

Celebrating Animals



There was no particular reason for me to visit Santa Cruz that day—just to go walking and enjoy the beach. It was August and cold. I'd only been in the U.S. for a couple of months, and I couldn't believe my luck when I spotted the sea lions lounging in the sun on a platform near the boardwalk. They kind of looked like they were arguing with each other—making noise, pushing each other to the side, and moving around, like maybe they were positioning for the best spot. They are beautiful and not the kind of animal you see all the time. I love photographing nature, so I took some shots.

I remember my very first camera in Iran where I grew up. I was

only 7. It was an old automatic that used film. My father and I would travel to northern Iran's wilderness by the Caspian Sea, and I took the camera everywhere. Five years ago, I bought a digital camera that's never far from my side.

I believe nature photographers are hunters of moments that we may never see again. With a mix of great opportunity and a little patience, you can make beautiful pictures from amazing creatures. What makes Santa Cruz and this photo special to me is when I see humans sharing nature with animals and letting them have their own protected area. It makes me proud to be part of this society.

— *Houman Mobasher, Fremont, California*

YOUR BEST SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals*, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it's meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humanesociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to *All Animals—Your Best Shot*, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)