



## Important Information & Tips to Help Your Dog's Photo Session Go Smoothly

- ❖ Give your dog some exercise before the session—enough to relieve over-excitement but not wear him/her out!
- ❖ Make sure your dog has “pottied” before coming into the studio. Your dog will be given a few minutes to “check things out” before we get started. A pre-session consultation will go a long way in relieving your dog's stress level.
- ❖ If possible, have your dog groomed before the session, especially if he/she has long fur. If this is not possible, brush out the coat and wipe any tear stains from around the eyes.
- ❖ In general, dogs tend not to like being clothed. If you choose to dress your dog in an outfit, please make sure he/she is comfortable in the clothes beforehand. Unless you want it in the photo, please remove your dog's collar.
- ❖ Feel free to bring any of your dog's special treats, but avoid giving treats throughout the session as they might not be needed, and waiting for the dog to eat them uses session time. It usually works better for the photographer to offer treats during the session, then you can reward your dog afterwards. Tip: Very small treats are the best, as they take little time to consume. Also, avoid treats that will create crumbs on your dog's face and fabric.
- ❖ Bring a favorite toy, blanket, etc., if you would like it included in your photographs.
- ❖ Although not required, it is helpful if your dog knows basic commands, like “sit” and “down.”
- ❖ The studio lights are strobes (flash instead of being constant). If you feel this would affect your pet, please advise me and I will try to work something out. When you come with your pup for your pre-session consultation, we will test the lights. I find that my own dogs are a bit wary at first but get used to them as they realize this is a non-threatening situation.
- ❖ **IMPORTANT!** Please do not reprimand your dog for not cooperating. This is a new environment and situation, your dog will not understand what was wrong, and it will raise your dog's stress level.
- ❖ Even if you don't intend to be included in a few photographs with your pet, please wear solid, neutral-colored clothing of a medium-to-dark tonal range, if possible, just in case. You might change your mind, and I also would appreciate having a few images like this for my portfolio.