

Celebrating Animals


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The house where my wife and I used to live is surrounded by 80 acres of farmland that's been in her family for years. It's the perfect place to photograph deer, wild turkeys, and other animals. But ever since I bought a new camera and discovered the macro setting, it's the insects who have captured my interest.

Insects get a bad rap—you know, all those creepy crawlies. But the macro lens allows you to appreciate their intricacies. In my spider close-ups, you can see all their hairs and eyes. I've also got shots of common houseflies and one of a wolf spider with a perfectly formed egg sack attached to her abdomen. Though my mother-in-law hates spiders, she calls me to take their pictures rather than killing them.

This was one of my first pictures with the macro setting. I took it early in the morning, which I've since discovered is the best time to photograph because insects are sluggish when it's cool. There was one lone cornstalk growing in the soybean fields surrounding the house. I went to investigate and found this little katydid hidden inside. He was a wonderful subject.

— **Jordan McLaughlin, New Salisbury, Indiana**

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.)