



## Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) in dogs

### What is BOAS?

BOAS is the name given to the breathing difficulties experienced by some short-nosed (or “brachycephalic”) breeds of dog (and cat) such as Bulldogs, Pugs, and Shih Tzu’s. In these breeds the bones of the face do not fully grow, but they still have the normal amount of soft tissue in their mouth nose and throat and this can obstruct the passage of air as they breathe.

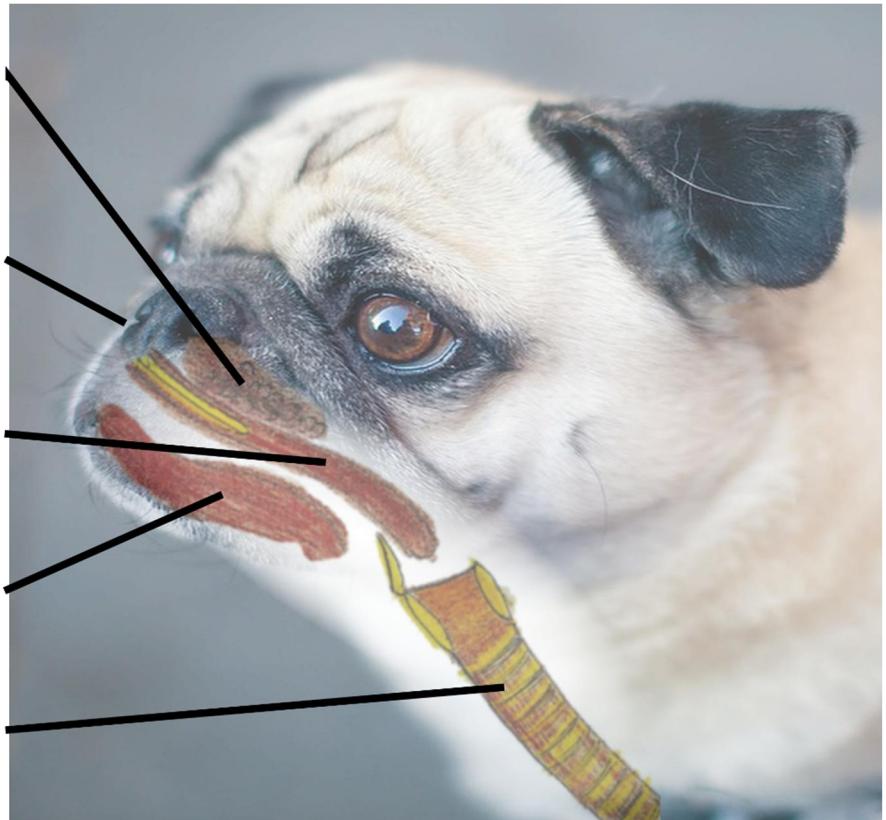
Excess tissue in nasal passage

Pinched nostrils

Long, thick soft palate

Large tongue

Narrow trachea



### My dog snores, is this normal?

Because these breeds have compacted faces and skulls their nasal cavity is often squashed and therefore their noses (nares) can be pinched (stenotic). The tissue at the back of the throat called the “soft palate”, is too long and thick for their flat face, which makes it obstruct the back of the throat, leading to a loud snoring noise, and sometimes to severe breathing difficulties. This is not normal but is common in brachycephalic dogs.



### What are the symptoms?

- Increased breathing effort
- Pinched nostrils
- Heat intolerance
- Sleep apnoea
- Increased respiratory noise
- Regurgitation or vomiting
- Frothy/Foamy mouth
- Exercise intolerance

### What can you do if you think your pet may have BOAS?

1. Keep them the correct weight.  
Carrying extra weight can hugely impact on any pets breathing but our brachycephalic patients are affected adversely a lot more.
2. Ensure they do not over exercise, especially in heat.
3. Speak to one of our nurses about changes to lifestyle and home aids that may help.
4. Surgical options are available at the practice such as soft palate trimming and Rhinoplasty (widening of nares)



Most brachycephalic dogs will live a long and happy life with appropriate management; however they are more prone to life threatening emergencies such as heat stroke and respiratory distress which require **urgent** veterinary attention. For more information on BOAS please speak to a member of our practice staff.