

CT PROTOCOL QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Quick Reference: Positioning, Slice Thickness, Series & Total Series to Submit

CT TYPE	POSITIONING	SLICE THICKNESS	SERIES TO SUBMIT	TOTAL
Skull (1 site)	Sternal; mouth open 1–2 in.; pull tongue away from oral masses	0.625 mm or lower (sub-millimeter)	Pre: Transverse Bone, Transverse Soft Tissue Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5
Skull & Neck (1 site)	Sternal; mouth open 1–2 in.; scan range: nose to T1	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5
Cervical Spine (1 site)	Dorsal; thoracic limbs caudal, tight to chest; tympanic bulla to T3	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5
Thorax (1 site)	Sternal; thoracic limbs cranial, tight to head; induce apnea	≤30 lbs: 1.5 mm or lower >30 lbs: 2.5–1.5 mm	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Lung Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5
Abdomen (1 site)	Sternal preferred (dorsal OK); extend hindlimbs; tail-first	≤30 lbs: 0.625 mm or lower 31–70+ lbs: 1.5 mm	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	4
T/L Spine (1 site)	Dorsal; collimate to vertebrae + paraspinial; tail-first	≤30 lbs: 0.625 mm or lower 31–70+ lbs: 1.5 mm or lower IVDD/Trauma: <1 mm	Pre: Transverse Bone, Transverse Soft Tissue Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5
Cervical & T/L Spine (2 sites)	Dorsal; C5 to sacrum C-Spine: Tympanic bulla to T3 T/L Spine: C5 to sacrum	≤30 lbs: 0.625 mm or lower 31–70+ lbs: 1.5 mm or lower	C-Spine Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone T/L Spine Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post (each): Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction (each): Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	10
Neck & Thorax (2 sites)	Sternal; forelimbs cranial, lower than head; apnea Neck: Caudal skull to T1 Thorax: T1 to T13	≤30 lbs: 1.5 mm or lower 31–70+ lbs: 2.5–1.5 mm	Neck Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Thorax Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Lung Post (each): Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction (each): Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	10
Thorax & Abdomen (2 sites)	Sternal; thoracic limbs cranial, pelvic limbs caudal; apnea; tail-first Thorax: T1 to T13 Abdomen: Heart apex to past hip joints	Thorax ≤30 lbs: 0.5–1.5 mm >30 lbs: 1.5–2.6 mm Abdomen ≤30 lbs: 0.625 mm >30 lbs: 1.5 mm	Thorax Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Lung Abdomen Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post (each): Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction (each): Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	9
Thoracic Limbs	Sternal (or Dorsal); limbs cranially, parallel, straight; head-first 1 site: Shoulder/Elbow (T5 to mid rad/ulna) or Elbow/Carpus (mid humerus to toes) 2 sites: Entire forelimbs (T5 to toes)	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue, Dorsal Pre Bone, Sagittal Pre Bone	7
Pelvic Limbs	Sternal (or Dorsal); limbs caudally, parallel, straight; tail-first 1 site: Hips/Stifles (L5 to mid tib/fib) or Stifles/Tarsi (mid femur to toes) 2 sites: Entire hindlimbs (pelvis to toes)	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue, Dorsal Pre Bone, Sagittal Pre Bone	7
CT Angiography (Portosystemic Shunts)	Sternal; thoracic limbs cranial, pelvic limbs caudal; cephalic vein for contrast	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post (Arterial): Transverse Soft Tissue Post (Venous): Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Venous Phase Dorsal Soft Tissue, Venous Phase Sagittal Soft Tissue	5
IV Urography (IVU)	Sternal; pelvis elevated 5–10°; fast 12–18 hrs; clean colon	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post (Excretory): Transverse Soft Tissue Reconstruction: Excretory Phase Dorsal Soft Tissue, Excretory Phase Sagittal Soft Tissue	4+