



# Brachycephalic Pre-op Information

Several dog breeds may experience difficulty breathing due to the shape of their head, muzzle and throat.

Brachycephalic is a term for 'short-nosed'. The shorter than average nose and face in proportion to their body size can result in problems for these breeds at times.

The purpose of this sheet is to inform you of the potential risks associated with anaesthesia and sedation which are inherent for dogs with shorted noses.

Please note- not all of these problems may apply to your dog, but they are part of the brachycephalic syndrome and therefore you should discuss any specific concerns with your attending veterinarian.

**Respiratory issues:** Brachycephalic dogs have a shortened skull which results in compressed nasal passage and abnormal throat anatomy. This abnormality causes increased negative pressure while taking a breath, leading to inflammation, deformation of the throat and obstruction of breathing. Depending on the severity of abnormalities we encourage and can carry out corrective surgery to help alleviate the pressure.

**Cooling problems:** Dogs cool by panting meaning that dogs with narrowed airways may have difficulty reducing their temperature which could be exacerbated by stress or anxiety.

**Stomach and intestinal issues:** Brachycephalic breeds may swallow a lot of air which can result regurgitation or vomiting, which could lead to pneumonia. Due to this, we pre-treat these breeds with medications which helps to reduce stomach acids and promote stomach emptying.

**Sedation and anaesthesia:** Both sedation and anaesthetics are commonly performed in brachycephalic breeds, especially bulldogs, however recovery from sedation and anaesthetic may be more difficult for these dogs as a result of their narrowed airways. Our nurses monitor the anaesthetic very closely in these breeds as careful monitoring is essential for a positive outcome.