Pet portrait Materials list for acrylic pet portrait painting class with Maggie Ruley

Paints

These are the colors I consider essential for acrylic painting:

naphthol red medium or cadmium red medium

 azo yellow medium or cadmium yellow medium

phthalo blue

 phthalo green

Dioxizine purple

 titanium white

For pet portraits, you might want to add some browns, black and/or earth tones  that correspond to the colors of you pet.

Such as:

Black

Burnt umber

Burnt sienna

Yellow ochre

Terra Cotta

Student grade paints are acceptable, except for white.  If at all possible buy a good quality white paint, such as Liquitex or Golden.

Brushes

Brushes are sold by size, shape and what they are made of. I like white nylon brights or natural bristle brights. For this project I recommend,

#4 bright

#6 bright

#8 bright

#2 round - a small brush for details

A palette to mix your paints.

If you don't have a professional acrylic palette, styrofoam plates can be used.  You will probably use 2 or 3 each session.  I save the styrofoam trays that meat and vegetables come in from the grocery store and use those.

Canvas

A stretched canvas, your choice of size. While canvas panels are more economical, the poor quality of the canvas makes them harder to paint on.

A good photograph of your pet.

See the pet photography tips below and remember your pet's personality is going to come through the eyes in most cases. So choose a photo where you can see the eyes. This should be printed out. It is hard to paint from the small image on your phone. If you don't have a printer the UPS Store or Office Max can print from a flash drive.

Note to beginning students or those who are not confident in their drawing ability: buy an 8" x 10" canvas and print your photo 8 x 10.

Other supplies

Rags or paper towels

A plastic container for water

An apron or clothes you don't care about

Pencil and eraser

Sketch pad or paper

Pet photography tips

Adjustments can be made for shadows or poor