

## Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital

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## Small Animal Orthopedic Surgery

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### **PATELLA LUXATION**

If your pet has a luxating (dislocating) patella (knee cap), surgery may be recommended. Criteria for surgical evaluation include the severity of the dislocation, severity of clinical problems and the duration of the problem. The goal of surgery is to reconstruct the stifle to allow the patella to move normally. The joint is evaluated to determine what procedures must be done to realign the patella. These may include deepening the groove the patella rides in, realigning the muscle and ligament by moving a small piece of bone and fastening it in place with metal implants, and suturing the joint capsule to support the patella in a normal position.

Your pet may be partially weight bearing on the treated leg after surgery or the surgeon may decide that a bandage should be used to support the limb. As soon as we determine there are no complications such as infection occurring and your pet's pain is manageable by oral medications, your animal will be allowed to return home (typically 2-3 days after surgery).