

Art by Marie Stone-van Vuuren – Pet Portrait Commissions

SIZES:

- 3" x 3.5" watercolor on bamboo block (for hanging or shelf display) or with a white mat (no frame) – \$75
- 6" x 8" watercolor or graphite in a white mat (no frame) – \$250 *
- 8" x 10" watercolor or graphite in a white mat (no frame) – \$350 *
- 9" x 12" watercolor or graphite in a white mat (no frame) – \$450 *
- 11" x 14" watercolor or graphite in a white mat (no frame) – \$550 *

**Price based upon one pet per portrait. Add \$100 per each additional pet in the same painting.*

Note: Sizes are based on inside mat measurement. The finished piece will be larger to accommodate a mat.

PHOTO REFERENCES:

It is very important to work from a clear, high-resolution photograph. The better the photo, the better the painting. Usually, 3-5 high quality reference photos will do the trick.

The three most important points to consider for good references are:

1. **Lighting:** The pet is lit by natural daylight, if possible. If the best photo is not in ideal lighting, providing one daylight shot for color reference helps fill in the gaps. The best lighting will be outdoors on a bright overcast day. If you attempt to take a picture with your pet in direct sunlight, their eyes will be squinting. If it is sunny, it is best to put the pet in the shade or wait for a cloud. Always stand with the light source to your back and be careful not to cast a shadow on the pet. Indoor pictures are best taken by a window with morning light if possible. Do not use the flash.
2. **Image Quality and Size:** The photo has enough detail. High resolution and not an extreme close-up which can distort or flatten the image. Try not to use a cell phone camera. Photos from Facebook or Instagram become compressed, and quality is compromised. Originals straight from the camera are best. The picture you take with the cell phone may look fine on the cell screen, but when blown up on the computer they often are out of focus and pixelated. If you have a camera with a telephoto lens, try using that to zoom in and use the entire viewfinder to frame the pet's head. Try to avoid background distractions. Use a couple of different settings. Automatic and Sports mode. Since animals don't always sit still, it might be helpful to use the Sports mode (usually indicated by an action figure icon). Do not use the flash. This will result in blown out fur and red eyes that will overpower the true color of their eyes.
3. **Position:** The photo is taken as close to the pet's eye-level as possible for best results. Get down to eye level with your pet. Taking a picture from your level looking down will distort the pet in the picture. It is a good idea to have a squeaky toy, or a treat to get the animals attention. If you have someone to help you, they should hold the toys at your shoulder level so that you are free to take the picture. I also think that some of the best shots are angle shots where the pet is looking at an angle rather than straight on.

AGREEMENT:

Once you have decided you would like to proceed, I will send a "Commission Agreement" outlining specifics of the project. Please allow 3-4 weeks for completion. I require a 50% non-refundable deposit to get your pet portrait on the calendar. Extra time is required for the months September through December. Rush orders will be considered for an extra fee. My guarantee is if you don't like it, I keep the painting and the deposit, and you don't have to buy it. If you have any special requests, please email me so that we can discuss it.