



Snip Happens

Brachycephalic Dog Breeds

The term brachycephalic comes from the Greek meaning 'short' and cephalic meaning 'head' i.e. brachycephalic animals are those with short heads.

Brachycephalic dogs with BOAS (Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome) are twice as likely to have anesthesia complications as non-brachycephalic dogs. Common causes of BOAS is narrow nares (nostrils), overlong palate, plus secondary effects such as collapse of the larynx (voice box), and tracheal hypoplasia (the trachea or windpipe is too small for the size of animal).

The most commonly encountered surgical complications are:

- Inflammation that can obstruct the larynx and trachea, leading to respiratory distress
- Hemorrhage from the lateral aspect of the soft palate or caudal aspect of the tonsillar crypt
- Coughing and/or gagging
- Nasal discharge
- Voice change
- Regurgitation and/or vomiting
- Noncardiogenic pulmonary edema
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Infection
- Dehiscence
- Sloughing of the pigmented layer of the skin after laser rhinoplasty

Due to these risks we have surgical restrictions on all Brachycephalic dog breeds.

Dog Breeds:

- Affenpinscher
- Boston Terrier
- Boxer
- Brussels Griffon
- Bulldog
- Bulldog (Olde English)
- Bulldog (Victorian)
- Cavalier (King Charles Spaniel)
- Dogue de Bordeaux
- French Bulldog
- Japanese Chin
- Lhasa Apso
- Mastiff
- Mastiff (Brazilian)
- Mastiff (Bull)
- Mastiff (English)
- Mastiff (Neapolitan)
- Mastiff (Pyrenean)
- Mastiff (Tibetan)
- Mastiff (Spanish)
- Pekinese
- Pug
- Shih Tzu