

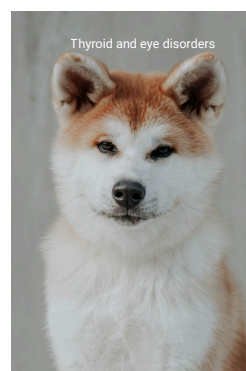
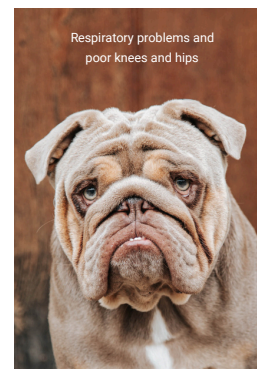
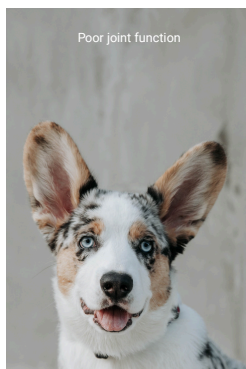
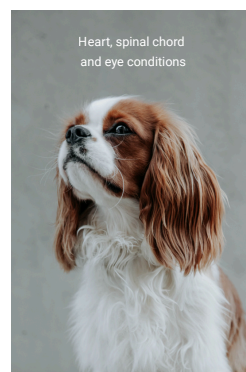


# EXAGGERATED FEATURES

## *Exaggerated Features*

If you are interested in a particular breed of dog, be aware that different breeds are predisposed to different **inherited disorders**. Some dogs also have been bred for a particular 'look', resulting in **exaggerated features** that can lead to serious health problems. These conditions can cause dogs significant pain and suffering so be sure to find out about the problems that are known to occur in that specific breed or breed type.

If you do choose to get your dog from a breeder, ask what action they take to prevent inherited disorders and avoid exaggerated features in their dogs.





# *Brachycephalic Pet Care*

FLAT FACED BREEDS

## *Brachycephalic Pets*

Brachycephalic pets are flat-faced breeds of dogs and cats included but not limited to, French bulldogs, English bulldogs, Pugs, Boston terriers, Boxers, Lhasa Apsos, Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Pekinese and Shih Tzus, as well as Himalayan and Persian cats. Prolific selective breeding has caused the shape of the skull to become compressed, impacting numerous aspects of their health, notably, a severely **compromised ability to breathe** adequately.

Brachycephalic breeds usually experience some degree of the following problems:

### **Primary problems**

- Pinched nostrils (stenotic nares)
- Long soft palate (elongated)
- Narrow windpipe (tracheal hypoplasia)

### **Secondary problems**

- Enlarged tonsils
- Swollen tissue flaps that block the airway (everted laryngeal sacculles)
- Additional obstruction in nasal cavity (turbinate bone overgrowth)

### **Other problems**

- Thickened throat tissue (pharyngeal hyperplasia)
- Voicebox structures become weakened (laryngeal collapse)
- Windpipe flattens (tracheal collapse)
- Part of the stomach slides into the chest cavity (hiatal hernia)
- Gastric reflux
- Cardiac disease



# What is *BOAS*?

HOW WE CAN HELP FLAT FACED BREEDS

## *Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)*

These problems contribute to what is known as **Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)**. This can cause the upper airways to become compressed causing obstruction of airflow, increased turbulence of air and increased negative pressure. Dogs with brachycephalic airway syndrome usually exhibit noisy breathing, persistent snoring and a reduced ability to exercise (made worse in warm weather). Some will vomit or regurgitate when swallowing. Reduced airflow (lack of oxygen) can cause episodes of blue gums and tongue (cyanosis). Collapse may occur particularly if stressed or overexcited. Overweight pets may exacerbate these problems.

## *Treatment*

**BOAS surgery** is a corrective procedure that can alleviate these problems in brachycephalic pets. During this procedure, nostrils are widened, elongated soft palate is shortened, tissue flaps (\*laryngeal sacculles) and enlarged tonsils are removed, if required.

*\*NB - removing the laryngeal sacculles can cause a reduction or loss in the bark volume.*

If the primary problems can be addressed at an **early age** (ideally less than 2 years old), animals usually require less complicated surgery, and the outcomes are significantly improved. **Early intervention is therefore strongly recommended.**

As with any procedure, complications should be considered; Surgery of the throat and airway is delicate and the risk of post-operative swelling requires special care. This will also be carefully managed and planned by your veterinarian. This procedure has good outcomes and pets generally breathe much more easily and can enjoy a significantly improved quality of life.

*Ask your veterinarian about having your pet assessed. for BOAS.*