

Robinson Veterinary Services

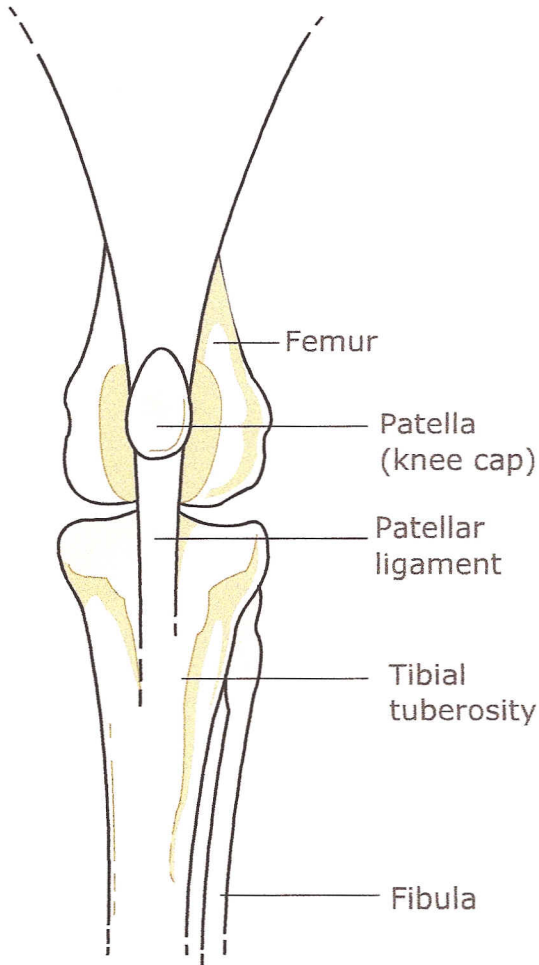
3285 London Line Wyoming, ON N0N1T0

Phone: 519-542-9588

Fax: 519-542-8789

Web: www.robinsonvet.com

Knee - Normal: Anterior-posterior view of stifle showing insertion of patellar ligament on tibial tuberosity.



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The stifle or knee joint is a hinge joint, with its motion restricted to one direction. The end of the femur is covered with cartilage and has a groove on the front surface called the trochlear groove. The patella or kneecap slides along this groove when the knee is flexed and extended, and keeps the bones properly aligned. The patella sits within the patellar ligament, that is formed by the end of the quadriceps muscle, the main muscle of the front of the thigh. The ligament is attached to the tibia, the main bone of the lower leg, at the tibial tuberosity. There are several other ligaments that help maintain the integrity of the stifle joint, including the cruciate ligaments and the collateral ligaments. The main conditions that occur in the stifle joint are patellar luxations and cruciate ligament ruptures. For more details on these problems see the relevant images or the appropriate handouts in our Client Education Handout Series.