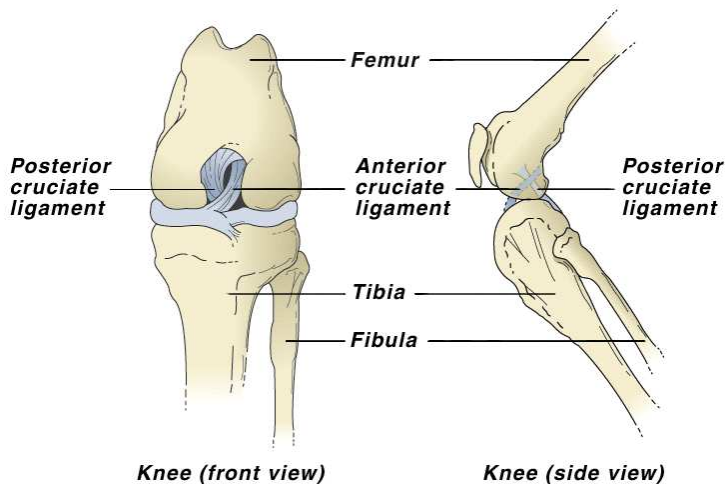


Cats and dogs can experience an injury in the cruciate ligament of the knee joint. The term *anterior cruciate* is used to describe the identical anatomical structure in humans. With traumatic cruciate rupture, the usual history is that the dog was running and suddenly stopped or cried out and was then unable to bear weight on the affected leg. In cats, there is usually a stiff gate in the hind legs. Many pets will “toe touch” and place only a small amount of weight on the injured leg.



If your pet is displaying any of these symptoms, he/she should be seen by a veterinarian for an exam. During the examination, the veterinarian will try to demonstrate a particular movement, called a *drawer sign*. This indicates laxity in the knee joint. Many dogs will require mild sedation before this test can be performed. Other diagnostic tests such as radiographs (x-rays) may also be necessary.

Dogs under 22 lbs. and cats may heal without surgery. These patients are often restricted to cage rest for two to six weeks. Dogs over 22 lbs. usually require surgery to heal. These surgeries most often involve the placement of artificial ligaments along the outside of the knee joint. Our veterinarians have performed this surgery countless times with great success.

If your pet is displaying any of the mentioned symptoms, has been diagnosed with a cruciate rupture and is in need of surgery, or have any questions, please give us a call today.