Results-
Equisarte Online Photography Horse Show
(Winter 2025)

Congratulations to all the Winners!!!

Words from our main judge Bob Komjathy: Thank you all for your participation in the Winter season Photography Show! We had a ton of fun seeing all your photos and hope you had just as much fun taking them! It was so nice to see Winter through the eyes of your camera. It truly is a more fascinating time of the year when you pull out your camera and capture its beauty from the majestic panoramas to the smallest snowflake, how your animals react with the season and how the holidays include them in your celebrations. These are things to remember and it is memorialized through your images as well as shared with the other participants. Hopefully we have expanded your knowledge of photography via these challenges and the skills practiced are skills remembered! A big thank you to everyone who submitted a photo to be judged! Everyone should be proud of their work! Now that it's the end of this years photography show season we encourage you to look through all your photos and choose some to print and frame if you haven't already!

Lighting and weather were an important aspect of this show. We would like to acknowledge your efforts and results from going out in the cold weather to take your photos. Remember that the point of our shows is to do something fun with your animals,

learning new photography techniques, and improving on them to make special memories.

A camera has only one simple eye and humans have two complex eyes. What your brain sees is a composite (photoshopped) final image in your brain as compared to what either eye alone could see. The art of photography is to try to get that more simple eye (your camera) to get you results that match what you saw in person while taking the picture. Correcting a photo in a computer program like Photoshop or on an app in your camera phone can also help you to get back to what you saw with your own eyes and then enhance it creatively. Most photos need some correcting and enhancing.

With so many images submitted we chose to split many classes. When judging we chose the best or stronger of the two photos submitted per category. This was very tough to do especially for this show as both photos per class submission were near equally aesthetically pleasing! We continued with a *Best of Class* category for those classes with large amounts of entries! Best of Class winners will get a ribbon similar to 1st-6th place winners. Ribbons will begin to be mailed out ASAP. High Point winners to be announced later this Spring. *Congratulations again!!!*

Best of Show Junior Classes

Aiden Ryder "Guardian Of The Skies" Jr Class 3

What a lovely portrait of this bald eagle! This young photographer did an amazing job using color, depth of field, and rule of thirds to capture this image!

(Combined Classes) Junior Division

#7 Farm Friends & #8 Winter Landscape

1st Place

Aiden Ryder "Frozen Fog" Jr. Class 8

2nd Place

Aiden Ryder "Nature's Living Tapestry" Jr. Class 7

Open Class #1 In Winter

Best of Class

Trisha St. Germain "Table for Ten"

1st Place

Denise Machado "Trax"
Trisha Spettel "Before the Storm"

2nd Place

Kathy Bugbee "Nostalgia in Snow"
Kristin Taylor "Winter Greetings"

3rd Place

Susan Borders "Snowy Aussie"
Sharon Larmee "Deer TV"

4th Place

Jessica Watts "Turkey Trot"
Gretchen Hash Heffner "Bubba’s First Snow"

5th Place

Gayle Strickland "Winter Attitude"
Lucy Butler "Pearl Aglow, January 2025"

6th Place

Hope Fox "The Pasture"

Open Class #2 Magic Muzzles

Best of Class

Denise Machado "Old Man Winter"

1st Place

Lauren Sobel "Kissable Muzzle"
Lucy Butler "Nievey's Nose"

2nd Place

Kathy Bugbee "Aristo"
Sheila Howard "Silly Horse"

3rd Place

Angel Bruening "Hay Noodles"
Susan Borders "Breathing the Frigid Air"

4th Place

Gretchen Hash Heffner "The Sweetest Muzzle"

5th Place

Jessica Watts "Frosty Muzzle"

6th Place

Susan Borders "Breathing the Frigid Air"

Open Class #3 Pretty Portraits

Best of Class

Trisha Spettel "All Dressed Up & Nowhere to Go!"

1st Place

Jessica Watts "Portrait of the Little Prince"
Kristin Taylor "Squirrel"

2nd Place

Kathy Bugbee "I'm Ready!"
Denise Machado "Trigger"

3rd Place

Hope Fox "Tennessee Whiskey"
Sharon Larmee "Yum! I Love It!"

4th Place

Angel Bruening "This is My Good Side"
Lauren Sobel "Smokey Portrait"

5th Place

Gretchen Hash Heffner "The Sun Made it Feel Warmer"

6th Place

Trisha St. Germain "Sittin' Pretty"
Deb Zachow "Willard Quarter Horse Gelding"

Open Class #4 Most Artistic

Best of Class

Angel Bruening "Horsepower"

1st Place

Gretchen Hash Heffner "My Beloved Howie"
Denise Machado "Waiting"

2nd Place

Sharon Larmee "Bye, Bye Santa"
Kristin Taylor "Cold Winter Ride"

3rd Place

Lauren Sobel "Overcast Skies Above Farm"
Sheila Howard "Catching the Sunset"

4th Place

Hope Fox "The Herd"

5th Place

Gayle Strickland "Winter Walk"

6th Place

Trisha St. Germain "One, Two, Three"

Open Class #5 Holiday Photoshoot!

1st Place

Lauren Sobel "Christmas with Smokey and Pig"

2nd Place

Gretchen Hash Heffner "Happy Birthday"

3rd Place

Deb Zachow "Willard II"

4th Place

Gayle Strickland "First Christmas"

5th Place

Trisha Spettel "I Can Still See the Cookies!"

6th Place

Denise Machado "Bah Humbug"

Open Class #6 Equestrian Still Life

Best of Class

Lauren Sobel "Ribbons on Stall Door"

1st Place

Sheila Howard "Western Tack Life"

2nd Place

Kathy Bugbee "Follow Your Dreams"

3rd Place

Denise Machado "Vintage"

4th Place

Sharon Larmee "RIding off to the Sunset"

5th Place

Hope Fox "Awards"

6th Place

Deb Zachow "Designer Bridle"

Open Class #7 Farm Friends

Best of Class

Lucy Butler "Ethel, January 2025"

1st Place

Denise Machado "Moonpie and Snowflakes"
Sheila Howard "Best Boy Ever"

2nd Place

Kathy Bugbee "Single File!"
Jessica Watts "Barn Cat Up the Apple Tree"

3rd Place

Trisha Spettel "Mr. Handsome"

4th Place

Deb Zachow "Barn Cats"
Kristin Taylor "The Cat Wall"

5th Place

Hope Fox "Dixie"
Lauren Sobel "Miss Pig"

6th Place

Angel Bruening "Puma"

Open Class #8 Winter Landscape (Split Class)

Best of Class

Denise Machado "After the Storm"

1st Place

Susan Borders "Array of Sunrise Winter Beauty"
Kristin Taylor "Basil in Sunset"
Gretchen Hash Heffner "Snow in Aiken, SC"

2nd Place

Hope Fox "Calm on the River"
Kathy Bugbee "Snowy Old Glory"

3rd Place

Lauren Sobel "Red Barn During Winter Storm"
Trisha Spettel "Icey Lakeshore"

4th Place

Sharon Larmee "Christmas Tree"
Trisha St. Germain "Nerve"

5th Place

Angel Bruening "A Friendly Troll Through The Snow"
Sheila Howard "Snow in South Texas"

6th Place

Deb Zachow "After the Snowstorm II"
Gayle Strickland "Crystals"

Best in Show

Sheila Howard "Poised to Perfection"

The Photographer did an amazing job creating a painterly feel through color and texture in this photograph! The horse's gaze has a happy feel and seems inviting to the viewer with the ears forward and soft eyes. The image is nicely cropped, in focus, has a lovely texture of all the delicate fur, grasses, and color.

Reserve Best in Show

Jessica Watts "The Escape Artist"

The lighting and color of this photo are fantastic! The image is focused very well with nice contrast, texture of the hairs and snow, and color. The warm colors in the trees and horse and pose of the horse create a lot of harmony! The photographer did a great job using lines, angles, and color! She also did a great job with white balance which is tricky to do in Winter lighting! Sometimes the snow and image is too over or under exposed so you have to meter for the snow and lighting.

Honorable Mention

Lauren Sobel "Evening Snowy Ride"

What a lovely view between the ears during a Winter Ride! The quality of this image is clear and lovely with nice white balance, contrast, and texture! The curve of the horse's neck helps lead one's eye through the image to the snow covered tree trunks and glow of the sky onto the horse's forelock!

Honorable Mention

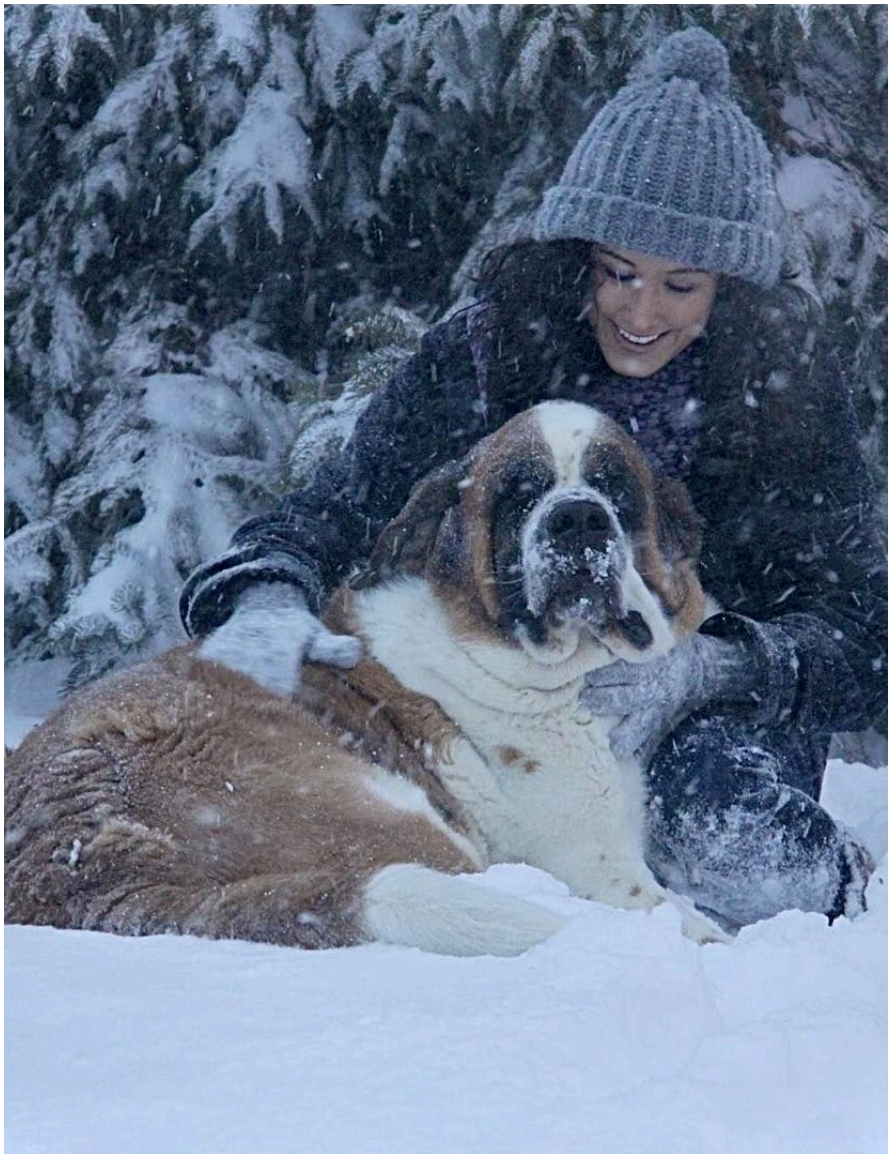
Kristin Taylor "Santa Sylvester"

What an adorable kitty all ready for Christmas! We always love to see our adorable pets dressed up in costumes for the Holidays and appreciate the time it takes to set up such a photo! The cat is in sharp focus with some interesting angles, depth of field, and perspective to lead the viewer's eye into the image.

Honorable Mention

Trisha Spettel "Snowy Nose"

What an interesting view of this horse's snow covered muzzle! The photographer did a great job with clarity, depth of field, texture, and color! She also did a great job with white balance which is tricky to do in Winter lighting!

People's Choice Award

Deb Zachow "Charlie"