

Karen Hartnell - Pet Portrait and Wildlife Artist



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Portrait Commissions Information and Price Guide 2025

The prices shown on page 2 are a guide and can vary depending on the commission required and the work involved.

To help me to give you a quotation, please provide as much information as possible, ideally:

- Medium required (watercolour, graphite pencil, or acrylics)
- Head-only portrait or full-body
- Backgrounds: extra background work will increase the price accordingly.
- Paper size
- Date required (if applicable, and subject to waiting list space)
- If you have the photos to hand, I will be happy to look at these.

If you have a fixed budget I can advise on the kind of commission I can produce for that price.

Commission Process

Please give me as much notice as possible if the portrait is required for a specific date. I will confirm if this is achievable. If my schedule allows, I can sometimes fit in last minute work.

I will email you a quotation based on your portrait requirements. If you wish to proceed, a 50% deposit secures your booking. I will give you an estimate of when I will be able to start work and will update you closer to the time to let you know when it will be underway.

A scan/photo of the finished art work is emailed to you. If adjustments are required, I will carry these out and a revised scan/photo will be sent for re-approval. When you have given final approval, payment of the balance outstanding is required. Art work is only dispatched once payment has been received in full.

Important Information and Terms

Booking. Once you are happy with your quotation, a 50% deposit is required to secure your booking and to allow me to start the work in due course - bookings are not held until this has been paid. The balance is due upon final approval of the portrait.

Postage. The cost for postage is £8.99* (this is not included in the price guides on the following page). Artwork is sent by Royal Mail's Special Delivery next-day, fully insured service (guaranteed to arrive by 1pm next-day Monday to Friday) and will need to be signed for. I will provide you with tracking information for this as well. A guaranteed next-day Saturday delivery option is available at extra cost, if required.

** see overleaf for mailing exceptions, dependant on size, insurance value, and destination. If there is any significant postage increase by Royal Mail, this price will increase accordingly.*

Overseas shipping is charged at the applicable rates for sending to your destination by a similar service.

Commissions are supplied unmounted and unframed.

Cancellations. If you have to cancel your booking before I have started the work, please could you let me know as soon as possible and your deposit will be refunded. If you cancel after I have started work, your deposit will not be refunded.

If the deposit was paid via Paypal/credit/debit card, the refund will be less the processing fee I was charged for receiving payment (currently 3.4% + 20p on UK transactions), as I'm not refunded for this by Paypal.

I will contact you before commencing your portrait to make sure that you are happy for me to start at that particular time.

If you have a portrait booked and can no longer go ahead with it for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible. I have to plan my schedule, and could end up turning people away that I might otherwise be able to fit in.

Commissioned art work is custom-made, therefore, refunds cannot be given once you have given final approval.

Price Guide

The following prices are a guide for pet portraits, based on a head portrait, plain background, excluding the postage cost. I can tailor a quote to your specific requirements, such as full body portraits, additional background work.

Popular sizes are listed below. I can quote for other sizes and number of pets. Prices are in GBP £. International commission quotations are calculated based on the current exchange rate at xe.com

Watercolour Painting			
Popular Paper Sizes	1 Pet £	2 Pets £	3 Pets £
A5	135	-	-
A4	180	270	335
14" x 10" / 356 x 254 mm	215	310	375
A3	260	360	470
A2	385	520	655

Acrylic Painting			
Popular Paper Sizes	1 Pet £	2 Pets £	3 Pets £
A5	160	-	-
A4	210	320	425
14" x 10" / 356 x 254 mm	265	375	470
A3	320	420	530
A2	475	640	735
<i>Acrylic paintings are painted on heavyweight watercolour paper (535gsm). I don't currently offer canvas options.</i>			

Graphite Pencil			
Popular Paper Sizes	1 Pet £	2 Pets £	3 Pets £
A5	145	-	-
A4	200	290	360
14" x 10" / 356 x 254 mm	250	340	410
A3	295	400	490
A2	430	590	705

A size measurements

A5: 8.3" x 5.8" / 210 x 148 mm
A4: 11.7" x 8.3" / 297 x 210 mm
A3: 16.5" x 11.7" / 420 x 297 mm
A2: 23.4" x 16.5" / 594 x 420 x mm

Watercolour versus Acrylics.

I'm often asked what the difference is between these two mediums. Here's a quick guide. **Watercolours** are diluted with water and are more transparent in appearance. The paint is layered up to get the dark tones, and are not as bold as acrylics. More water used than paint. **Acrylics** are pretty similar to oils, with bold colours. They are water-based, so unlike oils, no chemicals are required to clean brushes and they dry quickly. More paint is usually used than water, the opposite to watercolour! There are examples of both in my Online Galleries.

Additional Shipping Information

The maximum size for Royal Mail's special delivery service is just over the A2 size. I can usually package A2 portraits to fit this into this size category. Anything larger has to be sent by Parcelforce and I can provide a quote for this.

International orders. Maximum insured value for Royal Mail's International Signed service is £250. Paintings valued over this will need to be sent by a Parcelforce Worldwide service that insures artwork.

Photo Requirements

Below is a summary on how to take the best photos of your pet. These will enable me to get as much detail into the portrait. I've written a more in-depth blog post about photos for your pet portraits, including some good and bad examples, and you can read it here: <https://portraitsofpets.co.uk/pet-portraits-photo-hints-tips/>

I only have a photo to work from to capture your pet in their portrait, as the majority of pets I paint I have never met, so here are some helpful points regarding photographs for me to capture the best likeness of your pet.

- The higher photo quality, the more details I can put into your portrait.
- The main features for detail are eyes as this is usually the first thing that draws you in. Ideally, they need to be visible in images rather than just a dark area when the light is poor.
- Photos should be clear and in focus.
- Try and avoid using a flash. A natural light source on the pet's face shows up detail and colour better. Take photos outside, rather than indoors, especially is using a Smart Phone camera.
- The larger resolution photo size you have, the better. This shows up the finer details when enlarging. Low resolution images and cropped small photos are not the best to work from as resolution is often poor when enlarged to a workable size, losing important detail. If this is the only photo you have, then I will do my best from the image provided.

I will be happy to offer any advice regarding photo selection for your portrait.

How to Send Your Photos

Please email me any images you wish me to look at. I can advise which would be the best to work from if you have a selection.

I will always confirm when I have received photos. These can be emailed to me, but if sending a lot of large file sized images, WeTransfer.com is a better alternative.

Two or More Pets in a Painting

If you want a painting with two or more pets in it, then separate similar images can be put together to create a portrait, either as 'floating' headshots or side-by-side. Unless, of course, you have pets that are really good and all look at the camera together and are happy to sit for a photo!

Payment Methods

Payment for the deposit and balance can be made securely online by credit/debit card (via Paypal), Paypal or bank transfer. Bank transfer is preferred for UK payments if you are able to pay this way, as I don't get charged a fee for receiving payments. UK cheque is also accepted.

Paypal is the company I use to handle my online card payment transactions, it is free for you to use, secure, and you don't need to have a Paypal account. The invoice has details of how to pay and a link will be emailed to you for you to access this online, for both deposit and balance payments.

If you are new to paying using a credit or debit card with Paypal, the easy-to follow instructions will guide you through the check-out process, similar to any online store.

Overseas Addresses

I am happy to accept overseas commissions. Please contact me for a quotation, which will be calculated based on airmail costs and the current exchange rate.

Online payment can only be accepted for non-UK orders, which is handled securely through Paypal.