

# CAMERA SETTINGS

for IamCasper Cat Photography

Although we could talk for hours about camera settings, here is briefly what the settings on my NIKON DSLR are when taking cat photos:

## EXPOSURE MODE

I ALWAYS use one of the **Automatic Exposure Modes** A or S (never manual). Sometimes you need to work quickly when photographing pets. Even if they're relaxing, a cute expression can disappear in an instant, so in my opinion the best way to do it is choosing one of the auto exposure modes.

**Aperture Priority (A)** is a good choice because it gives you more control of your depth of field, which can be very creative. For static shots at close range a wide aperture such as f/5.6 will help blur the background and concentrate the viewer's attention on the subject. If you're doing action shots of, say, your cat running, then you may prefer a smaller aperture to increase your depth of field. This will help compensate for any small errors in focusing as you track the cat's movement.

In some cases I use **Shutter Speed Priority (S)**, but not very often. For static portraits you only need to ensure the shutter speed is fast enough to handhold without risking camera shake. If you have image stabilization on your lens or a monopod this can be even as low as 1/15sec. For action shots at faster speed you will be required to freeze the movement. Try 1/250sec as a starting point, sometimes this won't even be enough. If the light level is not that bright you may need to increase your ISO to 400 or above to get a high enough shutter speed.

## SHOT MODE

I have my camera on **Single Shot Mode** most of the time. That is fine for normal picture taking, except for action photos or when I want to get a specific frame that is hard to catch I change to Continuous Mode to take more pictures when I push the shutter button.



## FOCUS MODE

I use **Auto-Focus Single Mode (AF-S)** for 99% of my shots, meaning the camera will automatically focus when I push slightly on the shutter button and it will hold the focus until the shutter button is released or until I will further push to take the shot.

And I use this in combination with the **Single Focus Point Mode**, meaning that I have ONE focus point that I can move around in the viewfinder, You can have multiple focus point settings too but in my opinion they are more for action photos which I rarely need for cat photography.

