

The Studio Shoot

What to Expect When You Book a Photo Session for Your Cat in Our Home Studio

What Does a Photo Session Cost?

We bill your photo session at the rate of \$100.00 per hour (to the nearest 1/4 hour) and have a one hour (\$100.00) minimum charge. Beyond that minimum, the session fee is based on the actual time we spend with you and your cat(s) during the photo session itself and the image review that follows. In general, if your cat(s) adapt well to strangers and new surroundings, and if they are cooperative subjects, you can expect to complete the shoot and the review for one and perhaps two cats within the one hour minimum.

Your photo session includes first, the time we spend in photographing as many cats as you bring. It begins when we take the first shot of your cat(s). When you feel we have captured all the poses you had in mind, or probably gotten all that your cat(s) are going to give us, you decide when this portion of your session is completed.

Then, we review with you (on a video monitor) the digital images we have taken to enable you to select the shots you wish to have retouched and printed. If there is some particular shot that we missed, we can go back and shoot some more if you wish. When you have chosen the images you like, you can also decide whether you want additional prints, enlargements, or a CD-ROM or floppy disk of your digital image files.

When you have made these choices, we “stop the clock” and write you an invoice for the time expended to that point, as well as any of the above mentioned extras you may decide to order.

We do not accept credit cards, but your check is welcome. Cash is fine, too.

How Long Does It Take?

As mentioned above a typical photo session involving one or two *reasonably cooperative* cats on a single background color can be done within our minimum charge of one hour, including the post-shoot review. Those customers who bring three or four cats to be photographed can expect their session to take 1_ to 2 hours. Generally, a one hour session breaks down into about 30-40 minutes of shooting time, including perhaps a reshoot to pick up some additional poses, and 20-30 minutes of review.

Factors that require additional time include:

1. Additional cats
2. Shy, scared, or nervous cats who are uncomfortable around strangers and in strange surroundings and therefore are difficult subjects or need more time to be put at ease
3. Multiple background colors, which require time to change out
4. Customers who want shots of their children or themselves with their cats, which involves additional time to reposition our lights and fine tune the new lighting setup
5. Customers who, during the review, are slow in deciding which images they want to select

What Do I Get?

Our \$100 basic charge for a photo session of one hour or less includes six custom retouched 4x6 prints of the images you have chosen. Typically, you will make your selection from 2 dozen or more shots that we have taken. If your session runs 1_ hours or more because you have brought three or more cats to be photographed, you will receive additional prints at the rate of six per hour, or one more print for every additional 10 minute period. For example, you would be entitled to nine prints for a 1_ hour session, or 12 prints for a 2 hour session.

OPTIONAL OFFERINGS

Extra Prints: \$12.00 Each Often, when a customer's cat is both cooperative and photogenic, we will get many more than six nice poses from a one hour session. In such cases, we offer additional prints (retouched 4x6s) for \$12.00 each. For example, if we got great shots of your Felix within the basic one hour minimum session and you decided you wanted ten poses (four more than the six included in the basic session fee) you could purchase these for an additional \$48.00 over your \$100.00 session fee.

Duplicate Set of Prints: \$2.00 Per Print If, at the time of your photo session, you decide that you would like a second set of prints, we offer a duplicate set of six prints for \$12.00. If you have chosen more than six poses to be retouched and printed, the second set will be priced at \$2.00 per print. For example, if you chose eight poses, your second set of prints would run \$16.00. You can, of course, always order additional copies of any print at a later date, but this special rate is available only at the time of your photo session.

Enlargements: Any of your images can be ordered in larger sizes as follows:

5x7: \$12.00 8x10 or 8x12: \$20.00 11x14: \$35.00 12x16 or 12x18: \$50.00

A discount will be given for additional copies of the same image printed at the same size.

CD-ROM: \$60.00 When you feel the photo session has been so successful that you like a great number of the images, or when you have had several cats photographed at once and need several shots of each, it often makes sense to purchase a CD-ROM of your photo session. This will include digital image files of every shot we have taken. Only the images you have chosen for your prints will be retouched, but you will get high resolution (so you can have your own prints made) and low resolution (for website and e-mail use) versions of these retouched image files. All the other shots we took will be included on the CD-ROM as well. These outtakes will be the original, unretouched, high resolution image files as recorded by the camera. CD-ROMs include custom designed graphic art on the jewel case cover.

Floppy Disk: \$25.00 A lower cost alternative to the CD-ROM is our Floppy Disk offering. In this case, the disk includes only the image files of those shots you have chosen to be retouched and printed and only low resolution versions of these images for website and e-mail use. If you are not interested in having the outtake images from your photo session, and if your primary interest in having the digital files is for internet applications, this may be the way to go.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Scheduling an Appointment: Please try to contact us at least two weeks in advance of when you would like to schedule a photo session. Generally, we can schedule photo sessions between 10:00am and 7:00pm. But occasionally we have busy periods when we cannot accept any studio appointments for two weeks running, so it's best to plan ahead as much as possible to ensure that the appointment time you want will be available. The best way to communicate with us is by e-mail at helmi@airmail.net but you may also reach us by phone at 817 268-1812.

Save Time by filling out our Photo Session Signup Form and deciding on your background color ahead of time. That way, we can be ready to begin when you arrive. We can e-mail the Signup Form to you, which you can fill out online and e-mail back to us, or print out, fill in and return to us by mail. We can also direct you to a website where you can preview our selection of background colors.

If You Can't Arrive On Time, Late is Better Than Early: Because our studio is in our home we are only "open for business" by appointment. If you arrive early, it is quite possible that we will not be ready for you, so please plan to arrive no earlier than the scheduled time of your appointment. And if it works out that you get here 15 or 20 minutes late, that will not be a problem for us at all.

Cat Handling: Please bring your cat(s) in a carrier and keep them in it or on the grooming table we provide for you whenever they are not being photographed.

DIRECTIONS

We are located in Bedford, Texas, a suburban city near the center of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. Bedford is about 5 minutes west of D/FW Airport on Hwy 183 (Airport Freeway). When you schedule an appointment we will provide you with easy-to-follow printed directions to our studio.