

Photography Guidelines

In order for me to produce such detailed portraits I need as much information in the photos as possible. They need to be well lit, sharp, clear and include plenty of detail.

I've provided some guidelines to assist you in getting a good shot:

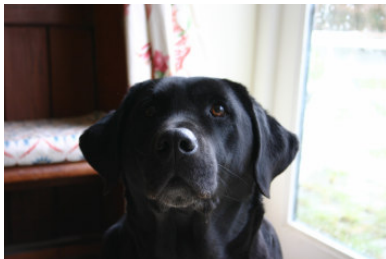
1. Please be aware that photography can distort perspective especially with horses - they can end up with huge heads/noses and tiny little bodies:



Don't get too close to your subject, and if in doubt, take several photos from a variety of distances.

2. This should be obvious, but make sure your photo is really sharp so I get plenty of information - if it's not in the photo I can make it up, but it's unlikely to be accurate.

Blurry photos (like the one on the right) are not suitable and will lead to disappointing results. If you are using digital photography I will need a good quality hard copy – e-mailed images do not have a high enough resolution to work from.



3. Please take the photograph in natural light and don't use a flash. If the lighting conditions are such that you need a flash, then please wait for a better day as the flash will 'bleach' out detail and the result will not be suitable. Images taken indoors are often too dark (see left) and lack the necessary detail.

4. Successful animal photography requires a certain amount of patience to get the desired pose, but it is really worth the wait. I can tidy manes and whiskers but if the overall pose is not suitable then the portrait may disappoint. I've shown a couple of examples below which are well lit and sufficiently detailed, but would make a very odd portrait.



Please check out my gallery for examples of previous commissions, which should give you a good idea of what you're aiming for.

5. Aim to have an assistant replete with treats/rustling bags to attract the animal's attention. It is almost impossible to take a good portrait shot entirely on your own, so get some help!

6. Take plenty of photos. I usually take around 40 shots per animal to get a good one.

If you have any doubts I will happily assess the suitability of your photos for you before you commit to commissioning a portrait.

NB. If you want to use a photograph taken by a professional photographer please contact them for their permission prior to commissioning the portrait. Please be aware that you may have to pay them a fee to use the image.

I am able to offer a photography service to those living in the Dorset/Hampshire area of the UK. Please contact me for details.