

The Gentle Session Guide

A calm, practical guide to planning photographs that feel beautiful, natural and safe for your animal.

Every session starts with the animal in front of the camera. We build around their comfort, their cues and their pace so the photographs feel like them.

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A resource from GD Pet Photography, sister company to The Gentle Dog Company.

Choose the right kind of session

The best photographs come from a plan that respects the individual animal. Before you book, think about what would make the experience easy for them and meaningful for you.

A gentle pace	There is room for breaks, sniffing, movement and a change of plan.
A familiar setting	Home, garden or a favourite walk can be more comfortable than a new studio.
A clear purpose	Decide whether you want quiet portraits, playful action, a family story or a little of each.
A simple fallback	If the weather, energy or mood changes, the session can still be a success.

Questions to bring to your discovery call

What does your animal enjoy? What do they avoid? What would make them feel safe? Which people, places or routines matter to them? Sharing these details helps us shape the session before a camera appears.

Small choices make a big difference

There is no need to train for the camera. A little preparation simply removes friction on the day.

Pack familiar comforts

Bring a favourite toy, blanket, treats and water. Familiar smells can create an anchor in a new place.

Keep the day spacious

Avoid stacking the session between stressful appointments. Give your animal time to arrive and settle.

Dress for movement

Choose clothes you can sit, kneel and walk in. Your animal will take cues from your body language.

Share the full picture

Tell us about health, mobility, noise sensitivity, reactivity or recent changes. This is useful planning information, never a judgement.

A gentle session can be quiet. Some of the most expressive frames happen between the planned moments.

Let the animal lead

We begin with observation rather than instruction. Once we know how your animal is moving through the space, we can make photographs that feel unforced.

01 Arrive and settle

Give your animal time to explore. We will keep the first minutes low-key and camera-light.

02 Follow the cues

Turning away, lip licking, yawning, pinned ears, hiding or sudden stillness are useful communication. We can pause, change direction or finish.

03 Keep the energy soft

Quiet voices, simple prompts and short bursts keep the experience clear. There is no pressure to perform.

04 Make space for the real story

If your animal wants to move, play, cuddle or rest, those moments can become the photographs.

Keep what feels true

Your images should bring back the feeling of the day, not just the way your animal looked for a second. We will guide you through the next step and help you choose a way to enjoy the photographs at home.

Before the session ends, we will confirm how and when you will see your proofing gallery, what is included, and how to order artwork if you would like something tangible.

Ready to talk through your animal and your idea?

Book a calm, 20-minute Gentle Discovery Call. We will talk through the outcome, location, timing and the kindest route for your session.

calendly.com/endeavourstudios-info/gd-pet-photography-gentle-discovery-call

GD Pet Photography
A wellbeing-first approach to animal portraiture.