

# Patellar Luxation Treatment (RidgeStop™) FOR DOGS



## Patellar Luxation or “Floating Kneecap”

Patellar luxation is one of the dogs' most common orthopaedic conditions, diagnosed in 7% of puppies. The condition affects primarily small dogs, especially breeds such as Boston and Yorkshire terriers, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians, and miniature poodles. However, the incidence of large-breed dogs has increased over the past ten years. Patellar luxation affects both knees in 50% of all cases, potentially resulting in discomfort and loss of function. Patellar luxation can also occur following a traumatic event that disrupts the supporting structures of the stifle joint. This is seen in cats and any breed or size of the dog.

## What is Patellar Luxation?

The patella (kneecap) is a small bone positioned immediately above the tendon of insertion of the quadriceps muscle group onto the top of the tibia (shin). The patella acts as a fulcrum during normal extension of the knee joint. It glides up and down within a groove that forms the front of the knee joint. In some dogs, the patella luxates (dislocates) out of this normal groove. This luxation results in an inability to extend the knee joint properly. As well as the lameness caused by the mechanical deficiency of the affected knee, there are varying degrees of pain and osteoarthritis.

## How can I tell if my pet has patellar luxation?

Patellar luxation is a common condition. The age at the onset of clinical signs is variable. Most animals start to show signs as puppies or young adults, although the onset of signs in mature dogs is also common. Animals with a "bow-legged" stance are more likely to be affected by patellar luxation. A characteristic "skipping" lameness is often seen, where animals limp for a few steps and then quickly return to normal. Some animals will limp continuously, and some dogs affected by patellar luxation in both knees will have a stiff, awkward gait with knees that do not extend properly.

## What is the cause of patellar luxation?

The condition is primarily of genetic cause and is the consequence of the selective breeding of dogs with a preferred (bow-legged) conformation. Animals are born with normal knees but begin to develop abnormalities of the bones and muscles of the hind limbs early in life.

The commonest direction of inappropriate patella movement is to the knee joint's medial (inside) aspect.

### Contact us today to arrange an initial consultation

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When the powerful quadriceps mechanism starts to displace in this direction, it acts as a bowstring and causes the thigh (femur) and shin (tibia) bones to deform into a pronounced outwards bow. The groove that normally houses the patella does not develop properly, and the limb deformities become self-perpetuating at this stage. Patellar luxation can also occur following a traumatic event that disrupts the supporting structures of the stifle joint. This is seen in cats and any breed or size of the dog.

## What can be done about it?

Not all animals with patellar luxation require surgery. A grading system from 1-4 exists, which determines the severity of the disease. Animals with grade 1 luxation and some with grade 2 luxation may be successfully treated conservatively (i.e., without surgery). This decision will be discussed in detail following the clinical examination here at Alder Vets.

For those dogs that require surgery, various procedures are available. But here at Alder Vets, we recommend a new technique for treating Patella Luxation or floating kneecap.

## RidgeStop™

RidgeStop™ is a new surgical technique for the treatment of patellar luxation. A simple, affordable alternative to septoplasty surgery that can be used alone, as the sole treatment for patella luxation, or as an adjunct to re-alignment operations.

- Minimally traumatic
- Consistent ridge height achieved
- Effective barrier enables patella tracking
- Reversible procedure

