

Baby's First Photo Shoot

By Suzanne Stowe

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Baby is enjoying the post, but he isn't showing the product well. I was very excited when I was invited to bring one of my cats into the office for a professional photo shoot. Like many cat lovers, my kitties are my favorite photo subject, but my pictures usually leave something to be desired. The cats either move right when the flash goes off or they have red eye.

It was an easy choice for me to pick Ramsing, my gregarious chocolate point Siamese. Known as Baby for his diminutive size and typical Siamese meow, I knew he would feel comfortable during the waiting time and the shoot itself.

Baby has to tell us what he thinks about the entire process. On the morning of the shoot, I shook the treat bag and Baby came running. I popped him into his carrier and we were off to the office. I work in a cube and have cube mates that are allergic, so I had to stow him in an empty office. At first, the entire office filled with the sound of his plaintive meows. After a short time he quieted down unless he heard my voice. Then my office mates started visiting him and he was a happy camper, purring and rubbing his cheeks on everyone. He paid special attention to my boss – way to kiss up, Baby!

This one is a winner; it shows Baby's personality. When it was time for the shoot, we went upstairs and Baby seemed pretty comfortable. He was on a draped table with bright lights shining on him. We were there to take his picture with some of the Editors' Choice products to be featured in the December issue of CAT FANCY. We tried a few different toys, and while he was somewhat interested, he kept moving when the photographer shot (not unlike my own experiences, I thought).

After about 20 minutes, he became less distracted and some usable shots were obtained. He did well with a scratching post when we put it on the table. Then a tag was put on his collar and some beautiful close-ups were obtained.

Baby — and the product, a tag — are shown well.

All in all, both Baby and I had a great time. I'm sure you want to see some of his pictures, so I've included some of the rejects and one of the pictures I hope you'll see in an upcoming issue of CAT FANCY. The lesson I have learned from the experience is to remain calm since cats are so astute about picking up your vibe and to be patient — that great shot is there waiting to be discovered.

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