

# BCF guide for hips and elbow radiographs

## Required for BVA scores



### Elbow – Flexed Lateral

- Positioning**
- Position dog in lateral recumbency, lying on side you want to X-ray
  - Pull other leg back and secure
  - Ensure elbow is flexed to approximately 45° – avoid over-flexing
  - Use cotton wool or foam pads to ensure radius and humerus are parallel to plate
  - Centre over humeral condyle and collimate to 1/3 of the way along radius/ulna distally and 1/3 of the way along humerus proximally
  - You may need to use ties or sand bags to ensure leg remains correctly flexed
  - Ensure L/R marker in primary beam



### Elbow – Extended Lateral

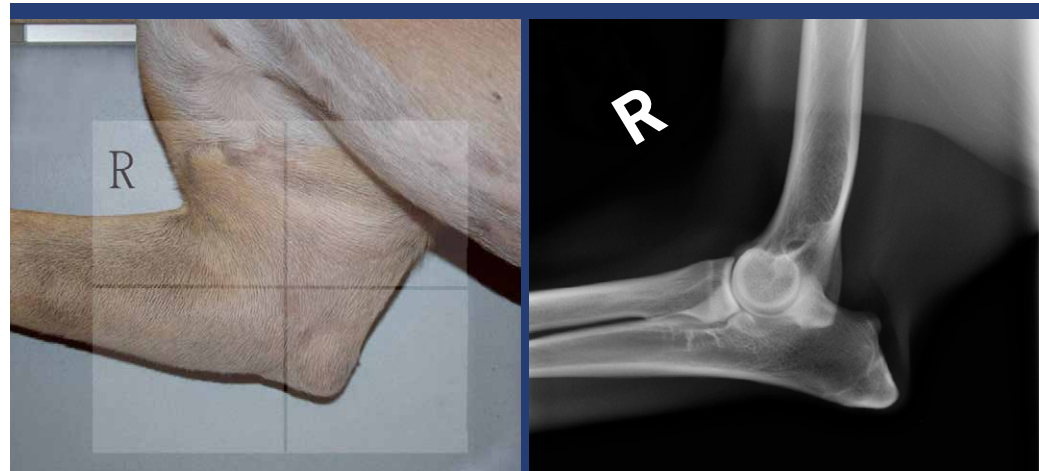
- Positioning**
- Position dog in lateral recumbency, lying on side you want to X-ray with leg to be radiographed against plate
  - Pull other leg back and secure
  - Ensure elbow is extended to approximately 110°
  - Use cotton wool or foam pads to ensure radius and humerus are lying parallel to the plate
  - Centre over the humeral condyle and collimate to 1/3 of the way along the radius/ulna distally and 1/3 of the way along humerus proximally
  - You may need to use ties, or sand bags to ensure leg remains correctly extended
  - Ensure L/R marker in primary beam



### Hips – Ventrodorsal (VD)

- Positioning**
- Dorsal recumbency
  - Dog ideally in a trough
  - Fully extend the hind legs and adduct, so the femurs lie parallel to each other and parallel to the film/cassette
  - The legs should be rotated inwards, patellae central – over the trochlea groves
  - Align the tail straight between the thighs
  - Centre in the mid line, over the level of the cranial edge of the pubis, directly between the femoral heads
  - Use ties and tape to retain this position
  - Ensure L/R marker in primary beam

## Standard views



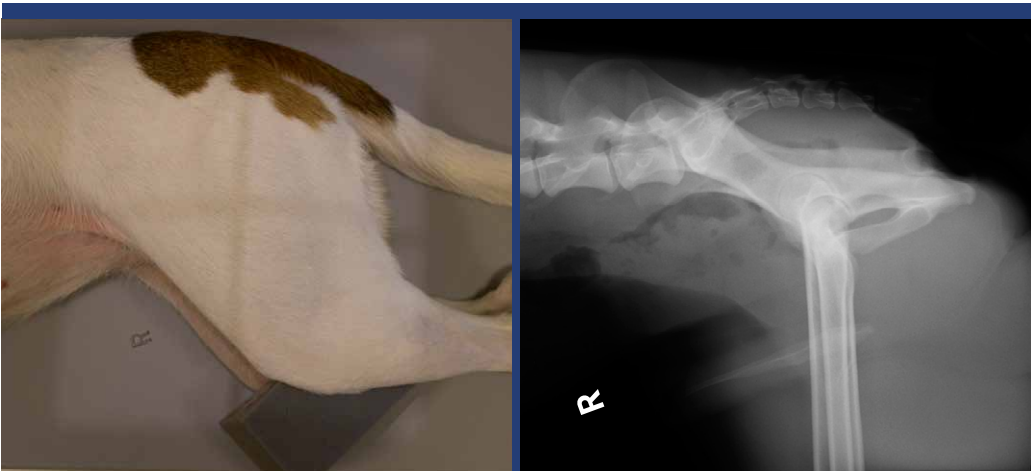
### Elbow – Lateral

- Positioning**
- Position dog in lateral recumbency, lying on the side you want to X-ray
  - Pull other leg back and secure
  - Use cotton wool or foam pads to ensure radius and humerus are parallel to the plate
  - Centre over humeral condyle and collimate to 1/3 of the way along the radius/ulna distally and 1/3 of the way along the humerus proximally; this can be extended further if a fracture is suspected
  - Elbow should be in a neutral position, i.e. flexion of around 90°
  - Ensure L/R marker in primary beam



### Elbow – Craniocaudal (CrCa)

- Positioning**
- Sternal recumbency with leg to be radiographed extended forward
  - Use sandbags and wedges as required to maintain position
  - Use a leg tie to prevent the elbow from abducting (see photo)
  - Turn head away from leg you are imaging
  - Position paw in DP
  - Centre midway between the humeral condyles, and collimate to approximately 1/3 of the way along the humerus proximally, and 1/3 of the way along the radius and ulna distally
  - Ensure L/R marker in primary beam



### Pelvis – Lateral

- Positioning**
- Dog in lateral
  - Use pads or sandbags to ensure femurs parallel to table top
  - Ensure femurs superimposed, and tail out of region of interest
  - If trauma case ensure hind limbs pulled back to allow visualisation of pelvis
  - Centre over the hip
  - Collimate to include the entire pelvis
  - Ensure L/R marker in primary beam

Further X-ray positional guides, training courses, and online learning resources available within the BCF Academy on the BCF website



X-ray views also built into the Vita Flex CR X-ray system software as standard – exclusively available from BCF Technology

[www.bcftechnology.co.uk](http://www.bcftechnology.co.uk)  
[www.bcftechnology.ie](http://www.bcftechnology.ie)