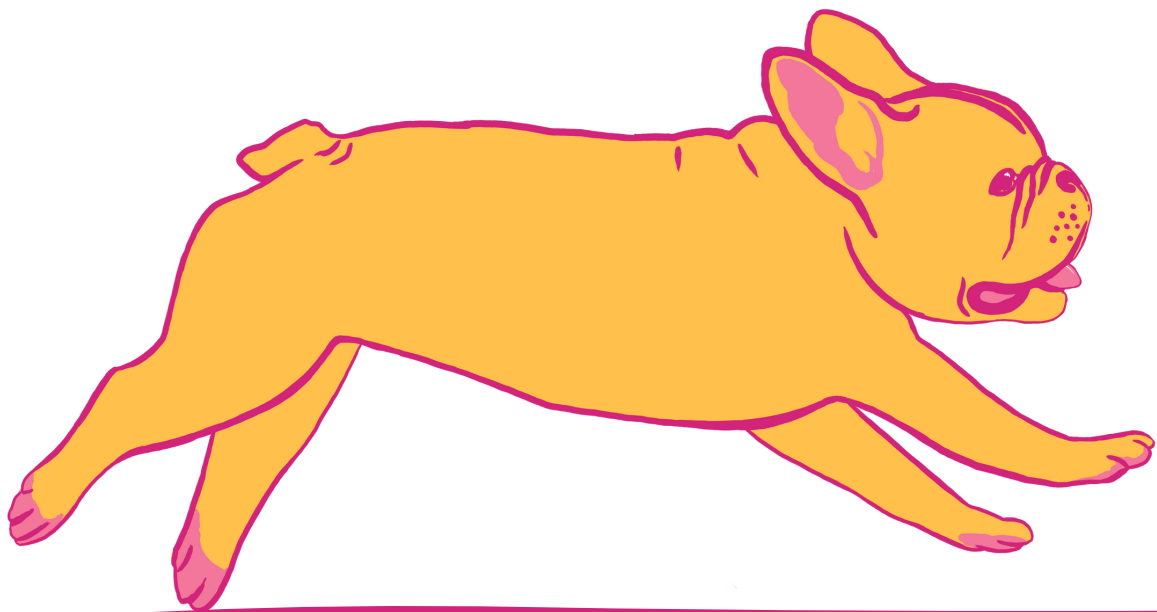


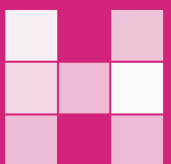


**hamilton**  
SPECIALIST REFERRALS

A MINI GUIDE TO



**BOAS**

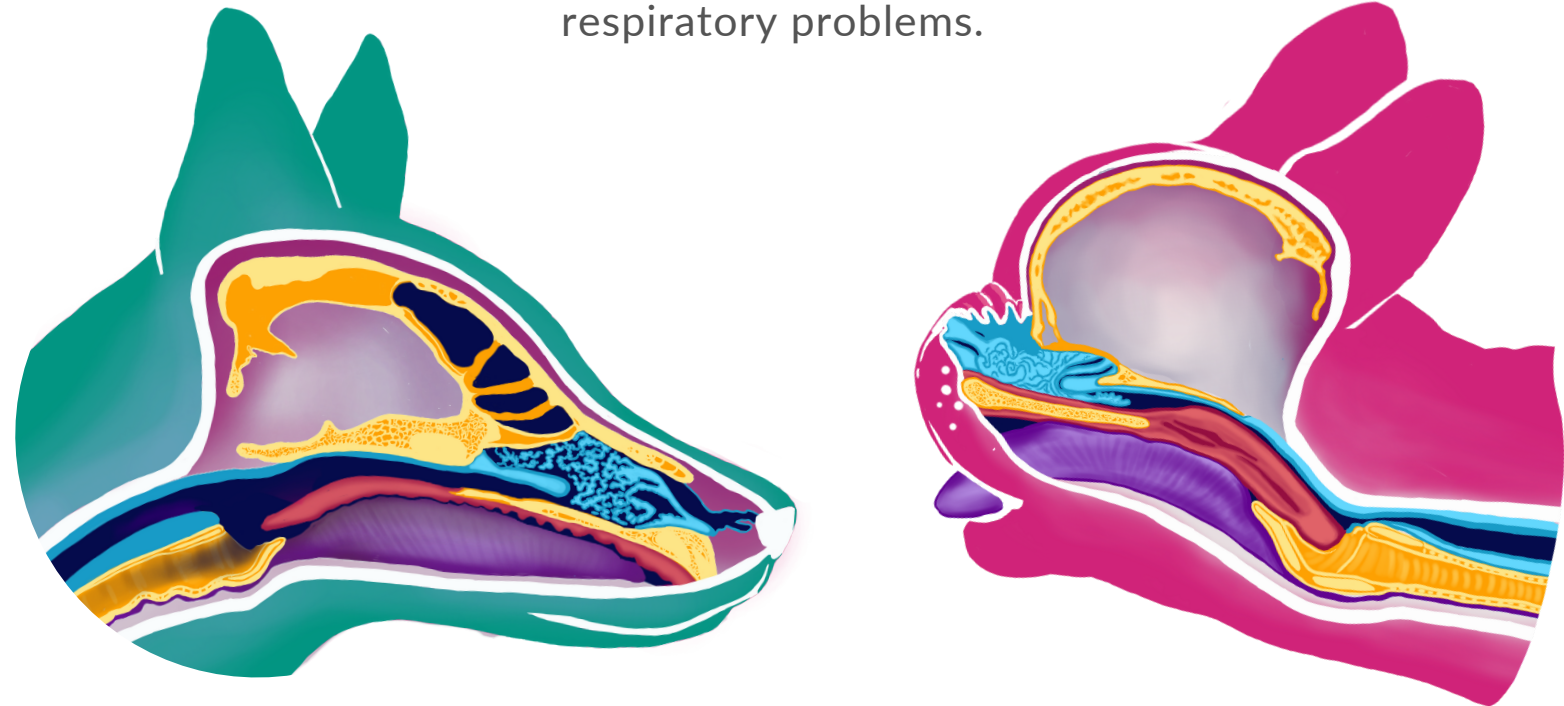




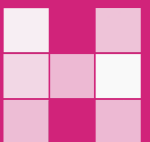
# — Overview —

**BOAS** stands for **Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome** and affects short-nosed (brachycephalic) dogs.

These dogs have compressed skulls that result in overcrowding of the soft tissue within the skull, meaning that they are at risk of developing respiratory problems.



**BOAS** is seen in certain breeds, however Pugs, English Bulldogs and French Bulldogs are over-represented.



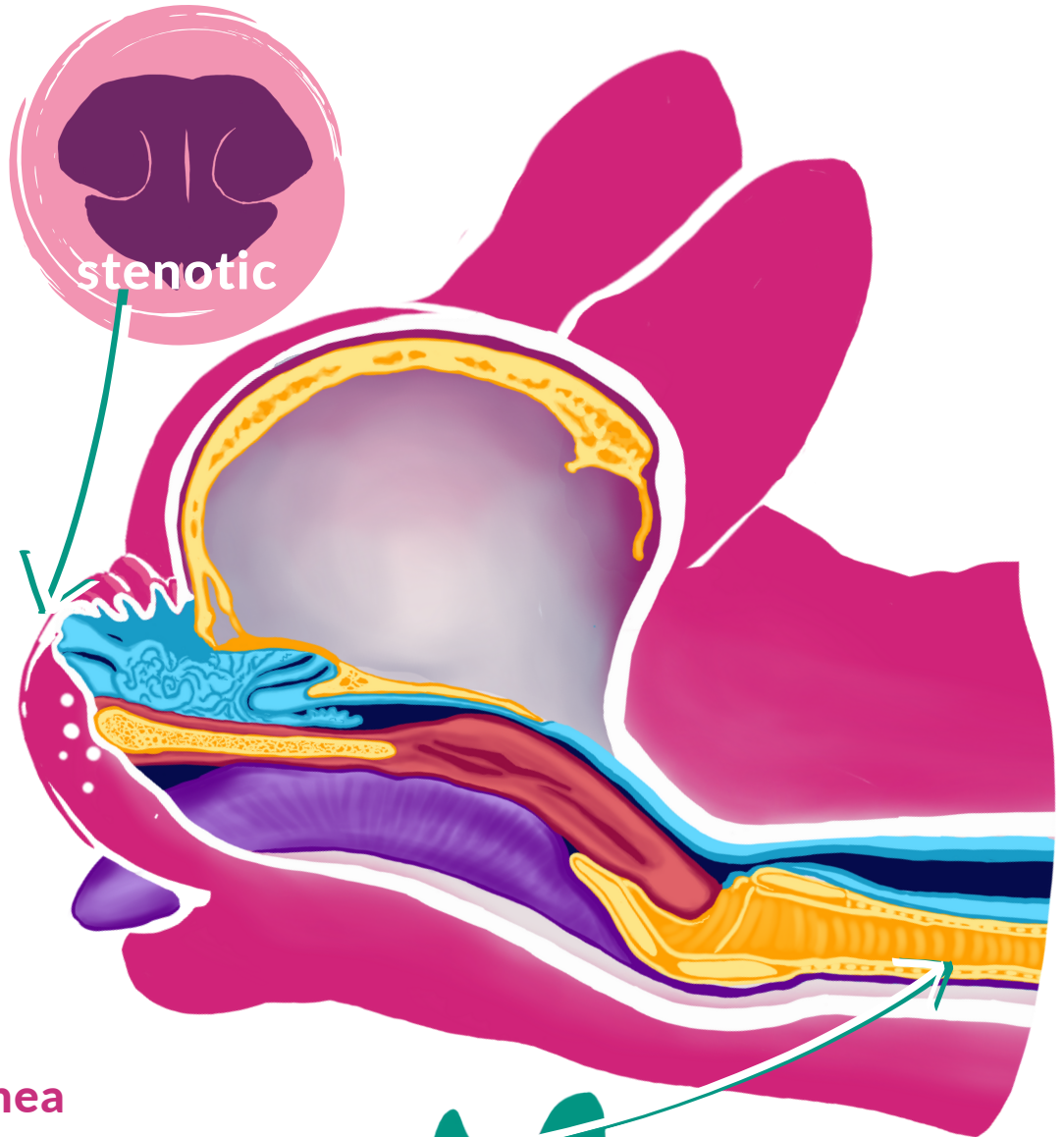


# — Overview —



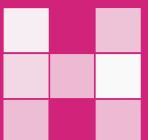
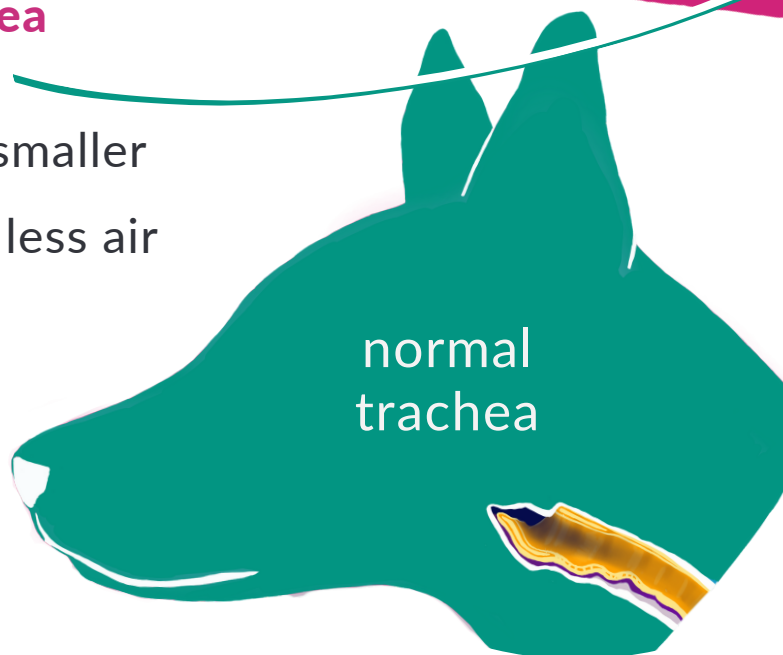
## Stenotic nares

Narrow nostrils that do not allow sufficient air to pass through



## Hypoplastic trachea

The trachea has a smaller diameter, allowing less air to pass through

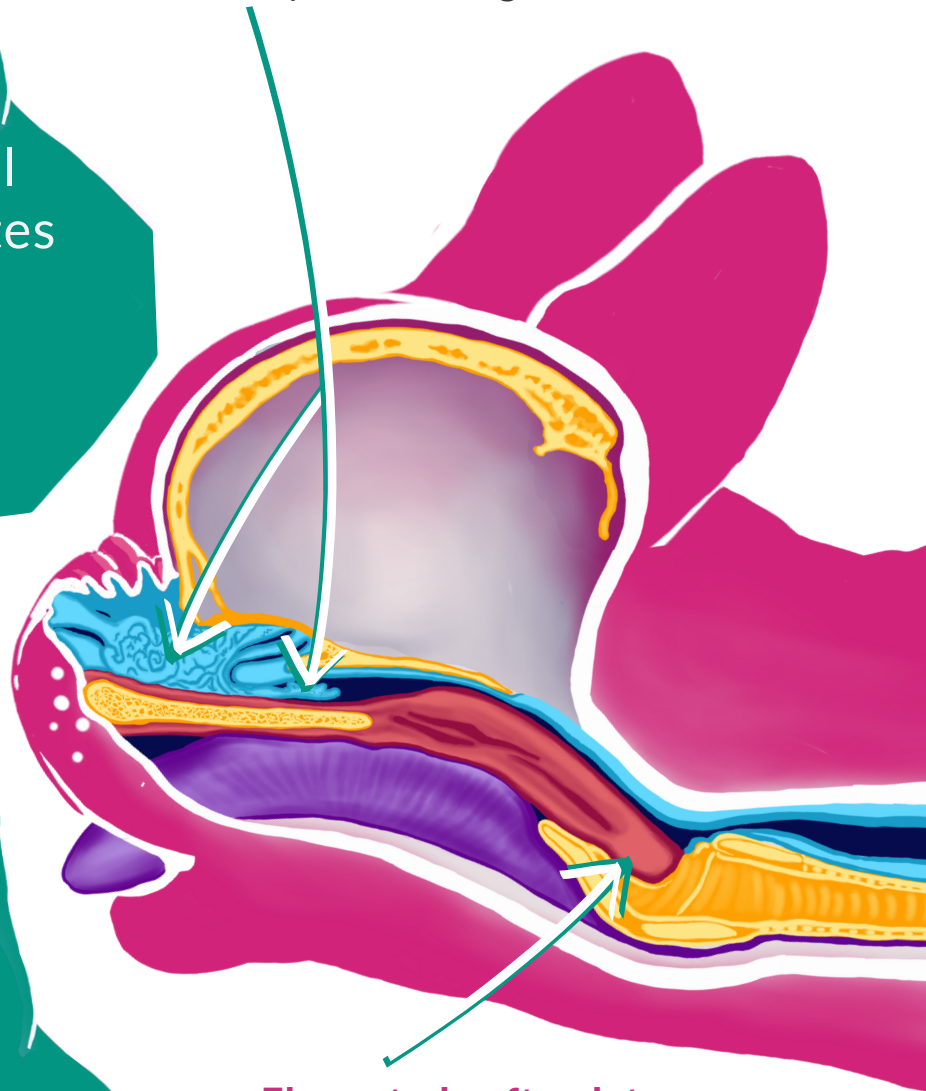
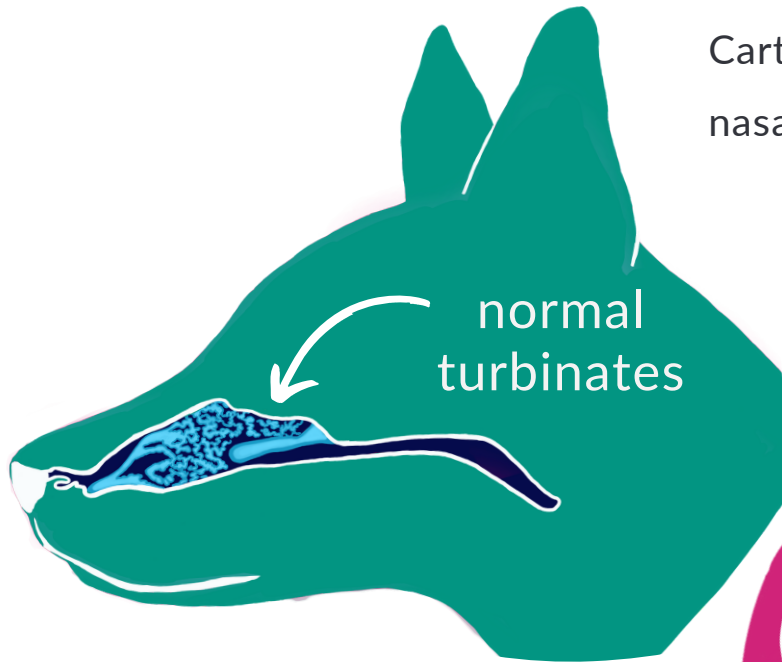




# — Overview —

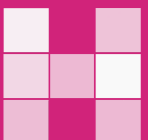
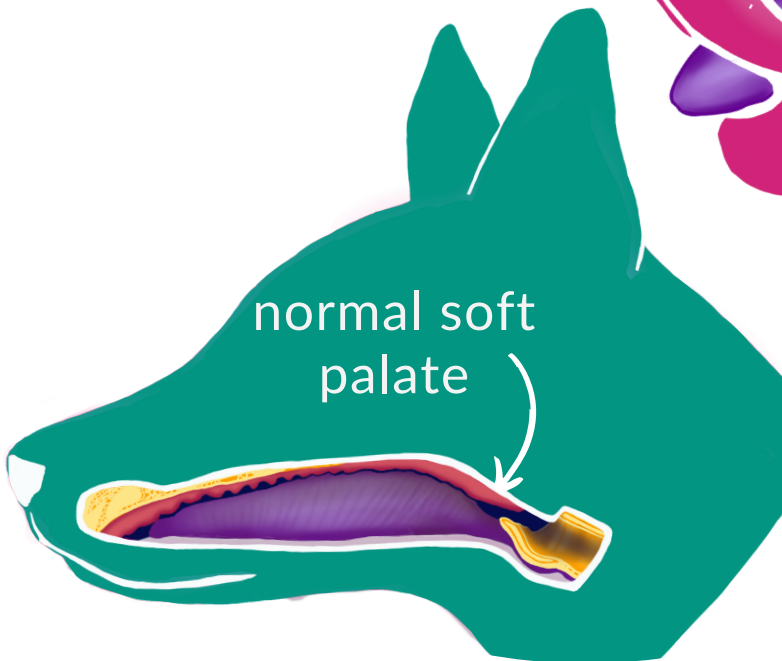
## Abnormal nasopharyngeal turbinates

Cartilage growths that extend into the nasal airway, restricting airflow



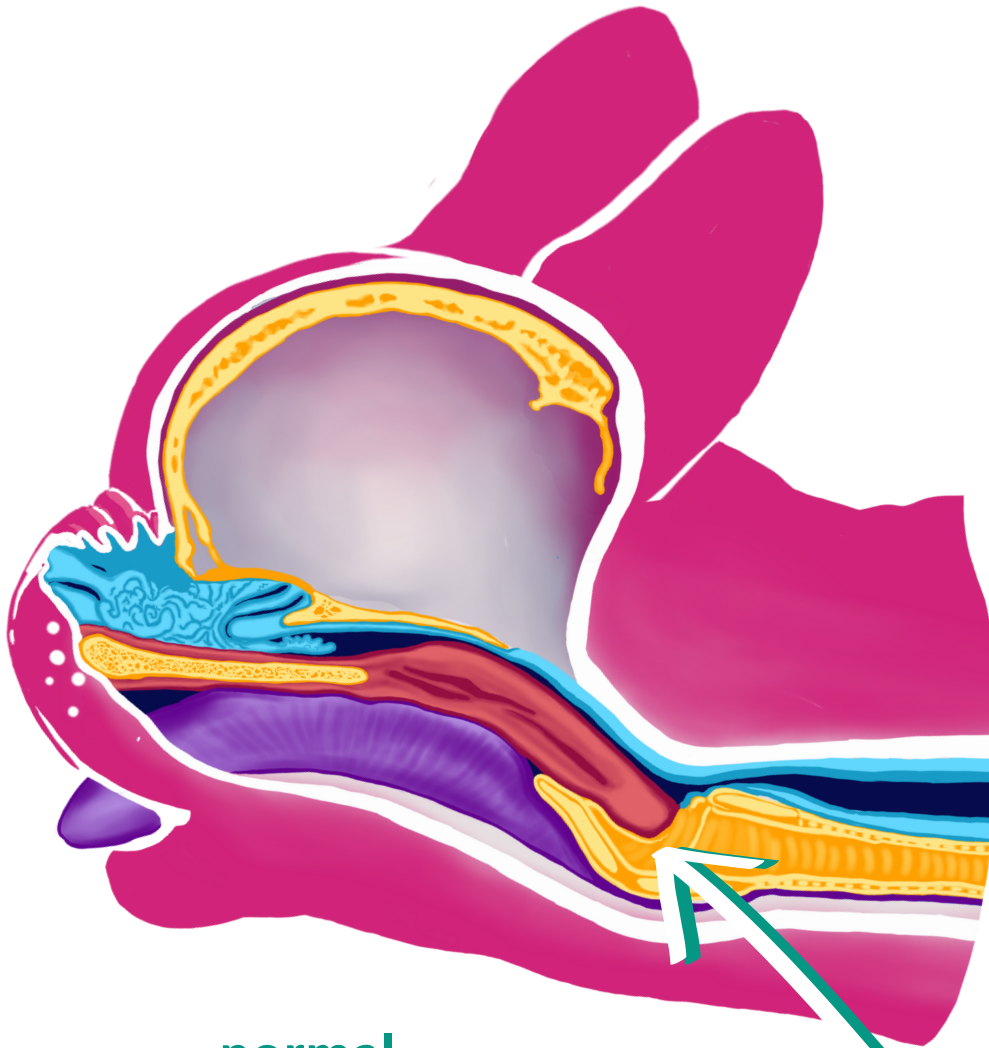
## Elongated soft palate

The soft palate is too long and folds at the back of the throat, restricting airflow and causing a 'snoring' sound when breathing





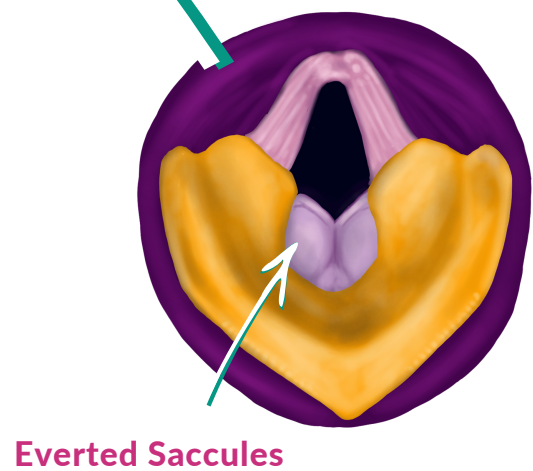
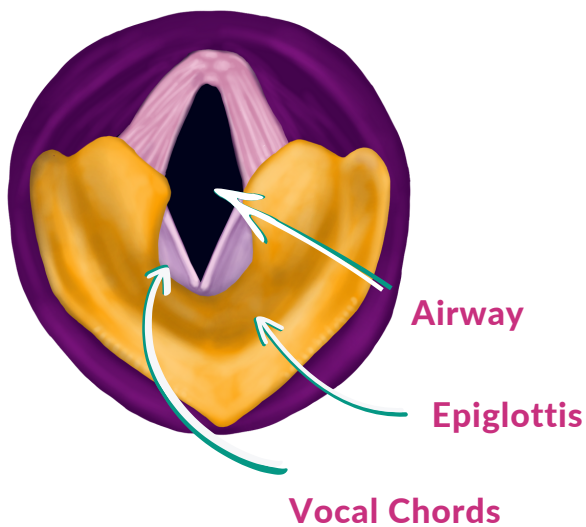
# — Overview —



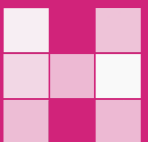
## Everted saccules and tonsils

These protrude into the airway restricting the passage of air into the trachea

## normal epiglottis



## Everted Saccules





# — Symptoms —

Symptoms of BOAS include:

Breathing difficulties

Reduced exercise tolerance

Noise whilst breathing

Regurgitation

Sleeping disorders

RFG Grading Scheme:

**Grade 0** – BOAS free



Yearly check up recommended

**Grade I** – mild respiratory symptoms, but otherwise well



Yearly check up recommended

**Grade II** – moderate respiratory symptoms



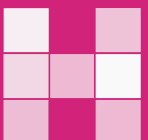
Thorough assessment recommended with management intervention, e.g. surgery, weight loss

**Grade III** – BOAS affected with severe respiratory signs



Thorough assessment required with surgical intervention likely.

Speak to your vet to find out how to book a BOAS assessment

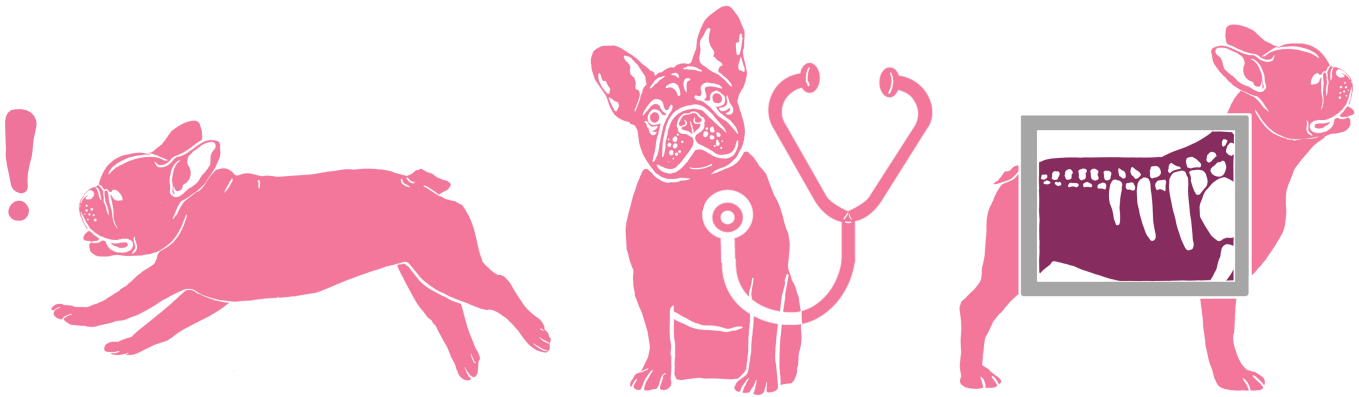




# — Treatment —

There is no cure for **BOAS**, however management can help alleviate the symptoms

Before surgery is considered, a specialist will perform an initial evaluation. This includes a **full historical assessment**, an **exercise tolerance test**, an **airway examination** and **diagnostic imaging**



Surgery can involve a combination of **tonsillectomy** (removing the tonsils), **palatoplasty** (reducing the length and thickness of the soft palate), **laryngeal surgery** (if laryngeal collapse is present) and **rhinoplasty** (widening of the nostrils).

If crowding of the nasal turbinates is noted we will also perform **laser turbinectomy** (removal of crowded cartilage folds in nasal passageway)

