



Photo by Christopher Hanson

Animal Photography by Peggy Foster

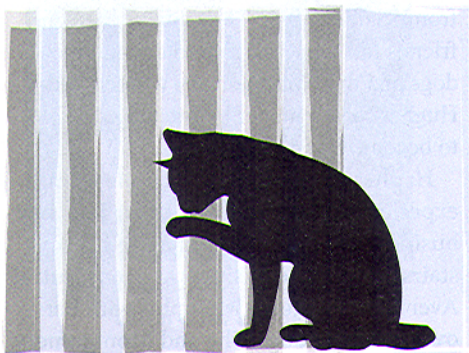
Her role as the friendly stranger makes Peggy Foster's job as a local pet photographer both challenging and rewarding. Animals like her almost immediately. This makes her job easier and less stressful for the pet, which in turn creates better photos.

"You have to be both nonthreatening and patient to capture each animal's distinct personality and expressions," explains Foster of her 15-year career as an animal photographer.

And that she does, capturing the tender curl of a floppy ear or the quizzically-turned head of a furry creature. While Foster generally photographs cats, dogs and horses, she has also done birds and even an iguana. Better yet, the photos can be done at the pet's home or backyard to ease their anxiety.

"Many pet owners worry that their pet won't sit still or that they don't have enough space in their home for a photography shoot. Pets are more comfortable in their own environment and I don't need as much space as the owner may think in order to get the best shots." Foster's emphasis is to capture a pet's natural look.

Foster began her business after years of working with hunter-jumper horse shows



and taking candid shots of dogs there. Prior to that, she spent hours turning the pages of encyclopedias as a young girl and gazing at the photos of animals.

Her work has been featured in publications ranging from a national Arabian horse magazine, several dog magazines, billboards and even a Disney-produced movie. She has also supplied photos for local advertisers. In addition to photography, Foster volunteers for the Humane Society and her church, Lindenwood Christian Church, where plans are underway to help with a pet blessing later this year.

Foster charges \$35 for the sitting fee, which includes an on-site session with up to 24 exposures. Pet owners can be included in the photos at no extra charge. Clients can choose from individual color prints or packages, custom finishes, black and white prints, family portraits on large canvas and many specialty items such as photo mugs, mouse pads and tote bags.

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