

VET NURSE DIARY: X-RAY POSITIONING TERMINOLOGY

LATERAL	The X-ray entered from the side, away from midline of the patient's body. So, right lateral view means the patient needs to be lying on their right side
VENTRAL	This refers to the lower surface of the patient opposite the back. The X-ray passes through the belly to the back surface.
DORSAL	This refers to the back or the upper surface of the patient. i.e. opposite the belly.
DORSOVENTRAL	This includes the back and the belly of the patient where the X-ray passes from the back surface to the belly.
PROXIMAL	This term means closer to the point of origin or closer to the midline of the patient.
DISTAL	This means away from the midline of the patient or referring to a structure that is located further from the point of origin.
ROSTRAL	This refers to a structure located closer to the nostrils from any point in the head.
CRANIAL	This refers to any structure closer to the patient's head from any part of the body.
CAUDAL	This refers to a structure that is closer to the patient's tail from any part of the body.
PLANTAR	This refers to the caudal surface of the patient's hind limb, distal to the tarsus.
PALMER	This refers to the caudal surface of the forelimb distal to the carpus.
CRANIOCAUDAL	This refers to the X-ray beam passing from the cranial surface of the patient to the caudal surface of a structure. So anterior to posterior.
CAUDOCRANIAL	This is where the X-ray beam passes from the caudal surface to the cranial surface of a structure. So posterior to anterior.
DORSOPALMER	This refers to views that are dorsal of the carpus where the X-ray beam passes from the dorsal direction to the palmer surface of the forelimb. So going anterior to posterior.
PALMER DORSAL	Views distal to the carpus, the X-ray beam passes from the palmer surface of the forelimb to the dorsal surface of the body; so posterior to anterior.
DORSOPLANTAR	Views distal to the tarsus, the X-ray beam passes from the dorsal direction to the plantar surface of the hindlimb; anterior to posterior.
PLANTARDORSAL	Views distal to the tarsus, the X-ray beam passes from the plantar surface of the forelimb towards the dorsal surface of the body; posterior to anterior.
OBLIQUE	When the X-ray is taken at an angle other than 90 degrees to the area of interest