



## **Take Home Instructions**

### Luxating Patella

Your pet had surgery to repair a luxating patella. As we discussed, because of the way your pet has grown, the major muscles above the patella are not lined up properly which has caused a dislocating patella. This occurs when the forces of weight bearing pull the patella to the inside of the leg. Over time this process has worn down the medial femoral condyle so that the patella is popping in and out of the trochlear groove or is not able to be in the groove at all.

The surgery to repair this problem involves deepening your pet's trochlear groove and moving the patellar tendon attachment (tibial tuberosity) to realign the quadriceps apparatus.

Unless something unusual should occur, we can expect the joint to return to a normal state. A few dogs may have irritation from the pins because they lie just under the skin. If this is the case we may need to remove them after healing is complete.

#### **Instructions:**

1. Monitor the incision for swelling, redness, heat or oozing. These can be signs of infection and you should notify us immediately.
2. Your pet should gradually over the next two weeks begin to bear more weight on the leg. If at any time along the 6-8 week recovery it becomes non-weight bearing please notify us.
3. Your pet should have exercise restriction for the next 6-8 weeks. Your pet may walk on the leg but avoid running, jumping, playing, and stairs. This will help prevent failure of our implants. I would crate when unsupervised.
4. Your pet needs to have skin sutures removed in 10-14 days.
5. I would like to see you back in 3-4 weeks to make sure everything is going well.

Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.

G.T. Lee, DVM