



COMPANION ANIMAL

DENTISTRY



Dental radiographs in dogs and cats: why, when and how

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Radiography is an essential diagnostic tool in veterinary dentistry. This tool provides a diagnosis, gives an assess of the extent of the dental pathology, is a strategic factor in the treatment plan and outcome of the treatment performed.

Dental radiography is performed under general anaesthesia. Dental calculus can obscure pathologic lesions on a radiograph and therefore it is advisable to clean the teeth before performing dental radiography.

A dental radiograph must be diagnostic and an accurate size and shape of the tooth on the radiograph is essential. Superimposition of adjacent structures must be avoided.

Extra-oral views are not ideal for dental examination due to superimposition of the contra-lateral side.

With the intraoral radiographs two techniques are used:

1. Parallel technique for mandibular third/forth premolar and molars
2. Bisecting angle technique for all other teeth.

Indications for dental radiographs are evidence and follow up periodontitis, evaluation of pulp pathology and dental defects, tooth resorption, tumours, missing teeth, trauma and oral surgery.

The presentation cover the common indications and technique of dental radiography.