



TIPS FOR BRINGING
YOUR DOG
TO YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

BRINGING YOUR DOG

So you want to bring your dog to your engagement session? By all means do it! As an animal lover I always get excited to meet my couple's dogs and photograph them along with you, after all they are your baby. After photographing so many dogs I have a few tips to make sure your session with your best friend runs smoothly.

- Bring treats or some sort of bribery for your dog. Most dogs are going to get pretty excited over the fact there is a new person there, who is down on their level for a few shots. If they are waiting on a treat they are less likely to move during shots making my job easier and you less frustrated.

- Bring some sort of toy to get their attention. If your dog loves tennis balls, bring one. If it is a teddy bear, bring one. Some dogs need a little extra something to get their attention, especially when we are doing shots with them sitting with you. They love paying attention to mom and dad, so getting them to look at the camera can be hard without a toy.

- Bring a friend, or family member along. Chances are you only want a few shots here and there with your dog. So that means that there are shots where your dog will not be needed. Bringing someone to hang out with your dog takes the stress off of you trying to figure out where to tie them up, or worrying about walking back and forth to the car every time you need them.

- Be patient! This is my biggest tip. Your dog is excited. There is a new person, and the sound of the camera clicking is not familiar, chances are they are not going to be perfectly behaved. It is not a big deal. Your dog will get used to me and calm down eventually, so just be patient for the first couple minutes.

- Give them lots of love and reassurance. If your dog sat long enough to even get two shots, they did a good job. Make sure you tell them how good they are and give them lots of loving. This is also likely to reinforce the good behavior meaning by the end of photos they will be a total model.

- Bring a neutral colored leash and collar. This is the most important thing for you to remember. I can not tell you how many sessions I have had where my bride and groom are in perfectly coordinating fall colors, and then there is their dog with a neon colored collar and leash. It is so distracting in your photos! So make sure you either choose a leash and collar that is matching to your outfit or neutral in color so they are not distracting from you in the photo.

- Be relaxed, your dog can sense when you are tense or stressed, which means they will be more likely to be excited or a little wild. If you are calm and relaxed your dog will be too.

