

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

It is important to remember that if your reference photographs don't correctly portray the subject, then the Portrait won't either.

The more photographs of the subject we have to work from the better, three or four is ideal, we can paint a Portrait from only one photo, but this photo must be good and clear, and the larger the photos are the better.

You can email your pictures in .jpg or .tiff files, put them on a CD and post them, or post prints. If you send prints or a CD they will be returned with your Portrait. The minimum acceptable print size is 6" x 4".

Digital files should be sent at a minimum resolution of 200dpi. If you have a lot of photographs to email, it is helpful to send them in several batches as small emails. This will take less time. You can send larger digital images free of charge via <http://www.yousendit.com/>. Whether your Portrait is to be painted by Allyson or Anne the email address to send your images to is artworks@allysonwright.co.uk

Please remember that we are unable to 'make up' parts of a Portrait, so if the photo doesn't show the whole of the body, we will need one that does, or we will only be able to do a head Portrait.

The most important part of a Portrait is the face and especially the eyes. If the eyes aren't right, then your Portrait won't look realistic to you, so it is important that you send reference photographs clearly showing the eyes.

If you are taking photographs especially for your Portrait, please remember the following points: -

FOR PETS

Keep at eye level with your pet and get in close to fill the frame. If you are ordering a head study, concentrate purely on the head of your pet.

Take photographs outside if possible in natural daylight. Avoid mid day as the strong direct light creates harsh shadows. Stick to late afternoon or early mornings. Keep the light source either behind you, or to the right or left.

If you are having a Pet Portrait make sure you send photographs that correctly show your pet's coat colour. You can send additional photographs that have the correct coat colour if the main photograph is not correct.

If your pet has sadly passed away and you are unsure if your photographs are suitable, please send them to us to have a look at. We will always try to do our best for you.

OTHER HINTS AND TIPS

You need to take a photograph that is clear and up close (fill the view finder with your subject, not your house or garden!) make sure the photo shows the skin and hair colouring as it really

is, if the main photo doesn't show this then send one that does and tell us which one is the best for colour matching.

For group or family Portraits the photo you send needs to show everyone's face, they all need to be in focus, but they don't all need to be smiling!

LIGHTING

The best possible lighting is achieved outside or by a window. If you are outside avoid direct sunlight as this will make your subject squint and also you will have dark shadows on the face and the colouring will not be true. If the sun is out, place your subject in the shade, but stand with your back to the sun otherwise your camera will focus on the area with the sun and your subject will just be a shadow in the foreground, (i.e. have the light source behind you).

The best lighting is a bright but overcast day (not too heavy cloud so the light is still getting through). Even on an overcast day, make sure the light source is behind you. We can't see it with our eyes, but the camera does and if your subject has his or her back to the light there will still be shadows. Check where the sun would be if it were out and then stand with your back to it.

If you have to take your photo indoors, then choose a light room near the window and morning light is best, (your back to the window and your subject facing the window). Try to avoid using the flash, as this will cause a loss of detail in the face and possibly red eye in your photo as well.

POSITION

The best position of your subject is to have yourself at the same level of your subject, so they are neither looking up or down.

Have your subject look at a person or object next to you, as this pose is better than face-on or completely side view. A slight angle to the side is much better.

And finally remember to relax and have fun, if you relax your subject will too, and this will produce a more spontaneous and natural expression which will make for a better Portrait.