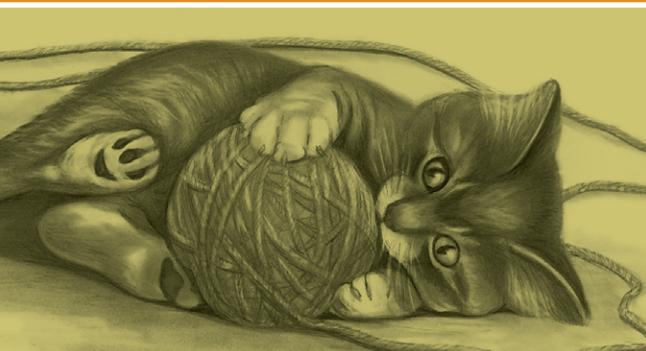
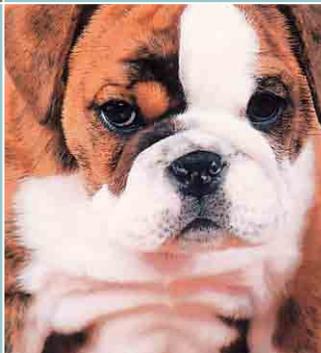


# How to Draw Animals:

## Facial Features of Pets



An excerpt from Lee Hammond's "Drawing Realistic Pets From Photographs"



# 3

## Facial Features

Animals have personalities just like people do, and their emotions can be clearly seen through their expressions. Since our pets cannot talk, they communicate with us through their faces and body language.

The eyes of an animal give life to your artwork when they are drawn well. As with people, the personality and soul are conveyed through the eyes, and they will be one of the most important aspects of any portrait you draw. In this chapter you'll also learn how to draw a variety of other facial features—nose, mouth and ears—to complete your pets' unique expressions.



### *Those Puppy Dog Eyes*

This is my newest family member, Misty. She is a very big girl, being a Great Pyrenees mix. Even though she is big, she is still a puppy, which I think comes across in this drawing. You can see the youthful innocence in her eyes, and the pose represents a baby that has clearly worn herself out playing.

#### **MISTY**

11" x 14" (28cm x 36cm)

# The Many Moods of Animals

They may not be able to say exactly what's on their minds, but, just like humans, animals can say quite a bit with a facial expression. Some animals, such as the basset hound, have very overt expressions, while other animals, like the rabbit, are more subtle. Conveying the moods of your pets will require that you understand what it is about their features that is "giving away" their mood.



## ***The Eyes Have It***

Basset hounds are known for their expressive eyes, long faces, short legs and floppy ears. In this drawing, it looks like this little pooch is apologizing for something. Her eyes appear sad and humble. This type of emotion is essential to convey in good pet portraiture.

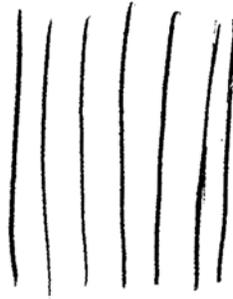


## ***A Subtlety Tells It All***

Rabbits don't have the wide range of facial expressions that a dog or cat would have. They are mostly known for their wiggly noses. However, when they eat, they cutely turn their mouths to the side. This drawing captures that angle and reveals a soft, gentle personality. Look for subtleties like this when you draw.

# Drawing Fur

Let's begin by learning how to draw the fur that will surround the features. You can make it look real by using shading and blending then adding pencil strokes to mimic the look of the fur. The lines you create with the pencil must be consistent with the length and direction of the hair. To try to make long fur with short pencil lines will not work.



## **What Not to Do**

These lines are too hard and too straight. To draw hair or fur, you *must* use a quick stroke, one that becomes lighter and tapered on the end.



## **Correct Lines**

This is what tapered lines look like. When you flick your wrist as you draw, the lines will soften at the end. Also, there is a slight curve to them, which also makes them look softer.



## **For Long Hair**

Apply quick strokes, always going in the same direction as the hair is growing. Keep applying until it "fills" and becomes the color you want. Notice how some of the hairs start to overlap one another.



## **Blend**

Blend it all out, still following the direction of the hair growth.



## **Lift Out Lighter Strands**

With a kneaded eraser molded into a point, lift out some lighter hairs. This is what makes the hair look like it is in layers and has fullness.



## **For Short Hair**

Short hair is done the same way, only with shorter strokes. A quick stroke with the pencil is essential.



## **For Light, Smooth Fur**

For the type of fur that you might find on a light, shorthaired animal such as a yellow Labrador retriever, you will draw mostly with a dirty tortillon instead of a pencil. The look of individual hairs is not as visible. Again, lift out the lighter hairs with a kneaded eraser.



## **BUILD LAYER BY LAYER**

When the hair or fur doesn't look right, it's usually because you stopped before you were really finished. Devote the proper time to the rendering of hair—it *must* be built up in layers, and it may take many!



### ***Let Dark Shading Create Light Edges***

This kitty has a surprised look, with its wide-open eyes and mouth. You can almost hear it meow! Because this is a white cat, it was drawn with shading instead of hard outlines, which would look cartoonish. Dark shading around the cat's light-haired head and body creates soft edges, making it look much more realistic. The light areas were then lifted out of the shading on the cat's fur.

### **BLEND, EVEN FOR WHITE**

Regardless of the type and color of fur you are drawing, it is important to blend everything to remove the harsh, unnatural white of the paper. Even white fur is never pure white. By creating a blended tone, you can then lift out the light areas with a kneaded eraser. Consider this as drawing in reverse. You are not really erasing; lifting out is actually the process of "adding" light tones. The kneaded eraser is just another form of drawing tool.

### ***For Short Fur, or None at All***

These two friends look like they should be ironed! They are examples of extremely short fur, or no fur at all. In a case like this, concentrate on rendering the wrinkles instead. If you look closely at the wrinkles on the shar-pei and the sphynx, you will see the five elements of shading in each roll. Treat these areas as individual cylinders as you draw them.



# Drawing the Face of a Cat

By drawing a close-up of an animal, you become familiar with the characteristics of its species and particular breed. Most cats' features will look similar even among the different breeds. An exception to this would be a Persian, whose flat face changes the way the features look. Try to memorize the generalities of the facial features of different animals so you know what to look for when you draw. You will then recognize the shapes that are repeated and always seen.

This is a simple head-and-shoulders study of my cat Mindy. It is the finished drawing created from the photo on page 20 in chapter two. Mindy is a small kitty with huge eyes. She

seeks complete eye contact with people at all times. Because of that, she is the perfect subject to practice on for drawing cat features.

The following pages will show you how to create Mindy's facial features step by step. Take the line drawing you created and carefully remove the grid lines with your kneaded eraser, leaving just the line drawing of the cat. Then work your way around Mindy's face, concentrating on one feature at a time.

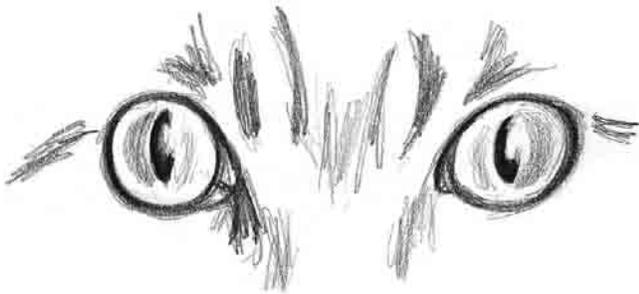


## Cat Eyes

I always start any type of portraiture, whether it is a person or an animal, with the eyes. The eyes typically capture the personality and expression of the subject. If the eyes are not done well, your drawing will be off the mark.

### CORRECTING RED-EYE

When drawing pet portraits from photos, you will often encounter red-eye. Animal eyes are extremely reflective, and the glare of the camera flash can cause the lens of the eye to glow red in the pictures. To remedy this problem in your artwork, make the pupil totally black. Then use the “half in the pupil, half in the iris” placement for the catchlights in your drawing.



### 1 Check the Line Drawing

Make sure the line drawing is accurate. Be sure that the pupils are centered within each eye. A cat's pupils will change according to the light. In low light, the pupils look round. In strong light, they nearly close and become slits. These pupils are somewhere in between.

### 2 Darken the Pupils and Place the Catchlights

Darken the outlines of the eyes. Add some tone to the iris (or colored part) of the eye, and fill in the pupil as black as you can. Leave a thin area of light around the pupil. Because the pupil is actually a “hole,” not a black dot of pigment, the edges of the pupil will reflect light around it. Also leave an area for the *catchlight*—the reflection of the camera's flash or a surrounding light source. It should generally be located in the same area for both eyes, and it is always placed half in the pupil and half in the iris. Start placing some of the fur markings around the eyes.

### 3 Blend and Lift Out

Using your tortillon, gently soften the tones inside the eyes. The smooth tones will make the eyes look shiny. With a kneaded eraser, lift out the catchlights some more. Lifting out light makes it look more natural and reflective. With the tortillon, soften the fur markings and reduce the white of the paper. Replicate the short fur with short, quick strokes of your pencil.

## Cat Nose and Mouth

Once the eyes are complete, you can continue the drawing by moving on to the nose and mouth.

### QUICK LIFTS FOR THIN WHISKERS

The quicker the strokes you use to lift out the tone with your pointed kneaded eraser, the thinner the whiskers will be. Don't get frustrated with this process if you seem to lift out too much; it takes practice. If a whisker seems too thick, just add tone on either side of it and blend to narrow it.



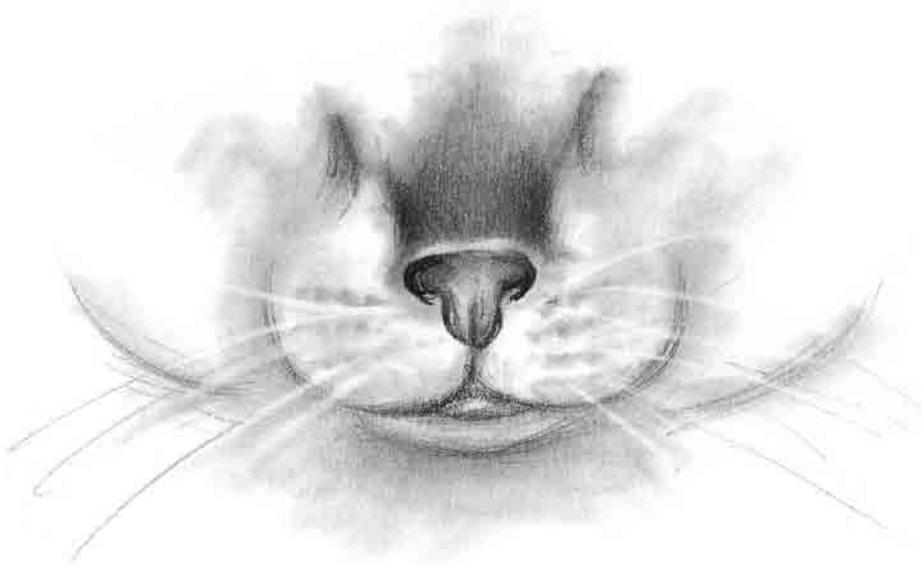
#### 1 Check the Line Drawing

Check your line drawing and make sure that the outlines of the nose and mouth area are drawn accurately.



#### 2 Add Tone and Whisker Marks

Add some tone to the nose and to the area above the nose. Leave a little light edge between the two. Add the little marks on the face where the whiskers grow.



#### 3 Blend and Add the Whiskers

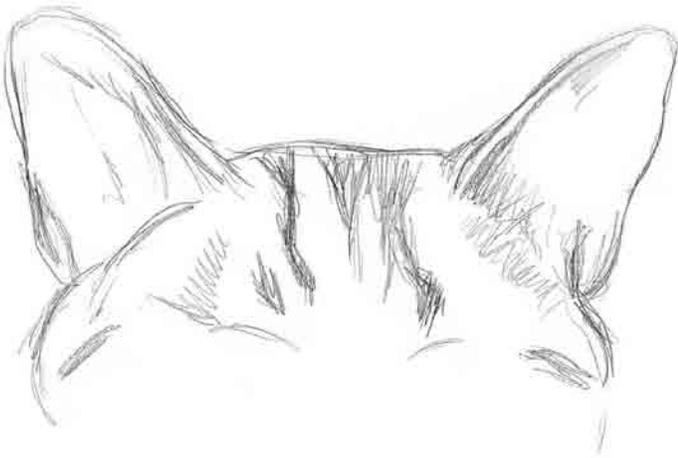
Blend the nose and surrounding areas with a tortillon. The shading is what makes the mouth area stand out. With your kneaded eraser formed into a sharp point, quickly lift out thin lines for the parts of the white whiskers that overlap the face.

## Cat Ears

Now it is time to add the top of the head and the ears. A cat's ear is fairly simple; it looks like a triangle with hair coming out of it.

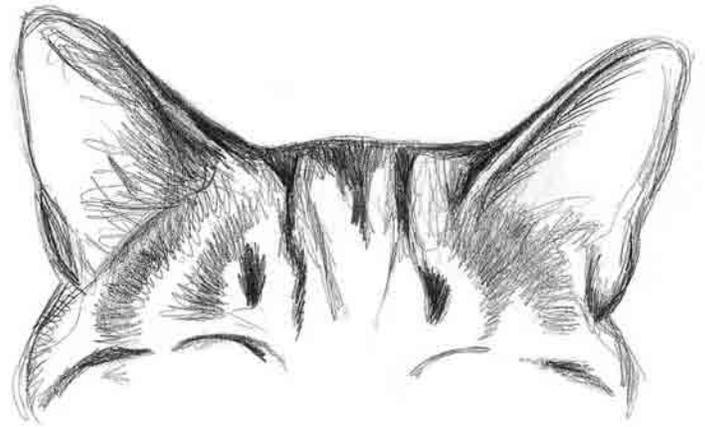
### TO FINISH THE CAT

To totally finish the drawing shown on page 26, add some shading behind the cat to create the illusion of a background. Create the back and chest, following the finished example. Always apply the pencil lines consistently with the direction the hair and fur grows. Then blend it with a tortillion. You can actually draw with a dirty tortillion in soft areas such as the background and chest area. This reduces the look of pencil lines and gives a much smoother impression.



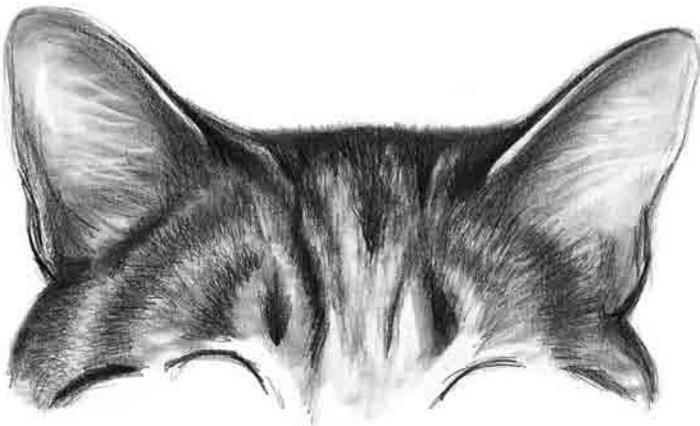
#### 1 Check the Line Drawing

Check your line drawing for accuracy in the shapes. Make sure you have drawn the edge of the inner ear, which indicates the ear's thickness. Without it, the ear would look as thin as a piece of paper.



#### 2 Pencil the Fur

Pencil short strokes to represent the markings and texture of the fur. Follow the length and direction of the fur's growth. The length of your lines should represent the length of the fur. Extend some longer strokes into the ears.



#### 3 Blend the Tones and Reapply Textures

Smoothly blend the tones with a tortillion. Reapply quick pencil lines to strengthen the darkness and texture of the fur. Pay attention to the patterns of the fur. To create some small light hairs, use a quick flick with a pointed kneaded eraser.

# Drawing the Face of a Dog

We will complete this drawing the same way we did the cat, tackling one feature at a time. Carefully study each of the facial features and memorize their characteristics as you go. Despite varying breeds, the overall structures will be similar, even if the size changes.

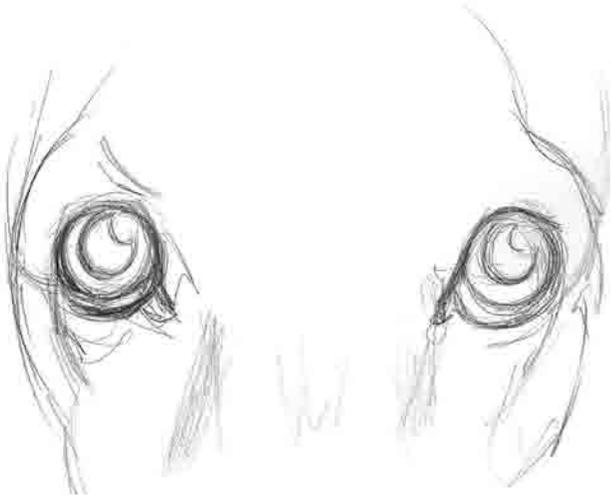
The personality of this dog is clearly coming through in this drawing. You can tell that Milo was a very gentle dog just by the way he looked at people. (Unfortunately, Milo was

hit by a car and passed away.) Using your kneaded eraser, carefully remove the grid lines from the line drawing you created. Be sure not to accidentally erase any of your line drawing.



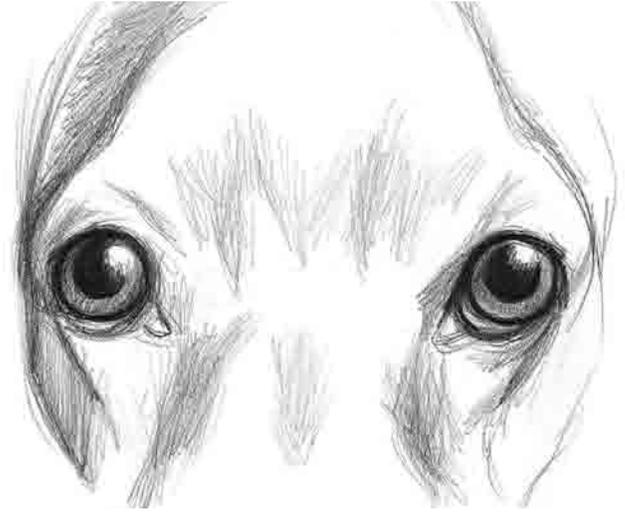
## Dog Eyes

As you render the eyes, realize that, unlike a cat's, the pupils of a dog will always be round. Their shape is not altered by extreme light.



### 1 Check the Line Drawing

Check your line drawing for accuracy. Make sure the pupil is in the center of each iris. Also be sure to place the catchlights half in the pupil and half in the iris. The eyes of this dog have a little bit of white showing below the iris. Don't accidentally fill that in.



### 2 Start Adding Tone

To correct the red-eye from the camera flash, fill in the pupils as black as you can, leaving the catchlights. Add tone to the iris to create the illusion of a brown eye. Also add some tone to the area between the eyes and along the sides of the muzzle and the head. These tones define the shape and contour of the dog's face.



### 3 Blend the Tones

With the tortillion, smoothly blend the tones. Lift out the catchlights to make the eyes appear shiny and wet.

## Dog Nose and Mouth

Let's continue the drawing of Milo by adding the nose and mouth. What you learn from this exercise will be repeated in other dog drawings you encounter later. Study the shape of the nose in particular. Look at the way the top of the nose curves down into the nostril area. Compare it to the nose of the cat. The cat's nose is much flatter, while the nose of a dog

often protrudes. With both dogs and cats, there is a definite separation that creases and divides the nose down the middle.

Much like other species, there will be anatomical variations according to the breed.



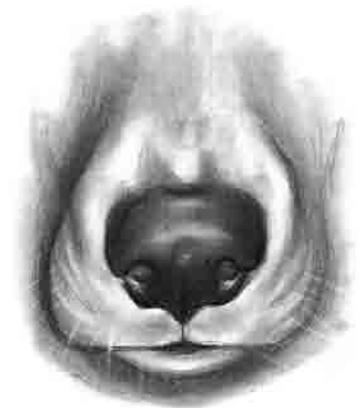
### 1 Check the Line Drawing

Make sure your line drawing is accurate. Do not place any tone until you are happy with the overall outline.



### 2 Fill In the Darkest Areas

Pencil the darkest areas first; in this instance, the bottom and sides of the nose. Leave a highlight area on the tip of the nose. This is what will make the nose look moist and reflective.



### 3 Blend and Lift Out

Smoothly blend the tones. Make sure the dark areas of the nose remain very dark by reapplying the tones. Apply more tone to the areas on each side of the muzzle and blend. Contrast is very important when depicting form. Can you see how the darks seem to make the muzzle protrude and look three-dimensional?

With a kneaded eraser, lift out the light whiskers and the spots where they originate.

## Dog Ears

To complete the drawing of Milo, we need to add his long, silky ears.

### TO FINISH THE DOG

To totally finish the drawing shown on page 30, develop the blending in the neck and chest area. Let it fade out at the bottom so the edge doesn't appear harsh. This is a very good example of a simple head-and-shoulders portrait of a dog.



#### 1 Check the Line Drawing

Check your line drawing for accuracy. It should describe the outside edges of the ears and the layers and direction of the long hair.



#### 2 Add Long, Layered Strokes

With long strokes that represent the length of the hair, add pencil lines in layers. Follow the direction in which the hair is growing, and curve the lines to help create the gentle waves.



#### 3 Build the Layers

It takes many layers to accurately depict the fullness of hair. Don't stop too soon. Once the layers have been built up, blend them to remove the white of the paper. Otherwise the paper will show through. This will make the hair look thin, like you are seeing through to the background.

Once the areas have been blended, add more dark pencil layers. With a kneaded eraser, lift out the highlights in the hair.

# Other Furry Faces

The facial features of other furry pets are very different from those of cats and dogs. Compare the following illustrations of guinea pigs and rabbits. As you can see, they are very similar in their anatomical structure and shape. It is obvious that they are genetically related.

Close observation also reveals how much their eyes, noses and mouths resemble one another. The main difference is in the ears. But, you can see from my drawings that not every rabbit is the same. Each of the bunnies has a different type of ear.

## GRAB YOUR PENCIL!

Should you want to try drawing the cute little creatures on these pages, you can use one of two techniques. If you have good free-hand skills, lightly sketch their basic shapes on your drawing paper and develop them from there. If you want to graph them out and work only on isolated areas at a time, make a grid of one-inch (3cm) squares on acetate with a permanent marker and use it as an overlay. Or, you can draw your grid on regular paper and have a photocopy store print it for you on acetate.



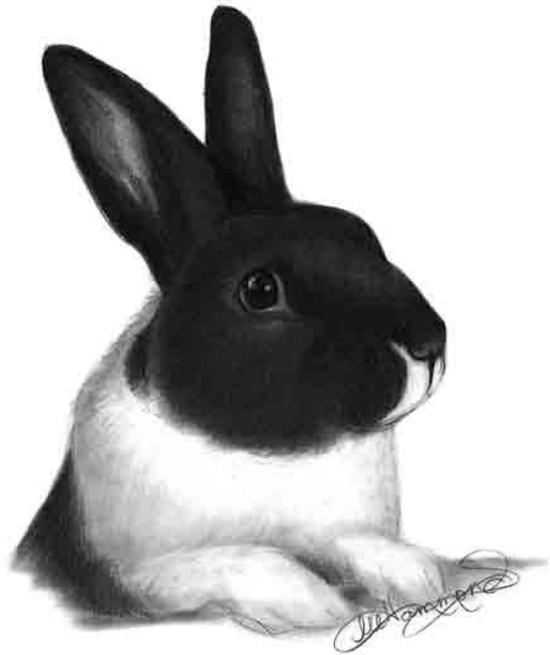
### ***Guinea Pig Characteristics***

Because a rodent's face is smaller, its nose and mouth are not as distinct as that of a dog or cat, and its small, dark eyes look like dots. It is harder to differentiate between the pupil and the iris in a rodent's eye.



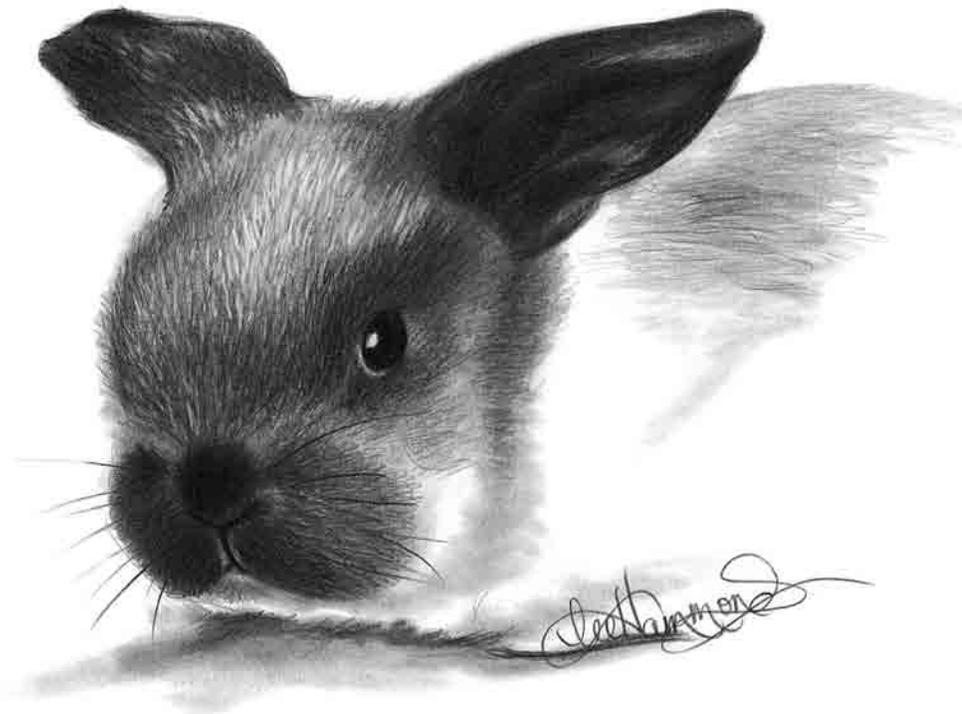
***The Guinea Pig's Close Cousin***

This rabbit closely resembles the guinea pigs. The faces are very similar, and their eyes are very much the same. If you look at only the face and ignore the ears, they are almost identical. This rabbit is called a "lop ear" because the ears hang down along its face.



***Standard Bunny Ears***

This rabbit has the ears we all recognize: They stand straight up. Aside from that, this bunny looks a lot like the guinea pig as well.



***A Different Kind of Rabbit***

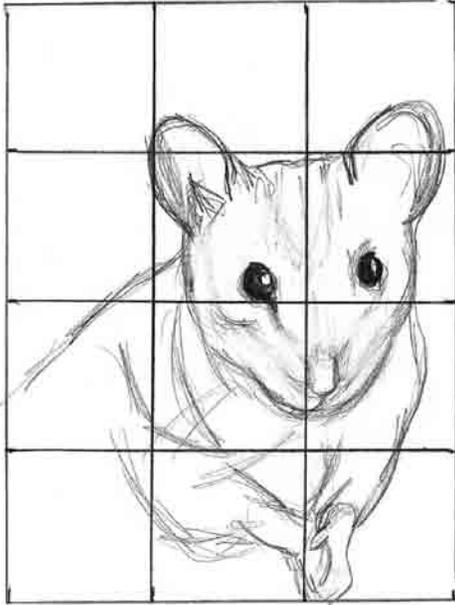
This rabbit has a flat face, which differentiates it from the others. Its features vary from other rabbits in the same way the Persian, who also has flat features, differs from the other various breeds of cat.

## Mouse Face

I have had mice and rats as pets for as long as I can remember. I think this is the first time in my life that I haven't had a rodent in my household. I love their little faces and delicate features.

To draw this mouse, which came from a magazine refer-

ence, we'll use the same techniques as in the previous exercises. Always begin with an accurate line drawing, and then continue with the addition of pencil lines for texture, blended tones, and, lastly, lifted-out light.



### 1 Make a Line Drawing

Re-create this line drawing, then remove the grid lines. Start filling in the eyes, reserving two tiny spots for the catchlights.



### 2 Fill In the Eyes and Start the Fur

Continue filling in the eyes until they are extremely dark. The catchlights will make them shine. Start applying the tones and textures of the fur, following the direction of growth.



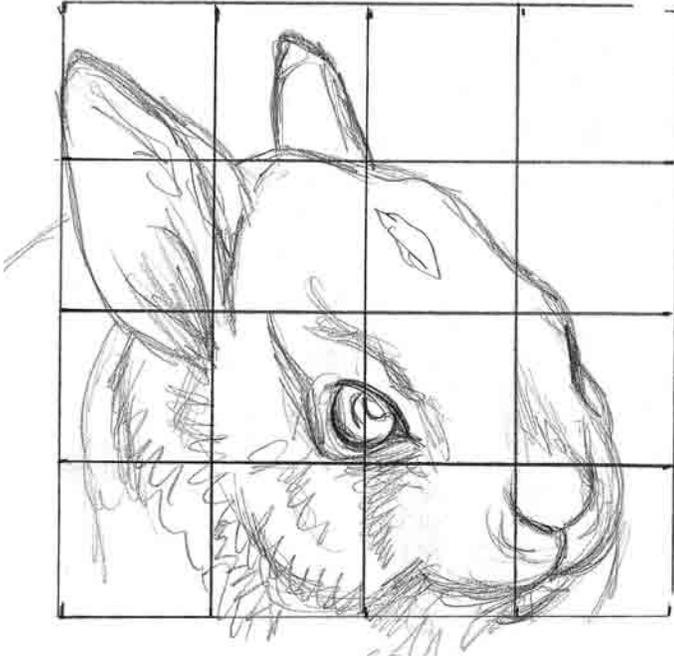
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### Blend and Finish the Details

Blend the drawing with your tortillion, and reapply the pencil to create texture and contrast. When you blend, the catchlights of the eyes should receive very little tone. You want them to contrast the blackness surrounding the catchlights, giving the eyes form. Lift out the highlights and light hairs with a kneaded eraser. Add the whiskers with quick, tapered pencil strokes.

## Rabbit Face

Now let's draw this young bunny's face, also based on a magazine photo.



### 1 Make a Line Drawing

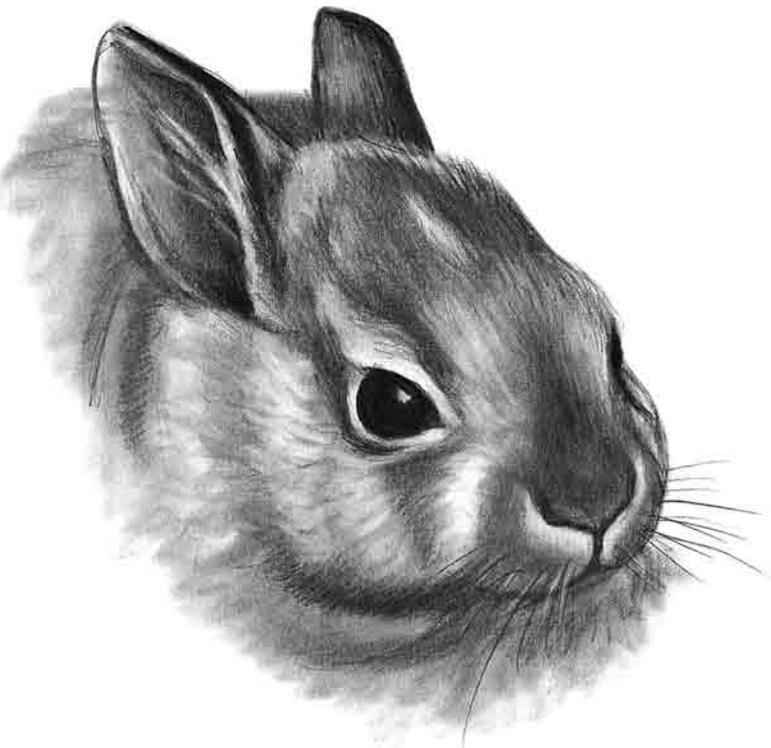
Re-create this line drawing, then remove the grid lines.



### 2 Add the Darkest Tones

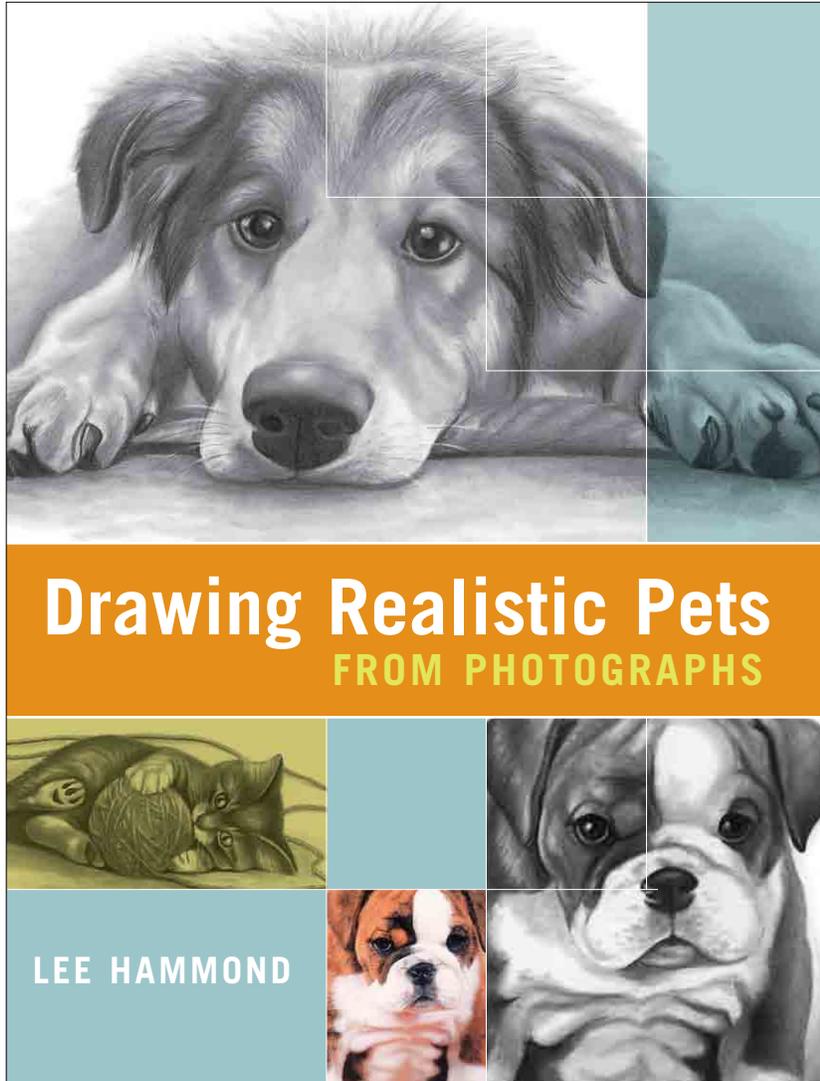
Fill in the eyes first. Even though the eye is so dark you cannot easily see an iris, put one in anyway. Although it is barely visible, it keeps the eye from just looking like a black spot. Include a catchlight half in the pupil and half in the iris.

Continue adding tone to the darkest areas of the face, following the direction of the fur and making the pencil lines the length of the fur.



### 3 Blend and Reapply Darks

Blend the tones with your tortillon. Reapply the darks in the fur with quick lines to increase the contrast and intensify the texture. Lift out the highlights and light hairs with a kneaded eraser. Apply the whiskers with quick, tapered pencil strokes.



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