Simplified Positioning for Dental Radiology

Presented by:

Dentalaire

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REALIZING THE POTENTIAL FOR DENTAL CARE
By Tony M. Woodward, DVM, AVDC

The following pictures show film placement, starting position of the beam and appropriate tipping of the beam to image the five different areas of the mouth. These diagrams are best used in conjunction with the positioning "Cheat Sheet" above. When performed as indicated, these simple positioning guidelines will provide well-positioned dental films.

Positioning for mandibular premolars and molars

Lateral view showing film placement
Front view showing tube position

Positioning for mandibular incisors and canines

Front view showing film placement
Side view showing the starting position of the beam, pointed directly at the film
The tube head is then tipped 20 degrees forward (beam is now angled slightly caudally)

Positioning for maxillary incisors

Front view showing film placement
Side view showing the starting position of the beam, pointed directly at the film
The tube head is then tipped 20 degrees forward (beam is now angled slightly caudally)

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Images, text and medical consultation provided by Tony M. Woodward, DVM, AVDC
### SIMPLIFIED POSITIONING FOR DENTAL RADIOLOGY

**Positioning for maxillary canines**

1. **Front view of initial film and tube positions.** Note that the beam is centered directly over the target tooth and is also perpendicular to the film.
2. **The tube head is first tipped 20 degrees forward,** similar to the upper incisor view. This tipping makes the image of the canine longer.
3. **Front view after the tube head is tipped forward in step #2.**
4. **The tube head is then tipped 20 degrees to the side.** This moves the canine tooth away from the premolars, preventing superimposition.

### REALIZING THE POTENTIAL FOR DENTAL CARE

**Positioning for feline maxillary premolars and molars, using the “near parallel technique”**

1. **Front view of film placement for imaging the right maxillary premolars/molar in feline patients.**
2. **Side view of correct film placement.** The maxillary premolars will be visible near the edge of the film.
3. **View of film placement in an actual patient.**
4. **Patient in lateral recumbency.** The arcade to be imaged is away from the table and parallel to the table top. The beam is started sideways to the teeth to be imaged.
5. **The tube head is then tipped approximately 20 degrees over the top of the nose.**

### POSITIONING FOR MAXILLARY PREMOLARS / MOLARS

- **Film placement across the palate.** Here the tube is positioned directly over the top of the maxillary premolars.
- **Here the tube is positioned directly to the side of the maxillary premolars.**
- **Splitting the difference between position #1 and #2 gives the correct beam angle of 45 degrees.**

**Positioning for the extraoral technique, shown from the perspective of the X-ray beam.**

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SIMPLIFIED POSITIONING FOR DENTAL RADIOLOGY

Beam angulation used to separate overlying structures

Caudal (posterior) oblique
Lateral
Rostral (anterior) oblique