

Pet Photography Frequently Asked Questions

These are some of the more commonly asked questions about pet portrait sessions. If you don't find the answers that you need here or elsewhere on our site, please contact the studio at goldleaf-vgp@tds.net. This page will change as we add more of your questions, so check back often for updates.

Q. How far ahead should I call for an appointment?

Q. How much are your sitting fees?

Q. When and how should I pay for my session?

Q. Where will my pet's portraits be done? Will you go on-location?

Q. Which is better, an indoor or outdoor session?

Q. How long will the session take?

Q. What will the portraits cost?

Q. When and how should I pay for my portraits?

Q. Could you make a book out of the photos?

Q. Do you offer gift certificates?

Q. Will you use film or digital for my portraits?

Q. Can you do black & white photos?

Q. Does it cost extra to have two or more pets photographed at once?

Q. Can my family be in the photos?

Q. What if my pet is afraid of you?

Q. How will you make my pet behave?

Q. What if my pet won't cooperate during the photo session?

Q. When is the best time of day to photograph my pet?

Q. Will you have props available?

Q. I have some ideas for poses. Can we give them a try?

Q. What's the largest size print I can order?

Q. How long before my proofs are ready?

Q. How long before my final order is ready?

Q. How long do I have to place my order after my sitting?

Q. How long do I have to reorder if I run out of pictures?

Q. Can I scan my photos if I just need a few extra copies or want to use them on the internet?

Q. Can I purchase the copyrights so I can print my own photos?

Q. How far ahead should I call for an appointment?

A. At least 2 weeks; earlier to get the time slot you want. You can never schedule too early!

Q. How much are your sitting fees?

A. The sitting fee is \$50.00 per session. This fee covers the time I spend with you during the session, and I will take as long as necessary to get great shots of your pet. No prints are included in this fee.

CONTACT US:

513.877.2995

goldleaf-vgp@tds.net

www.goldleaf-art.com

Q. When and how should I pay for my session?

A. Payment is due the day of your sitting. Currently I accept cash, checks and PayPal.

Q. Where will my pet's portraits be done? Will you go on-location?

A. Many pets feel most comfortable in their own environment. For that reason, I can travel to your home and do the photo session there, if you prefer. I bring all the equipment needed for either an indoor or outdoor session, or combination of the two.

Some owners feel their pets do better away from home. My studio is located in the country on five wooded acres in beautiful Warren County, Ohio. Your session there can be indoors, outdoors, or a combination of both.

We can also travel to a location of your choice. Parks, gardens, lakes and rivers are some very popular locations. A natural outdoor setting makes beautiful pet photos.

Q. Which is better, an indoor or outdoor session?

A. Each has its advantage, depending on your tastes. The studio shots have a more formal feel. Outdoor sessions give you and your pet the freedom to move around, and the lighting is more natural.

Q. How long will the session take?

A. Around 45 minutes to an hour, and probably longer if you want to go on location.

Q. What will the portraits cost?

A. That will depend on what you want. Several packages are available to save you money, or you can go strictly a la carte. Either way, my portraits are very affordable. I will be happy to discuss pricing with you. Just give me a call at 513-877-2995. You can also download a price list from the Pet Portraits page on my website.

Q. When and how should I pay for my portraits?

A. A deposit of 50% is due the day you place your order. The balance is due the day you pick up your portraits. Currently I accept cash, checks and PayPal.

Q. Could you make a book out of the photos?

A. Yes. Pet books make very nice keepsakes, especially if people are also in some of the photos. I am a graphic artist as well as a photographer, and can design and produce anything you have in mind.

Q. Do you offer gift certificates?

A. Yes, but they are not your typical flimsy piece of paper or gift card. My gift certificates are works of art in themselves, and are customized to each recipient. They are available in any amount, or for specific products and/or services. Gift certificates are valid for one year from date of purchase.

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Q. Will you use film or digital for my portraits?

A. My studio is strictly digital. It allows me to take an unlimited quantity of poses, and the quality is fabulous!

Q. Can you do black & white photos?

A. Yes, and we never charge extra for black & white. Sepia prints are also available at no extra charge. Other more complex special effects are available for an additional art charge.

Q. Does it cost extra to have two or more pets photographed at once?

A. We never charge extra for more than one pet.

Q. Can my family be in the photos?

A. Of course! And there is never an extra charge for people. Just let us know when you make your appointment how many family members will be in the session.

Q. What if my pet is afraid of you?

A. Some pets are very timid and not receptive to strangers. I am very sensitive to your pet's feelings. Wherever the session, the first thing I do is give your pet a chance to get used to me. I never force myself on the pet. I am very patient, and take whatever time is needed for the pet to warm up to me. It usually doesn't take very long. Many owners allow me to give the pet one of its treats so that it regards me as a friend.

Q. How will you make my pet behave?

A. Unfortunately, I am not the Dog Whisperer, and I can't "make" your pet behave. But I will try! Unruly pets do best if they are held by their owners in the photos. Indoors, if you aren't actually in the photo, I will enlist your help to put the pet into position. I use a noisemaker to get the pet's attention, then snap the photo quickly. This usually works very well. Outdoors, dogs like to scout around in the yard, and I follow them, snapping the shutter at opportune moments. Most dogs sit still for a treat.

Q. What if my pet won't cooperate during the photo session?

A. Some pets are especially energetic and just can't settle down, especially puppies and certain breeds. I will most likely ask for your help in this case, and will let you know specifically what I need you to do. I never physically force a pet to behave, since I am a stranger and never know how it might react. But so far (knock on wood), I've never had to cancel a session because a pet just wouldn't cooperate. If your dog is extra hyper, you might try having it play really hard before the session to wear it out.

Pets are very similar to children. I will be able to tell if your pet needs a short break to release energy or get a drink. I try to just go with the flow!

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Q. When is the best time of day to photograph my pet?

A. There is no best time, unless your pet has a specific schedule it must adhere to. In that case, schedule your session accordingly.

Q. Will you have props available?

A. I have simple props I use for pets in the studio. In your home, you may want your pet photographed with a favorite toy or blanket, or in a special outfit.

Q. I have some ideas for poses. Can we give them a try?

A. Yes! I'd love to hear your ideas. Just let me know what you have in mind during the session.

Q. What's the largest size print I can order?

A. Our price list goes up to 20x30, but larger sizes are available upon request, up to 60 inches tall/wide. Larger portraits make amazing works of art for your home.

Q. How long before my proofs are ready?

A. About 1-2 weeks.

Q. How long before my final order is ready?

A. About 2-3 weeks; longer for books or other specialty items.

Q. How long do I have to place my order after my sitting?

A. Your order should be placed with 4 weeks to avoid delays. First come, first served.

Q. How long do I have to reorder if I run out of pictures?

A. Your digital files are kept indefinitely, so you may order any time. Reprints are charged at current prices.

Q. Can I scan my photos if I just need a few extra copies or want to use them on the internet?

A. No. You may not realize it, but it is illegal and against copyright laws to scan photos without written permission from the photographer. Please respect the time and efforts of our studio, and contact us if you need extras.

Q. Can I purchase the copyrights so I can print my own photos?

A. All copyrights to your photos are retained by Gold Leaf Productions. However, a "limited usage release" is available on a per-image basis. For each low-resolution image (suitable for web usage only) the cost is \$8. Your web image(s) will be emailed to you.

High-resolution images are also available (to make prints up to 11x14). High-resolution images can be mailed to you on a CD for \$30.00 each plus postage, or emailed to you for a flat rate of \$28.00 each. All images are accompanied by a "limited usage release" form in electronic format, which will outline the details of your rights.

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