

# BRACHYCEPHALIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAY SYNDROME (BOAS)



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Brachycephalic dogs have skull bones that are shortened in length which give their face, snout and nose a pushed-in appearance. This results in abnormal anatomy of the upper airways.

Brachycephalic dogs typically have narrowed nostrils, overly-long soft palates and excessive tissue around the larynx and within the nasal cavity. The trachea can also be very narrow. BOAS physically obstructs airflow and causes problems with breathing.

Dogs suffering from BOAS may exhibit the following:

- Snoring
- Loud/difficult breathing
- Reduced ability to exercise
- Poor tolerance to heat
- Trouble sleeping (sleep apnoea)
- Digestive problems, such as regurgitation and vomiting

The aim of BOAS surgery is to remove excessive tissue to improve some of the anatomical issues that restrict airflow.

This involves widening the nostrils, shortening the soft palate and removing excessive tissue around the larynx.

Surgery cannot cure BOAS but the aim is to provide a significant improvement to airflow which improves your dog's quality of life.

