

A Candid Canine Look *With Photographer* Heidi Green

Heidi Green's love of photography was inspired by her fifteen years as a preschool teacher. The children's spontaneous smiles and honest expressions sparked her enthusiasm for capturing their timeless youth in images that eventually expanded into animal photography. Green explains, "Photographing pets isn't much different than photographing kids, they're always surprising me. You start the shoot with an idea of how the photos will turn out and in the end, it's nothing like you expected. That's because both pets and kids are unpredictable, and as a photographer, that's what keeps things interesting. If you're comfortable around animals, with enough practice and patience, you're sure to get great shots of your pet."

With a B.A. in film from the University of Michigan, a Master's in Education from the University of California, Los Angeles, and additional training from the International Center for Photography in New York, Green's technical style of incorporating natural light and her ability to relate to her subjects was developed. Green elaborates on her artistic philosophy, "Photographing your pet can turn into a great bonding experience. If you're able to relax and have fun together, the shots will reflect the special relationship you share. There's nothing more satisfying than spending a great day together with your pet, and then having beautiful shots to document the day."

As a New York City resident Green spends ample time photographing in the various parks, as well as historic Central Park. "Photographing pets can present a challenge since they're often on the move. The key to capturing them in action is a fast shutter speed." Green's finesse with a camera and innate understanding of human and animal nature helps to create images that bring out the youth in all who view her photographs!

— Renay Smith





PUP TO PUP.



NOT ENOUGH SHADE.



TIME TO COOL OFF!



“Photographing your pet can turn into a great bonding experience if you’re able to relax and have fun together, the shots will reflect the special relationship you share.”



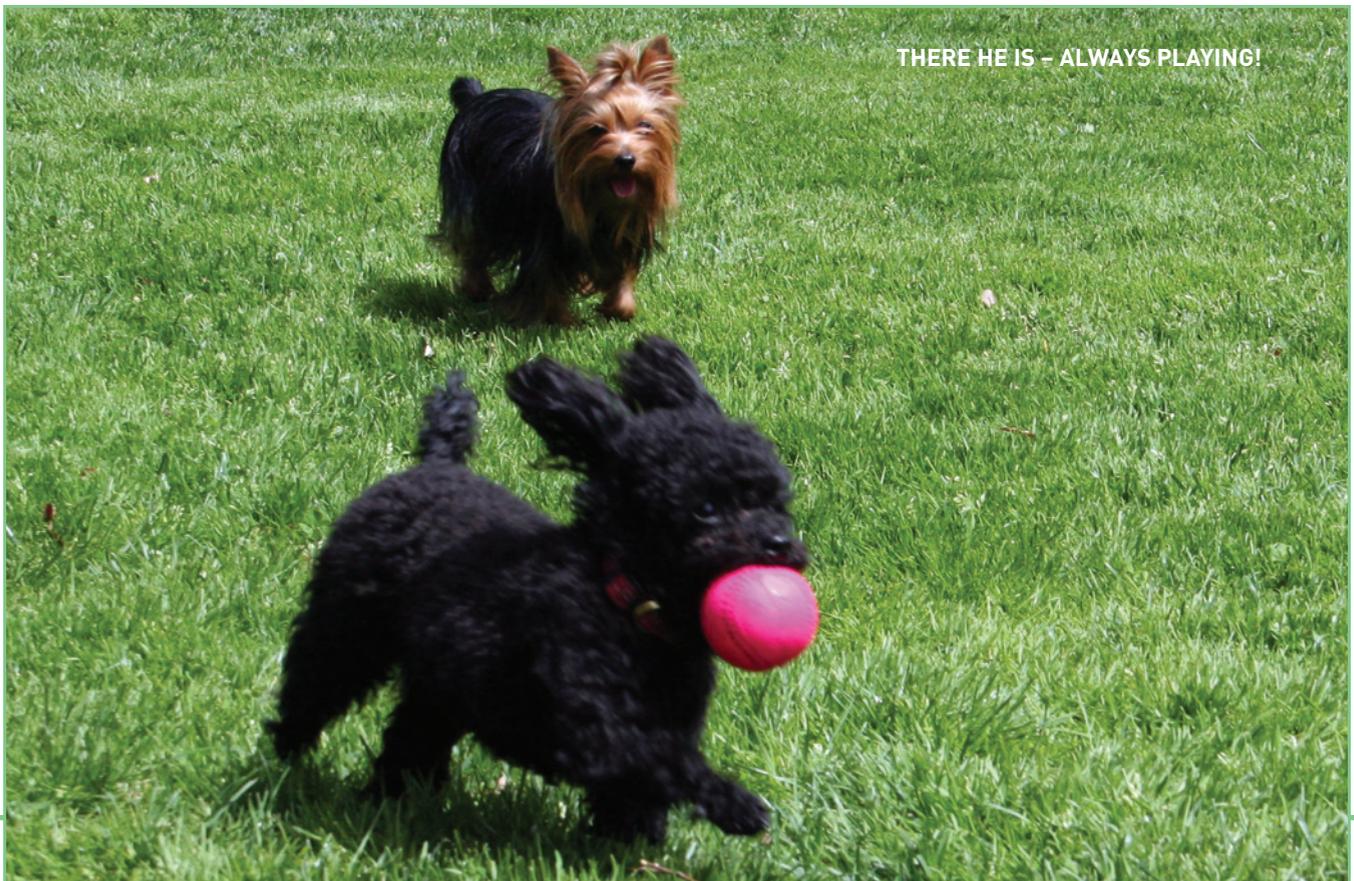
WHERE DID ALL THESE
DOGS COME FROM?



WHERE DID HE GO?

“Photographing pets can present a challenge since they’re often on the move.

The key to capturing them in action is a fast shutter speed.”



THERE HE IS – ALWAYS PLAYING!

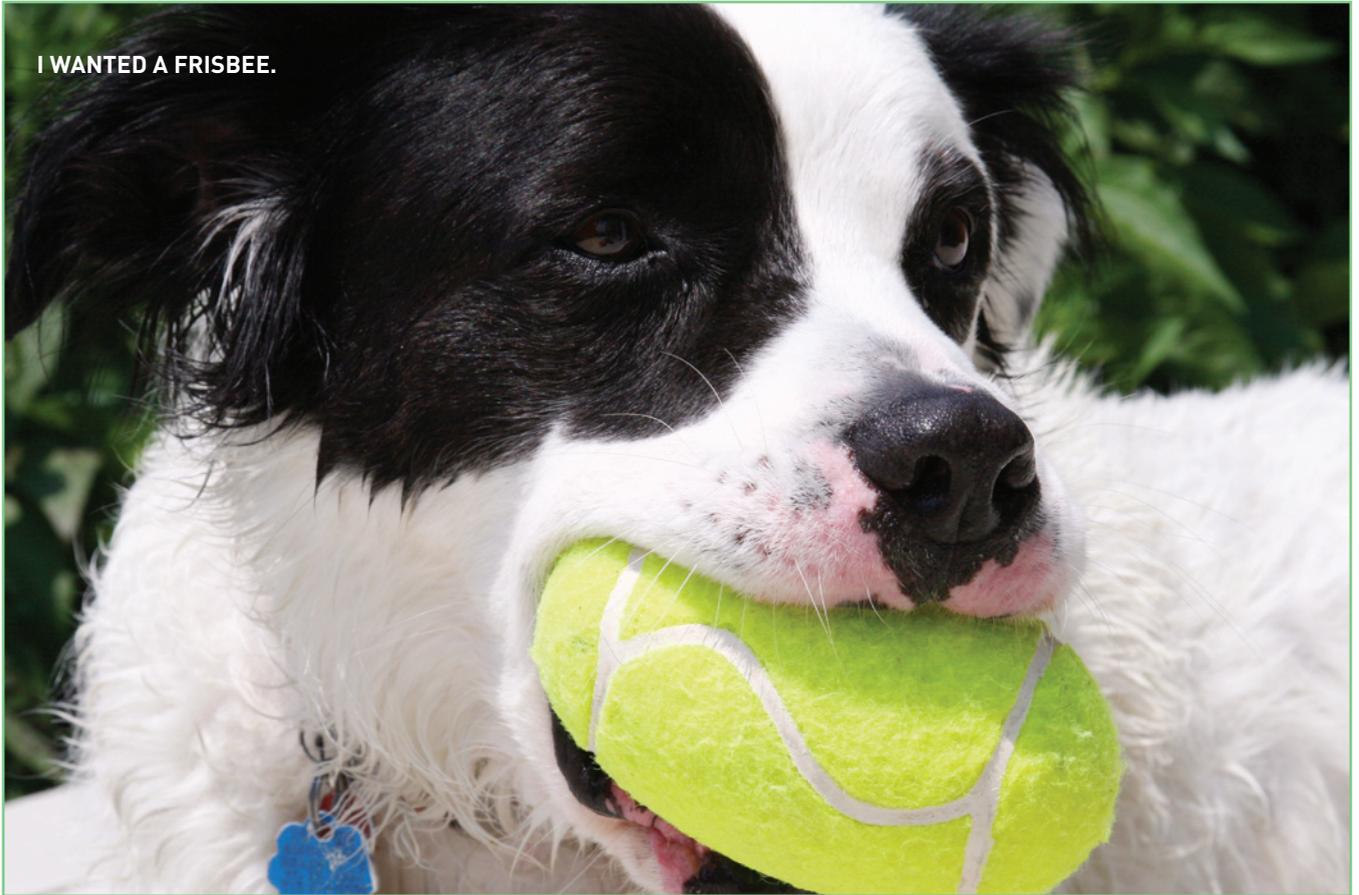
WILL SOMEONE THROW
THE STICK ALREADY?



Heidi Green's Top 10

Tips On Photographing Outdoor Animals In Motion

- 1. Know your subject.** Choose a location where your animal feels comfortable and at ease. If your pet loves to run, photograph them in the park. If they love to curl up at home and find a sunny spot on the rug, there's your perfect setting.
- 2. Use natural (sun) light as much as possible.** A flash can frighten the animal, add harsh shadows, and produce red eye.
- 3. Focus on their eyes.** Just like people, animals express so much through their eyes. A sharp, tight shot of your pet's eyes is like looking into their soul.
- 4. Get down low so that you're eye-to-eye with your pet.** The shots taken from their perspective will be more unique and personal than those taken from up above.
- 5. Don't be afraid to get really close to the subject and fill the whole frame.** With more active pets this won't be easy, so if this isn't possible, use a zoom lens for the same effect.
- 6. Have fun and experiment with various compositions and angles.** You can get a little artsy by focusing in on different parts: paws, eyes, fur, etc.
- 7. Take tons of photos.** Don't be too concerned about getting the perfect shot. If you're patient and relaxed there will always be some great ones in the end.
- 8. Include people and other pets in the photos.** This is a great way to capture memories of your family and pets together. I'm not a fan of props, but it's a good idea to include your pet's favorite doll, ball or toy – something you'll associate with your pet when you look back on the photos in the future.
- 9. Choose non-distracting backgrounds.** Some of the most picturesque settings are wide, green fields, and well-lit rooms with simple walls and floors. If something in the background doesn't add to the photo, remove it so that the subject remains the focus.
- 10. Be playful so that your pet has fun.** When you photograph your pet, make sure you capture them doing what they love most, whether it's running, jumping, swimming or playing with their favorite toys. Even simple activities like drinking water, bathing, drying off in the sun and sleeping, can produce beautiful pet photos.



I WANTED A FRISBEE.



SHE CALLS THAT A TREAT.