

Radiography Positioning Guide

Brought to you by IDEXX Diagnostic Imaging
and IDEXX Telemedicine Consultants

Tips

- Take at least **two views** of each anatomic region—remember, you're capturing a three-dimensional object.
- **Center** the x-ray beam directly over the area of interest.
- Visualize how the image would look on a monitor. **Move the patient** and position the area of interest along the long axis of your collimated field, rather than rotating the collimator.
- **Collimate** to the area of interest to reduce scatter radiation and to improve image quality.
- Be safe—always use **protective lead gloves, aprons, and thyroid shields** to protect yourself from scatter radiation; stay as far away as possible from the primary x-ray beam; and use positioning devices.
- Use a well-defined system of exposure determination, such as a **technique chart based on patient measurements**, for accurate, repeatable, and optimal exposures. Include laterality markers.

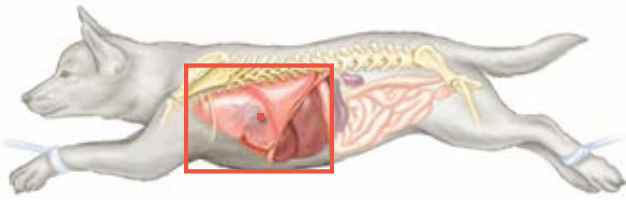
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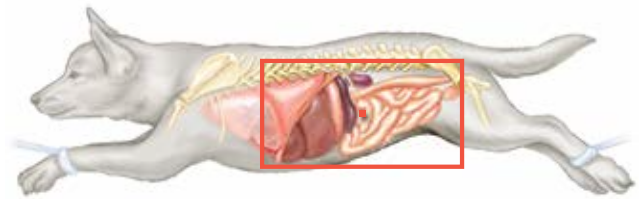
Thorax



Lateral thorax

Sternum and thoracic spine must be in same plane. Extend forelimbs maximally. Extend hind limbs, but do not rotate patient. Extend collimation caudally to top of last rib. Make exposure at peak inspiration.

Abdomen



Lateral abdomen

Position animal as for lateral thorax, but center on middle of last rib. *Exception: For cats and dachshunds, center 1 inch behind last rib.*

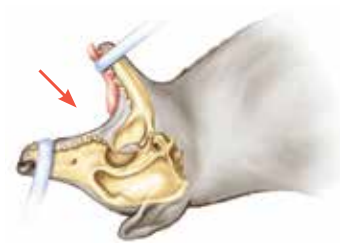
Skull



Lateral skull **aS**

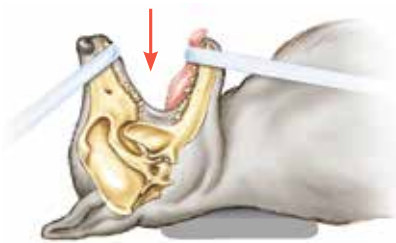


Dorsoventral skull **aS**

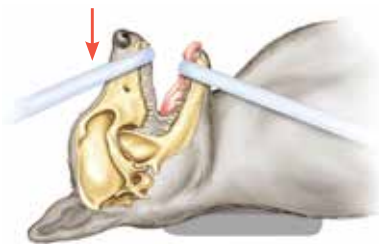


Ventrodorsal maxilla, open mouth **aR**

Mouth is opened, with hard palate parallel to table surface. Pull mandible caudally and secure it. Secure endotracheal tube and tongue to center of mandible or pull the tube and tongue caudally to one side of the mandible. Angle x-ray beam 20° from perpendicular (if possible).



Bullae, open mouth **aR**

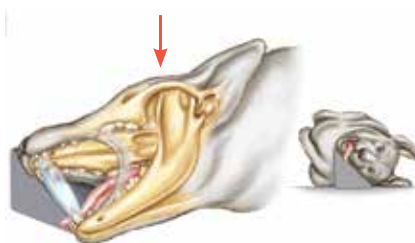


Frontal sinus view **aR**

Position hard palate perpendicular to table surface with nostrils pointing straight up.



Temporomandibular oblique **aR**



Bulla/other oblique **aR**

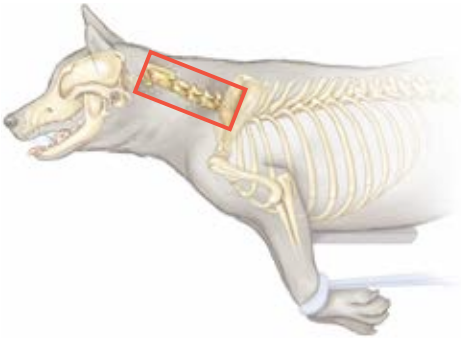
Rotate the mandible up or down depending on the area of interest. The larger image depicts positioning for bulla and mandible. The smaller image indicates positioning for frontal bone and maxilla.

Key

aR Anesthesia required

aS Anesthesia or heavy sedation suggested

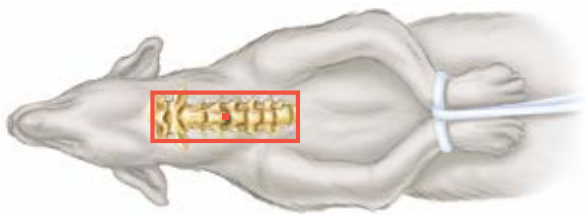
Spine



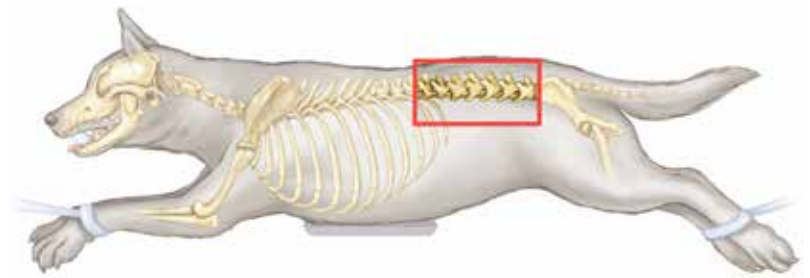
Lateral cervical spine *a***s**



Lateral thoracic spine *a***s**

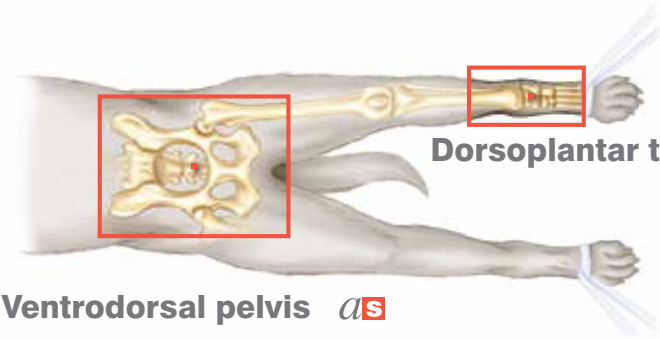


Ventrodorsal cervical spine *a***s**



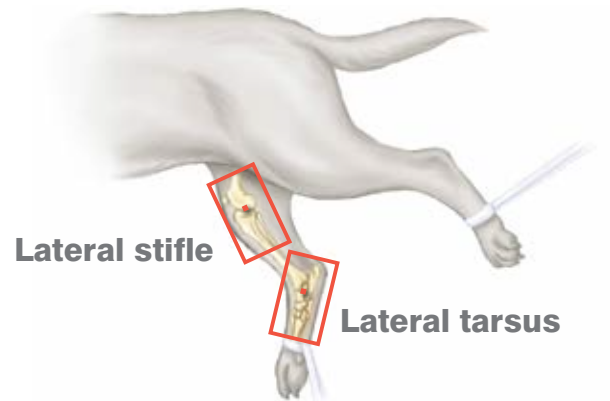
Lateral lumbar spine *a***s**

Pelvis and hind limbs



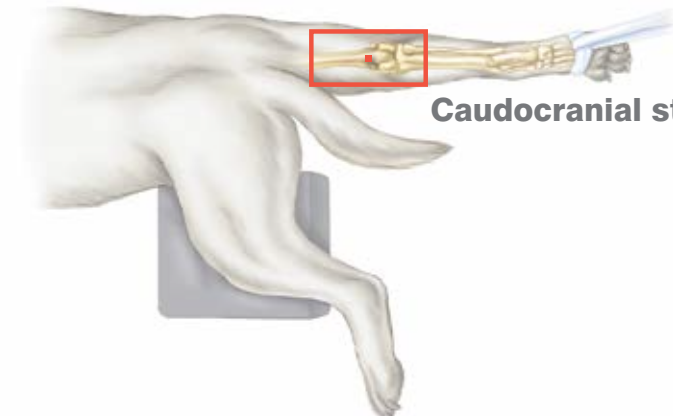
Ventrodorsal pelvis *a***s**

Dorsoplantar tarsus



Lateral stifle

Lateral tarsus

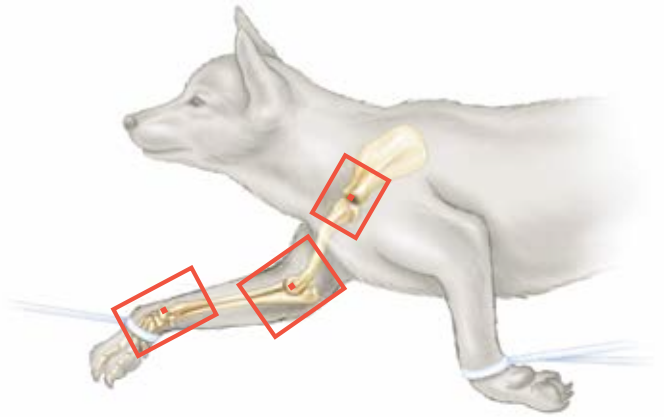


Caudocranial stifle



Oblique lateral digits

Shoulder and front limbs

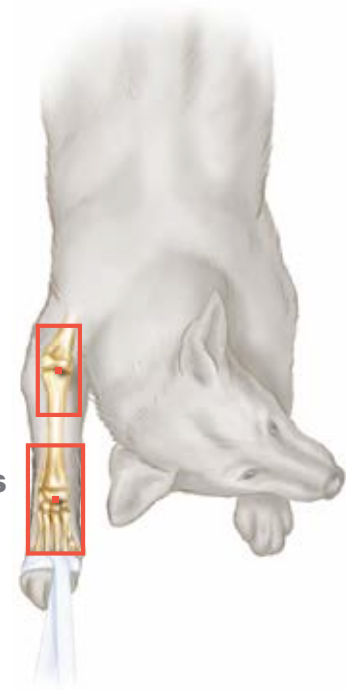


Lateral shoulder **aS**

Limb to be examined must be down and extended cranially and ventrally. Pull opposite limb caudally and ventrally (not over the back).

Lateral elbow

Lateral carpus



Cranio-caudal elbow

Dorsopalmar carpus



Caudo-cranial shoulder

Key

a_r Anesthesia required

a_S Anesthesia or heavy sedation suggested