

## **BRACHYCEPHALIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAY SYNDROME**

Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome refers to a condition that commonly affects short-faced breeds such as (but not limited to): French Bulldog, English Bulldog, Pug, Boston Terrier, Shih Tzu, Boxer, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Pekingese.

Common anatomical problems seen in these breeds include:

- Stenotic nares: nostrils that are too small to allow enough air in
- Elongated soft palate: excessively long soft palate which then obstructs the normal airflow into the trachea (this usually causes the respiratory noise and snoring)
- Tracheal hypoplasia: narrow trachea (windpipe)
- Enlarged tongue:
- Everted or swollen laryngeal sacculles
- Tonsillar hyperplasia or enlarged tonsils

In general these anatomical issues result in compressed airways. Noisy breathing, poor exercise tolerance, snoring, vomiting, reflux or gagging are common signs of this syndrome.

Episodes of collapse and cyanosis (this is when the gums and tongue go purple or blue due to lack of oxygen) can occur when these dogs become excited or stressed. Being overweight or overheated can exacerbate these issues.

Some of these anatomical issues can be surgically corrected – please let us know if you would like more information about these procedures.

Due to these anatomical issues, general anesthesia in these patients is higher risk. At Beach and Bay Vet we work hard to minimize the risk of anesthesia complications such as vomiting, regurgitation or periods of cyanosis in brachycephalic patients by:

- Antiemetic medication: pre and post-operatively given both intravenously and orally. We will often recommend this as home care also to reduce risk of vomiting and regurgitation which can lead to inhalational pneumonia among other things.
- Antacid medication: pre and post-operatively given both intravenously and orally. Often given for home care. Reduces stomach acidity and risk of regurgitation.
- Increased pre and post-operative oxygen therapy: this significantly decreases the risk of cyanotic episodes.
- Prolonged recovery monitoring: a dedicated anesthesia nurse will stay with your animal for as long as they need to ensure a smooth process of extubation and to intervene quickly should any complications arise.

These additional services and medications used by our team to keep your pet as safe as possible during their procedure. Additional fees apply and vary between \$80-\$240.

Please discuss these charges with our team if you have any concerns or questions.

Keep in touch with our team at Beach and Bay Vet by finding and liking/following us on **FACEBOOK** or **INSTAGRAM #beachandbayvet**