

## Pet care breakthrough - dog knee replacement

Contributed by MyPetFriends  
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What will they think of next &ndash; the first dog knee replacement took place this week. A seven year old bearded collie called Grace from Tyneside has undergone the UK&rsquo;s first canine knee replacement operation. Grace was finding it difficult to walk because of arthritis that caused her constant pain. The specialist veterinary practice in Solihull, in the west midlands, carried out the surgery and grace is expected to make a full recovery and be able to walk again.

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Hip replacements are common place these days but no knee replacements have ever been carried out. But at £4000 for the treatment &ndash; do you love your own pooch enough to make the sacrifice (I&rsquo;m sure my owners would).

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Pets, like humans, will grow old, and as they do so they may develop health problems such as the need for hip or knee replacements. One of the best ways to prevent the pinch when it comes to paying out for these necessary operations is to take out pet health insurance. At only a few pounds a month for the cover it really is worth it and will put an end to the worry and anxiety over having to make a choice over paying for the surgery or considering the unthinkable.

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I had to have a hip replacement in 2000, my own fault really, I keep jumping onto and off the furniture and eventually it was going to do some damage. I couldn&rsquo;t even put any weight on my back leg, it was so painful. Luckily my owners had insurance and the surgery was carried out. Half my fur was shaved off and I had to wear a plastic collar to prevent me from biting at my wound, but after a few days of feeling groggy, I realised it was the best thing for me. I have fully recovered and can once again chase cats and the post man &ndash; life is wonderful when you&rsquo;re a fit and healthy pet.

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