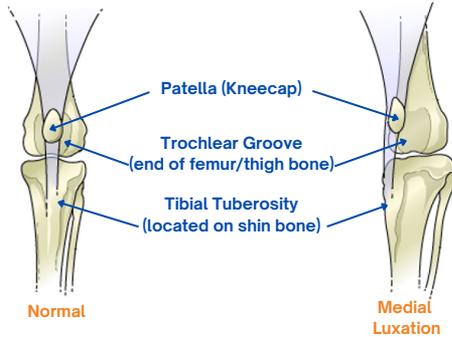


# Patellar Luxation Correction

Let's start with some knee anatomy...



When a kneecap pops in and out of joint, it causes pain, cartilage damage, and irreversible arthritis. It can lead to an ACL tear as well, causing additional pain.

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## What can I do to help my pet?

Restoring proper kneecap alignment and function through surgery is the best way to get your pet back to running, jumping, and enjoying life.

Pain medication & rest may mask discomfort temporarily, but they are not a good long-term solution.

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## What does surgery involve?

There are several techniques to realign the patella and keep it in joint. The combination of techniques used on your pet will depend on their unique anatomy and the underlying cause of their luxation.

The trochlear groove is the kneecap's "home". In normal dogs, it is a deep valley with high side walls that allows the kneecap to move up and down without popping out to the side. In dogs with patellar luxation, the trochlear groove can be almost flat, which allows the kneecap to pop out of joint easily. In surgery, the trochlear groove is deepened so that the kneecap has a secure place to move up and down while staying in proper alignment.

If the tibial tuberosity is displaced to either side, it can be moved to a more normal position and pinned in place. Additionally, the soft tissues supporting the joint are adjusted to help keep the kneecap aligned.

If your pet has patellar luxation in both knees and weighs less than 25 lbs, we strongly recommend correcting both knees at the same time, as this means a shorter overall recovery and a faster return to function.

## What does recovery look like?

50% of patients will put some weight on the leg within 24-48 hours.

By 8 weeks, most pets walk with only a mild limp.

It will take a full 4-6 months to get back to “normal”, but even then, there can be the occasional “off” day.

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## Won't my pet be in pain?

Any major orthopedic surgery causes some short-term discomfort. We use a multi-faceted approach to keep your pet as comfortable as possible.

Injections of strong intravenous pain medication are given before, during, and after surgery.

Right before the end of surgery, a series of numbing injections is given that partially numbs the surgery site for 72 hours.

A combination of oral pain medications will be sent home as well.

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## Exercise restriction is VERY important for the first 8 weeks

**No running, jumping, or playing for 8 weeks after surgery.** Sedatives will be sent home with your pet to help keep them quiet once they're feeling better.

If your pet is too active before the surgery site has healed, it can cause the implants to loosen and will result in a second surgery. This means extra expense for you and extra pain for your pet.

Your pet cannot use the stairs or jump on & off furniture for the first 8 weeks. It can be very helpful to confine your pet to an oversized crate when they are not under your direct supervision.

It's a good idea to prepare yourself and your home environment **before** surgery - visit the [ocmobilesurgery.com](http://ocmobilesurgery.com) **FAQs** for hints and tips.

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## Recheck Schedule

Sutures are removed after 2 weeks.

At 8 weeks, your pet will have x-rays and an orthopedic exam to make sure healing is on track.

If everything looks good, you will be given a plan to gradually return your pet to full exercise over the following 4 weeks.

Remember that full recovery may take as long as 6 months, but the first 8 weeks are the most critical.



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