

Karen Hartnell - Pet Portrait and Wildlife Artist



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Portrait Commissions Information and Price Guide 2026

Please read the following terms and conditions before placing a booking.

The prices shown on page 2 are a guide and may vary depending requirements 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.

A quotation based on your portrait requirements will be emailed to you. If you wish to proceed, a 50% deposit secures your booking. An estimate will be provided of when I will be able to start the 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 any adjustments are required, I will carry these out and a revised 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 £9.99* - 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, or Parcelforce for size A2 and over. Your package will need to be signed for and tracking information will be provided.

** This figure will increase year-to-year to align with price increases by Royal Mail.*

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, to allow me to plan my schedule.

If you cancel after I have started work, your deposit will not be refunded.

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

Price Guide 2026

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.

Watercolour Painting			
Popular Paper Sizes	1 Pet £	2 Pets £	3 Pets £
A5	140	-	-
A4	185	275	340
14" x 10" / 356 x 254 mm	220	315	380
A3	265	365	475
A2	390	525	660

Acrylic Painting			
Popular Paper Sizes	1 Pet £	2 Pets £	3 Pets £
A5	165	-	-
A4	215	325	430
14" x 10" / 356 x 254 mm	270	380	475
A3	325	425	535
A2	480	645	740

Acrylic paintings are painted on heavyweight watercolour paper (535gsm). I don't currently offer canvas options.

Graphite Pencil			
Popular Paper Sizes	1 Pet £	2 Pets £	3 Pets £
A5	150	-	-
A4	205	295	365
14" x 10" / 356 x 254 mm	255	345	415
A3	300	405	495
A2	435	595	710

"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. Briefly, **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

Art work that is A2 size and over have to be sent by Parcelforce. Additional costs on top of the standard postage fee are included in the prices shown on the previous page to take this into account.

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 and a quotation will be provided for the total cost to you.

Photo Requirements

Below is a summary on how to take the best photos of your pet to capture the finest detail. I've written a more in-depth blog post about photos for your pet portraits, including some good and bad examples: <https://portraitsofpets.co.uk/pet-portraits-photo-hints-tips/>

- 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, well lit 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.
- 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 advise on photos you send.

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.

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.