

# PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Travel Photography by Bob Krist—National Geographic

## Lesson 16: Animals in Action

Images that show animals' behavior and action are difficult to obtain but are among the best wildlife photos. Light, composition, and moment rules apply but moment is paramount. You need to prepare and have your camera equipment ready to capture the shot at just the right time

- **Yawning**

- Start with some animal portraits. Have your gear set up and ready for the right moment. Many animals yawn or roar just after waking up. If your gear is ready you can get the shot. Having the equipment ready for the shot, on a bean bag or tripod, is much better than hand holding the camera and will mitigate arm fatigue and shake. Have patience and time to wait for the moment. Examples shown are of a lion (taken with a 400 MM lens) and cheetah

- **Interaction Between Animals**

- One example is the picture of a Cape buffalo and oxpecker taken with a 500 mm telephoto lens. If you are in a vehicle and need to take the shot through the window, ask the driver to stop and turn off the engine: the slightest vibration will blur the telephoto image. Another example is zebras taken with a 600 mm telephoto lens

- **Panning**

- Panning is a good technique to capture a fleeing animal: The subject(s) should be sharp but the background a blur giving the sensation of speed. Good technique is important:
  - Use a slower shutter speed. With a 300-400 mm lens and a fast-moving animal you may only need a shutter speed of 1/125 or 1/60 second to get nice blur
  - Swing from the waist if possible
  - Focus on and keep the subject in the same relative position in the viewfinder
  - The subject should be moving horizontally, not towards or away from you
  - Follow through smoothly...don't stop suddenly

- **Environments and Groups**

- Environmental wildlife portraits show the animals in their environment. Both the animal and the surrounding environment should show strong composition and be interesting
- Groups of animals can be just as interesting as headshots. Look for groups such as a pride of lions; a herd of buffalo, gazelle, or zebra; or a flock of birds