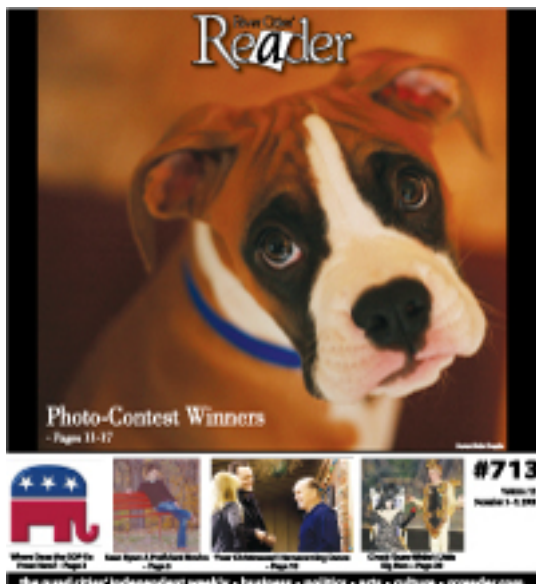


Winners of the River Cities' Reader Fall 2008 Photo Contest

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For our fall photo contest, we made your job easier, and ours harder.

We asked for photographs of babies and pets for this year's contest, and we received 166 entries.

The volume of photographs was challenging enough. But the subject matter made our decisions all the more difficult. Who could possibly vote to ax that adorable little tyke? (Well,

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aside from mean ol' Jeff Ignatius)

It must be noted that the cuteness of the photo subject did not factor into our judging. If you entered and are not among the winners, rest assured: Your child, dog, cat, snake, or monkey is absolutely precious.

But that alone wasn't enough. We were looking instead for strong composition, emphasis on telling detail, appropriate and/or interesting lighting, and above all expressiveness. All of these photographs share one thing: They distill and reveal character and personality.



A selection of the 13 winners can be found in these pages. All the winning photos can be found at RCReader.com.

We decided not to award first, second, and third prizes or honorable mentions with this contest. Seriously: They're kids and pets; who can choose a favorite?

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(Cover photo by Susan Mohr Krupke)



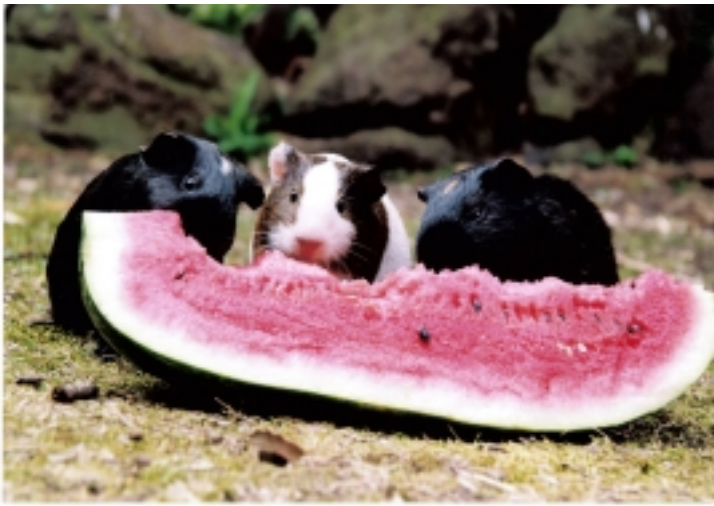
Teresa Ousley

I shot this photograph of newborn Preston Tennant - son of Aaron and Erin Tennant of Orion, Illinois. Preston was born six weeks premature and was photographed on his actual due date.

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Suzanne Kiss von Soly

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They were my guinea pigs Oakey, Doakey, and Piglet (in middle) - dad, mum, and baby - who lived to old ages and loved eating watermelon in the summertime.

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Brandy Remsey of this year. Using just a disposable camera in a dark room. Imhotep



Melissa Ware

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Time on a dog's face is a beautiful, calm state of love. This dog is a great example of a dog's love.



Clouds in the sky are a beautiful sight. This is a beautiful sight of a baby in a pile of leaves.



A cat's face is a beautiful sight. This is a beautiful sight of a cat's face.

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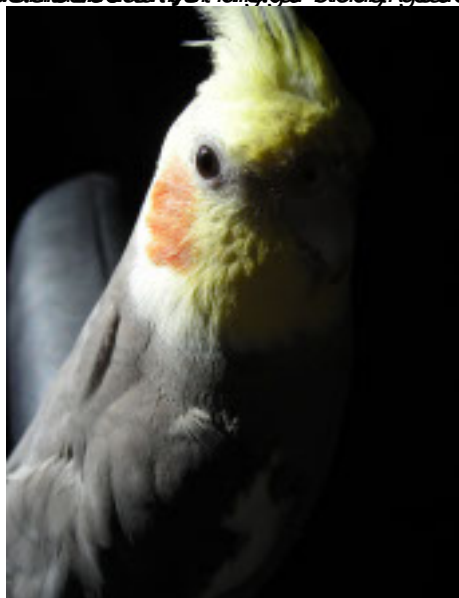
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Stanley Shaffer As a kid dip in the pool, he shows us his muscles in his own cool way: He flaps



Timothy Harty Not digital code, Kodak era. The light (Ashya) was captured with a slow shutter, no flash



Andreas says says picture is a bit overexposed with a bit too lighting. The subject, my male cockatiel

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Tiffanie Weaver



Tony Logan