

# Tips for Taking Better Photos of Your Dog with Your Phone

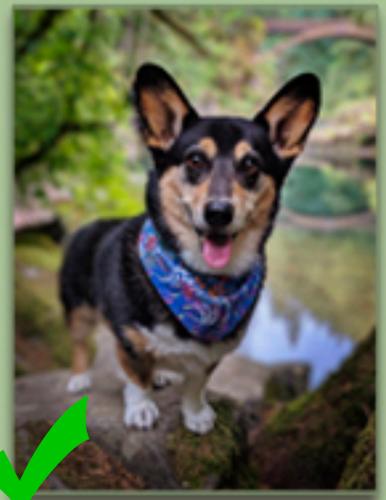
**\*Pick the right time-** It can be super difficult to photograph a dog that is full of energy, nervous or distracted by the world around them. Find a place that does not have a lot of activity going on, so your dog can focus. One of the best times to photograph your dog is after they have had a little bit of exercise. They will be more calm and more likely to sit still. You also have the added benefit of them giving you a smile. (aka panting).

**\*Keep the background simple-** You want the focus of the photo to be on your furry best friend. Busy backgrounds can be distracting. Also, be aware of anything that looks like it could be coming out of your dog's head, like a phone pole. Using Portrait mode on your phone will help eliminate some of the background detail by adding some bokeh or blur to the details.

The pole in the background looks like it is growing out of his head. Move slightly to either side to correct this.



The details in the background are softened by using Portrait mode, so it does not distract from the subject.



**\*Focus on the eyes-** Remember "eyes are the windows to the soul". I know that may sound corny, but if you want to connect with someone you look them in the eye, right? Well it is no different in dogs. Make the dog's expression the focal point of the image. It will let your dog's character shine through and create a more engaging photo. Just tap your phone's screen where your dog's eye are to focus on them.

**\*Get Low-** Get down on their level. See the world from their point of view. This may mean that you have to get down on your belly if you have a small dog or you can put them up on something so that you can be at eye level with them. Selfie sticks come in handy for getting low.



**\*Get your dog's attention-** The first step is to know what your dog likes and responds to without fail. Will he do anything for a treat? Do his ears perk up at the sound of a squeaker? Now that you know what gets his attention, wait until you are in position and ready to take the photo, then make your sounds or say the magic word. If you are lucky you might even get that much sought after head tilt. They even make treat holders that you can attach to your phone.

**\*Use natural light-** If you are photographing your dog at home, try to find a window or patio door that lets lots of light in. You don't want bright sun shining right in the window, so mid-day tends to work best. Photographing outside gives you lots of options, but if you struggle with backgrounds being too bright or your dog squinting, then you might want to try taking photos on a bright, but overcast day.



**\*Get creative-** Have a little fun with it. Try photographing from different angles. Add people to show the owner/dog bond. Show some action with the dog playing or running. You could even do a little set up with some props or toys. After all, even if the photos don't turn out like professional photographs, it only takes up space on your phone or harddrive. The most important part is that you had fun and you captured some memories.

**\*Be patient-** This can be a hard one sometimes. Your dog doesn't want to sit, they are looking everywhere but at you, or they run off after a squirrel. Remember that your dog is just being a dog and isn't that what we love about them? If you are patient and have your phone at the ready, you will eventually find that moment when they stand still, you squeak that toy, they look at you and magic happens.

**Now go find your furry best friend and capture some amazing memories**

