

Patellar Luxation

General Information

Patellar luxation is a dislocation of the kneecap (patella). The kneecap may dislocate toward the inside (medial) or outside (lateral) of the leg, or it may move in both directions. Patellar luxation may result from injury or congenital (present at birth) deformities. Both legs may be affected.

The crippling effects of patellar luxation are related to the severity and duration of the luxation. The milder forms, especially in small breeds, cause little or no signs, and only minimal treatment is required. Severe cases cause more intense pain, with limping.

Important Points in Treatment

1. Treatment ranges from rest (decreasing your pet's activity for 1 to 2 weeks) to surgical reconstruction of the knee joint.
2. Treatment is based on the severity of signs and your pet's age, breed and weight.
3. Obesity complicates surgery and convalescence. A weight-reduction program may be required in conjunction with treatment.
4. *Diet:* Follow the instructions checked.

Feed the normal diet.

A special diet is required. Feed as follows: _____

Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur

- Your pet seems unusually uncomfortable.
- Soreness and/or swelling of the joint increases.
- The leg opposite the affected one becomes lame.