

## Dental Radiographs: Positioning and Interpretation

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### Positioning

- Lateral Recumbency
- Bisecting Angle
  - Everything except the mandibular molars
- Parallel
  - Mandibular Molars

### Tips

- Point at the roots, not the crowns
- Use clear jaws to learn
- Individual variation (brachycephalics)
- Think of shadows
  - Roots too long: bring the beam overhead (“noon”)
  - Roots too short: bring the beam lower (“dusk”)

### Interpretation

- Stages of Periodontal Disease: 0-4
- Broken Teeth
- Abnormal Roots
- Missing vs Impacted
  - Dentigerous Cysts especially with impacted mandibular MP1
- Non-Vital - pulp too wide in dead teeth because they never matured
- Tooth Resorption
  - Don't overinterpret overexposed rads
- Jaw Fractures

### Words of Wisdom

- Check jaw tone - sensors are expensive!
  - Avoid mouth gags as much as possible
- Be patient with yourself - new skill
- Not sure? Take another angle