

# Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)

## Information about Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)

BOAS is an excessive amount of soft tissue at the back of his/her throat (i.e. the soft palate) which causes an obstruction to the passage of air down the trachea. This is a condition not uncommon to brachycephalic breeds and is called brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome or BOAS).

## Characteristics and consequences of Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS)

Three major airway abnormalities characterize BOAS: narrowed nostrils, long soft palate, small windpipe.

### **Narrowed nostrils (stenotic nares):**

Malformation of the cartilage in the nasal airway passage causes the animal's nostrils to be narrowed and constricted. This results in less air being inhaled or expelled, leading to breathlessness.

### **Elongated and thickened soft palate:**

The soft palate is a structure located at the back of the roof of the mouth. When it is too long or too thick, it partially covers the opening of the windpipe, reducing the amount of air that can be inhaled causing snorting sounds.

### **Small windpipe (hypoplastic trachea):**

The windpipe (trachea) does not develop properly and so less air enters the lungs which can lead to animals struggling to take in more air with each breath.

BOAS often progressively worsens because if the primary abnormalities of BOAS are not corrected early enough, secondary problems develop.

## Signs of BOAS

- Increased effort during breathing
- Noise during breathing (snoring sounds)
- Stress and an inability to exercise normally (called exercise intolerance)
- More prone to heatstress/stroke
- Vomiting and regurgitation
- Excess salivation
- Sudden collapse

**If you're concerned your pet has Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome or has serious vomiting and diarrhoea please seek veterinary attention early. Our team of amazing veterinarians are available 24/7 for any emergencies when your vet is not available. Feel free to call us if you aren't sure you should see a veterinarian or not, and our team can assist you.**



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