

Learn How to Draw Step-by-Step MULTIMEDIA Course

By Paul Wagner, Art Training International

Lesson 11 How to Draw Animals

So here we begin a slightly more complicated road, but also more rewarding.

Animals, like flowers, have personality...MUCH more personality (well, obviously). And this is why controlling your line is going to be more important to capture that personality. But not to worry, if you can't capture the personality, just keep practicing.

All of the techniques, tools, tips, and tricks you've learned up to now all are to be used together. And I will use these during the video.

It's simple to find animals to draw. If you have a cat or a dog, try drawing them while they're asleep. (Yes, this time you can leave your post, at least for a little bit, of your stool and easel and grab a drawing notebook and position yourself comfortably near your pet).

Or you can go to the zoo and take pictures.

Or, if you don't have a zoo nearby, go to your computer and Google and type in "funny animals" then click on Images. There's a hilarious number of animals to draw and practice. In fact, here's just 2 that you can download and try.



www.how-to-draw-online.com/downloads/SuperSquirrel.pdf



www.how-to-draw-online.com/downloads/JerryfromAA.pdf

If you are still uncomfortable with your proportions, choose an animal shot that is not disproportionate—like a horse with long legs. Try more compact animals like a cat curled up or a dog looking up (I'll be doing that one in the video).

Also try and find animals whose lines are well-defined or easily discernable. Avoid pictures that show animals too contorted or simply too alien—people should be able to relate to your drawing, and don't stretch your abilities too far just yet. Thus, these examples, although funny, may just not work out in the end.



Just Strange Proportions hard Foreshortening Critical lines

Also, use animals whose background can help you see proportions better.

Looking at the basics.

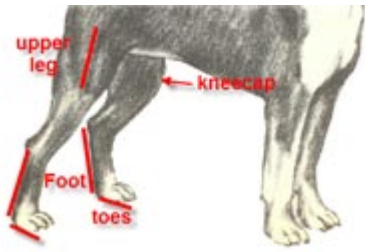
Head

One of the most obvious and simple elements to notice about animals is that most of them have a snout instead of a nose. So when you are doing their head (like a closeup), notice that there's likely some obvious shapes to use for Secondary Shapes or Detail Shapes, for example—circle for the head, rounded cone for the snout, and triangles for the ears, or whatever else fits.

Legs

Most 4-legged animals have evolved into standing on their toes, and the foot looks like part of the leg, but it's still a foot. So don't be fooled by this anatomy—the kneecap is higher and closer to the body, and the foot almost looks like the lower leg. If you keep that in mind while you draw a dog or a cat you won't get caught up in trying to draw the legs like ours and your results will be more accurate. See example below.

The Dog's hindquarters—Note the shape is different from people.



www.how-to-draw-online.com/downloads/BoxerDrawing.pdf

Fur

Use the side of your pencil in repeating strokes to get the effect of fur. Make the lines darker in the more shadowed areas.

Also, the darker the fur, the more lines you'll need to use.

Overall proportion

Try to draw “compact” animals as I said before, like the curled up cat. I'm sure your remember when we did the bigger object compared to the smaller objects in Lesson 5 (the teapot, creamer, sugar and tea holder). What that means is avoid drawing things like flamingos, ostriches or giraffes!

Secondary shapes become VERY important (but easier) here because there are just so many points you can relate (more during the video).

If you can't get “cute”, then just slow down and work for “proportionate”. With practice you'll get it. If you DO get to “cute” right away, then congratulations, keep up the good work.

In the video, we're going to draw a picture of this little Jack Russell pooch. So go ahead, and download and print.



Download & Print www.how-to-draw-online.com/downloads/L11Doggy.pdf

We will begin of course with the One Big Shape, moving to the important secondary shapes and then the detail. We'll find the midpoint and use detailed shapes. This is a good exercise for relating so we'll REALLY focus on that now. The most difficult part is going to be keeping his head raised to the correct angle upward, but I'll be showing you a new trick for that.

Finally:

I'll admit: I prefer drawing dogs over cats. Probably because I relate the old saying:

Dogs have owners, cats have staff.

And this bumper sticker I saw once wraps up the canine philosophy we can all use:

Bark less. Wag more.

Now, let's get going.

[Watch the video here.](#)

To the creative artist within you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'P'.

Paul Wagner
Art Training International
www.how-to-draw-online.com