



COXOFEMORAL LUXATION

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Coxofemoral luxation is the complete dislocation of the femur bone from the hip joint. Dislocation damages the femoral head ligament and joint capsule responsible for maintaining a tight and stable connection to the hip joint.

Even if the femur is replaced back into the hip joint, it does not restore the femoral ligament nor the joint capsule. Because of this, the hip joint is at high risk for spontaneous luxation once again.

Common causes include blunt force trauma (hit by car, long distance fall, farm animal trauma, etc.), or from advanced hip dysplasia. Please see the [Canine Hip Dysplasia](#) document for additional information.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Radiographs (x-rays) are the diagnostic of choice to determine a **coxofemoral luxation** and/or other fractures.

TREATMENT

There are four different treatment options. These are:

1. Non-surgical “Closed” Reduction

Under general anesthesia, the femur bone is replaced into the hip joint and then supported with a sling. Closed reduction is only successful approximately 50% of the time and has since fallen out of favor by most veterinarians.

2. Surgical “Open” Reduction

Under general anesthesia, the femur bone is replaced into the hip joint and often receives additional supporting implants to prevent spontaneous luxation while healing occurs.

3. Femoral Head Osteotomy (FHO)

Under general anesthesia, the head and neck of the femur bone are surgically removed which then creates a “false joint.” With proper patient selection, good functional results are expected with this option. Postoperative physical therapy is of great benefit in maintaining good function after FHO. Please see the [Post-Op Femoral Head Osteotomy](#) document for additional information.

4. Total Hip Replacement

Under general anesthesia, the joint is replaced with synthetic implants to mimic a natural hip joint.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Closed reductions carry the greatest chance of failure. The veterinarian will select the treatment option that is best for the patient for least chance of recurrence.
- Patients require several weeks of activity restriction to allow proper healing and strengthening.
- Aftercare will be customized for the specific repair performed.