

BRACHYCEPHALIC AIRWAY SYNDROME

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE YOUR DOGS
QUALITY OF LIFE



WHAT IS BAS?

This syndrome refers to a set of upper airway problems that affects breeds with a short head and squashed nose (brachycephalic); bulldogs, boxers, pugs, boston terriers, pekingese, pomeranians. Cat breeds such as Himalayans and Persians can be affected too.

WHAT CHANGES DO WE SEE?

THE MAIN PROBLEMS

- Stenotic Nares** – Narrowed nostrils which restricts the amount of air entering the nose.
- Long soft palate** – The soft palate is the soft part of the roof of the mouth. When it is too long it extends into the throat and it can partially block the entrance to the trachea (the windpipe)
- Underdeveloped trachea** – The trachea (windpipe) is narrower than it should be, lessening the amount of air that can reach the lungs. Over time the airway can degenerate leading to collapse and life threatening breathing difficulty.
- Everted Laryngeal sacculles** – The normal throat has 2 small pockets called sacculles. When increased breathing effort is required, the pressure in the throat builds up and these sacculles turn inside out and partially obstruct the back of the throat.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

COOLING DOWN

Dogs and cats don't sweat - Their method of temperature control is panting. When airflow is compromised this is more difficult.

Animals with BAS don't tolerate hot weather, stress and exercise well because it takes a lot more effort to move air in and out of the airways.

Increased strain on the breathing apparatus leads to inflammation and swelling of the airways, resulting in further breathing difficulties and can become an emergency situation.

These animals are also at much greater risk of heat stroke which can be life threatening.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

EARLY INTERVENTION TO HELP
MINIMISE PROBLEMS

DOES MY DOG HAVE A PROBLEM?

Signs that your animal might have brachycephalic airway syndrome include

SNORTING
SNORING
WHEEZING
GAGGING
COLLAPSE

These signs are worsened during exercise or in hot/humid weather.

LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Weight loss
Avoiding stress
Controlling exercise
Using a harness rather than a collar
Avoiding hot weather

These lifestyle changes can improve your pets breathing short term but will not correct the underlying physical abnormalities.

WHAT NEXT?

- If you think your pet is suffering from BAS please make an appointment with one of our vets. We can discuss the procedure with you and help guide you through how to make your pet the happiest and healthiest they can be. Call our reception on 043210799 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?

BAS is a degenerative disease. Early surgical intervention to open the nostrils and shorten the soft palate can prevent or minimise long term complications. Surgery is often done at the time of castration or spay, but can be done at any stage of life.

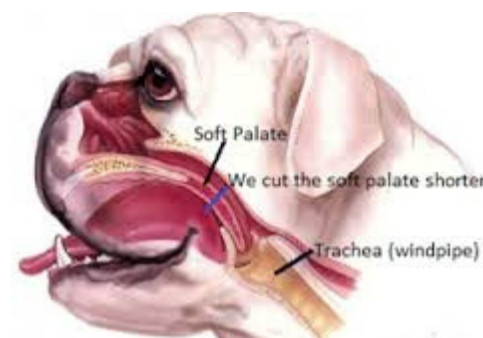
Two changes are made to open up your dogs airway and improve air flow:

NOSTRIL WIDENING



- Widen the nostrils to allow better airflow through the nose

SOFT PALATE RESECTION



- Trim the back of the soft palate, shortening it to the normal length which prevents it from blocking air entering the windpipe