

## ■ PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER

# Pictures with movement

By Darren Crush



**This month, Darren Crush shows you how to give your images a bit of extra life by blurring your wildlife subjects.**

As discussed a couple of months back, capturing animal portraits is great fun and can make a lovely framed picture for the house,

but you don't always have to have them motionless. Indeed, and due to their very nature, it's a lot easier to get them running riot! However, that's not to say that getting pictures of them is now not possible – quite the contrary – by adopting a technique known as panning you can still shoot great shots, and this time give them a bit more life by adding movement into the picture.

Panning is not just used by wildlife photographers it is a practice that a whole variety of snappers employ. A good example is Formula 1 photographers. They use this method to photograph the racing cars side on whilst showing a bit of movement at the same time. And practicing on cars yourself, before taking pictures of animals, is good way to fine-tune this style.

The method by its very definition requires the user to work in a horizontal way – either from right to left or left to right. I personally prefer working from right to left, but that's all it is, a personal preference. The next step you have to take is to stand parallel to the path that your subject will be taking – far easier to practice this on a car, as you will know its path, than an animal that can be erratic at the best of times.

Now depending on how much blur you wish to add, the settings on your camera must be selected accordingly. And, if you can remember back to one of the first articles I did, you will recall that shutter priority is the best option to select in this instance. By choosing this command your camera will set an appropriate aperture that will dictate the right amount of light to give your picture the correct exposure. Because you have control over your shutter speed, it is you who will be able to determine the extent of the blurring. As with photographing cars using the panning technique, if you select a fast shutter speed you will stop the subject in its tracks. However, if you select a slower shutter speed, whilst still following the subject using panning, the main subject will be fairly sharp and the background blurred. But it's not as simple as that as there is a certain point



where you have to press the shutter release.

To ensure smooth results it's best to keep your feet still and rotate the upper half of your body as you track the subject and then pre-focus your camera at the point where the subject will pass directly in front of you. To do this for a car, pre-focus at the point in the middle of the road where the car will pass until the image is sharp in the viewfinder. And for your pet, try and anticipate the bit of land it is going to run over in front of you and pre-focus there, again, until the image is sharp. It must be mentioned at this point, and this is the same when shooting animal portraits, it is always best to get down to the eye level of the subject. This will make it harder to rotate, but with practice will soon be mastered.

As with all forms of photography, check that your background is not cluttered or that there is something in the foreground that could get in the way.

A good shutter speed to start with is 1/15th. Say your subject is moving from right to left, pick it up with your finger still pressed halfway down on the shutter and then press it down fully once the subject is directly in front of you. You might get it exactly right first time round, but more than often than not you will need to practice at it. And don't forget to follow through, even after you have pressed the shutter. Vary your shutter speeds to see the difference between each image that is produced and then opt for the one that is to your liking. When photographing animals, try and focus on its head and get that part as sharp as possible.

Happy photographing!

**If you have any questions for Darren on this article, or any photography subject, please email him on [dmjc@crush-associates.com](mailto:dmjc@crush-associates.com) or call 07515 415669**

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*Next month Darren will be looking at how to capture great sunrise shots.*