

Tips for Taking or Sourcing Photos

As someone who has recently been looking for suitable photos of two of my cats for memorial portraits I now realise how difficult it is to find the “right” photo!

However (and I can’t stress this enough), the higher the resolution, the more detail will be captured, resulting in a better portrait. I can only draw what I can see and although I have worked from low resolution photos (ie, screenshots from social media) the outcome is likely to be better with a good quality photo.

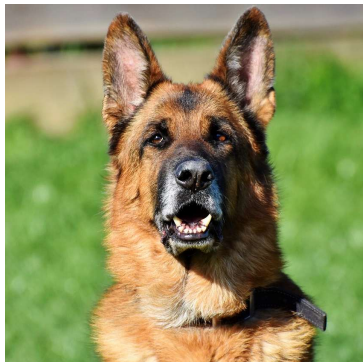
Please feel free to send me as many photos as you like. Email is the best way as photos sent by WhatsApp / text / Messenger etc are compressed, resulting in lower resolution. Please also bear this in mind if someone is sending you the photo to send on to me.

Whilst these tips are specific to taking photos of your pet, I hope they will help in selecting photos where the portrait is to be a memorial portrait.

Lighting

If possible, please try and take photos in natural light on a bright, overcast day (bright sunlight can result in strong shadows). Please check that the photos accurately reflect the colour of your pet’s coat.

I often work from multiple photos so I’m more than happy to be sent as many photos as you would like to send!



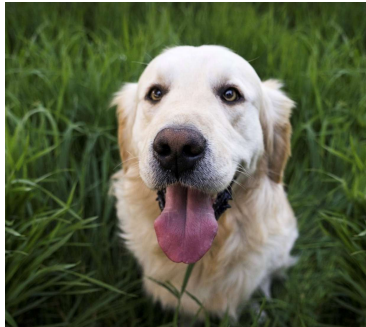
This photo has shadows on one side of the face and the sun is catching his left eye making it look a different colour.



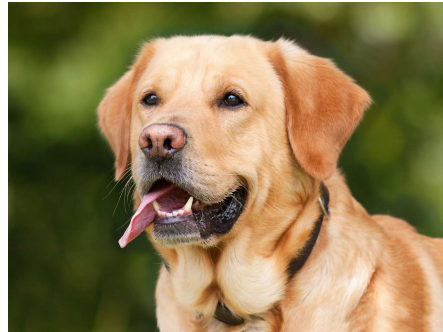
This is a better photo with even light and a lovely reflection in the eyes.

Pose

Your pet doesn't need to be facing the camera, but photos taken at eye level work best. If possible, try and get a good photo of the eyes - they're my favourite part to draw and are so important in capturing your pet's personality! A photo looking down on an animal's face can distort the features. If you can, please try and capture a photo which captures the unique personality of your pet.



Looking down at this dog makes the nose look bigger than it probably is in reality.



Although this dog isn't looking at the camera, it has been taken on the same level and you can see the reflection in its eyes.

Proximity

If possible, please try and get as close to your pet as possible (tricky with cats I know!) – photos taken further away will result in a less detailed portrait.



I'm happy to help you choose a photo, please let me know if you would like me to help you do this.

Background

When considering your choice of photo please bear in mind that I will remove the background and that a photo which looks perfect may not make complete sense once the background has been removed.



Equally, there are some images where adding a little of the background would make sense:



If I'm drawing a complete background there may be an additional charge and I will let you know before you go ahead if this is the case.

Permission

If you didn't take the photo yourself, please ensure you have written permission from the photographer to allow me to use it as a reference photo (this is especially important if you have bought the photo following an event for example). Most photographers are happy to allow their photos to be used in this way and I will of course, credit the photographer. In sending the photo(s) to me I will assume you have the photographer's permission.

Please do ask if you have any queries, I'm more than happy to advise.

Further examples of suitable reference photos are on the next page.

(All photo references in this document are from Pixabay)



CAROL FRANCES
PET PORTRAIT & ANIMAL ARTIST

