



Your Quick Guide

To a Successful Photoshoot



PREPARING FOR YOUR SESSION

My photoshoots are very easy going and you and your pet will ultimately determine the shape of the session, but there are a few simple things you can do to help have a fun, successful shoot. Here are some tips for getting your dog into the right state of mind for a session:

PRACTICE **COMMANDS** + **TRICKS**

Practice some commands at home. Your pet does not need to have a certificate in obedience training, but a reliable "sit," "stay," and "down" will set us up for success.

If your pet has a favourite special trick, practice this ahead of time so he will be eager to perform it at the session too.

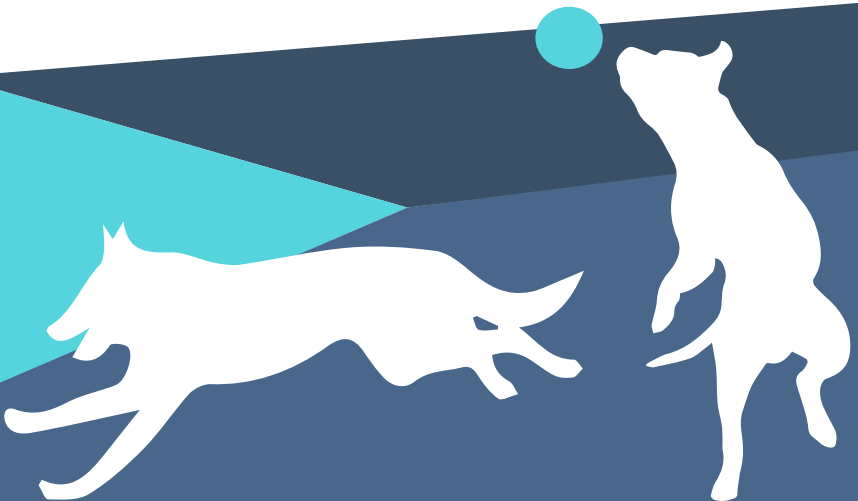


AN EXERCISED DOG IS A GOOD DOG

Have a good run, play a long game of fetch or take a quick walk with your pet before your session. Using up some of his energy will help him stay focused and calm. Keep this short as we don't want your pet to sleep or pant through the session.

KEEP CALM AND ENJOY YOURSELF

Don't worry too much about the behaviour of your dog or if things don't go exactly as planned, instead remember to have fun. Be confident in your session and your pets will be too!



GETTING YOUR PET READY GROOMING

If possible be sure to give your best friend a bath the day before or morning of your session. Eliminate any further stray hairs by giving them a good brushing after.

Trim your pet's nails to the proper length a few days ahead of time. If you don't groom your pet yourself, consider booking an appointment with a professional groomer a few days before your session.

Check to make sure your pet's eyes are clean and clear of debris. Wipe them clean as much as you can before you arrive. If your pet has a lot of dandruff or tends to shed, try a sticky roller to eliminate the pieces from their fur.

If your dog is particularly slobbery, or gets foamy at the mouth when excited, consider bringing a drool rag as well.

LEASHES AND COLLARS

Safety is my top priority so your pet should be wearing a collar throughout the entire session. Be sure that it is one that you really like and want to see in the photos. Bandanas and bows are always fun and welcome!

Depending on location, a leash may be mandatory. Should this be the case I can remove it in your purchased images later on.

WHAT NOT TO WEAR

White clothing, or clothing with strong patterns, words or logos can be distracting. Stick to solid colours or subtle patterns.

As any pet owner will know, some fabrics attract pet hair. If you have clothes that you know are fur-magnets, it will help a lot to wear something else, or carry a sticky roller with you during the session.

CONSIDER LAYERS

Layers add dimension and depth. Browns, blacks and greys look smart and help keep the focus of the images on your pets. Have some fun with accessories and remember to pay attention to your footwear as well! If your family or friends are joining for the shoot, coordinate (don't match) your clothing.

EXPERT TIPS

For a Successful Session

SAFETY FIRST

Know your dog and which environment might be best for him. Is he dog-aggressive or reactive to noises or other people? Can he focus on you or is he easily distracted? Be sure to keep your dog leashed when necessary, both for his safety and the safety of those around us.

GOLDEN HOUR AND THE WEATHER

The best time of day for your outdoor shoot is 1 Hour before sunset, or right after sunrise. The soft, low light makes for beautiful images with vibrant colours and flattering shadows. If it is raining, heavily overcast, too hot or too cold, we will reschedule to a nicer day.

TREATS, TOYS AND OTHER ESSENTIALS

At the beginning of your session, feel free to give your pet some treats if he's acting nervous, and allow me to give him treats to help gain his trust.

Delicious, high-value treats are crucial for almost every session. They need to be exciting enough that your pet wants to work for them. I have hot dogs on hand. If your pet requires particular treats for any reason, please make sure to bring some along. Bringing your dog's favourite toys along will help give him something familiar to focus on, and be more "himself" at our session.

Please remember waste bags and water for you and your dogs!

