

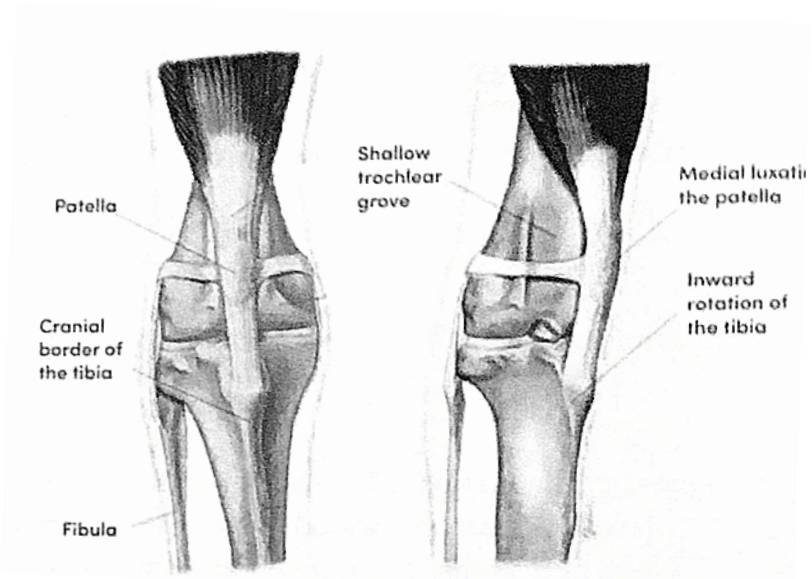


## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: MEDIAL PATELLAR LUXATION

### WHAT IS A MEDIAL PATELLAR LUXATION?

This condition is also known as a knee cap dislocation. While it is most commonly seen in small breed dogs, it can be diagnosed in dogs of any size. With this disorder, the patella (knee cap) is abnormally positioned to the inside of the knee.

A patellar luxation can be intermittent or so severe that the patella is abnormally positioned at all times. The severity of luxation can usually be graded on a scale of 1-4, with 4 being the most severe.



### WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

In a normal knee, the patella acts as a pulley mechanism for the quadriceps muscle group (front thigh) over the point of the knee. The patella typically stays in place because of a groove on the end of the femur (thigh bone).

A dog with a patellar luxation typically has a groove that is too shallow and potential alignment changes, which allows the patella to move out of place.

### HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian or surgeon will diagnose a medial patellar luxation by palpating the knee and feeling the abnormal position of the patella. Radiographs are often used to further assess the bony conformation.

### WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS TO WATCH FOR?

The frequency and severity of the clinical signs are dependent on the severity of the patellar luxation. But the most common clinical signs are intermittent holding up of the affected leg. It is very common to find this disorder in both knees.

### IS SURGERY NEEDED?

Surgical correction is typically recommended for dogs with a low-grade luxation (1-2) with frequent showing of clinical signs, or for dogs with a luxation of 3 or 4.

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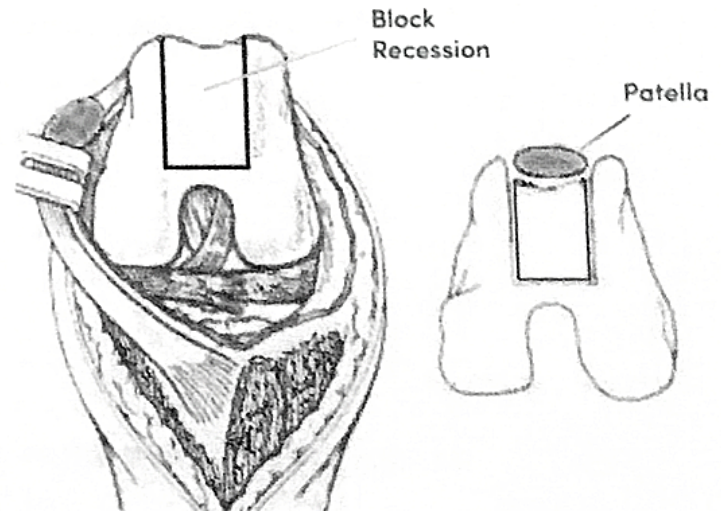


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## WHAT DOES THE SURGERY INVOLVE?

Your surgeon will inspect the inside of the joint for all changes associated with the patellar luxation. Then, they typically deepen the groove to help the patella stay in position. Next, the tibial attachment of the patellar tendon might be moved to help better align the patella with the groove. Your pet's surgeon will secure the attachment of bone into its new position, typically with two small pins.

In addition, correction of a mal-aligned femur may be necessary, particularly in larger breed dogs. This is done by cutting the femur, correcting the deformity, and stabilizing the bone plate.



## WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS?

The prognosis for early surgical correction of most patellar luxations is very good, and most dogs go on to lead a normal, active life. This condition typically does not respond well to medical management.

## WHAT ARE POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS?

As with any surgery, there is an anesthetic risk. However, anesthetic complications are rare, and risk is minimized by our use of best practice in anesthesia choice, careful monitoring of your pet by our surgeons, licensed veterinary technicians, and advanced monitoring equipment. Reported post-surgical complications are uncommon but can include infection, migration/breakage of surgical implants, or re-luxation of the patella.

## WHAT DOES RECOVERY LOOK LIKE?

Recovery will usually take between 8-12 weeks. It is very important to restrict your pet's activity post-surgery. This includes minimal use of stairs, no off-leash activity, and no running, jumping, or playing with other dogs. Your pet should be confined to a small area or crate in the house. During the recovery period, pets typically require two recheck appointments. The first recheck is at 2 weeks, to inspect the incision, and the second is between 6-8 weeks to potentially recheck radiographs.

After the second recheck at 6-8 weeks, your surgeon will discuss the need for any further follow-up appointments and the appropriate level of activity for your pet.