

## SOME ADVICE ON A WINNING PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR ALPACA



This year marks the third HoEAG Photography Competition and I have very much enjoyed my role as judge and look forward to 2020's offerings.

It is all well and good my providing the successful entrants with a critique of their work, but I have yet to address everyone interested in taking part with a few bits of advice on how to achieve a **WINNING** shot.

It is not easy – these are animals with minds of their own. If you are serious you will have to be patient and set aside time.

The easiest way to start is to hang out with your animals in the field. Watch what they are doing and set yourself up to capture it.

Often my decision to shortlist one similar image over another is that the background and lighting is better.



Position yourself so that the light and background is nice and **wait**.

At this time of year, the most flattering light is in the morning and the evening.

I have often looked at an entry and wished that I had seen the previous or following frame – if they existed.

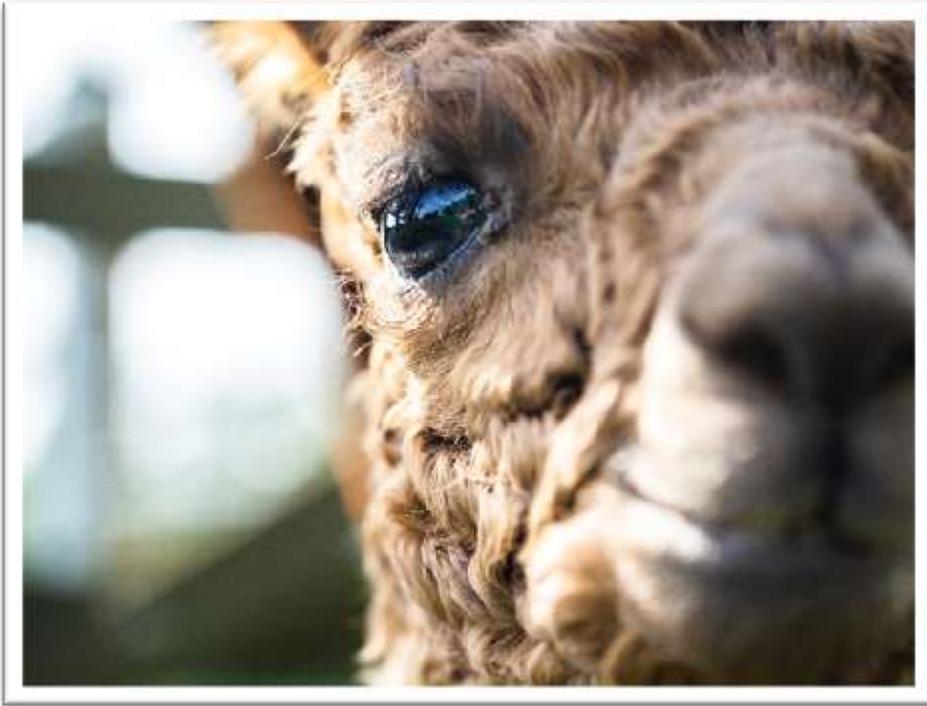
Photograph the nicest moments - you will have to watch and **wait** for more opportunities.

Do not just take one frame and call it a day – you will be pleasantly surprised! Most animals get used to you hanging around, and you will get a better feel for how they are spending their time. You can review them later and choose the best.



**Get the whole image in the frame!!!** If in doubt, shoot wider. I HATE a missing foot; you can crop later...

**If you are shooting a head shot** of your animal, give it some room in the frame for his ears. If you choose to crop them out, make it deliberate.



If you are capturing a close-up feature, **composition and focus is critical.**

Give yourself room to crop afterwards and make sure your focus is set on the detail you want to show off.

**If you are creating an abstract image**, make sure that the composition is balanced so that the viewer looks at the right part. If you are unsure, turn your image upside down – if your eye is drawn to a big patch of nothing you need to crop it out as it's a distracting from what you want to show.



**Be certain to send the BEST QUALITY image you can.** The resolution should be 300dpi and minimum 1000 pixels on the long edge.

There is a new category for 2020 – the Lockdown Special. You will have to be creative for this – it is not just any photo taken in April.

What unique situations did the restrictions present to the animals and their care?

How can you translate it into a photograph?

I hope this has inspired you to consider and create your entries – I look forward to seeing them!

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