

This chart is designed to be copied and placed next to the dental X-ray machine, for easy reference.

<b>Dental Radiology “CHEAT SHEET”</b>	
<b>Area imaged</b>	<b>General Technique and Tips</b>
<b>Lower PM and M</b>	Place film in vestibule between the tongue and teeth. The beam is angled perpendicular to film. This is the only “parallel technique”
<b>Lower incisors +/- Canines</b>	Start by aiming beam on ventral midline perpendicular to the mandible. Then tip the tube so the beam is angled 20 degrees caudally. If desired, using larger film will allow visualization of the lower canines on the same film.
<b>Upper incisors</b>	Start by aiming beam on the dorsal midline, perpendicular to the bridge of the nose. Then tip the tube so the beam is angled 20 degrees caudally.
<b>Upper canines</b>	Start by aiming beam dorsally over the top of the canine, similar to the upper incisor view. Then tip the tube so the beam is angled 20-30 degrees caudally and 20-30 degrees toward the midline. This will move the image of the root away from the premolars. The film should slightly overlap the tip of the crown. Excessive film sticking out of the mouth is wasted. The forward tipping elongates the tooth, while the lateral tipping serves to move the canine tooth away from the overlapping premolars.
<b>Upper PM and M</b>	Place the film mostly over the palate. Start dorsally over the top of the target teeth. Tip the tube so the beam is angled approximately 45 degrees from the midline. <u>Cats require a modified technique</u> to avoid superimposition of the Zygomatic Arch. The film is placed diagonally across the mouth from the inside of the upper teeth on the side opposite that to be imaged, to the inside of the mandibular teeth on the side to be imaged. The beam is angled more laterally, approximately 70 degrees from the midline (which is also 20 degrees from straight lateral).
<b>“Three Simple Rules”</b>	
The three parameters of tube angulation, tube position and film position can be summarized as follows:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the image is <i>foreshortened or elongated</i>, adjust the tube angle. To make the roots longer, move the tube head more laterally.</li> <li>2. If you cut the target off at <i>the edge of the beam</i> (cone cut), simply move the beam over toward the area of cone cut.</li> <li>3. If you cut the target off at <i>the edge of the film</i>, move the film over toward the area you cut off.</li> </ol>	