

Celebrating Animals

I'm a lifelong animal lover, so when my husband bought me a camera in 2010, I began photographing wildlife. I don't have a macro lens but find that different macro filters (a much cheaper option) achieve a similar effect if you can get close enough to your subject. In my elder daughter's room, there's a picture I took of ducklings splashing around the lake near my parents' property. And in the downstairs bathroom is a three-shot series of a robins' nest built in a tree right outside our front door.

Ladybugs have always intrigued me. When my elder daughter was little, I'd place one on her hand and point out its colors. The bug's little feet tickled her palm, and she giggled when it flew away. Ever since I got my camera, I've wanted to capture a ladybug.

One evening while playing Frisbee in the backyard with my family, a red dot caught my eye. I bent down, and lo and behold, there was a beautiful ladybug holding tight to a tall seed head. I grabbed my camera! I'm sure the neighbors thought I was crazy as I lay on my stomach for a close-up. The picture now hangs in my younger daughter's room.

— *Christina Dodson, Culpeper, Virginia*

YOUR BEST SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals*, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it's

meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humanesociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to All Animals—Your Best Shot, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)

