

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

Have you ever seen your little dog run as if he is hopping like a bunny or, all of a sudden, kick his back leg out rapidly? Well, these can be signs of an orthopedic disease called a medially luxating patella, a.k.a. "Trick Knee." This is a relatively common genetic problem in toy and small breed dogs but, occasionally large breed dogs are affected too. Several factors can be involved in causing a "trick knee," including a shallow groove over the tibia or a malformed tibia and femur, amongst others. These factors all result in causing the patella (knee cap) to easily luxate from the front of the knee to the inside of the knee. Often times, this does not bother your dog or causes only mild discomfort. For these dogs, it is okay to use joint supplements and pain medications as needed. For those dogs that are showing overt lameness and discomfort, there are surgical options to correct the problem. Regardless of the degree of severity, your dog will be more likely to develop osteoarthritis.

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