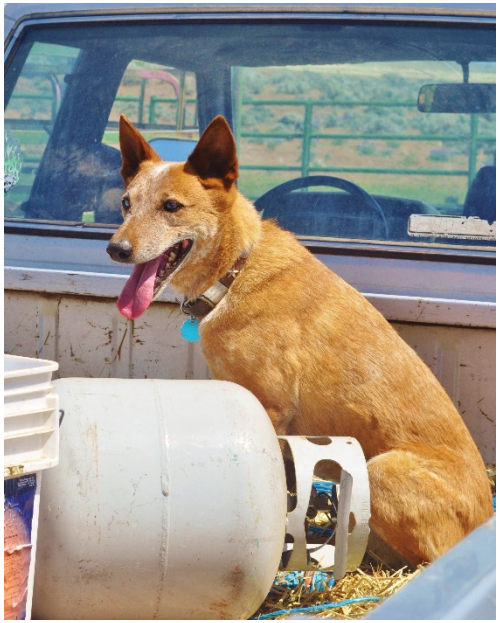
5. Critique or review to improve your photos and make changes for the next time you are shooting
4. Have an assistant (or two or three) to get the animal's attention; toys, a treat, or making noise work well. This is called "spooking" or being a spook.
3. Get down! To the eye level of the animal, you may have to get on the ground.
2. Animal photography takes patience, make sure you and your equipment are ready for the perfect shot
1. BE SAFE!

Clean background if possible/be aware of surroundings

This is your studio!

Show the whole picture?

Does “more” enhance the photo?



Break the Rules

Well, some of them!

Questions???

Resources

- http://www.ultimate-photo-tips.com/photography-rule-of-thirds.html
- http://jakegarn.com/the-rule-of-thirds/
- Lewis County Photographers Group
- 4-H Guide to Digital Photography (2009, ISBN # 9780760336526)
- National 4-H Photography books 1, 2, & 3 (Focus on Photo, Controlling the Image, and Mastering Photography 2007)
- 4-H Adventures with Your Camera A & B (1999)
- 4-H Cat Helpers Guide, CCS BU 6149, p 18 & 19, “Picture a Cat”