

MONUMENTAL ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY

# MY TOP 10 SECRETS



FOR SUCCESSFUL PET PORTRAITS



A GUIDE FOR PROUD PET PARENTS



## A BIT ABOUT MY PET PORTRAITS



The bond between people and their pets is unlike any other. From a rambunctious romp in the field to a silky pillow at home, I aim to capture the unique spirit of your beloved pet and that special connection you share.

Commemorating your beloved furry family member with archival imagery is truly an investment of a lifetime - the photographs we take together will become a beautiful, treasured reminder of your pet for many many years to come.

Good news! You're in good paws hands - I have 13 years of professional experience photographing pets and their humans! I take a natural approach to images, working closely with you to create the images of your dreams.

The following is a list I've created over my years of experience to help you prepare for photo day and get your pet looking their best. I look forward to working with you and your furry family members to create an unforgettable experience!

GOT QUESTIONS? EMAIL ME ANYTIME AT [MONUMENTALARTS@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:MONUMENTALARTS@OUTLOOK.COM)

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## TIME YOUR GROOMING

Although the doggy or kitty may disagree, grooming your pet the day before the shoot helps them to look their finest. It also allows you to prepare for the shoot ahead of time and gives your pet a chance to relax between big events (i.e. a bath and the photoshoot itself). The bathing process may also tire your pooch, which will be good for our time together the next day. If you're hiring a professional groomer, schedule your appointment for either the day before or the day of!

2

## GIVE A GOOD BATH

Although dogs prefer to be bathed in warm water, the garden hose is an easy way to get the job done quickly without making a mess in the bathroom. Gently trickle water over your dog until she's comfortable with the situation. When your pup is completely wet, lather in a pet-friendly shampoo and conditioner and follow any directions on the bottle. Rinse again carefully, avoiding any soap in the eyes. When all shampoo has been washed off, pat dry with a thick towel and allow the pooch to relax somewhere warm.



3

## BRUSH THOSE LONG COATS

For dogs or cats with long coats, I recommend thoroughly brushing with a pet hair brush to remove any dead hairs, mats, and tangles. Brushing your pet after a bath as well as the day of the photoshoot will help your furry friend look his or her finest! For shorter coats, a bath with good shampoo is generally all that's needed.

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## WHEN IN DOUBT, HIRE A GROOMER!

If you aren't comfortable grooming their own pet, a professional pet stylist is the only way to go! A professional will have experience in bathing, blow drying, and trimming that makes a big difference on camera. Professionals may also perform important maintenance for your beloved fur-pal, such as removal of hair from the ears or a nail trim. I have a great list of talented and compassionate groomers and can provide references upon request!

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## FINAL TOUCHES ON THE DAY OF

For the DIY groomers: on the day of the photoshoot, I recommend brushing your pet again to smooth the hair and make it shine! Leave-on conditioners available at any pet store can add a wonderful sheen to your pet's coat. Make sure to take a damp towel and gently clean around your pet's eyes to remove any mucus that might have built up overnight.

6

## PACK EARLY & BE PREPARED

I highly recommend packing a bag of items needed for the shoot the day before to avoid any last-minute rushing! You'll need: *plastic potty bags, pooch's favorite treats, brush or comb for touch-ups, a water bowl and a water bottle, a small toy, wet wipes, and a dry towel.*



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## ACCESSORIZE!

For dogs and cats: Beautiful collars, toys, and props can add a lot of personality to your session and help to tell the story of your beloved pet.

For dogs: Leather, brightly colored classic toys (such as red balls, rope toys, tennis balls for larger dogs, and bone-shaped treats), sparkly name tags, and cute accessories look great on camera. Some even go as far as to paint puppy's nails!

For cats: Catnip toy, name tags, even costumes can work great for your kitty - if you dare!

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## TIRE 'EM OUT

A tired pet is a behaved pet, so make sure to take pooch for a walk or let him out for a good romp before the session. Lower energy levels during the session will help your pet to be less nervous and easier to work with in front of the camera. If your pet is on the high energy side, I even recommend a big romp both the day before and the day of to make sure they're extra relaxed during the shoot!

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## FEEDING ON THE DAY OF

It's a good idea to feed your pet less at least a few hours before the shoot (if not longer) to help keep energy levels manageable and encourage good behavior! When a pet is a little hungry, they will be more inclined to behave for treats.

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## FOR THE HUMANS

If you're planning to be a part of the photoshoot, I'm excited! Let me know in advance so I can help you plan a few outfit choices. Try choosing nice but casual clothing in neutrals so as not to distract from your pet. And for human grooming - looking your best is just as important as getting your cat or dog prettied up! I have several (human) stylists I've worked with in the past and do a fabulous job of hair and makeup (for humans). I recommend you look at the "Family Portrait Guide" on my website to see additional ideas!

