

Making the best of your photo for a pet's portrait

Having a playful photo of a cherished pet is a lovely thing to have. But to make the most of the photo for your pet portrait, there are a few basic things to consider.



Lighting

Natural light is best. Try to avoid strong shadows as this can hide detail from your animal and create a difficult subject to draw from. To create a good likeness, I need to be able to see the animal's detail.

Have your pet facing the light source, preferably a bright overcast day, that way the light is reflected in their eyes and it brings their face alive. It also gives detail to their fur, skin and features and allows me to capture a good likeness.



Approach the subject

You are normally going to be a lot taller than your pet, so when using a camera, to get a great likeness, get the camera lens down to their eye level. Do not go too close, usually being about three to four feet away (0.9 -1.2metres) is best. Do not use zoom as this tends to distort

features. Being too far away means all detail is lost. Ensure you have the animal in focus, at least the eyes and mouth.



Positioning your pet

Positioning is not majorly important, so long as the pet is clear and in focus, then the background can be ignored. If you have a specific background that you require, then please supply a photograph of that under similar lighting conditions and from the same height as the animal, unless the animal is already in front of that background.

Please remember that what you send is what will be drawn, to a degree. I can recreate a bit of missing paw, or a partial ear"ectomy" but if you send photo of the animal laying down and want it sitting, then this is not going to be possible at standard portrait costs.



Using phone features

Please do not use portrait mode or any special functions, particularly on phone cameras. Whilst they create a pleasing photograph, they can cause problems for the artist when looking for detail and getting the shape of your animal correct. Please ensure your photo is sent as the original file size, this means I can zoom in and out as I need to and can capture the detail I need to create a great likeness.



A straight on head shot can alter perspective and create a flat pose, whereas having a slight tilt to the head can give a pleasing composition. Don't worry if your favourite photo is slightly blurred, if that is the image you like, please supply another clear shot and I can make that work for your portrait.

Commemorating a lost friend

If you are paying tribute to a lost pet, then please discuss your requirements with me as all of the above may not be possible and I would like to be able to help you commemorate your pet.