

How to Choose & Size a Portrait Photo

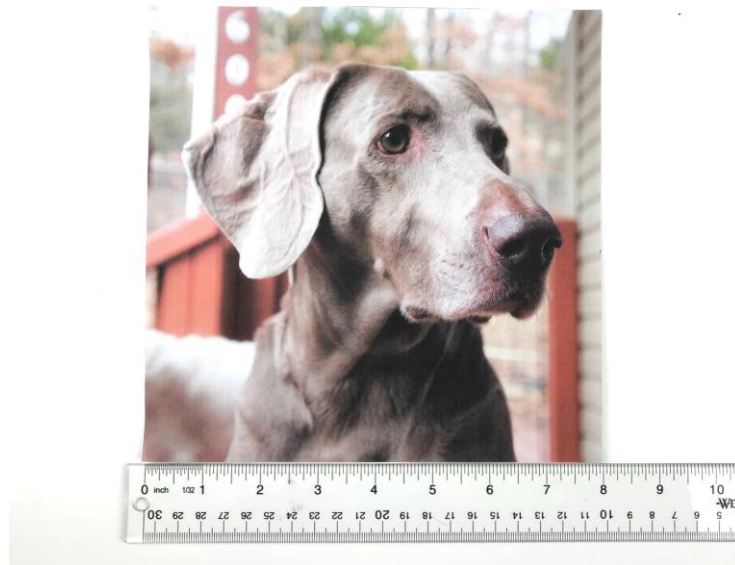
- Make sure the animal's entire face (or body if not just a head/neck portrait) is in focus. I find that photos taken at the animal's eye level are easiest for composition and perspective.
- Photos taken in natural light, without harsh sun or harsh shadows work best.
- Choose a photo that you can digitally enlarge or zoom in and still see distinct details like hairs/whiskers/nose texture/etc.
- You'll need to have a copy of the photo printed on regular printer paper. Instructions on how to size it are below. For this printed version, make sure you can see all the necessary details and lines that you'll want to transfer onto the sheet felt. Feel free to manipulate the photo's brightness or contrast or sharpness to get these details to come through.
- You'll need a second copy of the photo, either digitally on a phone or tablet or as a second printed version in high quality and true-to-life colors. This will be the version you reference as you work on the wool painting.
- Feel free to email me if you have questions about a photo or need help digitally sizing or manipulating it: hello@daniives.com. Check out www.picmonkey.com for a great (free) tool for editing photos.

We'll be sizing our portraits to fit in an 8" embroidery hoop. Below is an example of how you can test and print your photo to get the right size. I've printed this photo as an 8x10 on my home printer. If you digitally crop your subject as an 8x10 with a bit of space around the edges, it will fit pretty well inside the 8" hoop.

If you have access to a hoop, you can place the outer ring on top of your photo to see if your subject fits. To adjust the size, crop your original photo larger or smaller accordingly. Print again to test and measure.



If you do not have access to a hoop, centering your subject in an 8"x8" square will give you the same results and help you determine if your subject will fit well in the hoop. Leave a bit of buffer space around the pet's head, but it's okay for some features like their neck/chest/whiskers to reach the edges.



In class, we'll be trimming the photo to fit just inside the outer ring. You don't need worry about doing that just yet, but here's a preview:

