

## *Photographing our Imps*

When taking photos of our imps, one of the first things to remember is lighting, lighting, lighting. This can either make or break your picture. Using the flash can cause the colors to change, so a natural light is usually the best way to go. Catch the natural sunlight and the best time to shoot pictures is in the early morning hours or late evening hours. The actual time varies by the season. You are aiming for the time when the sun is low enough on the horizon to not create shadows in the ears.

A slightly overcast sky can be good lighting as it reduces the contrast between the blacks and whites. This allows more details to show in your picture. The lower the sun the more contrast for details.

The use of a tripod is important as it reduces the movements you make while watching your dog and trying to get the best possible picture. Another method if you do not want to use a tripod is to hold your elbows close to your side as if locking them and then take a deep breath and hold it. That will help you to hold still and not have blurry pictures.

Using a digital camera is really nice for taking picture of our dogs, because you can take 100's of pictures, check them and not pay for bad pictures. You can choose the ones you want to use. I generally take about 50 pictures of each dog at one sitting, hoping that one or two will be the best and can be used for my website or given to the new puppy owners. So if you take a lot of pictures, that is good.

Make sure you are using a high quality resolution on your camera and fast shutter speed to get the best possible quality picture. The dogs move fast so the shutter speed has to compensate for their moves. Refer to your camera book to find out how to set these settings, as every camera is different.

Get on your dogs level when you take pictures. You don't want to be looking up at them or down at them, as these pictures won't be the best possible shots. When using backgrounds, make sure that they compliment the dog, and show them off. You do not want the dog to blend into the background. You want them to stand out and be shown off. Using props is good to show the size of the dog, however do not let the prop overpower your dog.

You need some kinds of noise makers to get their attention and hold their heads in the correct position. I also blow at them to get their attention, this works on some but not all. You have to be very creative and use many different sounds and attention getters to get and keep the dogs attention. Use treats also to get and keep their attention.

Take different poses of the dog, use both their sides, let them sit, stand or lay. Use all kinds of different shots, as you never know which will be the best that you fall in love with. Here are a few different shots of the same dog at different stages, and backgrounds.



**I'm tired mommy! Best face shot ever!**



Taking pictures of our dogs requires Patience, Patience and more Patience. So if you are tired, stressed or out of control, this is not the time to take those wonderful shots. Make sure you have had a good night's sleep, watch Cesar Millan and learn how to be the leader of the pack. Cesar's site website is <http://www.dogpsychologycenter.com>

Websites to check out

<http://www.dogpatch.org/doginfo/takepics.html>

<http://www.nyip.com/tips/photographdogs0606.html>

<http://www.dogphoto.com/SPBio.html>