

7
Easy
Steps

To Order
Your Perfect
Pet Portrait



*Parnell*STUDIOS

Marla Rush Parnell

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You want a portrait of your pet, but don't know how to start the process...

Relax. It's a super easy and fun collaboration we'll create together.

When your pet's painting is complete, you'll have a lasting reminder of the special bond you share and all the love and joy your furry best friend brings into your life.



1 Let's get started!

The first thing you'll want to consider is where you plan to display your pet's portrait and how big you want it. Do you envision it as a large statement piece on your living room wall or a small painting to be nestled on a bookshelf?

Your decision may be based on your budget. Let me help!





Take advantage of interest-free payments and special offers

2

Select the medium & size

You have the choice of pastel on paper or acrylic paint on canvas. What's the difference? See pages 9 -10 for my guide ***Should I Choose Pastels or Acrylics?***

Pastels are a gorgeous medium, and the painting must be matted and framed, protected under glass. Conversely, acrylics are more economical and can be framed or left unframed, as the edges of the canvas are painted.

Your selection of medium and the size of your painting will determine your cost. See page 11 for my fee schedule. Keep in mind that custom sizes are available.

3 Decide on how much you'll spend

You're sure to find exactly the right portrait size and medium to fit your vision and budget. My fee schedule for original, custom pet portraits offers you a wide range from which to choose.



4

Make your deposit

Once you've decided on your desired size and medium, and we've agreed on the price, I will direct you to my website to make a deposit of 50% of the total.

Now you have reserved a place on my painting schedule and I will give you an estimated completion date.

5 Now for the photos!

Well-lit photos with details in focus will always result in the best reference material for pet portraits.

You may already have the perfect photo in mind for your pet's portrait. But if you plan to shoot new photos and would like some guidance for taking the very best images of your pet, here's my 12-page guide **10 Steps to Taking Awesome Pet Photos**.

CLICK TO
DOWNLOAD!

10
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What if you want a portrait with two or more pets in the same painting?

If you provide photos of multiple pets to be included in the same portrait, you may supply separate photos of each subject. However, it's important to make sure that the direction and brightness of the lighting are the same in each photo, as this will ensure that the colors and shadows match.



It's also helpful to provide at least one photo with all the subjects together, so that I have a size reference for each pet in comparison to the others.

Note that it's okay if your hands are in the frame helping to pose the pet, as I can of course eliminate them!

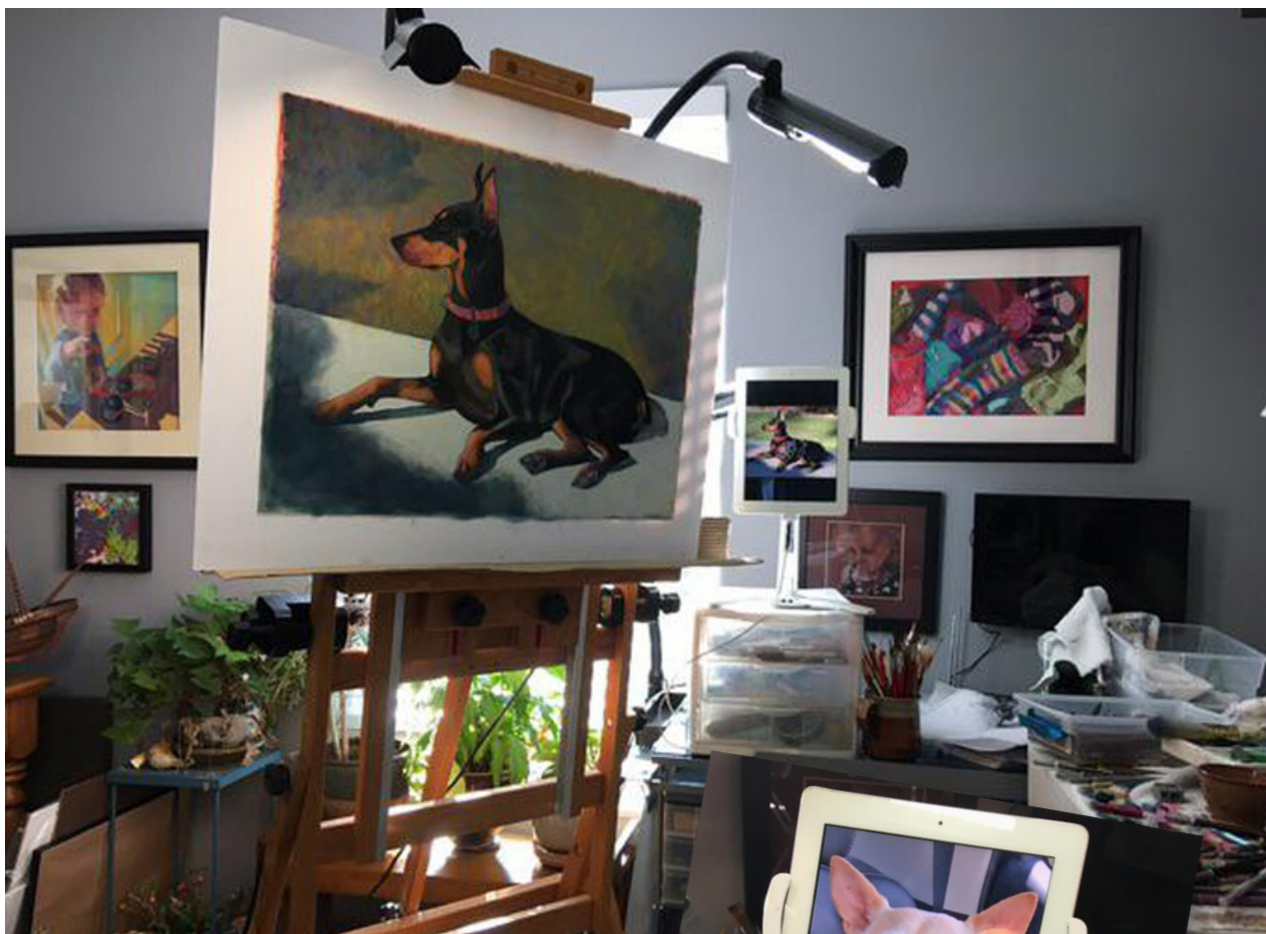


Using Photoshop, I arrange multiple pets into a good composition and let you approve the arrangement prior to painting.

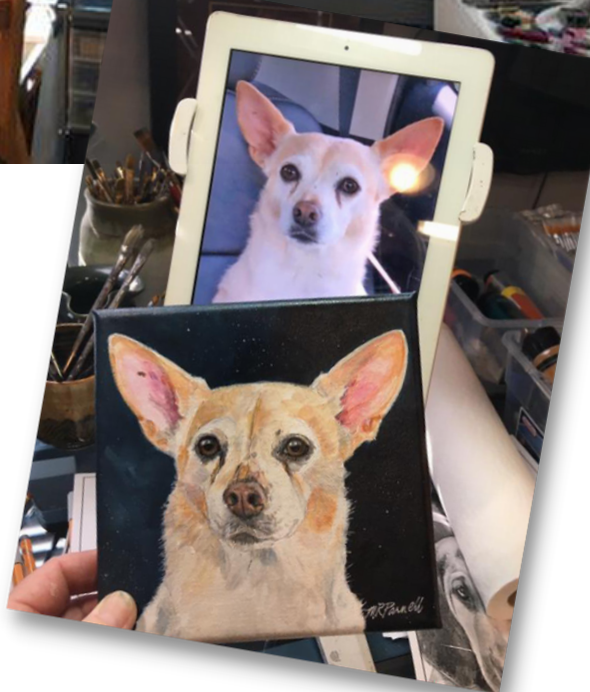


6 I create your custom portrait

Sit back and be just a bit patient while the magic happens in my studio! You will have choices regarding the composition and colors I will include. Your creative input is welcomed!



I work from your reference photo loaded onto my iPad. This allows me to correct the colors and shadows, and zoom in for details.



1 With your approval your painting ships

Once I finish painting, I shoot a photo of your completed pet portrait and email it to you for inspection. You have the opportunity to suggest any revisions, and when they are made, you'll see another photo for you to approve.



That's it! You'll pay the balance on your account, then I will carefully pack your painting and ship it to arrive in just a few days via FedEx or USPS.

Enjoy!



Should I choose Pastels or Acrylics?

Soft Pastels on Sanded Paper



Soft pastels feature a vibrant and intense color palette which allows for the creation of rich and luminous artworks. Their velvety texture effortlessly blends on sanded paper, enabling me to achieve smooth transitions and gradients, as well as intricate details and fine lines in my pet portraits. Additionally, soft pastels can be layered and overlapped, offering endless possibilities for building up depth and texture in a painting. The medium has excellent lightfastness, ensuring the longevity of the artwork. Overall, the expressive nature, versatility, and vibrant colors of soft pastels make them an exceptional choice for capturing the beauty and personality of animals.

Because I work on paper, the size of your painting is absolutely flexible. I generally offer my paintings with dimensions that fit standard-size frames, but you can order any custom size you like, up to 52" wide.

Your pastel painting will be carefully wrapped for insured shipment to you, then delivered ready to be matted and framed behind protective glass. I will send detailed instructions for you and your framer about how to handle and frame your custom pet portrait. You'll be able to locally choose the mat colors and frame that accent your personal decor.

Should I choose Pastels or Acrylics?

Acrylic Paints on Stretched Canvas



Your canvas painting will be carefully wrapped and shipped to you, fully insured. I include hanging hardware so that when you receive your pet portrait, it's ready to hang!

Acrylic paints are known for their strong and vibrant colors, which retain their intensity even after drying. They are versatile in terms of application techniques, as they can be thinned with water for a watercolor-like effect or used in a more opaque manner, resembling oil paints. I prefer layering colors and applying acrylics much like I do my pastels, letting the layers of color peek through subsequent layers. Furthermore, acrylic paints are known for their durability and resistance to fading, ensuring the longevity of your pet's portrait.

All my acrylic paintings are painted on professional-grade stretched canvases, either 1.5" or 2" deep, depending on the size. I prefer to paint in a square format, but I can provide any size canvas you like. Each completed painting is finished with a UV-protectant varnish.



Fee Schedule

Pastel on Paper

8" x 10"	\$350.00	18" x 24"	\$1350.00
10" x 14"	\$450.00	22" x 30"	\$2050.00
12" x 16"	\$650.00	24" x 36"	\$2650.00
14" x 20"	\$850.00		

- Additional pets in the same painting and hand lettering of a name are available.
- I send detailed instructions on how to handle and frame your pastel painting.
- Pastel is the perfect medium for rich, vibrant portraiture. Your selected portrait dimensions are the actual size of your painting, which is mounted upon archival, acid-free foam board cut wider to allow for 2" to 3" wide mat boards. Your finished portrait will fit into a standard-size frame. For example, an 8" x 10" painting is mounted on an 11" x 14" foam board to fit an 11" x 14" frame.

Acrylics on Canvas

6" x 6"	\$129.00	16" x 16"	\$349.00
8" x 8"	\$159.00	20" x 20"	\$449.00
10" x 10"	\$199.00	24" x 24"	\$549.00
12" x 12"	\$249.00		

- These are my standard sizes, but any size painting is welcome.
- Additional pets in the same painting and hand lettering of a name are available.
- Acrylics are a wonderful medium to paint colorful portraits on canvas. I absolutely guarantee my likenesses and the quality of your finished painting. Your original hand-painted custom pet portrait is painted in acrylics on square gallery-wrapped canvas. It arrives signed and ready to hang, with hanging hardware and wire. The canvas is 1.5" to 2" deep and may be left unframed as the artwork wraps onto all four edges. Your painting is sealed with an acrylic varnish to protect it from dust and UV light.

Thank you for requesting this step-by-step guide!

Now that you know how super easy it is to order your pet's portrait, let's get started on creating a painting of your best furry friend that you will cherish forever!

Creating a custom pet portrait is a truly heart-warming experience for me, and I describe it as sending joy out into the world.

Let me send you some joy!

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[#marlarushparnell](https://www.instagram.com/marlarushparnell)

Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/marlarushparnell



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Bolivar, Missouri • USA

Award-winning canine portrait artist with a pastel painting in the permanent collection of the AKC Museum of the Dog, New York, NY.

- Signature Member of Pastel Society of America, New York, NY
- Gateway Pastel Artists, St. Louis, MO
- International Association of Pastel Societies

One last thing...

I have sketched and painted animals for as long as I can remember. Here's a portrait of my first dog, Torky, that I drew when I was only seven years old. I am currently Dog Mom to two Shelties, Zookie and Zeke, with whom I am totally obsessed!