

Labial Mounting in Veterinary Dental Radiography

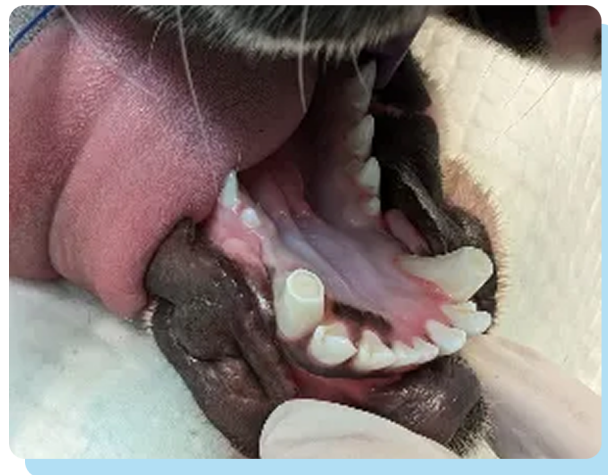
Why orientation matters for accurate interpretation and treatment planning

Dental radiography is now routine in small animal practice, but how images are organised is often overlooked. Labial mounting provides a consistent way to orient radiographs and improve accuracy, communication and clinical decision-making.

What is Labial Mounting?

Labial mounting means orienting dental radiographs as though you are facing the patient. The patient's right appears on the viewer's left, consistent with broader medical imaging conventions.

This creates a predictable and consistent framework for interpreting studies and aligning images with examination findings and dental charting.

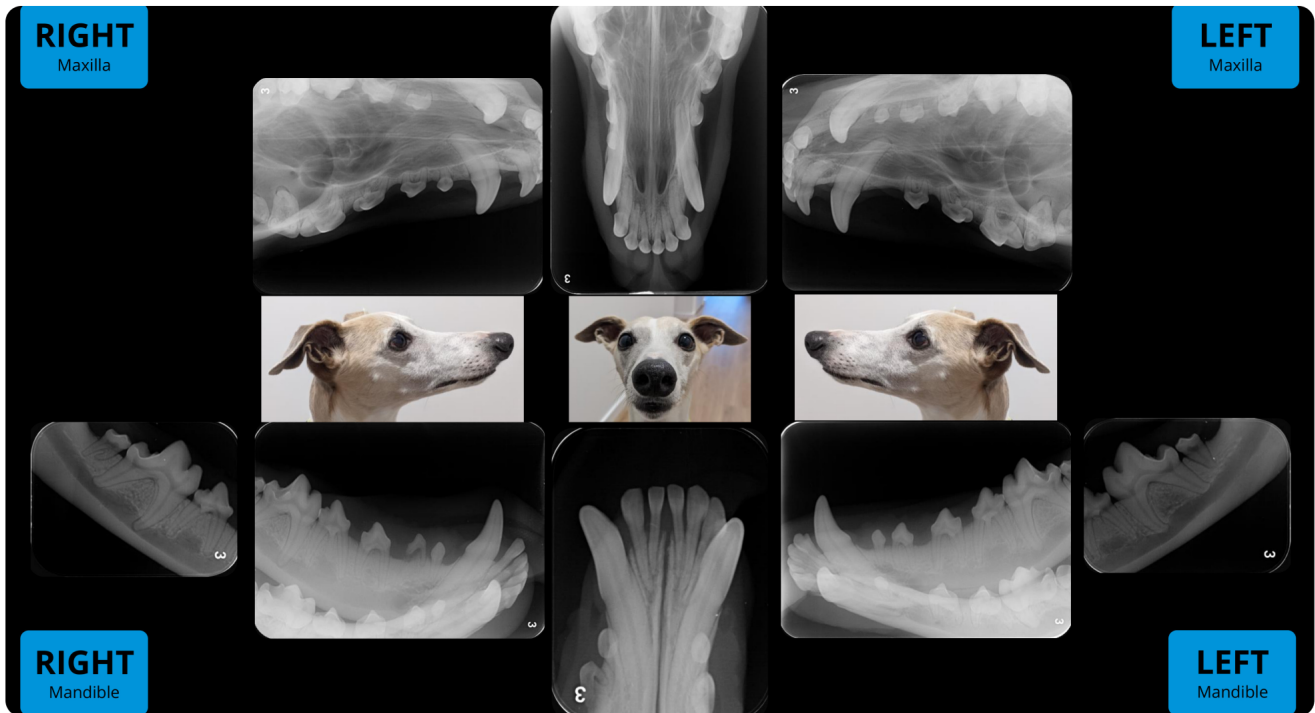


Why Orientation Matters

- Keeps left and right consistent across all imaging in a case
- Aligns dental radiographs with radiology, CT and MRI conventions
- Reduces mental repositioning when reviewing images
- Supports clear communication between clinicians and across practices
- Improves confidence when interpreting studies

Where Errors Occur

- Misidentification of teeth during treatment planning
- Discrepancies between radiographs and dental charts
- Delays during procedures, particularly under anaesthesia
- Increased risk of error in multi-clinician cases
- Difficulty interpreting patients with asymmetry or missing teeth
- Documentation or image attribution errors in high-volume workflows



How to Read a Labial Mount

- Maxillary images are positioned on the upper half
- Mandibular images are positioned on the lower half
- The patient's right appears on the viewer's left
- Quadrants and arcades should be identifiable at a glance
- Teeth should align logically with the dental chart

Practical Considerations

A consistent mounting system should:

- Allow orientation without flipping images
- Reduce reliance on left/right markers
- Make anatomical variation easier to assess
- Support faster, more confident clinical decisions

Why Consistency Matters in Practice

Radiographs are often revisited during procedures, reviewed with colleagues and shared with referring veterinarians. A predictable mounting system keeps the focus on pathology rather than orientation and supports efficient case management.



Advanced Animal Dentistry regularly provides guidance and training in dental imaging and interpretation. For further support or in-practice education, feel free to get in touch.