

Results-
Equisarte Online Photography Horse Show
(Winter 2026)

Congratulations to all the Winners!!!

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 year's 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. The Minimalist Photography class was very impressive too! Everyone showed amazing ideas, attention to detail, and worked hard on creativity and lighting!

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!!!*

Open Class #1 In Winter

Best of Class

Trisha Spettel "Butt-ies"

1st Place

Kristin Taylor "Snowy Day"

2nd Place

Sharon Larmee "Yay! Snow, Let's Roll..."

3rd Place

Karina Sellars "Stud Muffin Posing"

4th Place

Contessa Maltagliati "Mid-Afternoon from the Main Aisle"

5th Place

Gayle Strickland "Pretty in Pink"

6th Place

Michelle Richard "Freedom Waiting for his Warm Breakfast"

Open Class #2 Kisses & Cuddles

Best of Class

Trisha Spettel "Huggies"

1st Place

Denise Machado "Napping with Rooster Cogburn"

Kaylee Monserrate "Selfie Love"

2nd Place

Karina Sellars "Kisses for Emril"

Michelle Richard "Kisses & Treats!!"

3rd Place

Kristin Taylor "Best Pals"

Mikayla George "Petals & Promises"

4th Place

Contessa Maltagliati "The Short Break"

5th Place

Gayle Strickland "Nap Time"

6th Place

Sharon Larmee "Copper Snuggled Up for a Winter Nap"

Open Class #3 Minimalist Photography

Best of Class

Denise Machado "Morning"

1st Place

Trisha Spettel "A Quiet Place"

Mikayla George "Cold Horizon"

2nd Place

Kristin Taylor "We are all Unique"

3rd Place

Gayle Stickland "Frosty"

4th Place

Trisha St. Germain "Ravenclaw"

5th Place

Karina Sellars "Silent Night Creepy Night"

6th Place

Kaylee Monserrate "Power Nap"

Open Class #4 Most Artistic

Best of Class

Denise Machado "Two Blind Friends"

1st Place

Trisha Spettel "A Little Nosey"

Kristin Taylor "Northern Lights"

2nd Place

Karina Sellars "Gone Too Soon"

Mikayla George "Frozen Energy"

3rd Place

Sharon Larmee "Do You Talk Boxer?"

4th Place

Gayle Strickland "Berry"

5th Place

Contessa Maltagliati "Head in the Clouds"

6th Place

Kaylee Monserrate "New Life"

Open Class #5 Holiday Photoshoot!

1st Place

Trisha Spettel "Snow Day Fun"

2nd Place

Mikayla George "The Key to My Heart"

3rd Place

Gayle Strickland "Ivee"

4th Place

Denise Machado "I'm S...mitten"

Open Class #6 Winter Landscape

Best of Class

Trisha Spettel "After the Storm"

1st Place

Denise Machado "Frozen"

Contessa Maltagliati "All Boxed Up"

2nd Place

Kristin Taylor "Joyful"

Gayle Strickland "Frosted"

3rd Place

Kaylee Monserrate "In the Distance"

4th Place

Sharon Larmee "Untitled"

5th Place

Michelle Richard "Bruno Outside After the Major Snow Storm"

6th Place

Mikayla George "Winter Shelter"

Open Class #7 Farm Friends

Best of Class

Trisha Spettel "Best Friends"

1st Place

Kristin Taylor "Are We Done With Chores Yet?"

2nd Place

Michelle Richard "Piglets a Few Days Old"

3rd Place

Denise Machado "3 Dog Day"

4th Place

Mikayla George "Wherever you go, I follow"

5th Place

Karina Sellars "Gibby on Chantz"

6th Place

Kaylee Monserrate "Evening Camouflage"

Best in Show

Denise Machado "Hay You"



The photographer did an amazing job with lighting and color in this photo! The image is focused very well with nice contrast, texture of the hairs, hay, snow, and color. The warm glow from the sun and the cow's gentle gaze toward the viewer grazing on the golden hay helps give this image a pleasant, peaceful feeling despite the cold Winter weather. 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.

Reserve Best in Show

Trisha Spettel "Cuddles"



The photographer did an amazing job capturing a beautiful cuddly moment of these two equine friends! The horse's expression has a happy, serene feeling with soft eyes and ears. The image is nicely cropped, in focus, and has a lovely texture of all the sunkissed and sandy fur, grasses, and color.

Honorable Mention

Mikayla George "Snowbound"



What a joyful expression on this puppy as he playfully dashes through the snow! 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!

Honorable Mention

Contessa Maltagliati "Seeking a Squeeze"



What an adorable and lovely image of a favorite sight of your best furry friend asking for some affection! A very creative image and perspective! The dog's nose is in sharp focus with some interesting angles, depth of field, and perspective to lead the viewer's eye into the image.

Honorable Mention

Kristin Taylor "I Helped Too!"



What an adorable dog being such a good little helper! Our dogs certainly are comical! The photographer did an awesome job portraying the comedy in the chaos of being an animal owner and decorating for the holidays! We always love to see our adorable pets dressed up and participating in Holiday photoshoots and appreciate the time it takes to set up such a photo!

Honorable Mention

Karina Sellars "Snowy Trails"



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 lovely line of riders, ponies, snow covered trails, and glow of the setting sun on the scenery ahead!

People's Choice Award

Kaylee Monserrate "Snuggled In"

