

# Tips for a Successful Pet Portrait & What to Bring

Please review these tips to help you prepare and ensure the best outcome from your pet portrait experience – we want it to be fun and enjoyable for everyone, including your pet!

## 1. Grooming

Your pet is going to be the center of attention, so make sure they look their best! You can give them a bath before their photo, but it is not always necessary. Many pets look camera ready after they've been thoroughly brushed.

If your dog is regularly groomed, then it might be a good idea to get them a traditional, breed-specific cut before their photo. This will help their eyes, build, and features to be more visible in the image. However, if you don't love the drastic look of a short coat after your dog is groomed, then plan their haircut for a few days before. Remember to clean tear stains from under your pet's eyes, as well.

## 2. Accessories

Does your pet have a signature look? Have you ever used accessories like bows, bandannas, hats, etc. to make your pet look their absolute best?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, this is the perfect opportunity to choose and bring an accessory. This will help your pet stand out against all of the other pet portraits because they're truly unique to them.

## 3. Leashes & Collars

Because this portrait session will be in a public outdoor location, it's important to keep your pet's collars, leashes, and tags on. You'll want to be sure the collar and leash are ones you want them to be photographed in.

The same idea should be applied to your dog's harness. Make sure it's a harness you like and that it's positioned properly on the dog. No one wants to look back and wish that they had changed something about their pet's appearance, so make sure that every minor detail is just the way you like it!

## 4. Toys & Things

Having a pet's favorite squeaky toy, blanket, or worn-out stuffed animal can make or break a shot. If you need your pet to position themselves in a certain way or to get their attention, this is a great way to do it.

## **5. Exercise**

For energetic pets, it might be hard to find the right balance between being calm for the camera yet enthusiastic enough to show off their personality. This is why some exercise – giving them a good walk or play time before their photo – is a really good idea!

## **6. Treats**

Be sure to bring your pet's favorite treats, so that they will work extra hard for an amazing picture. Whipped cream "pup cups" will be offered free (one per pup) for a post-photo treat.

## **7. Practice Commands**

For pets that are trained to respond to commands, take some time to practice them in advance. Basic commands like sit and stay will make it faster and easier to get a great shot!

## **8. Prepare Yourself**

Animals often sense and reflect your energy. When you're happy, they're happy, when you're scared or anxious, they're also scared or anxious. This is why it's important to stay calm and confident during photography so that your pet will know that everything is okay. You don't want any of your nervousness or stress to translate into your pet's actions during the shoot.

## **9. Need-to-Knows**

When it's your turn, please let our professional pet photographer know if your pet has any anxieties or special needs that need to be taken into consideration.

Come prepared, relax, and enjoy this event! We look forward to taking a photo of your furry loved one that you will treasure forever.