

# Digital Download

Information and insights into radiography using your IDEXX Digital Imaging System

## Digital Radiography Positioning Guide: Recommended Beam Centers

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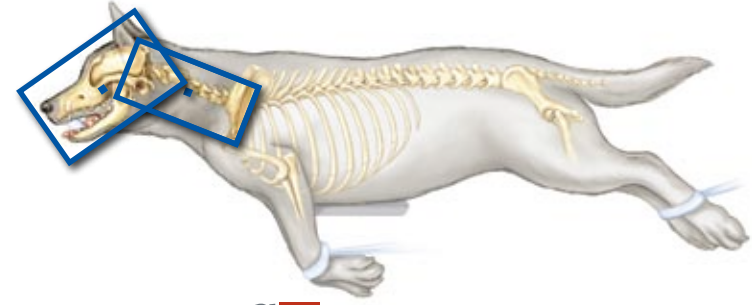
Volume 2 No. 1

Positioning:  
Recommended  
Beam Centers

### TIPS

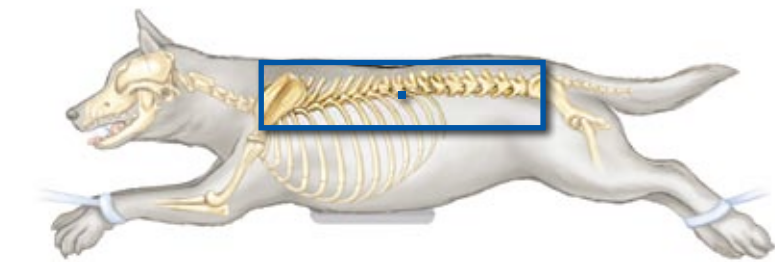
- Take at least **two views** of each anatomic region—remember, you're capturing a three-dimensional object.
- **Center** the x-ray beam directly over the area of interest.
- Visualize how the image would look on a monitor. **Move the patient** and position the area of interest along the long axis of 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** to protect yourself from scatter radiation; stay as far away as possible from the primary x-ray beam, and use positioning devices.

### SKULL AND SPINE ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



Lateral skull **aS**

Lateral cervical spine **aS**

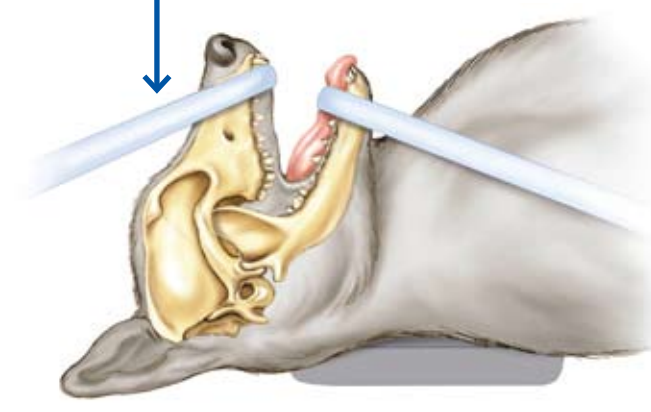


Lateral thoracolumbar spine



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 (remember to realign grid).



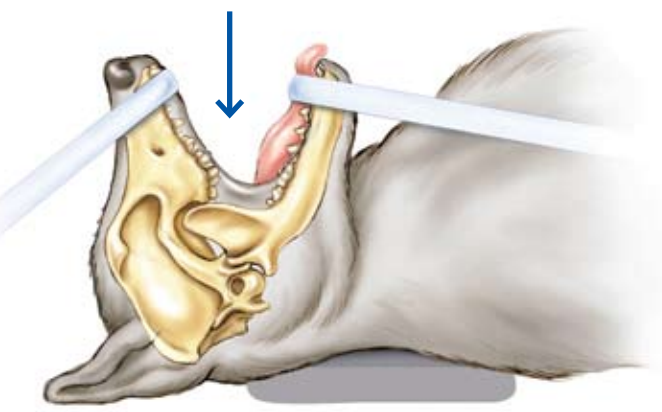
Frontal sinus view **aR**

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

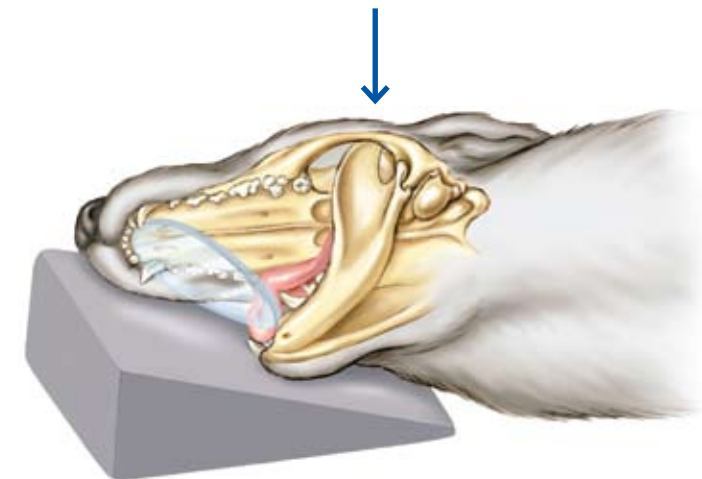
#### Key:

**aR** Anesthesia required

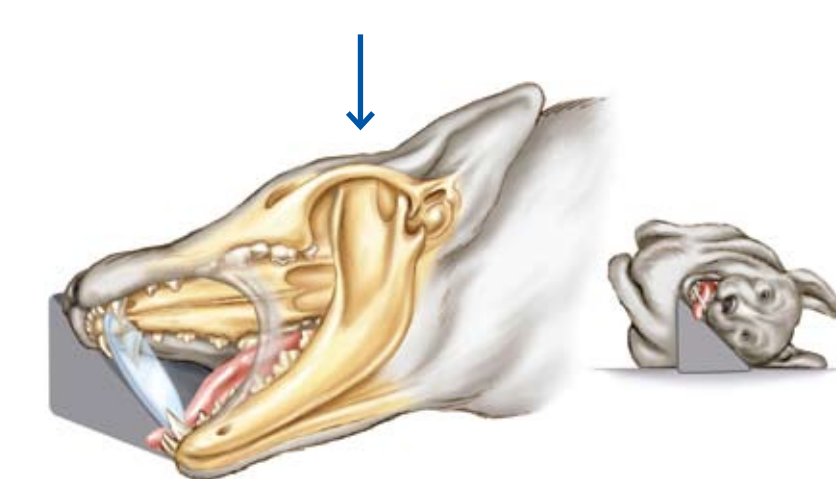
**aS** Anesthesia or heavy sedation suggested



Bullae, open mouth **aR**



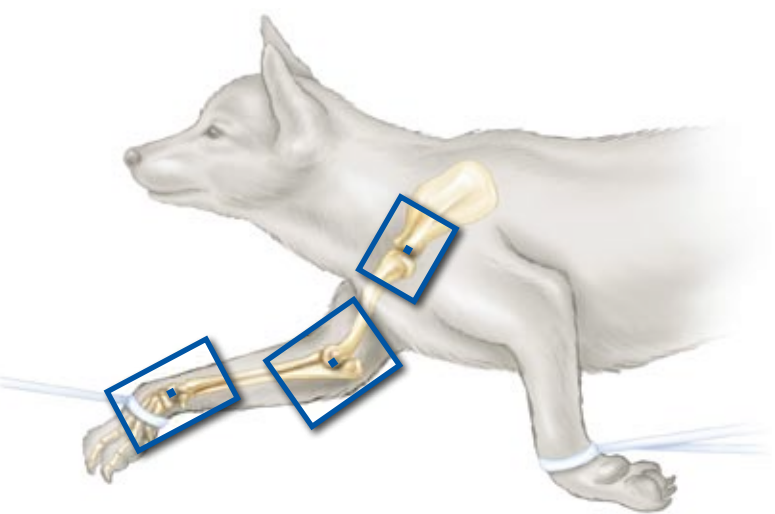
Temporomandibular oblique **aR**



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 drawing indicates positioning for frontal bone and maxilla.

### SHOULDER AND FRONT LIMBS ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

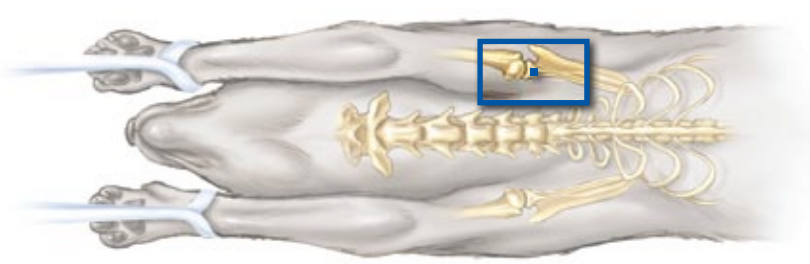


Lateral shoulder **aS**

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

Lateral elbow

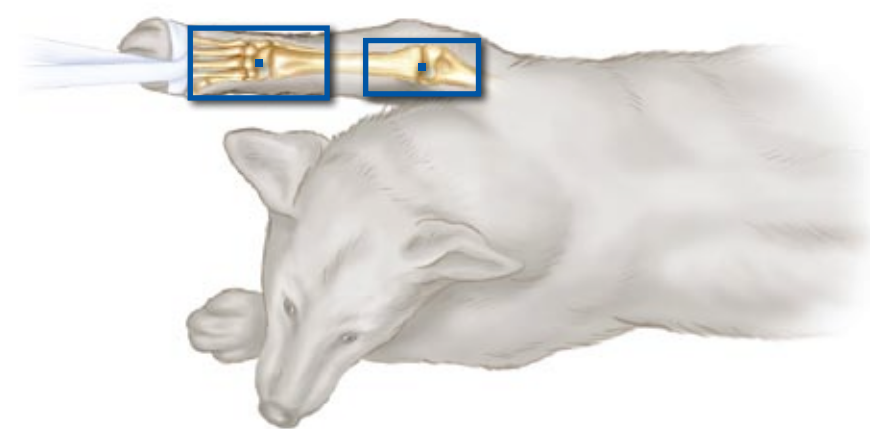
Lateral carpus



Caudocranial shoulder



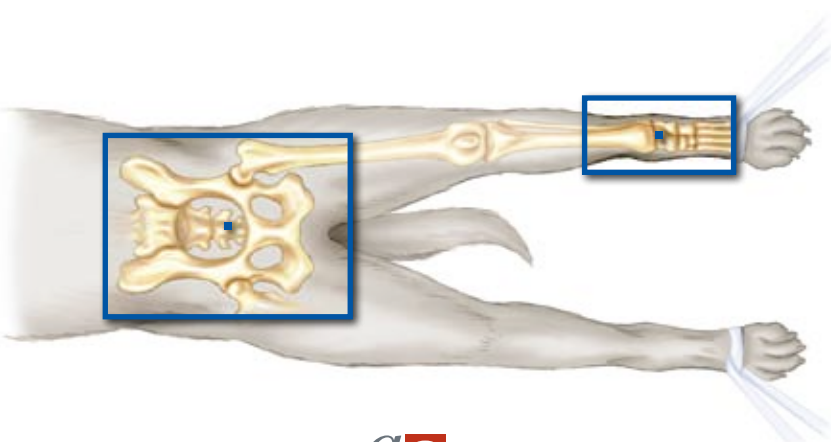
Ventrodorsal cervical spine **aR**



Craniocaudal elbow

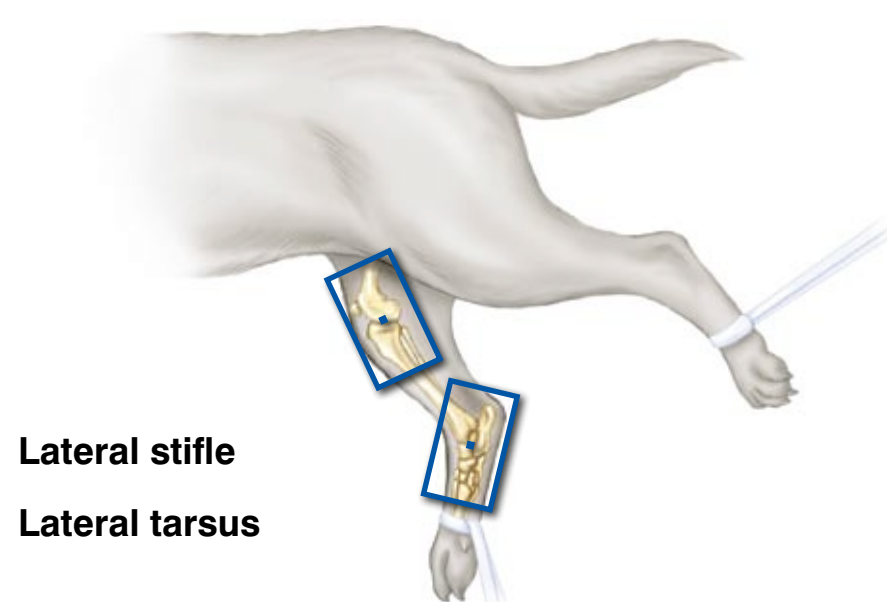
Dorsopalmar carpus

### PELVIS AND HIND LIMBS ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



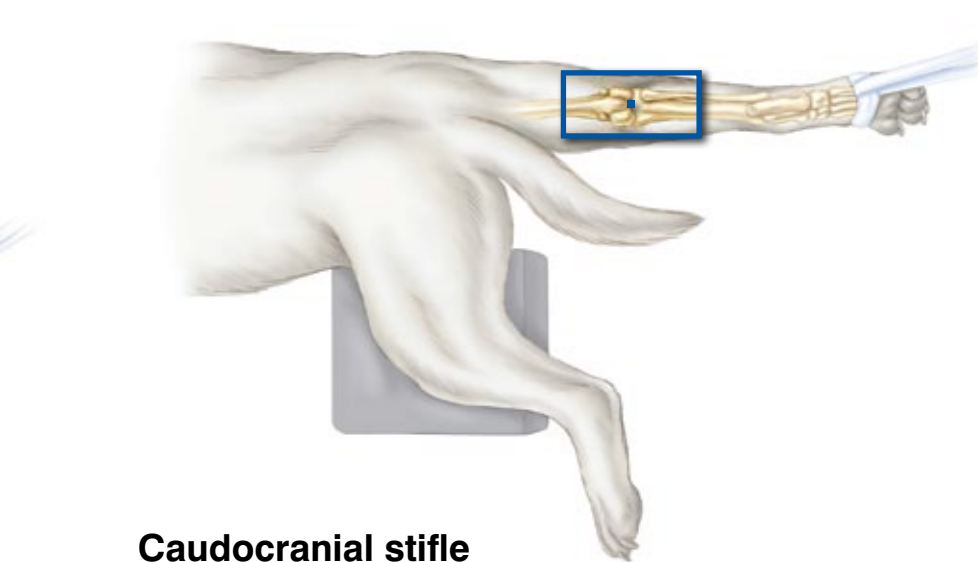
Ventrodorsal pelvis **aS**

Dorsoplantar tarsus



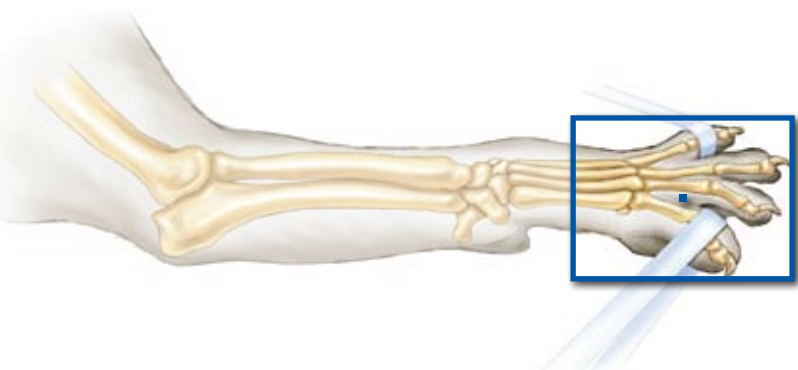
Lateral stifle

Lateral tarsus

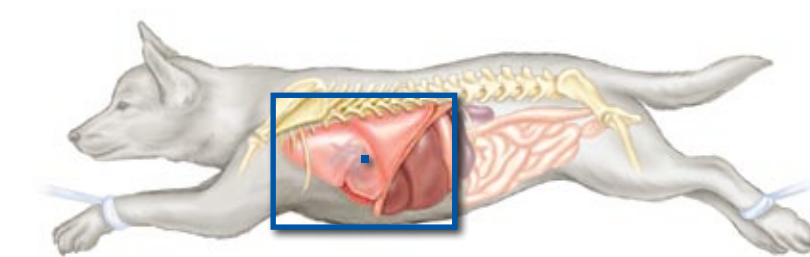


Caudocranial stifle

### THORAX ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



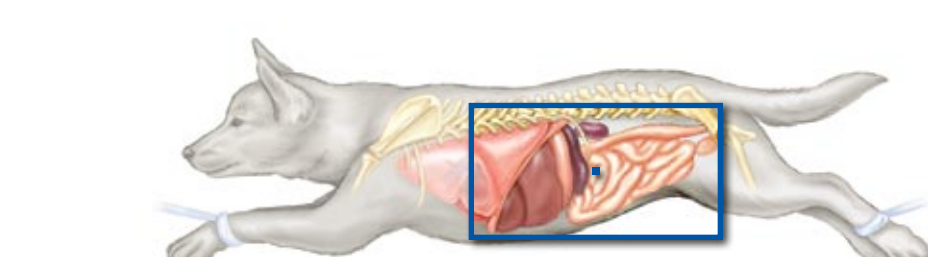
Oblique lateral digits



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.*