

Carla Teller

PET PHOTO GUIDE

In order to render the most accurate portrait, high resolution digital images are preferred. The better the picture, the easier it will be to paint your pet. Some of my work involves beloved pets that are no longer with us, so do not despair if you are not confident about the quality of the pictures. I can work with what you have along with descriptions of your pet.

Here are some tips to remember if when taking photos of your pet:

ANGLES, LEVELS, AND DISTANCE

Always get down to your pet's eye level and photograph at a distance of about 3 to 6 feet. If they are too far I will not be able to see their eyes – which is important to capture their essence.



LIGHT

Soft light is ideal. You can accomplish this by taking the picture indoors near a window, at a spot where the light spreads evenly on your pet's coat. If you are taking the picture outdoors, an overcast day is best. Alternatively, you can have them sit in a shaded area - having the sun hit your pet's back or face directly will cause rough shadows or overexposed eyes.



(OVEREXPOSED EYES)



(ROUGH SHADOWS)



(UNEVEN LIGHT)



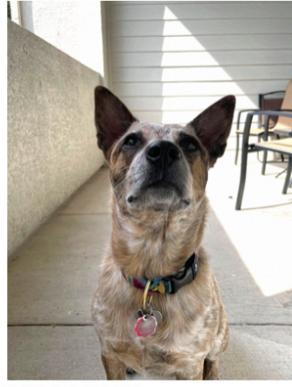
(EVEN LIGHT OUTDOORS)



(EVEN LIGHT INDOORS)

COMPOSITION

Take close up facial photographs with the face in sharp focus making sure your pet's head is all in frame. If you can get a few options of your pet looking in different directions, that is great.



Don't forget to consider the background, try to ensure it is of a contrasting color to your pet and that it is not too busy.

Finally, to capture your pet's character, they must be relaxed. Remember that when taking the pictures, because depending on their training a *treat* can help get them to stay still or get them riled up. In the end what matters is that their personality is properly portrayed – Are they a couch potato or excitable and full of energy?

Send as many pictures as you want, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask me!