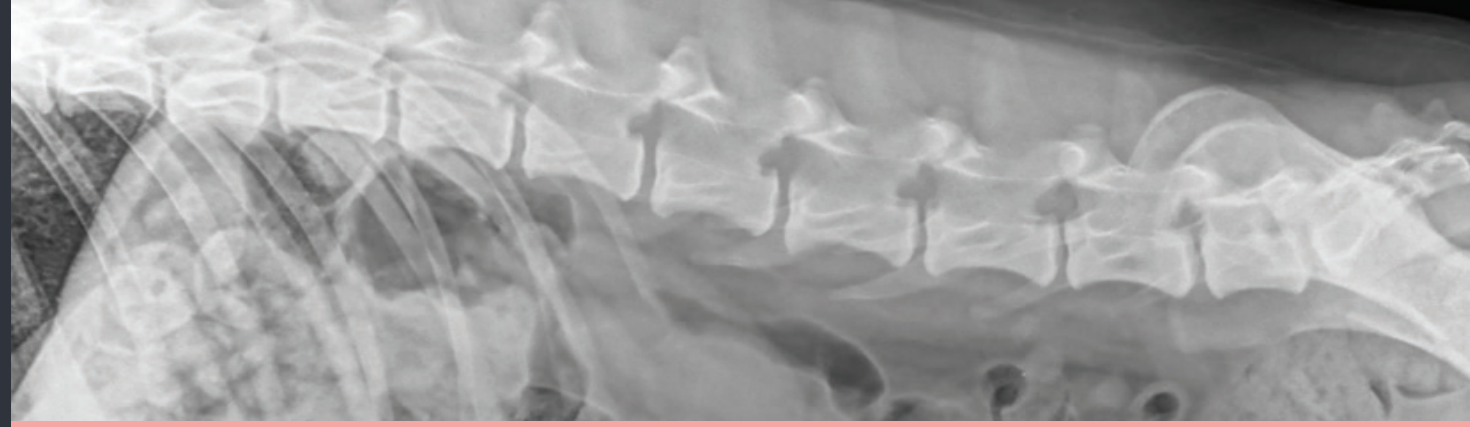


# Radiography Positioning Guide

Brought to you by IDEXX Diagnostic Imaging and IDEXX Telemedicine Consultants

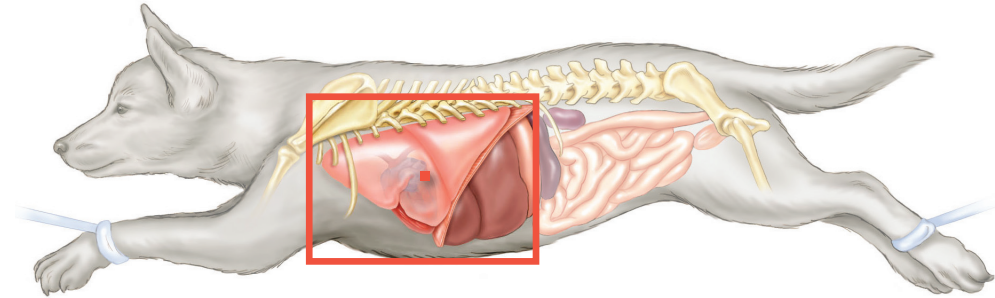


## Tips

- 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 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.

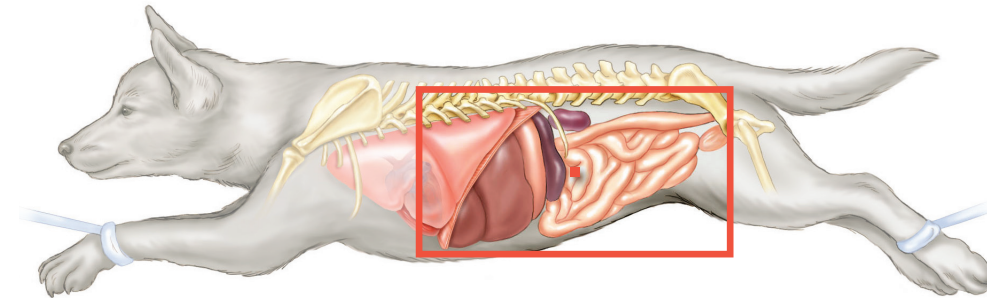
## Thorax



### 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

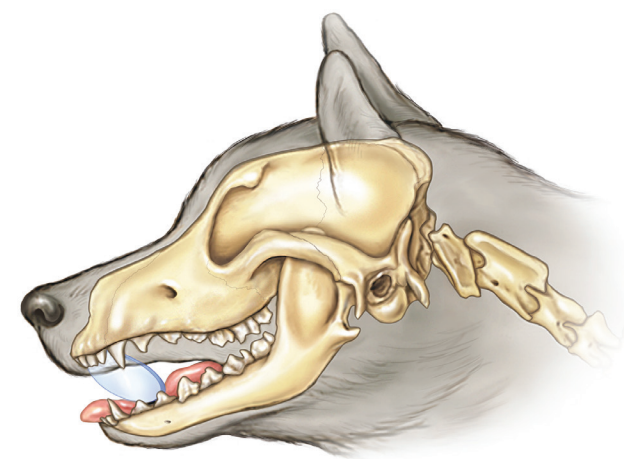
Position animal as for lateral thorax, but center on middle of last rib. *Exception: For cats and dachshunds, center 1 inch behind last rib.*

## Key

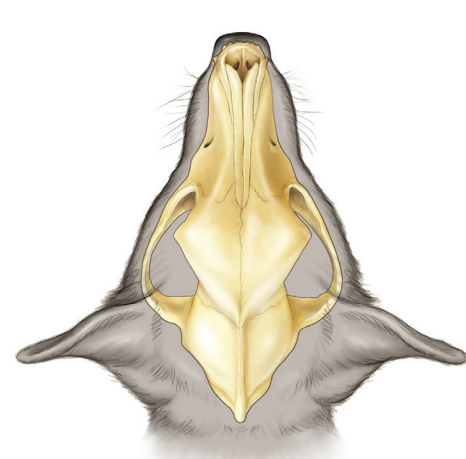
**a****r** Anesthesia required

**a****s** Anesthesia or heavy sedation suggested

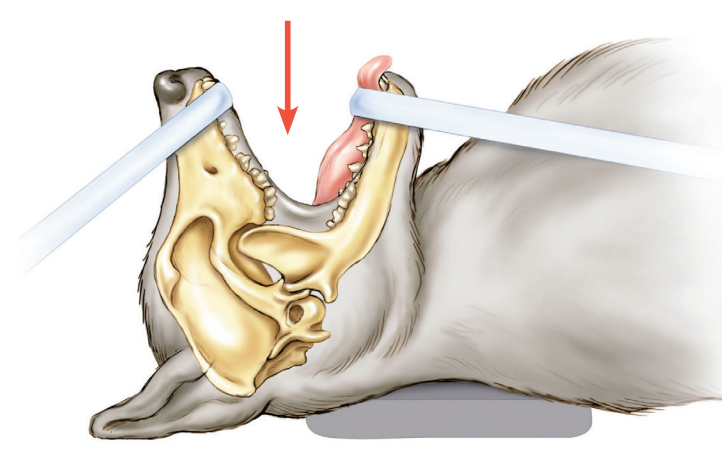
## Skull



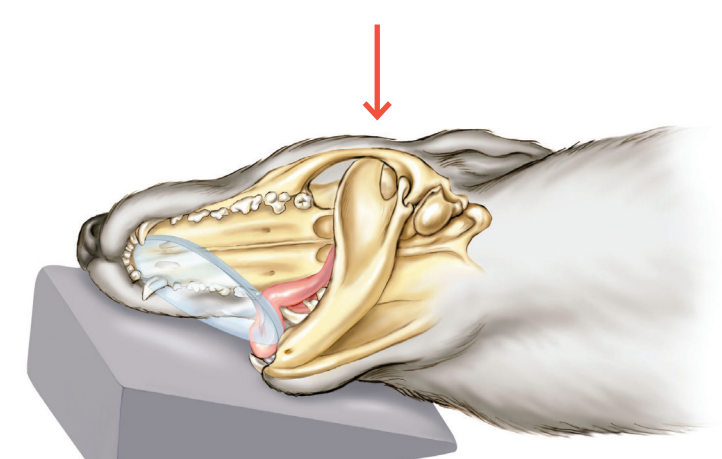
Lateral skull **a****s**



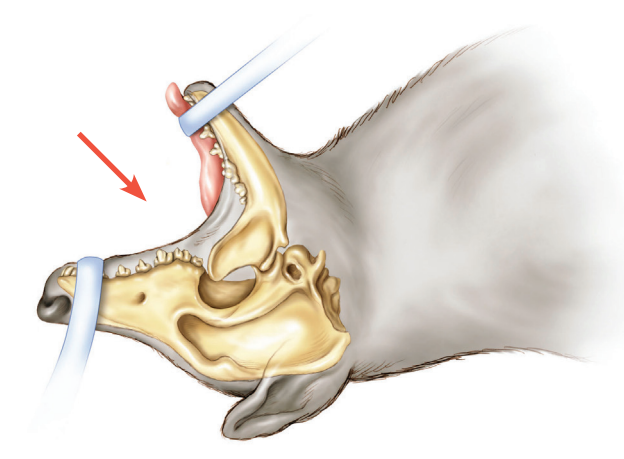
Dorsoventral skull **a****s**



Bullae, open mouth **a****r**

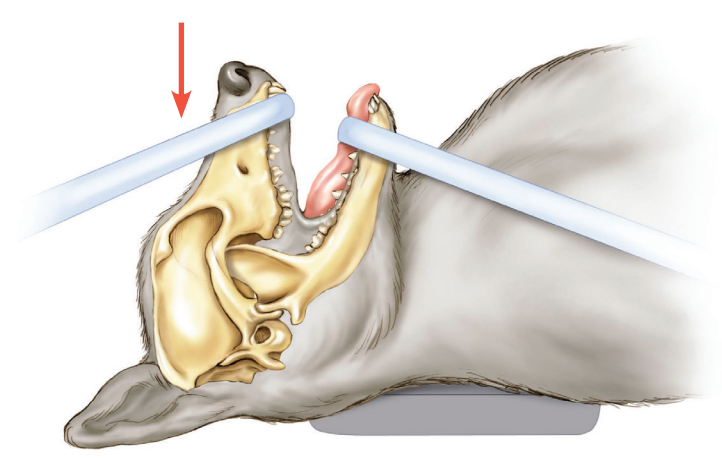


Temporomandibular oblique **a****r**



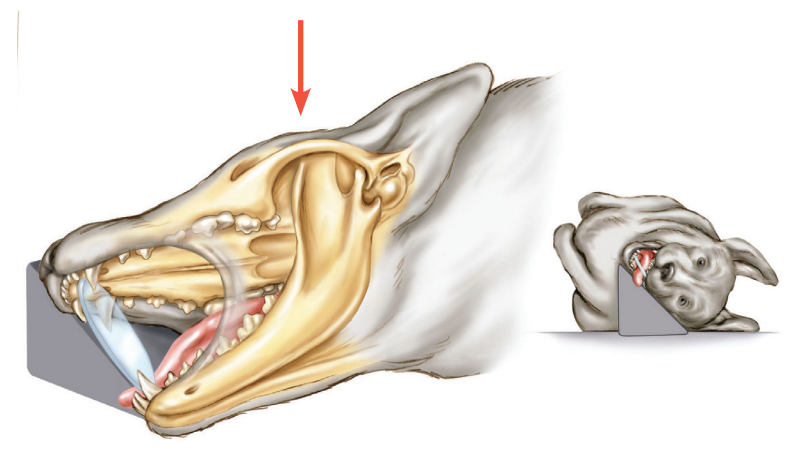
Ventrodorsal maxilla, open mouth **a****r**

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).



Frontal sinus view **a****r**

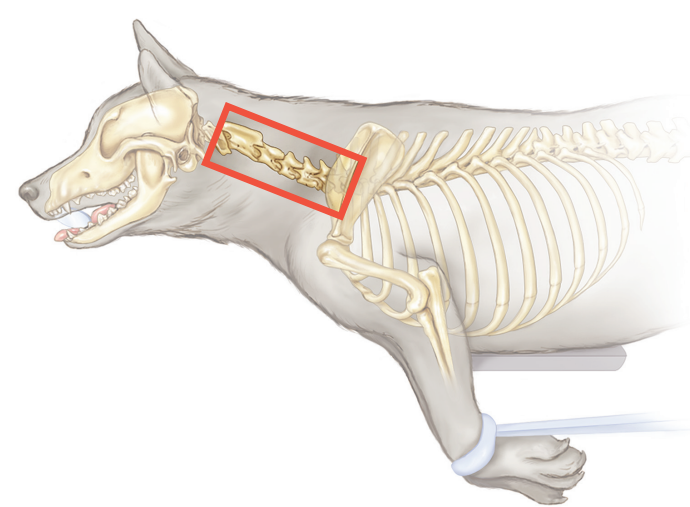
Position hard palate perpendicular to table surface with nostrils pointing straight up.



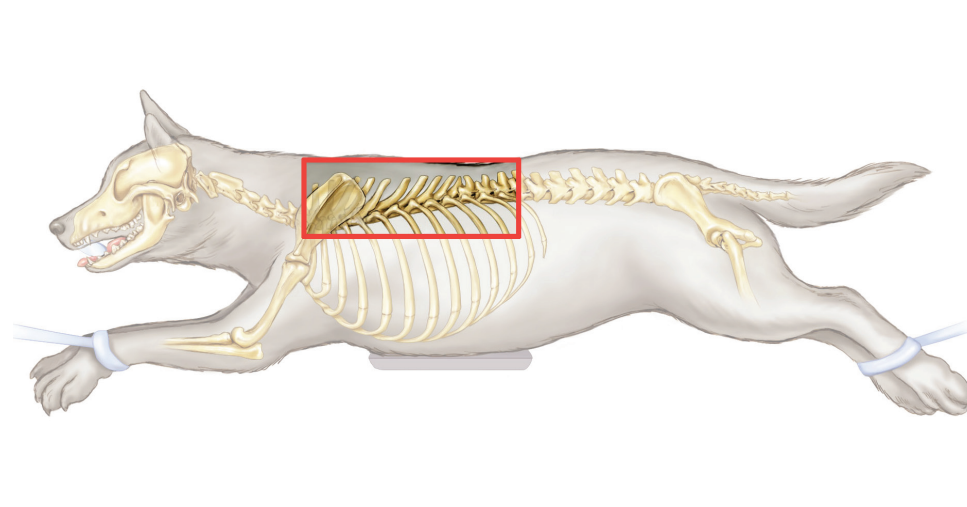
Bulla/other oblique **a****r**

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.

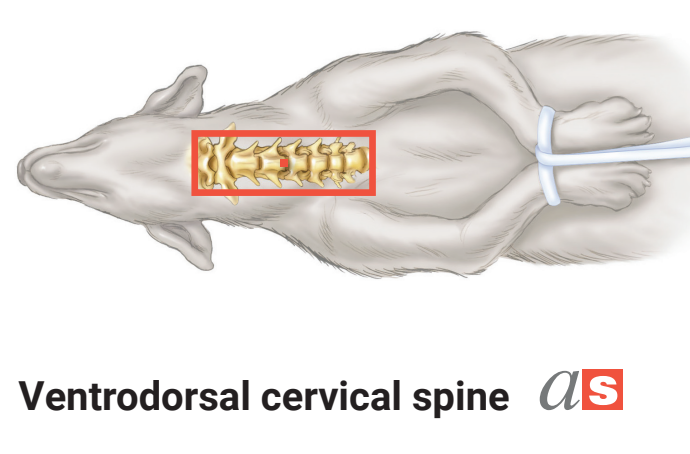
## Spine



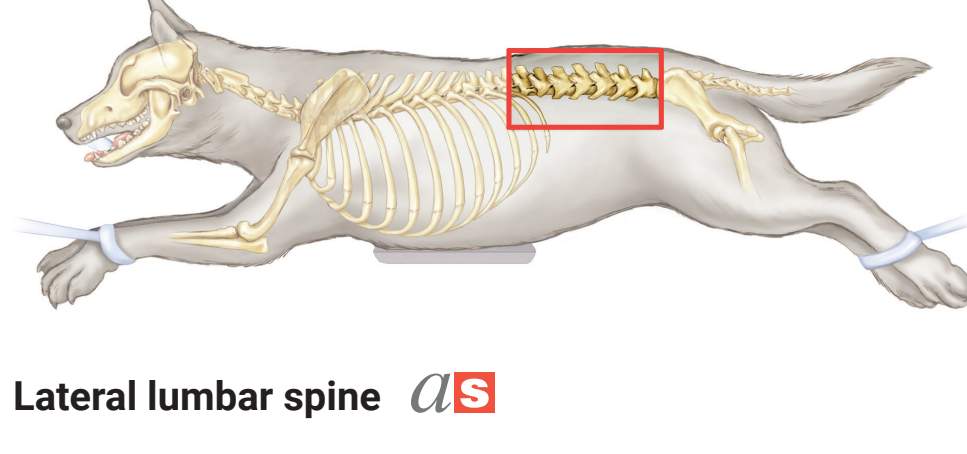
Lateral cervical spine **a****s**



Lateral thoracic spine **a****s**

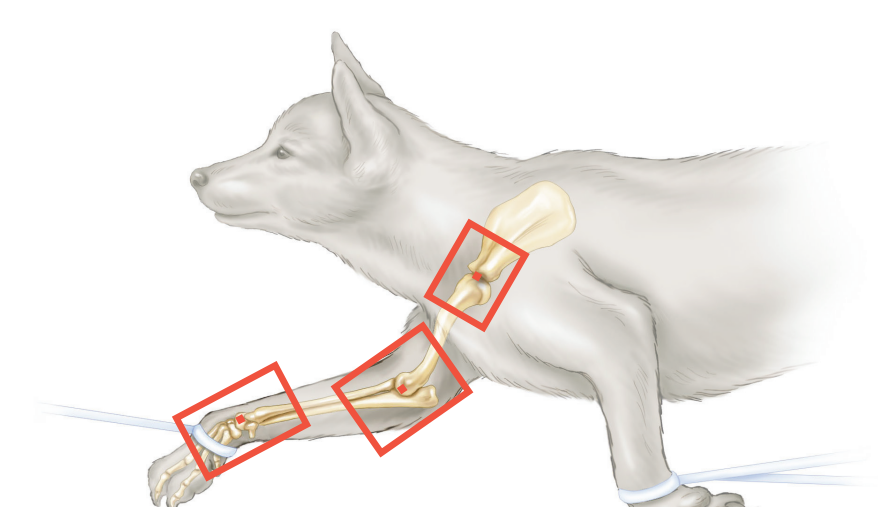


Ventrodorsal cervical spine **a****s**



Lateral lumbar spine **a****s**

## Shoulder and front limbs



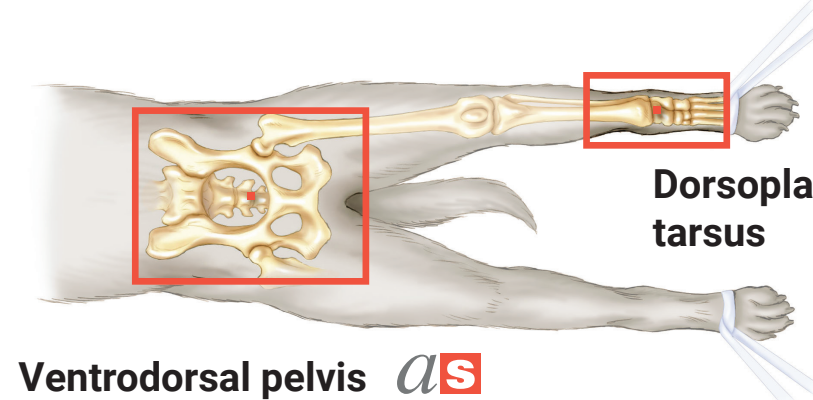
Lateral shoulder **a****s**

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

Lateral elbow

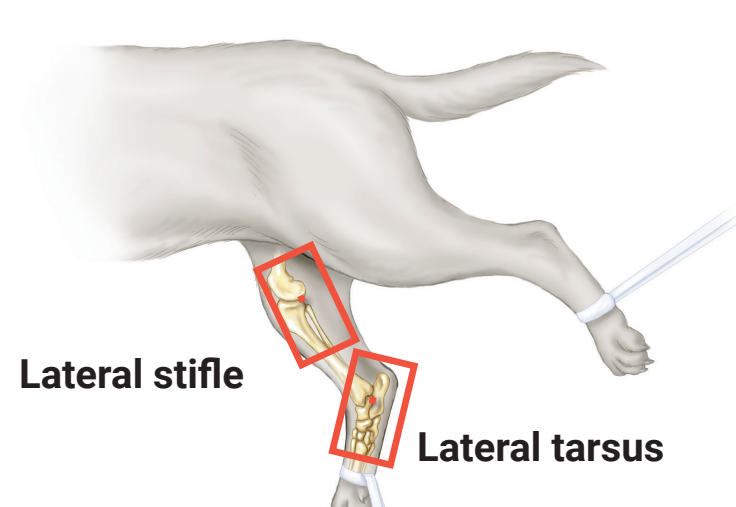
Lateral carpus

## Pelvis and hind limbs



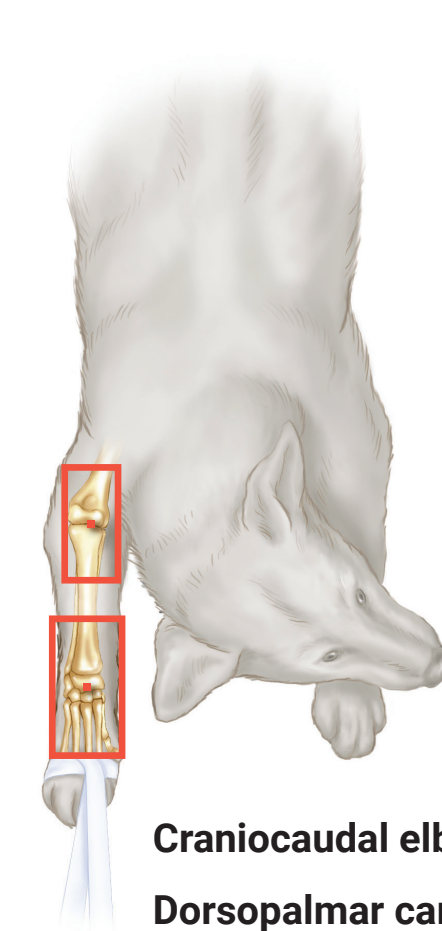
Ventrodorsal pelvis **a****s**

Dorsoplantar tarsus

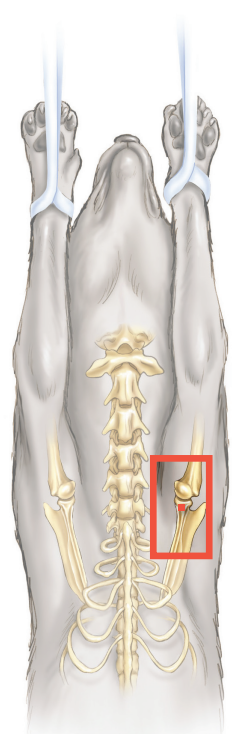


Lateral stifle

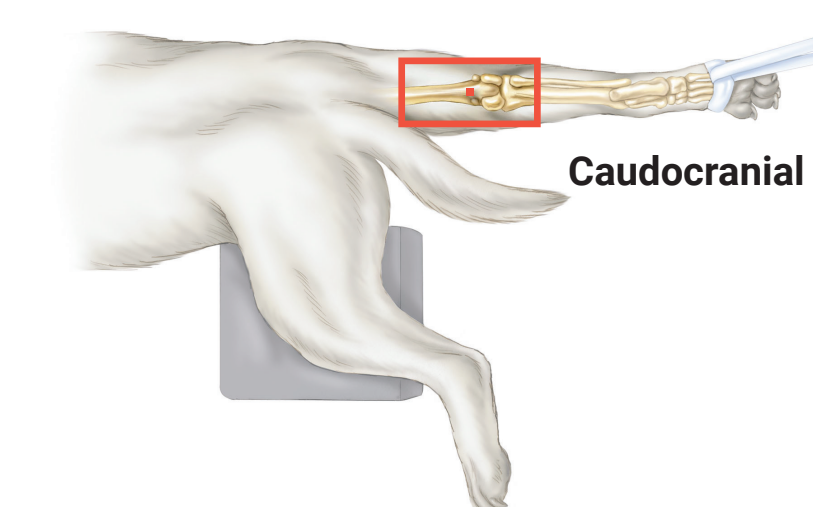
Lateral tarsus



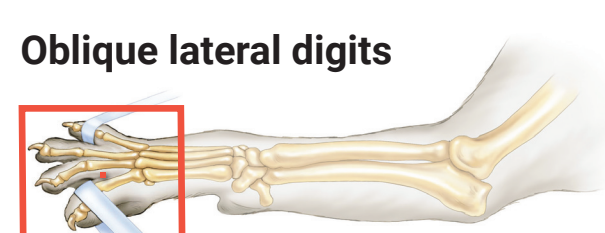
Craniocaudal elbow  
Dorsopalmar carpus



Caudocranial shoulder



Caudocranial stifle



Oblique lateral digits

