



HOLLY REYNOLDS

PET PORTRAIT HELP GUIDE

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HOLLYREYNOLDSPETPORTRAITS



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PHOTO GUIDE

Choosing good photo references for a pet portrait is one of the most important parts of the portrait process.

Photos don't need to be perfect and they absolutely don't need to be professionally taken! Use the following guide to help you take the best photos of your animal, or select the best photos from your collection.

If in doubt, send it over! The more photos I have available, the more options we potentially have to create the perfect portrait for you.

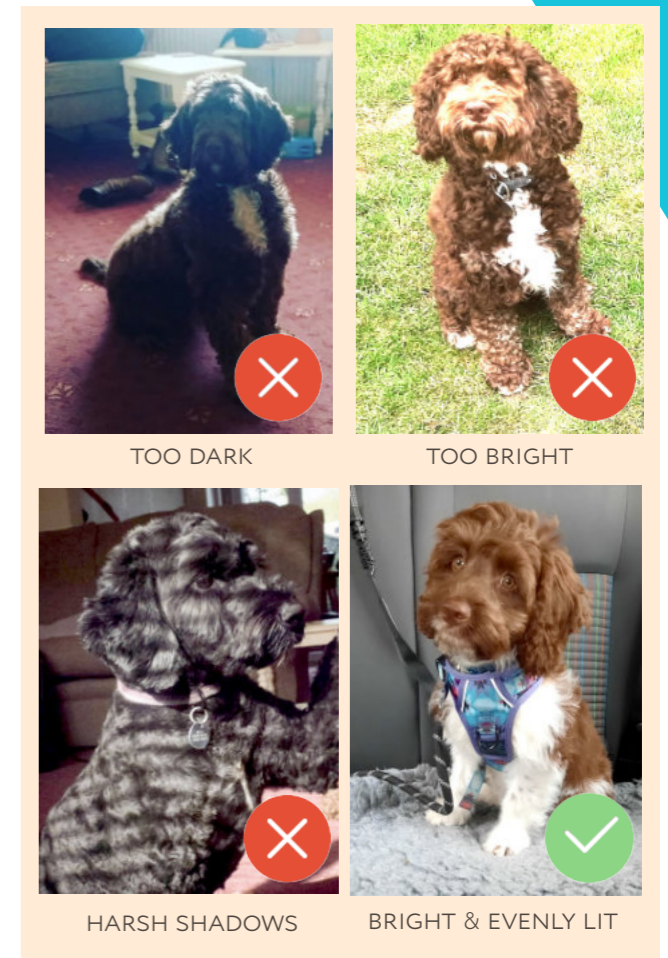
If you have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to get in contact at hollyreynoldsart@gmail.com

LIGHTING

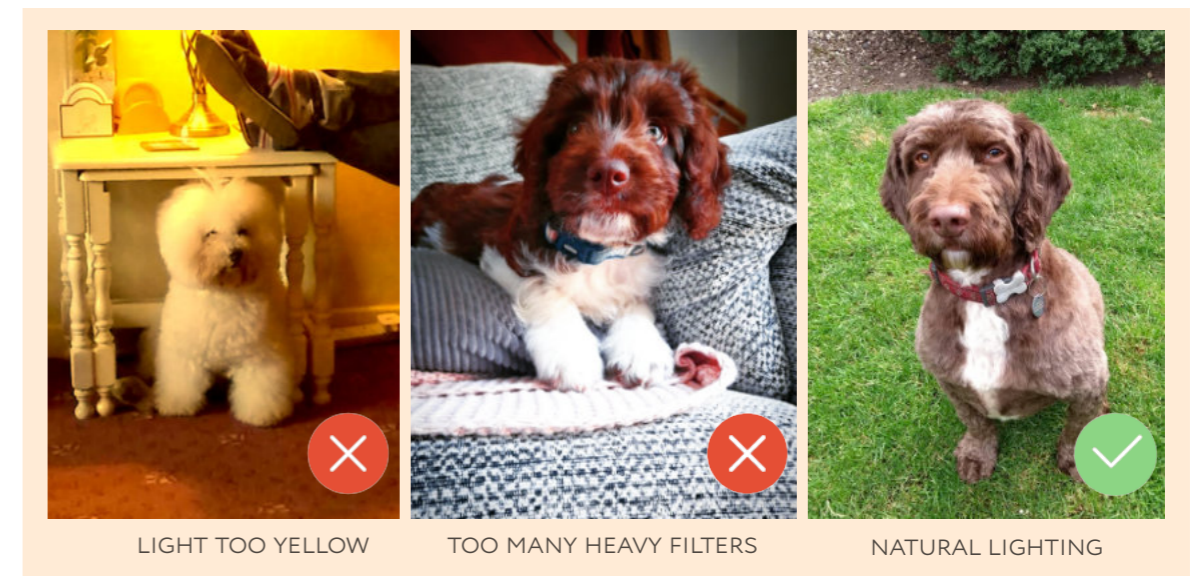
Good lighting is vital to ensure we can see all the details of your animal clearly. When taking or picking photos:

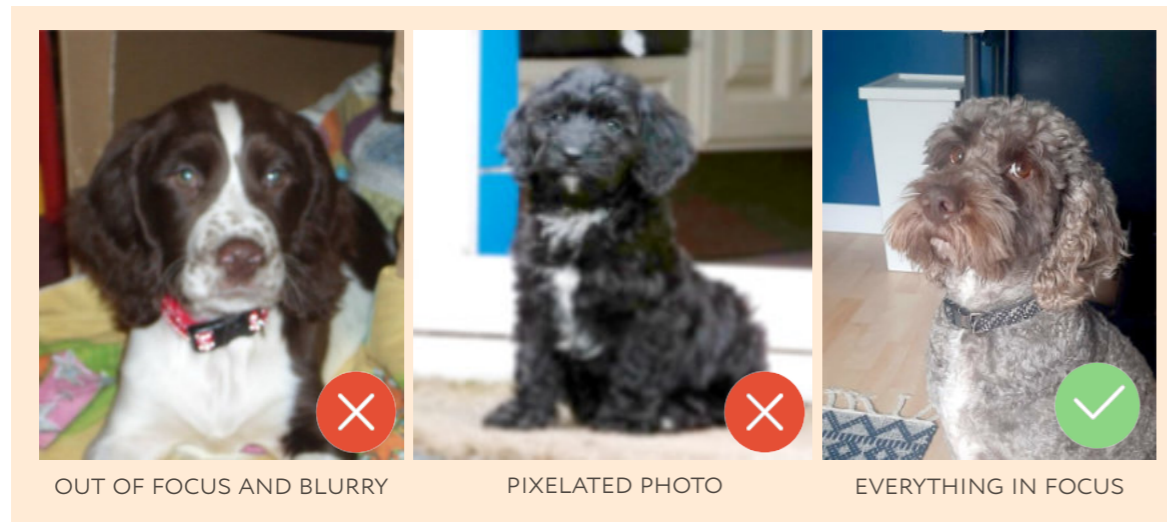
- ◆ **Avoid** strong lights behind your animal to prevent silhouettes.
- ◆ **Avoid** direct sunlight that causes harsh shadows or blown-out whites, especially on for animals that are very dark or very light in colour
- ◆ **Avoid** shadows cast across the animal, especially on their face.

Household light bulbs can result in yellow or orange photos, making it hard to judge your animal's true colours. Filters on social media can also distort colours.



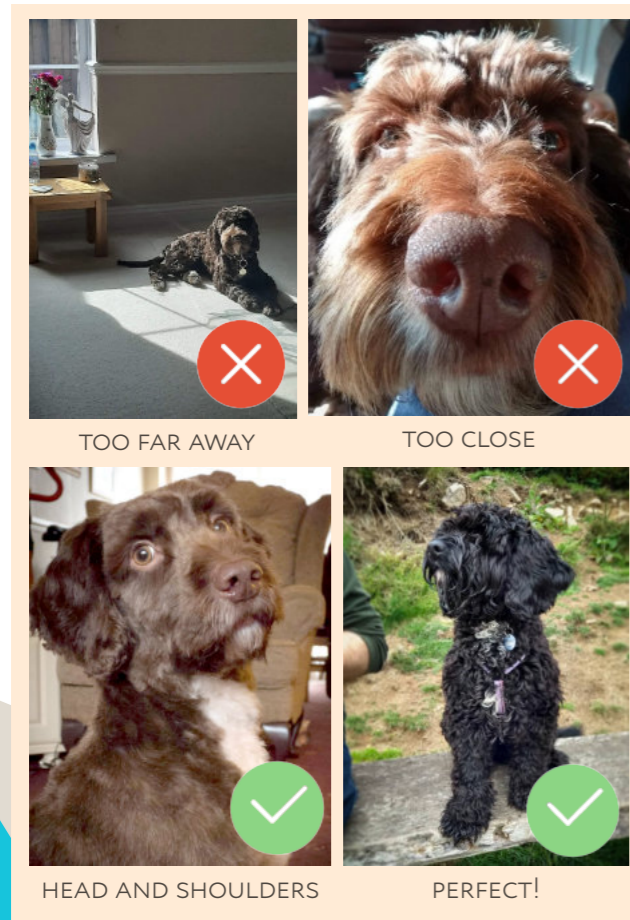
Use original, unfiltered photos from your phone or camera for accurate colours. Try taking photos outside on a dry, cloudy day for a diffused, natural light and to avoid overexposure and harsh shadows.



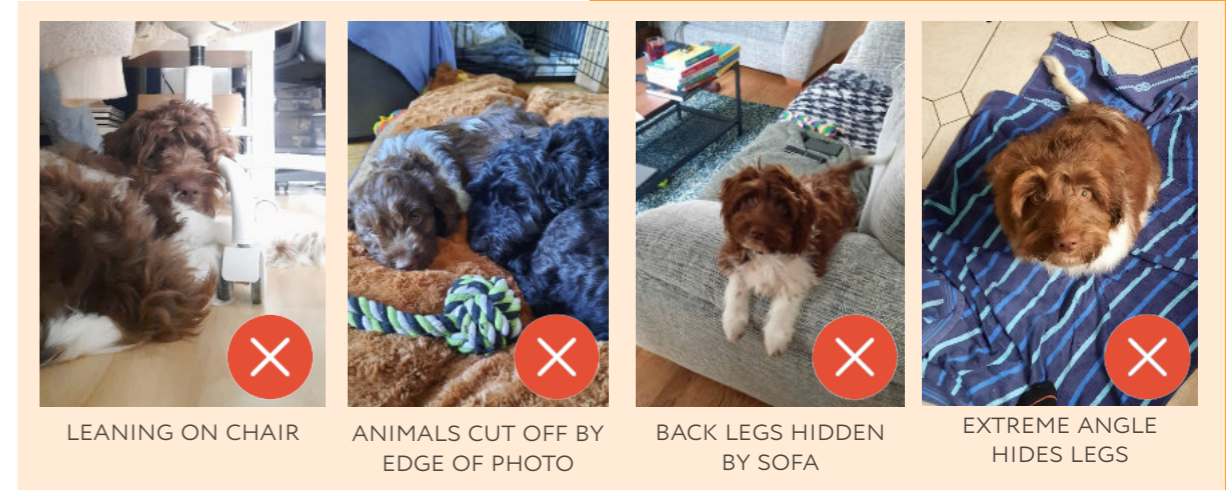


CLARITY

Clear, sharp photos will always make the best pet portraits. Facial features, particularly eyes, need to be visible and clear. When taking or picking photos:



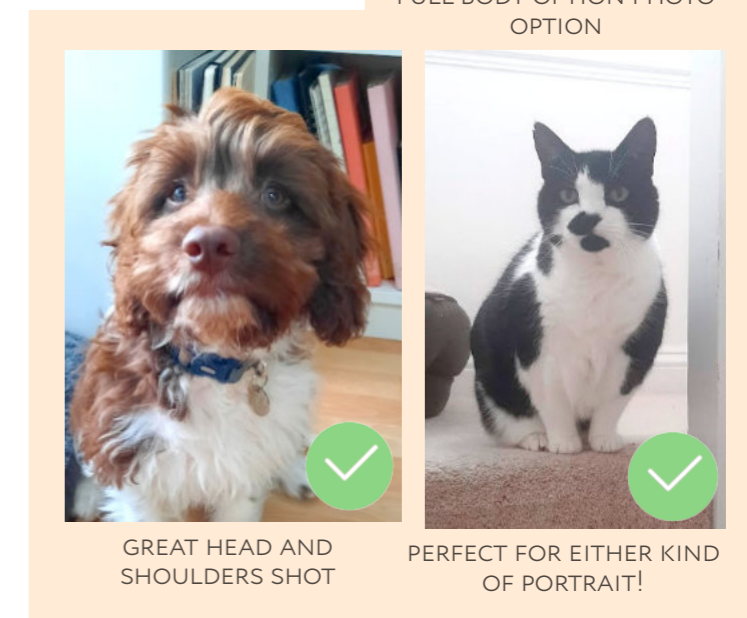
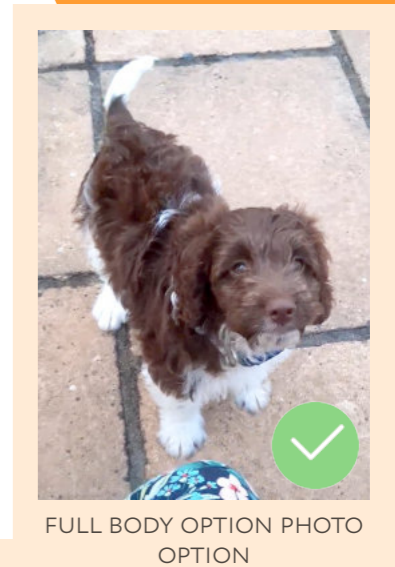
- ◆ Aim to photograph your animal while they're **still**
- ◆ Keeping the **camera steady** to reduce blur. Using a tripod or stabilising against a stack of books can assist you if your hand is unsteady.
- ◆ Set your phone or camera to the **highest quality** setting available to prevent pixilation
- ◆ Try to **avoid screenshots** as these tend to be of lower quality than original images.
- ◆ Try to **centre your animal** in the photo with a border around them to avoid photos that are either too distant or too close.



COMPOSITION

What looks good in a photo does not always make for a great portrait. When picking or taking a photo:

- ◆ Your portrait will feature no background, so ensure your animal is **not leaning** on any objects that will be excluded from the final painting.
- ◆ Try to **avoid soft furnishings** like sofas, beds, or cushions that may obscure legs or feet.
- ◆ Aim to get on **eye level** with your animal to prevent distortion or awkward perspectives.
- ◆ Full-body portraits need complete animal photos. **Center your animal** in the photo and **avoid cropping** out legs or tails whenever you can.
- ◆ **Avoid** taking photos from above for head and shoulders portraits. This way, you can make sure to include the head, neck, and chest in the picture.



USING OLD PHOTOS

Taking new photos isn't always feasible, especially with beloved pets that are no longer with us. In cases where photos are limited, I strive to work with whatever is available. Compromises may be necessary to ensure a quality portrait, such as opting for a head and shoulders composition instead of a full body one.

It's extremely rare that I'm unable to work with any photos provided, but in very limited cases, I may have to decline a portrait request if the selection of photos available is not good enough, but only when every effort has been made to find a solution.

COMBINING PHOTOS

While working from a single photo is usually the most ideal scenario, due to consistent angle and lighting, when photos are limited, combining multiple images of your pet to create a more suitable image is sometimes the better option.

For instance, if one photo shows your pet sitting but not looking at the camera, and another has them facing the camera but with their body cropped out, we can merge them together digitally if the angle and lighting are a close enough match.

If combining photos could enhance the result, I'll use Photoshop to create mockups for your portrait before beginning the final artwork.

PORTRAITS OF MULTIPLE ANIMALS

For portraits featuring multiple animals, it's ideal to have both animals in a single photo whenever possible. This ensures consistency in lighting and camera angle, making for a more cohesive looking portrait. It also helps me accurately gauge the relative size of each animal.

If capturing them together isn't possible, aim for separate photos with similar lighting and angles, especially for full-body portraits.

It may not always be possible to create a satisfying composition of two or more animals in one portrait if there is a limited selection of photos. In these cases, it may be necessary to opt for a head and shoulders style portrait, as these are easier to find compatible photographs for, or in very rare cases, it may not be possible to fulfil your portrait request.

Unsure if your photos are good enough?

Send what you have and we can have a discussion about your options!

HOLLYREYNOLDSART@GMAIL.COM

PRICES

Prices accurate as of 27th February 2024. Prices subject to change.

UNMOUNTED PORTRAITS

| | 1 ANIMAL | 2 ANIMALS | 3 ANIMALS | 4 ANIMALS |
|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 6x8" † | £70 | — | — | — |
| 8x10" | £90 | — | — | — |
| 10x12" | £105 | £125 | £145 | — |
| 12x16" | £120 | £145 | £170 | £195 |

MOUNTED PORTRAITS

| | 1 ANIMAL | 2 ANIMALS | 3 ANIMALS | 4 ANIMALS |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 6x8" MOUNTED TO 8x10" † | £80 | — | — | — |
| 8x10" MOUNTED TO 10x12" | £100 | — | — | — |
| 10x12" MOUNTED TO 12x16" | £120 | £140 | £160 | — |
| 12x16" MOUNTED TO 16x20" | £140 | £165 | £190 | £215 |

† 6x8" portraits available as head and shoulders portraits only

UK POSTAGE

All prices include Royal Mail Tracked48 postage as standard, with an estimated 2-3 working day delivery aim.

- ◆ Upgrade to Tracked24 (1-2 business days) for **£2**
- ◆ Upgrade to Special Delivery Guaranteed by 1pm for **£5**

EUROPEAN POSTAGE

All portraits to European destinations are sent by Royal Mail International Tracked, with an estimated 3-5 working day delivery aim, and incur a **£15** postage fee.

REST OF WORLD POSTAGE

All portraits to destinations outside of Europe are sent via Royal Mail International Tracked with a 5-9 working day delivery aim. Most incur a **£20** postage fee, with the exception of 12x16" portraits mounted to 16x20", which incur a **£30** fee.

CUSTOMS FEES

Please be aware that international orders may incur additional customs or import fees that are payable upon delivery. These are the sole responsibility of the buyer to pay.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW LONG DO YOUR PET PORTRAITS TAKE?

Typically, portraits take between 5-10 working days from start to finish, but in busy periods, there may be a waiting list to start your portrait. I will always make every effort to facilitate every portrait request, and I can advise on current waiting times on contact.

HOW DOES PAYMENT WORK?

I ask that a 50% deposit is made in advance of me starting the portrait. This reserves your slot in my commissions calendar. At the point at which the commission details have been confirmed and the quote has been accepted, you will be sent an invoice via email. This will contain a brief summary of the commission details, as well as bank details in order to make the bank transfer.

HOW IS MY PORTRAIT POSTED?

Each portrait, whether mounted or unmounted, is carefully enclosed in a cellophane bag along with a backing board to safeguard against damage or bending during transit. It is further wrapped in tissue paper, followed by multiple layers of bubble wrap to ensure a sturdy, water-resistant package. Cardboard corner protectors are also applied to safeguard against corner damage.

ARE THERE ANY ANIMALS YOU DON'T PAINT?

I am happy to paint virtually any animal provided the photos you have are of good enough quality. I paint a lot of dogs and cats, but I have also painted rabbits, horses, snakes and even a hermit crab! Nothing is off limits!

CAN I HAVE MY PORTRAIT FRAMED?

This is not something I currently offer, but my mounted portraits are ready to be put straight into a frame off the shelf, or taken to a specialist framers.

WHAT MATERIALS DO YOU USE?

All of my portraits contain a range of different materials - the process of deciding what gets used is very intuitive and varies from one portrait to the next. Most portraits are completed primarily in watercolour, gouache and coloured pencil, although it's not uncommon to see pastel, charcoal, acrylic paint or ink included too!

Only materials that conform to the highest lightfastness and permanence ratings go in to making my portraits, meaning your portrait will stay looking just as it's meant to for years to come.

DO YOU DO PORTRAITS OF PEOPLE?

I am happy to take on any animal friend for a portrait, but I do not currently extend my portraits to people at this time.

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GOT A DIFFERENT QUESTION?

Drop me an email to hollyreynoldsart@gmail.com and I'll be back in touch soon!