

Top Tips: How to Photograph Your Pet for a Portrait

Capturing the perfect photo of your pet is the first step towards creating a beautiful portrait. Here are some simple tips to help you take the best possible reference images:

- Get on their level – crouch or sit so the camera is at your pet's eye height for a more natural, engaging angle.
- Good lighting is key – natural daylight works best, preferably soft light from a window or outdoors in the shade.
- Capture the eyes – the eyes are the soul of the portrait, so make sure they're sharp and well-lit.
- Avoid distractions – try to keep the background simple so your pet is the main focus of the photo.
- Take multiple shots – pets move quickly, so capture lots of photos to give more options later.
- Use treats or toys – these can help hold your pet's attention and bring out their personality.
- Capture different angles – front, side profiles, and close-ups of details like markings or fur patterns.
- Keep it natural – relaxed, candid moments often capture your pet's true character best.
- Ensure clarity – avoid blurry or pixelated photos, as these are harder to work from for a detailed portrait.
- Have patience – allow time for your pet to settle and don't rush the process.

Additional Tips for Equine Headshots

- Stand your horse in natural light – outdoors on an overcast day or with the sun behind you works best.
- Keep tack clean and simple – or remove it entirely if you want a natural headshot.
- Have a helper – someone to hold the horse and get their attention makes all the difference.
- Ears forward – use treats, a small noise, or something interesting in front of them to get that alert, classic look.
- Angle matters – photograph slightly from the side, not straight on, for a flattering profile.
- Background counts – avoid busy or distracting scenery so the horse remains the focus.
- Take close-ups – capture markings, eyes, and expressions for extra reference detail.

We also recognise that some of our beloved pets are sadly no longer with us. Vicky will always do her best to sensitively work with the photos you have, to create a portrait that honours their memory and spirit.

The more variety and clarity in the photos, the better the finished portrait will capture your pet's unique spirit.