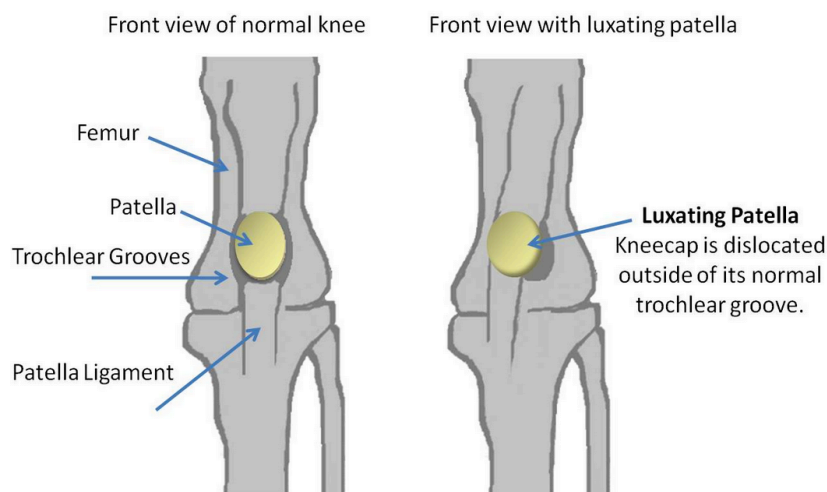


## Patella Luxation



The patella or **kneecap**, a small oval bone, which lies in front of the dog's knee joint, very much as it does in humans. Luxation simply refers to the kneecap coming out of its groove, which can lead to the dog experiencing discomfort and pain.

Even though this is a more common problem in smaller breed dogs, it is not uncommon in Eurasiers,

and, as a partly inherited problem, warrants examination and scoring by a vet.

**Luxations are graded 0-4, with zero being completely normal and 4 being the worst grade.**

*Clinical signs are variable:*

**Grade 1** luxations are generally found by chance as the dog generally does not experience problems.

**Grade 2** problems are often associated with an intermittent skipping lameness, when the patella luxates. The dog may kick the leg out backwards to try and relocate the patella. Between these episodes there is generally no lameness, unless full-thickness cartilage erosion has developed in the joint, in which case there may be.

The patella does not luxate in and out for **grade 3 and 4** dogs, and so in young dogs there may be no overt lameness, but there is likely to be some form of a postural or gait/movement abnormality. Very often these dogs will have a crouched posture with hocks turned out and toes in.

**FAQ:**

***Does my dog have pain with luxating patellas?***

When the patella luxates, the dog has difficulty bearing weight on the leg, although there are rarely any signs of pain.

***Can a luxating patella get worse?***

Patellar luxation is a degenerative condition, meaning it will get worse over time, especially if nothing is done to treat it. The earlier you make an effort to reduce the effects of the condition, the less likely it is that your dog will require surgery.

***Can supplements like Glucosamine help luxating patellas?***

Chondroitin and Glucosamine are both essential building blocks of cartilage, so they are believed to slow or prevent degeneration of joint cartilage and may help alleviate the pain associated with luxating patella.

***Can I breed my Eurasier who has luxating patellas?***

That will depend on the case and how bad it is. Please speak to our Breed Health Coordinator for advice.

*Compiled by Dr Brigitte Mordan-Grimm*