

# Patella luxation

The patella is the knee cap bone and luxation refers to it moving out of place. This instability is continuous but the patella luxation often only occurs momentarily before popping back into place. There are two types of luxation, medial where the bone moves inwards towards the patient's body or lateral where it moves outwards away from the patient's body. This is rare in cats and is most commonly seen in miniature and toy breeds of dogs.

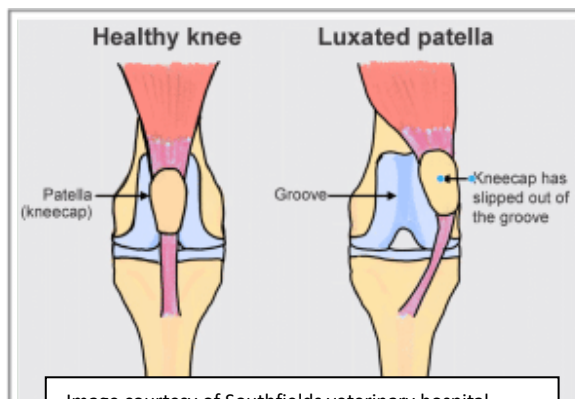


Image courtesy of Southfields veterinary hospital

## Clinical signs:

The amount of signs that show may vary depending on the grade of patella luxation.

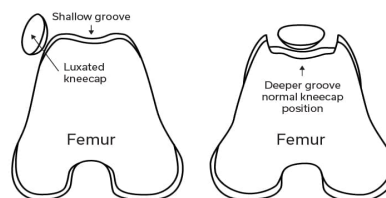
Signs may include:

- Pain
- Lameness or a change in gait
- Hopping
- Intermittent reluctance to walk, run or exercise
- Difficulty navigating stairs or jumping on couches
- Difficulty getting up from lying down
- Development of arthritis in the stifle joint

## Diagnosis:

A clinical exam for the vet to feel how stable that patient's patella is will be needed. This is often graded between 1-4. Treatment should be looked into from grade 2.

X-rays are then often performed to visualise the severity anatomically and to look for early developing arthritis.



**Treatment** – Surgery is the gold standard treatment.

○ Pain relief

○ Use of non-slip rugs and ramps to get on beds, couches or cars

○ Joint Supplements (for arthritis that may develop earlier than usual)    ○ k-lazer (for early onset arthritis)



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