

Scoresheet for July 2023_TC_Portraits_ANIMAL_only - Terry

Category	Club Star Rating	Title	First	Last	Internal Reference	Score	Award	Comment
TC	1S	Cape Magic	wynand	lens	2221078	10	Gold	Nicely captured picture, and the details on the bird are nice and sharp, although I would categorise this as more of a Nature/Wildlife picture than an 'Animal Portrait'. The bird has posed quite nicely for you, and the lighting is also good. It is a pity that much of the background is close to the bird and is thus relatively sharp without separation from the bird, and as a portrait this is quite distracting.
TC	1S	Colorful Turkey	wynand	lens	2221075	10	Gold	I have given the author the benefit of being a 1 star to score this a gold, but this picture as presented is more of a wildlife/nature picture than a portrait. To turn this into a portrait, it would need to be cropped significantly, and the distracting grass element removed - remember, in portrait, full manipulation is allowed. Lighting is good and the colours vibrant, the bird is quite sharp and is striding turkeyishly across the grass, which captures some of the essence of being a turkey.
TC	1S	My not so serious face	Marisan	Victor	2220236	DQ	DQ	This picture has apparently been presented previously. Note: there is no metadata with this picture which means that I can't comment about the settings. It also means that this picture could not be used for the Marville Challenge
TC	1S	My serious face	Marisan	Victor	2220235	8	Silver	The file size for this picture is very small which leads me to believe that it has been cropped excessively, which has resulted in virtually no detail in any of the feathers - they just appear as an orange blob, and unfortunately nothing is in focus. There is also no metadata associated with this picture.
TC	1S	Teen Spirit	wynand	lens	2219118	9	Silver	Nice try for a 1 star, but again this is more of a Nature/Wildlife picture than a portrait. There is quite nice separation from the background, but the background could have done with some noise-reduction. To improve this picture, it should have been cropped into 'portrait' mode, and most of the area on the right is redundant. It is also a pity that the tail has been chopped off.
TC	1S	Waving the white flag	Marisan	Victor	2220234	7	Silver	Again, the file size of this picture is very small, and there is insufficient detail and definition in the feathers. The large white area at the bottom is also a bit of a distraction. Once again, there is no metadata for this picture so I am unable to offer advice on how to change your settings to improve this picture.
TC	2S	Champion	Jan	Lens	2219393	9	Silver	A nice try, and the details on the face are quite good. A couple of things would have improved the score on this - 1: some selective processing in Photoshop to put some more light into the eye, the right ear, and the horns, and 2: if it were not cropped quite so close at the bottom so that the whiskers at the bottom were not cropped off.
TC	2S	Long Horn	Jan	Lens	2219382	8	Silver	This is not really a portrait picture as there is no engagement with the animal. Looking at the metadata, the picture was taken quite close to the subject with a fairly large aperture, which means that the depth of field is quite small. The eye and the fur around the eye is reasonably sharp, but this drops off quite quickly and the beard and whiskers are out of focus, and most of the horn - which is a pity. I feel that you have not really captured the spirit of this animal. Also - that big white border does not enhance the picture.

TC	2S	Total Focus	Mags	Vosloo	2221091	10	Gold	<p>This is a good attempt, and there is great connection with the bird as it is looking straight at the camera. This is what an Animal Portrait should be as there is engagement between the bird and the photographer. The eyes, beak, and the feathers around the eyes are quite sharp, but the large white area below the beak could have been toned down a bit - perhaps some selective processing of this area might have salvaged some more of this detail. Also - the high ISO has resulted in quite noticeable noise in this picture - sadly this has not been addressed and at higher star rating this could have counted against you.</p> <p>I have run this picture through Topaz Photo AI to remove the noise, and also taken it into Adobe Camera Raw and dropped the whites and highlites below the beak to pull back some of the details in the white feathers.</p>
TC	2S	We can go now	Mags	Vosloo	2221090	9	Silver	<p>This pictures is more a 'snapshot of a family pet' than an 'Animal Portrait'. As a picture it is quite pleasant, and the dog looks quite cute.</p>
TC	2S	Wide awake	Jan	Lens	2219359	8	Silver	<p>Again - I don't believe that this is an Animal Portrait, but more of a picture of a horse being ridden. As such, the horse's dark bay colour rather blends into the background and makes it difficult to see what is horse and what is background - perhaps some selective processing of the horse might have lifted the detail a bit.</p>
TC	2S	You said Whaaat	Mags	Vosloo	2221089	8	Silver	<p>This pose would have made a good Animal portrait, but sadly there is little to no detail in the feathers around the birds head. I suspect that it may have been excessively cropped, and then perhaps over-processed to try and recover the sharpness. It's a pity, because the bird is definitely engaging with the photographer.</p>
TC	3S	A Portrait of an Ellie	Meleney	Naik	2221449	7	Silver	<p>A good attempt to try something different, but I am not sure exactly what is going on in this picture - some processing has been done to the background which does not look very good. There is also some strange effect around the edge of the Ellie which has left a grey blurry smudge effect. This has not really worked as I find it quite distracting.</p>
TC	3S	Beautiful Bear	Andrew	van den Berg	2220561	9	Silver	<p>This fits better into the 'Animal Portrait' genre, and there is nice 'engagement' with the dog, but there are a couple of details that let this picture down -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: the front paws have been cropped off or are hidden behind something, which is a pity because in this story the dog seems to be holding the 'thing' with it's paws. 2: whilst there is good separation with the background, the rather blown out bokeh in the background is a bit distracting. <p>Perhaps a tighter crop around the face might have improved this. If not for these details, this could have been a gold.</p>
TC	3S	Goose	Andrew	van den Berg	2220562	8	Silver	<p>A good attempt with a nice pose and a good profile picture, with nice separation from the background. Unfortunately it has been let down by a lack of sharpness, particularly around the eye and the feathers around the face.</p>
TC	3S	Julian Comtemplating Life	Meleney	Naik	2221450	8	Silver	<p>Again, I believe that this picture is more of a Nature/Wildlife type picture than an Animal Portrait - as such it is a interesting capture. There is something quite weird with the lighting, with the light shining onto the animal but the background appears quite dark. Something about this lighting doesn't look quite right to me? The picture is also a bit soft.</p>

TC	3S	Small Swallow	Andrew	van den Berg	2220560	10	Gold	Lovely picture, but the picture as presented is more suited to Nature/Wildlife - I believe it should be cropped tighter around the bird to possibly make this into an 'Animal portrait' as there is a large area on the right of the picture that is redundant for this category. The bird itself is quite sharp with some nice detail on the feathers, and the lighting and colours are good. There is good separation from the background. In Nature/Wildlife, this could have been a 12.
TC	3S	The Moment You Realize Tomorrow is Mo	Meleney	Naik	2221453	7	Silver	A lot of very distracting bokeh on the right of this picture - it could have been cropped tighter. The subject itself is quite interesting, but unfortunately a large aperture has resulted in a very shallow depth of field, and a lot of the face is out of focus. It is a pity that the animal was not looking at the camera as I think that could have made a difference.
TC	4S	baby baa	Liesl	Couperthwaite	2218501	7	Silver	Again, this is not really an Animal Portrait even though it contains a picture of an animal.
TC	4S	Chocolate Slab	Cornelia	Appel	2220789	8	Silver	Once again, I see this as more of a snapshot of a family pet than a real 'Animal Portrait'. The detail in the face is nice and sharp, and the eyes are engaging, but perhaps a tighter crop would improve the score.
TC	4S	cutie pie	Liesl	Couperthwaite	2218500	7	Silver	As a snap of the family dog - cute. As an 'Animal Portrait' this does not really cut it. Nothing is really sharp, and half the face is too dark to see.
TC	4S	johnny bravos cousin	Cornelia	Appel	2220790	8	Silver	I am not sure if this is a Llama or Alpaca, but I feel this is more of a 'snap of an animal on a family outing' than a genuine Animal Portrait. The background is very distracting.
TC	4S	Karate Master	Cornelia	Appel	2220782	DQ		This is not an Animal Portrait picture - better suited to Nature
TC	4S	my name is 50	Liesl	Couperthwaite	2218499	7	Silver	This does not really meet the requirements for an Animal Portrait, as it does not really capture the essence of a goat - sure, it has the details of the goats forehead that are in focus, but neither of the eyes are sharp, the beard and the horns are not really captured - at 4 star this doesn't really cut it. Again, I feel that this is more a snap of an animal's head than a genuine Animal Portrait.
TC	5S1	Majestic	Tracey	Rhodes	2221480	8	Silver	This one possibly, maybe, just might ... scrape into the category of 'Animal Portrait', although the lighting from above and behind the horse has resulted in dark shadow around the horses eye, and lower down the face. Colours are good and details are quite sharp. I wonder if a tighter crop into 'Portrait mode' would have made this a better portrait.
TC	5S1	Martial Eagle	Heidi	Taylor	2211247	10	Gold	A nice Animal Portrait - the eye and the details in the feathers are nice and sharp. The stare to infinity is typical of these birds, and there is no distracting background. Well done.
TC	5S1	Pippin	Heidi	Taylor	2217652	8	Silver	The details in the fur around the mouth are lovely - it is a pity that the details around the eyes are just too dark. Some selective processing of this area to bring back some of the detail might have made this a better animal portrait, although what I can see of the eyes they appear to be out of focus.
TC	5S1	Sphynx	Heidi	Taylor	2211533	8	Silver	The bird is nice and sharp, but unfortunately the exposure is too dark. A look at the histogram shows that the dark areas are just too black so that there is no detail in the dark feathers - which spoils what could have been an interesting picture.
TC	5SB	Buttercup The Meadow Lady	Maxi	Holder	2220835	8	Silver	Again - This is not really an Animal Portrait, it is a picture of a cow in a field. An Animal Portrait needs to be more than that.
TC	5SB	Dressed To Impress	Maxi	Holder	2220834	8	Silver	A nice picture of a Red Bishop - but there is no detail visible in the black feathers. It is very hard to capture these birds and get all the detail. Nice catch-light in the bird's eye, but I don't really think that this is an 'Animal Portrait'? Better suited to Wildlife/Nature

TC	5SB	Garden Pet	Maxi	Holder	2220833	5	Bronze	Sadly there is nothing in focus in this picture, and at 5 Star that is going to hurt the score. I suspect that your choice of lens (10-22mm) makes it a bit difficult for this type of photograph.
TC	5SD	Ama Kip Kip	Leon	Heyes	2203667	10	Gold	Ama-KFC has been well captured here - nice and sharp detail where it matters, and well separated from the background.
TC	5SD	Billy	Leon	Heyes	2203666	8	Silver	A quizzical expression on the goat's face makes for a nice Animal Portrait - with a good engagement with the photographer. Unfortunately the focus is really good on the nose and the mouth, and less so on the eyes. There is also quite strong and visible noise in the background that could have been removed in post-processing
TC	5SD	Wing Nut	Leon	Heyes	2219283	10	Gold	A nice portrait of an animal in the bush, with nice sharp details - and there is good separation from the background. Light and colour are a bit flat. Animal appears to be watching the photographer ready to run if required.
TC	5SP	Adult and young bearded vultures	Rob	Hart	2221573	8	Silver	Quite a good capture of the Adult and young together, although it is a pity that the large aperture has resulted in a shallow depth of field and the young vulture in the back is slightly out of focus. The adult in the front is quite sharp - although it appears to be slightly oversharpened. Colours on the adult are also perhaps a bit too overprocessed. It is also a pity that both the birds tails have been cropped off
TC	5SP	Pygmy falcon pair	Rob	Hart	2221574	10	Gold	lovely picture of the pair of Pygmy Falcons. Light is good and the details in the eyes and feathers are nice and sharp. The fact that both birds are looking in the same direction has made for a good pose.
TC	5SP	Quizzical owl	Rob	Hart	2221572	9	Silver	It is a shame that the late morning light is coming from behind the owl so that the face and eyes are in shadow. Details are nice and sharp, and the stare makes for a good pose. The choice of Lens/Apperture has resulted in good separation from the background, but the picture is somewhat spoiled by the very bright background and what appears to be over-processing.
TC	5SS	Biewer Terrier	Ronelle	van den Heever	2221360	8	Silver	A large aperture has resulted in a fairly short focal range, and unfortunately the shapest part of the picture is the grass in front of the dog - the dog is mostly out of focus. It would appear that an attempt has been made to try and recover some sharpness in the eyes, but this does not really work.
TC	5SS	Colwee	Ronelle	van den Heever	2221355	7	Silver	Once again, the sharpest part of this picture is the grass in front of the dog and the toy, and the dog (and in particular the eyes) are out of focus. The toy creates a large and distracting light blob, some of which is blown out - perhaps this could have been toned down using selective processing. I would categorise this more as 'a snapshot of the family pet' than an 'Animal Portrait'.
TC	5SS	Spirit of Zac	Ronelle	van den Heever	2221352	10	Gold	A classic studio 'Pet-Portrait'. Detail in the eyes and the fur is good. It is a shame that the lighting is a bit flat, and there was no reflective or secondary light to remove the long shadow below the dog's mouth.