



**WEAR** REFERRALS  
Small Animal Hospital

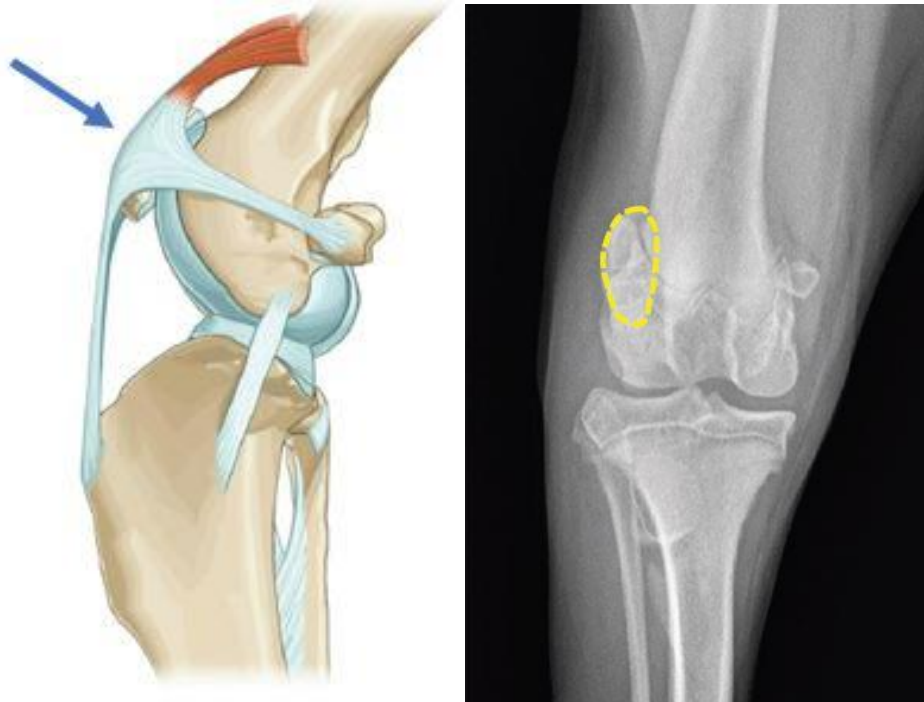
**ORTHOPAEDICS**

**CANINE PATELLA LUXATION**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

## CANINE PATELLA LUXATION

The patella is a sesamoid bone that sits on the front of the knee joint. During development some dogs develop dislocation (luxation) of the patella. Luxation of the patella can be associated with lameness and the development of osteoarthritis.



### HOW SHOULD PATELLA LUXATION BE MANAGED?

We would recommend surgery for patella luxation in the majority of cases. Even if lameness is not present at the time of diagnosis, studies show greater progression of osteoarthritis if the condition is not treated

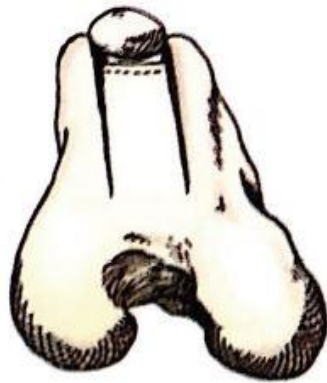
### WHAT INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED?

CT of the hindlimbs is normally performed so we can assess for any significant deformity of the femur / tibia.



**HOW WILL THE PATELLA LUXATION BE TREATED?**

In the majority of cases significant deformity is not present in which case we can perform the following surgeries on the joint:



Deepening the patella groove



Tuberosity transposition

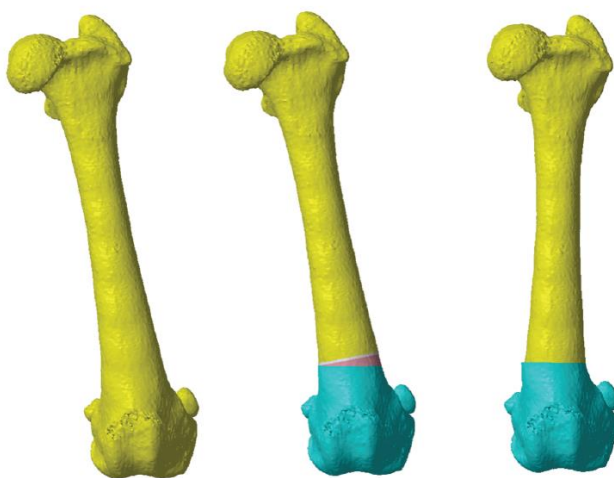
In some cases if the patella groove is severely deformed or damaged we may recommend patella groove replacement:



In cases where significant deformity of the femur is present we may recommend a distal femoral osteotomy- this is where the thighbone (femur) is cut to straighten the bone.

## Femoral varus- treatment

- Distal femoral closing wedge osteotomy



### HOW LONG WILL MY PET BE HOSPITALISED?

Most dogs come home the day after surgery but this depends on their comfort levels. If distal femoral osteotomy has been performed patients are sometimes hospitalised for an additional day

### WHAT IS REQUIRED WHEN MY PET COMES HOME?

We will normally recommend 6 weeks of strict rest- ideally cage rest with short lead walks to the garden for toileting. Radiographs are normally recommended at 6 weeks postoperatively. If these radiographs show uneventful progression of bone healing exercise can be gradually re-introduced over the following 6 weeks.

### WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS FOR MY DOG AFTER SURGERY?

The prognosis is good in the majority of cases if significant osteoarthritis is not present in the joint at the time of surgery.

### WHAT COMPLICATIONS CAN OCCUR?

Complications in the literature are suggested to be between 18-48% of cases; anecdotally our complication rates are low with this surgery. Complications can include infection, implant failure, fracture, persistent patella instability / recurrent luxation, patella tendonitis and persistent lameness.

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