

CT Protocol Quick Reference Guide

CT TYPE	POSITIONING	SLICE THICKNESS	SERIES TO SUBMIT	TOTAL	PAGE
HEAD & NECK					
Head (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 Recon: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5	18
Head & 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 Recon: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5	20
BODY					
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 Recon: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5	22
Abdomen (1 site)	Sternal preferred (dorsal OK); extend pelvic limbs; tail-first	≤30 lbs: 1.25 mm 31–70+ lbs: 1.5 mm	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Recon: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	4	24
SPINE					
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 Recon: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5	26
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 Recon: Dorsal Post Soft Tissue, Sagittal Post Soft Tissue	5	28
MULTI-REGION					
Cervical & T/L Spine (2 sites)	Dorsal 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 Recon (each): Dorsal Post ST, Sagittal Post ST	10	38
Head & Neck + Thorax (2 sites)	Sternal; thoracic limbs cranial, lower than head; apnea H&N: Caudal skull to T1 Thorax: T1 to visible liver (T13)	≤30 lbs: 1.5 mm or lower 31–70+ lbs: 2.5–1.5 mm	H&N Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Thorax Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Lung Post (each): Transverse Soft Tissue Recon (each): Dorsal Post ST, Sagittal Post ST	10	34
Thorax & Abdomen (2 sites)	Sternal; thoracic limbs cranial, pelvic limbs caudal; apnea; tail-first Thorax: T1 to visible liver (T13) Abdomen: Heart apex to past hip joints	Thorax ≤30 lbs: 1.5 mm or lower 31–70+ lbs: 2.5–1.5 mm Abdomen ≤30 lbs: 1.25 mm 31–70+ lbs: 1.5 mm	Thorax Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Lung Abdomen Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post (each): Transverse Soft Tissue Recon (each): Dorsal Post ST, Sagittal Post ST	9	36
ORTHOPEDIC					
Thoracic Limbs	Sternal preferably (or Dorsal); limbs cranially, parallel, straight; head-first 1 site: Entire thoracic limbs (scapula to toes) 2 sites: Entire thoracic limbs + Head & Neck	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Recon: Dorsal Post ST, Sagittal Post ST, Dorsal Pre Bone, Sagittal Pre Bone	7	30
Pelvic Limbs	Sternal (or Dorsal); limbs caudally, parallel, straight; tail-first 1 site: Entire pelvic limbs (L5–L6 to toes) 2 sites: Entire pelvic limbs + Abdomen	0.625 mm or lower	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue, Transverse Bone Post: Transverse Soft Tissue Recon: Dorsal Post ST, Sagittal Post ST, Dorsal Pre Bone, Sagittal Pre Bone	7	32
ADVANCED PROTOCOLS					
CT Angiography (Portosystemic Shunts)	Sternal; thoracic limbs cranial, pelvic limbs caudal; cephalic vein for contrast	1.25 mm	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post (Arterial): Transverse Soft Tissue Post (Venous): Transverse Soft Tissue Recon: Venous Phase Dorsal ST, Venous Phase Sagittal ST	5	40
IV Urography (IVU)	Sternal; pelvis elevated 5–10°; fast 12–18 hrs; clean colon	1.25 mm	Pre: Transverse Soft Tissue Post (Excretory): Transverse Soft Tissue Recon: Excretory Phase Dorsal ST, Excretory Phase Sagittal ST	4+	42

