



Highland Tartan

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 7

September 2020

President's message



Welcome to September.

I hope all of you that were evacuated or close to being evacuated by the August wildfires are now home safe and sound. I also hope none of you have contracted COVID-19 or if you have, you are on the road to a complete recovery. Please keep in touch with a Board member if you need any type of assistance

I want to reiterate the Board of Directors Decisions from August:

- 1. Your 2020 dues will carry over to the end of 2021. Dues will not be payable until January 1, 2022*
- 2. There will be no holiday party in 2020 due to COVID-19. There may be a more formal event in the Spring if health concerns permit.*



3. *For applicants, your applications will be held for readings until meetings can be held in 2021. There is a possibility of holding ZOOM type general meetings in 2021.*
4. *If you wish to serve on the Board of Directors or as an officer, please send me an email no later than **September 30, 2020**. There will be an on0line vote via Survey Monkey for the Board and Officers for the year 2021. If there are no volunteers for Board or officer positions, the nominating committee may recommend that the current Officers and Board serve for one more year.*
5. *Should you wish to receive the voting communication via regular USPS mail, please let Lisa Blutman know by September 30, 2020.*
6. *The Fall Specialty and Dinner has been cancelled for October 24, 2020. The 2021 Specialties are scheduled for April 15 and 15, 20201 and October 30, 2021.*



Fall Pet Health and Safety Issues to Avoid

BY [DR. MARTY BECKER DVM](#) | OCTOBER 3, 2016

Fur and Skin Issues



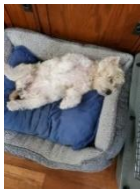
Fall's cool weather can be a welcome change, but it can canine.

bring a host of skin and fur issues for your

Seasonal allergies can be a problem for people *and* pets in the fall. For example, ragweed blooms in late summer and early fall, ending with the first frost. Until then, your allergic pet may suffer signs such as licking, biting, scratching, hair loss, [itchy ears](#) and skin that is red, dry, greasy, scabby or stinky — especially on the legs, feet, face, belly or thighs. Talk to your veterinarian to see if your [dog](#) might have seasonal allergies and learn about medications to help relieve the itch.

Many pets [shed](#) their lighter summer coat in the fall to make way for a thicker winter coat. That means there will likely be hair, hair everywhere. Brush your pet more frequently to help reduce the amount of fur flying around your home.

Finally, thanks to milder fall weather and warmer spring temps, many ticks, including deer ticks (or black-legged ticks) are expanding their range and are more likely to be out year-round. Even if ticks aren't active all 365 days of the year, they are active every *month* of the year in many places. Where some of us live, there will always be a few days that are warm enough for them to make an appearance. Consider keeping your pet on [tick preventive](#) year-round and keep your yard manicured to reduce tick habitat. Check your dog thoroughly for ticks after hikes in brushy or wooded areas, especially if there's a large deer population.



Poisons

A number of [potentially poisonous substances](#) come out of storage in the fall. They include rat and mouse poisons, antifreeze and mothballs. Mushrooms and toadstools are also likely to pop up in fall and can be deadly to pets as well. Take your pet to the veterinarian immediately if you suspect any type of poisoning. If possible, bring a sample of the suspected poison or the box it came in.

Signs of [rodenticide poisoning](#) depend on the type of product used. Bromethalin can cause changes in behavior, such as pressing the head against a wall or circling repeatedly. Anticoagulant poisoning prevents blood from clotting, causing internal bleeding. Other signs can include difficulty breathing, coughing, nose bleeds and unusual lethargy.

[Antifreeze](#) contains ethylene glycol, which is highly toxic to pets. Even a couple of teaspoons of the sweet-flavored stuff can cause kidney failure and death. Signs of antifreeze poisoning include staggering, [vomiting](#), seizures and increased thirst and urination.

Mothballs can seem harmless (except to moths), but they are moderately to severely toxic to [cats](#) and dogs, especially if they contain a substance called naphthalene. [Cats](#), in particular, tend to think that a mothball is just the right size for a toy, so keep these toxic objects well out of reach.

Some [dogs](#) will eat anything, including deadly wild [mushrooms](#) and toadstools. Some are so set on eating anything that looks edible that they must wear muzzles when outdoors to prevent them from ingesting these toxic fungi. [Vomiting](#), which can begin anywhere from 15 minutes after ingestion to several hours later, is a potential clue that your pet has eaten something he shouldn't.





Better Safe

Visibility is an issue in fall. There's less daylight, so you may be walking your dog in the dark both morning and evening. Fall heralds hunting season as well.

When walking your pet in the dark, put a reflective or blinking [collar](#) on him to make sure motorists, bicyclists and other dog walkers can see him. A blinking collar may also help to ward off urban coyotes who sometimes have little compunction about attacking dogs, even those on leash and accompanied by a person.

If you're hiking with a dog in the fall, outfit him with a blaze-orange vest so hunters won't mistake him for a deer or other animal.

Happy autumn!

Luxation of the Patella

Westie Health Foundation of America



Luxation of the Patella The patella or 'knee cap' is the small bone that connects the thigh muscles to the bones that comprise the shin, namely the tibia and fibula. The term 'luxation' refers to the dislocation of a bone from its normal position. When this happens, it causes pain and lameness, and occurs commonly in small breed dogs, including Westies. In most cases, the patella becomes displaced medially, towards the inside of the leg, rather than laterally (towards the outside of the leg).

While one could easily envision how a traumatic event, like a fall or being hit by a car, could cause dislocation of the patella, in most cases the condition is caused by muscle and skeletal abnormalities present at birth. While the condition can be painful and a cause of lameness, it can be diagnosed and treated effectively in most dogs.

How does patellar luxation happen?

The bones of the knee joint include the thigh bone (femur), the shin bones (tibia and fibula), and the knee cap (patella), which sits in a groove in the femur called the trochlear groove. Ligaments connect these bones and serve to stabilize the joint. The quadriceps muscles are a set of four muscles on the front of the femur that come together near the patella to form the patellar ligament. This ligament can easily be felt between the patella and a prominence on the tibia (tibial tuberosity) over the front of the knee. The quadriceps muscles serve to extend, or straighten, the knee. During this process, the patella



acts as a lever arm for the quadriceps and also exerts an even amount tension from the muscles on the patellar ligament.



Normally functioning knee joints work because all of the components of the knee joint (bones, ligaments, tendons, muscles) are lined up properly. In dogs with congenital patellar luxation, one or more of the components either is malformed, dysfunctional or becomes so as the dog begins to mature. Some dogs may develop this condition later in life, as a result of trauma or a combination of a congenital abnormality and subsequent wear.

Dogs with luxation of the patella typically have one or more of the following abnormalities: abnormal angulation between the head and shaft of the femur, medial displacement of the quadriceps, lateral twisting or bowing of the femur just above the joint, a shallow trochlear groove, or medial displacement of the tibial tuberosity where the patellar ligament attaches. In the normal dog, the patella is positioned under the quadriceps femoris muscle and is attached by the patellar ligament to the tibia. In contrast, in the dog with luxation of the patella, the patella and quadriceps are displaced medially.

There are several theories as to which deformity initiates the problem and results in luxation. The most widely accepted theory is that an abnormal angulation between the head and shaft of the femur causes the quadriceps muscle to move medially and pull the patella with it. There are three other theories for the development of the condition. These include 1) hormonal influences on bone formation and growth that result in development of a shallow trochlear groove in the femur, 2) hip diseases that cause dogs to walk abnormally, making the knee compensate inappropriately, and 3) abnormally positioned attachments of the muscles that cause the patella to be displaced medially. It is important to recognize that no single theory explains all cases. Regardless of the underlying cause for patellar luxation, there are several consequences if the condition is not treated. With the patella out of place, the cartilage on the surface of the patella, tibia and femur wears down, causing pain and restricting movement, eventually leading to arthritis. Other problems that may develop include rupture of the cranial cruciate ligament, one of the important ligaments that attach the femur to the tibia. This ligament can be stretched too far and tear completely if the patella is displaced.



Patellar luxation can result in special consequences in dogs that are still growing. For example, a preexisting bone deformity that may be causing the luxation will worsen as the bones continue to grow unless it is corrected surgically. Similarly, without the normal pressure exerted by the patella on the trochlear groove of the femur, the groove does not deepen as it should. As a result, the groove will become too shallow to retain the patella in position, even if it is popped back into place. Consequently, it is very important for an accurate diagnosis to be made and affected dogs receive treatment. This is particularly true for young, growing dogs.

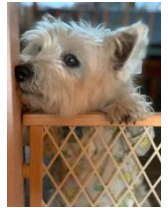


Signs and Severity

Signs and Severity of Patellar Luxation Dogs with luxation of the patella may exhibit a variety of clinical signs, depending on the severity of the problem. To clarify and compare the severity of the condition in different dogs, four grades of severity are used. These range from the mildest, Grade I, to the most severe, Grade IV.

Grade I: Luxation of the patella in dogs with Grade I typically is discovered during a routine physical examination. In these cases, the patella can be forced out of place manually, but rarely luxates during the dog's regular daily activity. Because all of the components of the joint are normal, dogs with Grade I luxations will appear normal and are not lame. Grade II: Dogs with a Grade II luxation have a mild underlying deformity of the femur. While the patella may be luxated manually, it occasionally may do so on its own. In some dogs, the patella returns to its normal position as the animal moves. In other dogs, the patella will need to be repositioned manually. Dogs with Grade II luxations will occasionally "skip" while walking or running, when the patella has become displaced. Their gait will return to normal when the patella returns to its normal position. Grade III: Grade III luxations are more severe, causing the patella to remain out of position most of the time. The patella can, however, be repositioned manually. The quadriceps muscles in these dogs are displaced medially and bony deformities also are present. Dogs with Grade III luxations may 'skip' like dogs with Grade II luxations, although more frequently. If the patella is luxated more often than it is in its normal position, the dog will develop a 'weightbearing lameness'. This means that the dog will bear some weight on the affected leg, but will walk with a limp. Grade IV: Grade IV luxations are the most severe form of the condition, as the patella is always luxated and cannot be replaced manually. Dogs with Grade IV patellar luxations have significant deformities of the bones and other components that comprise the stifle joint. Affected dogs walk with their hind legs crouched in a permanently flexed position and are unable to extend their hind legs due to the permanent luxation of the patella.

Diagnosis The diagnosis of a luxating patella alone is simple, as the patella can be felt or moved out of place during a physical examination. Radiographs will reveal joint deformities and help the veterinarian determine the grade of the luxation. Other orthopedic conditions that often coexist in dogs with luxation of the patella include hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament rupture and Legg-Calvé-Perthes disease (see previous section on Legg-Calvé-Perthes Disease).



Treatment The recommended treatment for a dog with patellar luxation depends on the grade of the luxation and the dog's age. Dogs that are not lame can simply be monitored for any changes that would indicate an increase in the severity of the luxation; surgery is not recommended for these animals. However, surgery is recommended for any dog that is lame and especially for those whose bones are still growing. Surgical treatment of patellar luxation has two goals: 1) to return the patella to its proper position, and 2) to realign the other components of the stifle joint to keep it in this position. A veterinary surgeon may use a combination of techniques and procedures to achieve these goals. These include recentering the part of the tibia (shin) bone to which the patellar ligament attaches, cutting or reinforcing the ligaments on the sides of the joint, deepening the trochlear groove on the femur to increase the likelihood that the patella will remain within that groove, and shortening and realigning the tibia and or femur. Dogs undergoing surgery should be walked only on a leash for up to six weeks after



the procedure to give the joint sufficient time to recover. After that, the dog should be brought back up to his/her regular speed slowly, so as not to reinjure the area. Veterinarians may prescribe antiinflammatory drugs to help control pain following surgery. Surgery is usually very successful in restoring normal activity in dogs with Grades III luxations. Because of their small size, Westies tend to have a higher success rate than large breed dogs. Dogs with Grade IV luxations may not return to normal activity, even after surgery. As many as 50% of all dogs undergoing surgery may have incidental Grade I luxations afterwards. Although arthritis cannot be avoided by surgery, it may not be as severe as if the patella had remained luxated. Degenerative Joint Disease – A Consequence of Patellar Luxation Degenerative joint disease, also called osteoarthritis, results from the breakdown of the bones and cartilage that make up a joint. During the development of degenerative joint disease, the cartilage that normally serves a cushioning function between bones, loses this ability. This often initiates inflammation of the cells that line the joint (synovium) and the surrounding joint capsule. The inflammatory mediators released by these tissues adversely affect the cartilage and any ligaments within the joint, resulting in loss of cartilage cells, thickening of ligaments, joint pain, stiffness and reduced range of motion. As the pain makes it difficult to move, the muscles may lose some of their size and strength.



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Current Research About Luxation of the Patella Although there has not been a lot of research performed in the past decade on luxation of the patella in dogs, three recent studies would seem to be of most interest, as they concern a potential predisposition to develop the condition and the results of different types of treatments. Wangdee C, Theyse LFH, Hazewinkel HAW. Proximo-distal patellar position in three small dog breeds with medial patellar luxation. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol* 28: 270-273, 2015.



It has been hypothesized that medial patellar luxation is associated with a high proximal position of the patella in the trochlear groove. In this study, the ratio of the length of the patellar ligament to the length of the patella was determined from radiographs of small breed dogs with and without medial patellar luxation. This ratio first was evaluated using radiographs obtained at five different stifle angles to determine the best angle to use to measure the ratio. Having done this, the ratio was then calculated for dogs with normal stifles as well as dogs with grades I, II and III medial patellar luxations. The ratio was the same for all three breeds of dog (Pomeranian, Chihuahua and Toy poodle), regardless of whether the stifle was normal or affected by medial patellar luxation. As a result, it appears that proximo-distal position of the patella is not associated with the condition, which means that length of the patellar ligament does not play a role in the development of the condition. Clerfond P, Huneault L, Dupuis J, Moreau M, Auger J.



Unilateral or single-session bilateral surgery for correction of medial patellar luxation in small dogs: Short and long-term outcomes. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol* 27: 484-490, 2014. Because medial patellar luxation often occurs bilaterally in small breed dogs, veterinary surgeons have questioned whether it is better to perform the surgery on both legs in a single surgical session or to correct each leg in individual surgery sessions. This study was designed to answer that question by comparing overall, minor and major complication rates for dogs undergoing both surgeries in a single session with those for dogs have their condition treated in two separate surgery sessions. The authors concluded that there were no differences in complication rates, short-term or long-term outcomes between the two groups. Furthermore, while the anesthesia and surgical times were longer for the dogs undergoing bilateral corrective surgery, they were less than doubled. The results of this study suggest that bilateral single-session surgery can be recommended for dogs with bilateral medial patellar luxation. Cashmore RG, Havlicek M, Perkins NR, James DR, Fearnside SM, Marchevsky AM, Black AP.

Major complications and risk factors associated with surgical correction of congenital medial patellar luxation in 124 dogs. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol* 27: 263-270, 2014. This study was performed to describe the major complications occurring after surgical correction of congenital medial patellar luxation in dogs and to identify the risk factors associated with the development of these complications. The authors determined that major complications occurred in 18.5% of the procedures, with failure of stabilization implants being the most common complication. Other major complications were patellar relaxation and avulsion of the tibial tuberosity. The likelihood of the latter complication was increase significantly when a single Kirshner wire was used in the procedure rather than a pair of wires. Furthermore, the risk of patellar relaxation increased substantially when trochleoplasty (deepening of the trochlear groove) was not performed in combination with surgically repositioning of the tibial tuberosity.

Acknowledgements

Mr. Matthew Crofts, a medical illustrator in Educational Resources, created the illustrations used in this chapter, and Dr. Sam Franklin in the Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery provided input and



guidance for the illustrations. Both Mr. Crotts and Dr. Franklin are in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia.



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We wish to take this opportunity to honor our wonderful four-footed friends who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

Momo Chan, RN JE CGC

September 1, 2005 – September 7, 2020



My Momo, my heart, my love, my best friend and confidant.

You were a true gift and will be treasured forever. I am so honored to have been your mommy. You always made me so proud. You were such a gentleman and a wonderful teacher to so many. I can never thank you enough for all of the wonderful gifts, lessons and memories. You introduced me to new adventures and transformed my world.

Thank you Momo. Mommy loves you so very much.



For future issues, we ask that you send your memorials to us at:

Lisa.blutman@aol.com or lblutman@gmail.com

Please send a photo, birth (an estimate is fine if you don't have the exact date) and passing date along with a short note to include in the memorial.

Litter Listings:

If you have a litter, we would love to see the puppies here.



SAN FRANCISCO BAY WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB

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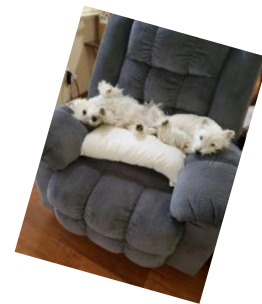
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WHWT Foundation: Gail Krieger

Westie Rescue and Placement of Northern California (WRAP) Liaison: David and Linda Snook

Please consider volunteering your time by serving on one of the Club's committees. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and to help shape the future of our organization. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Blutman. We need assistance with Programs, Assistant Web Master, Special Events.



2020 Club Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Supported Entry for Shows Held	September 19 & 20, 2020	Show Canceled
Fall Specialty and Sweepstakes And Banquet Dinner	October 24, 2020	Show Canceled
Supported Entry for Show Held	October 25, 2020	Show Canceled
Holiday Luncheon and Party	December 5, 2020	Event Canceled
Annual Meeting	January 2021	Date and Location TBD

Visit us online at <http://www.sfbaywestieclub.com> for the latest news and updates!

The HIGHLAND TARTAN is published at least four times per year in March, June, September and December. We encourage any Club Member or Subscriber to submit articles or information which they feel would be of interest to the Club. Please send material of interest to the Editor by the first day of the month of publication. All materials are published at the discretion of the Editor. Opinions are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club. Send materials for publication to *(insert current editor's contact info)*

When submitting information for an ad, please have it camera ready. Indicate the size (full or half

page) and mark the areas to be used for written copy. Copy should be typed to size on white paper. Your photos and copy will be returned, if requested.

Subscriptions cost \$15.00 per year. Advertisement costs for a Full Page: \$20.00; Half Page: \$10.00; Business Card size: \$15.00; for 4 issues.

Whelping Box: List litter announcements in the Tartan: Number of dog and bitch puppies, sire, dam, whelp date and owners. \$5/ issue, members only.

Please make **check Payable to SFBWHWTC**. Payment must accompany advertisement. Send subscription requests to SFBWHWTC, and mail to: *(insert current Treasurer's mailing address)*

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