

**VETERINARY VOICE:  
Tips of the Trade**

| <b>Dentistry and Oral Surgery - Digital Dental Radiography</b>                               |   |
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| <b>Why digital?</b>  | Digital dental radiology can have a dramatic, positive impact on work flow, space storage, and image quality in your practice. Image quality is enhanced making it easier and faster to obtain high quality dental radiographs. The ability for post-processing adjustments means fewer radiographs taken and less radiation exposure for the veterinarian, staff, and the patient. Digital radiography has tolerance for a wide range of techniques, allowing for properly exposed images despite suboptimal technique.                      |
| <b>Are there artifacts?</b>  | Digital dental radiography can have unique problems not observed with traditional film. There are a variety of artifacts that are unique to each system and some can be eliminated with post-processing adjustments. It is recommended that you speak with AVDC board-certified veterinary dentists who use each system prior to purchasing. Many digital dental companies are available at the Veterinary Dental Forum and will allow for use of their system both at the Forum and in your clinic.  |
| <b>What are the benefits?</b>  | The importance of the software functions, such as image enhancement, cannot be overstated when images are converted to a digital format. Benefits of this technology include the ability to magnify images more than 100 times their original size for visual inspection and to enhance, reorient, manipulate, and perform measurements on an image. These functions enhance our diagnostic ability and our patient care.   |
| <b>Radiograph interpretation and positioning?</b>  | Dr. Roy can come to your practice to help refine your technique and patient positioning. VSCT also offers a dental radiology interpretation service. Please call (520)795-9955 and ask for Deb, the surgical liaison. Tell her you will be sending dental radiographs to Dr. Celeste Roy and she will give you her personal e-mail. You will usually receive a phone call in 12-24 hours. If it is an emergency (patient under anesthesia), then relay this information to Deb, so that timely action can be taken.                           |
| <b>Questions?</b><br><br>Dental and Oral Surgery<br>Expert:<br>Celeste G. Roy, DVM,<br>DAVDC | The Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson has a board-certified dentist available for questions and consultations on dental and oral surgical conditions during the weekdays. She is also on call to provide consultations to VSCT emergency doctors and to perform emergency procedures for patients seen by the VSCT emergency service. Board-certified dentists have four additional years of training and are certified by the American Veterinary Dental College to assure competency in advanced veterinary dentistry and oral surgery. |