

Help us promote PVDR.

Pictures are worth a thousand words, so we need your pictures! Social media is a great tool for spreading the word, but we at PVDR have so many other uses for them. As such, I would truly appreciate it if you took a few minutes and read through this brief tutorial.

Shoot low aim high.

Everyone naturally shoots donkeys (disclaimer, I am a photographer not a hunter) from a standing position looking down on the donkey. This adds the perspective of being small and powerless. When you shoot a horse you can't help but look up, giving the horse power and majesty. So, grab a knee and aim high, I promise you will like the results.

Shoot in landscape.

Hold your phone with the long side parallel with the ground. You can always edit it into a square or a portrait crop. By shooting in landscape, it meshes better in video and slide show presentations.

Give 'em room.

Try not to shoot too tight on donkeys. The photo should allow room for the donkey to move its head. Might seem silly, but people get uncomfortable looking at animals in confining pictures. Think of a caged lion versus a Harry Potter newspaper. On my end I can always crop it down, but I can't expand it.

Check your lighting.

Natural sunlight is always a plus. Be careful not to shoot a dark donkey in a barn with a very bright background. When outside, walk around the donkey for the best lighting angle. It is OK to compliment the available lighting with your camera flash.

Kids can be a problem.

Including your own children is no problem, but posting other people's children, without consent, can be. If you are doing an event or a tour, simply ask if the parents are comfortable with the prospect. Verbal consent is adequate.

No butts.

Watch your backdrops. A really cute photo can be destroyed with a donkey's butt as a photo bomb. Also, make sure your backdrop will add to the photo (trees, barns, other donkeys) and not detract from it.

Best foot forward.

People online can be mean spirited (this is me being nice, I actually typed a few dozen words and deleted them before I settled on mean spirited). Make sure there is nothing in your photo that can be taken out of context. Also, watch out for your guests shooting photos that might be used against us, unfortunately it happens. I once saw a picture of a cute donkey, in the background was a donkey laying on its back with its head on the lower rail of a corral panel. It looked bad. It was simply a donkey rolling too close to the panel and all was fine, but it caused the poster much grief in having to explain.

Quality.

As a wildlife photographer I always shoot in the highest quality allowed by the device. Since many people today rely on their phone for pictures and video (all of the above suggestions are the same for video), I would like you to take a minute and check your camera settings. While these settings will increase each file size, it is well worth the sacrifice.

iOS (iPhone)
Go to Settings=>Camera
Under "Formats" Choose "Most Compatible"
Turn on HDR

Android (Samsung)
From camera settings and choose:
Picture Size "5M Pixels"
Picture Quality "Super Fine"
Turn off Digital Zoom (it is not an actual zoom and will blur your photo)
*Note: I do not have an android device. If you have more trips and tricks please share.

Sharing is caring.

When you share the photos with Jess (jessica@pvdr.org), do so over email. If the files are too large, they will automatically be uploaded to Google Drive and sent as a download. Each of your PVDR emails should come with a drive account attached. If it gets too full, simply delete the older files.

That is it for now. Feel free to share your own tips and contact me or Jess if you have any questions.

You can check out some of my work here: www.burro.photography

Happy shooting!
MSM