

2017 Photography Exhibition



Sponsored by the **Grant Park Garden Club**

Community Park Shelter

The Photography Exhibition may be viewed through the Oktoberfest Weekend.

CONTEST RULES



- The “Pet Portrait” Contest is open to ALL amateur or professional photographers. A person of any age is welcome to submit work for consideration.
 - The image must be original and created by the person entering the work.
 - We are looking for striking images that feature animals (we are the Garden Club, so flowers or outdoor photos are encouraged).
 - Size Requirements: Image size is 8in.x10in. However, entries must be mounted on mat board. The maximum size (image plus backing) is 13in.x15in.
 - Entries will be clipped to lattice for display.
 - The entry fee is \$10 per single entry or \$25 per 3 entries.
 - Three cash prizes will be awarded, \$50 for 1st place, \$25 for 2nd place, \$15 for 3rd place, and ribbons.
 - Drop off photos & entry fees need to be at the Village Hall between August 25 and September 1 (by 4:30).
- Photo entry form must be attached to each submission.
 - Images will be judged on originality, technical excellence, composition, overall impact and artistic merit.
 - The Grant Park Garden Club shall determine the winners. All decisions made by the judge(s) are final.
 - Ribbons will be awarded by the opening of Oktoberfest, September 8th at 5:00.
 - Photographs will be available for pick up after Oktoberfest closes on the 10th at 5:00 PM or at the Village Hall September 11th through the 15th.

This information and entry forms are available at the Grant Park Village Hall, 106 West Taylor, Grant Park, Illinois 60940 or on line at www.grantparkfest.org

Photography Contest Entry Form

Title: _____

Photographer's name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Title: _____

Photographer's name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Title: _____

Photographer's name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

\$10 per entry

\$25 for three entries

_____ Paid



The Grant Park Garden Club's 2017 Photography Contest theme is "**Pet Portraits**" and all photographers are welcome to submit their work for judging and display during the Oktoberfest. This fundraiser will be the 4th one for the club and has been a crowd favorite. This revenue allows the club to plant flowers and plants around the village. If you have a pet that is terrifically photogenic, fanciful, amusing, and certainly appealing - you are half way to winning. Just look for that perfect moment and start snapping those shots.

Some animals have little to no patience and will not sit still waiting for you to take a photograph so use your creativity to capture the most striking photographs. Here are some tips from Exposure Guide to get you started.

1. **Catch your Pet's Character** It's a good idea to photograph pets in their preferred spots or enjoying a much-loved pastime such snoozing on the porch or catching a Frisbee. To capture a pet's character, you can ask yourself what is unique about your pet and try to capture that uniqueness on camera.
2. **Freeze the Action** Photographing your pet at play is a great way to capture some interesting shots with personality. Because the animal will be moving quickly take multiple shots and hold down the shutter button as long as you'd like.
3. **Aim for the Eyes** In your pet's quiet moments, after eating or bedtime for example, move in close for some dramatic and expressive shots. Avoid flash if possible, for a softer look. An uncluttered background with neutral colors is ideal because it isn't too distracting.
4. **Include People** A good simple portrait of a pet by itself or with the owner is a classic shot. Use outdoor lighting to avoid flash, which can distract animals. Keep things in the center of the frame sharp so make sure you have focus on the eyes. Remember to be quick when taking this type of image because animals are easily distracted when outdoors.
5. **Get on their Level** Getting on the floor and at the same level as your pet is a great way to capture some dramatic, yet natural shots.
6. **Avoid Using a Flash** There are various reasons why flash should be avoided when taking photographs of pets. For example, flash is bright and can be unnerving for a small animal. Flash can scare them or make them nervous and hide. Additionally, flash is harsh. If your pet is light colored, white fur will look washed out with a flash. Another reason for not using flash is because animals can photograph with red eye, like humans. Try to avoid using flash with animals that live in tanks, because glass will reflect the flash making an unsightly white hotspot. This also is true with metal cages, because once again, even dull metal will look white under the beam.

Conclusion Pets can provide a range of interesting photographs from cute to dramatic. Build up a rapport with the animal; use toys and treats to reward them if they are behaving well and let them leave if they are bored with having their photograph taken. Feeding an animal first is always a good idea if shooting portraits as it leaves them relaxed. If your pet is going outside make sure you have another person helping in case they break free. Take many shots, and amongst them could be a winning image.

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