



A gerbil being held as part of Erin Thames' 100-day photo project.



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# 100 days in the life of a pet photographer in Fort Collins

**ERIN UDELL**  
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Plunked into a small white coffee cup, her tiny left paw jutting out both awkwardly and adorably, Clover the hedgehog looked right into Erin Thames' camera lens for the perfect shot.

"She was not super happy with the shoot," Thames said with a laugh, talking about one of the more unique critters she snapped for part of a 100-day photo project she participated in.

The Fort Collins photographer had never seen a hedgehog outside of a cage before and didn't know about the complexities of handling one, comparing Clover's cute, but prickly little body to a porcupine. But since dedicating herself to photographing or editing photos of animals at least once a day, every day, for the past three months, handling an unlikely animal is just another day at the office.

It all started when a group Thames is a part of, the Denver Photo Betties, posed the



ERIN THAMES/ERIN THAMES PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTOS

Erin Thames' corgi mix, Dez, at Horsetooth Reservoir.

challenge of a 100-day photo project where a photographer spends at least 10 minutes a day, every day for 100 days, working on anything they want to.

Thames hopped aboard and chose a theme: animals.

"I'm super passionate about animals, they're my favorite thing," she said, adding that since opening Erin Thames Photography in

2009, she's shot weddings, engagements and headshots, but found her true passion in pet photography.

So she put out the call to friends on Facebook, looking for subjects to fulfill her daily quota.

"Within a day, I had 75 people respond," she said. From there, she made a spread-

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