

SHOULDER LUXATION FACT SHEET



NAME

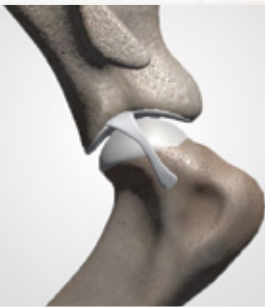
WEIGHT

DATE

NEXT VISIT

DESCRIPTION

Luxation occurs when the ball and socket of the shoulder joint dislocate. It can be caused by developmental disease or trauma.



NORMAL SHOULDER

- The contact surfaces (ball and socket) are aligned.
- A normal joint structure facilitates normal joint function without clinical signs of pain.



SHOULDER LUXATION

- When dislocation occurs, contact is lost between the joint surfaces and the dog is unable to move their limb correctly.
- The dislocation can occur away from or towards the dog's body. Forward and backward dislocations are also possible but less likely.

SHOULDER LUXATION

CLINICAL SIGNS

- With traumatic dislocations, acute lameness will occur after the trauma.
- A developmental dislocation manifests itself as chronic lameness in the forelimb, which will be evident from a young age, even though the dog has no history of trauma.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

The choice of treatment will depend on certain factors such as the cause of the dislocation, the severity of clinical signs or the severity of disease.

Non-surgical management

Conservative treatment for chronic dislocation or intermittent lameness:

- **Anti-inflammatory drugs** are used to reduce pain and inflammation in the joint, thereby improving the dog's quality of life.
- **Controlled exercise** limits pain and helps to strengthen the surrounding muscles. Exercise should be limited until the lameness improves and then increased in a controlled manner.

Dogs suffering traumatic dislocation may additionally need:

- **Closed reduction** involves "relocating" the joint without surgery. It should be performed immediately after the injury occurs, and only if there is no bone fracture associated. This must always be carried out by a veterinarian.

Surgical intervention

- **Open reduction:** The veterinarian will carry out a surgical operation to realign the joint surfaces.
- Techniques for stabilising the joint, such as:
 - **Capsulorrhaphy:** This involves stitching the joint capsule, so that joint movement is limited and dislocation does not reoccur.
 - **Transposition of the biceps tendon:** A procedure to change the position of the tendon in order to stabilise the joint.

Surgery may be recommended by your veterinarian if the joint becomes dislocated again after a closed reduction or in cases of developmental dislocation with intense or persistent lameness.



TIPS FOR THE OWNER

- Daily physiotherapy, including gentle, short exercises – as directed by your veterinarian – is beneficial for your dog as it will improve the mobility of the affected limb.
- Keeping your dog's weight under control with an appropriate high-quality diet and calorie restriction is essential to maintaining their joint health and general well-being.
- You can help your dog by using a harness that provides them with support and assistance on walks.
- Environmental modifications, such as a comfortable bed to sleep on, a mat on slippery floors and a ramp or steps to get into the car, will make daily activities easier for your dog.
- Don't forget to use medical treatment to reduce pain and inflammation, and to improve your dog's quality of life.

Please consult with your veterinarian for confirmation of any diagnosis or treatment.

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