

A dog's surgery and recovery from luxating patella (trick knee).

**Canine Luxating Patella (Trick Knee) Surgery And Recovery -
Simon's Story**

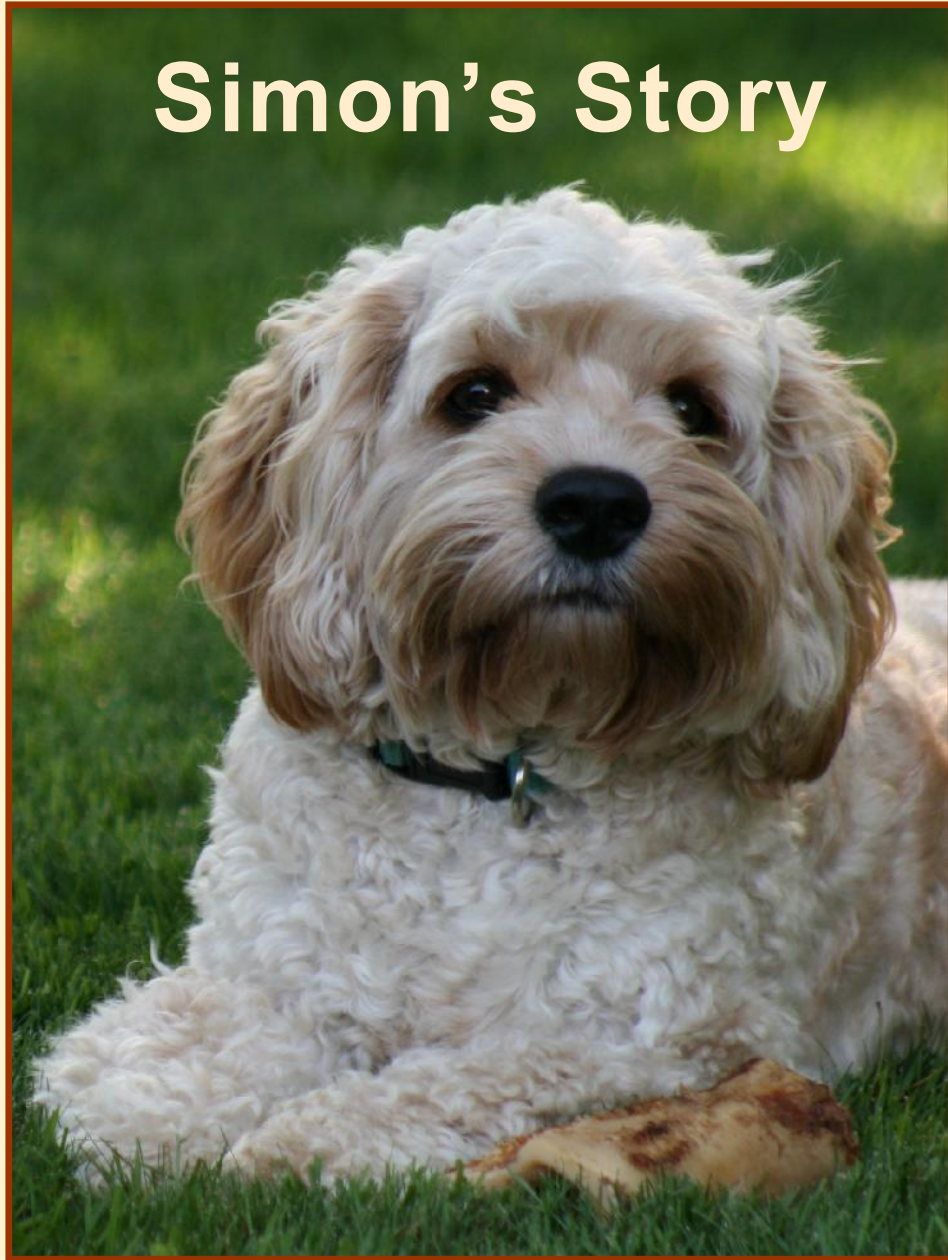
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***Canine Luxating Patella
(Trick Knee)
Surgery And Recovery***

Simon's Story



by valerie mills

CANINE LUXATING PATELLA (TRICK KNEE) SURGERY AND RECOVERY

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Meet Sir Simon The Sad

The canine patient described in this book is Simon or **Sir Simon The Sad**. Like many smaller dogs (toy poodles for example), he is more pre-disposed to luxating patella than a big dog.

I considered writing this book from Simon's viewpoint and in his voice, but that would have been challenging. Why? Because the expression you see in the picture below rarely changes.

He may cock his head from side to side when he hears food-related words like "cookie," "dessert," or "hungry" or move his ears, but the sad sack stare is always present. Because of this dumbfounded deer-in-the-headlights look, he's earned the nickname "Forrest Gump."



Sir Simon The Sad or Forrest Gump

Simon's a fawn Cockapoo - more Cocker Spaniel than Poodle – born on June 4, 2009. He's a typical Poo – friendly, loyal, and affectionate. Every one who meets him loves this dog instantly. True to his sporting dog background, he prefers to be outdoors and would stay there indefinitely - regardless of the weather.

At the time he was diagnosed with trick knee, he was a little more than a year old.

Understanding Simon's Trick Knee Condition

As a dog owner whose animal may be facing surgery, you need to be familiar with what's going wrong with the dog's knee.

A week or so after the X-Rays were taken of Simon's knee, the vet called with the details. The reason it took so long was that he consulted with the veterinary surgeon to confirm the diagnosis.

Here is a summary of Simon's knee condition based on the examination and X-Rays:

- Simon is suffering from a Grade 1 medial luxating patella.
- The **tibial crest** (point of attachment of the patellar ligament to the lower leg bone) was located a few millimeters from where it should be for the dog's knee to work correctly. In effect, it was off center. The position of the tibial crest explains why the knee cap dislocates and the patella slides out of its groove.
- Simon's condition was probably present from birth. Sometimes the effects of a congenital defect do not present themselves until the dog is older, even if the animal is examined as a puppy.

For your information, there are a few other reasons for a canine luxating patella. For example, the dog's **tibia** (lower leg bone) may be twisted or the **trochlear groove** (groove on the lower end of the upper leg bone - the kneecap slides within this groove) is too shallow.

There are different surgical procedures to address each of the different causes of luxating patella. That's why the vet suggested we talk to the veterinary surgeon he recommended for Simon.

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