

BOAS (Brachycephalic Upper Airway Syndrome)

BOAS is a condition where abnormal formation of the anatomy of a patient's head causes difficulties breathing effectively. Some animals have been bred for the characteristic of a shortened nose, as a consequence of this breeding, these animals have smaller skulls however the soft tissue has still retained a larger size. This causes those tissues to be excess to requirements and interfere with the normal function of the airway, by partially blocking it. This syndrome also applies to dogs with restricted nostril size and everted laryngeal sacs, pulled inside out by the action of breathing hard.

Clinical signs:

The signs of BOAS may vary from mild to severe based on the anatomy of the patient. Signs may include any of the following:

- Pronounced effort breathing when excited or exercising
- Snoring
- Reluctance to exercise in hot weather
- Vomiting/regurgitating food and water
- Taking a long time to eat
- Fainting/collapsing episodes
- Blue tinge to tongue

Commonly effected dog breeds include:

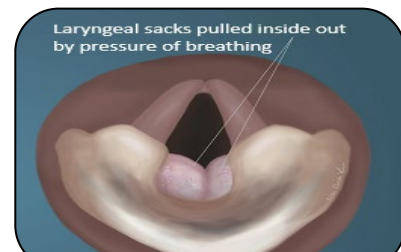
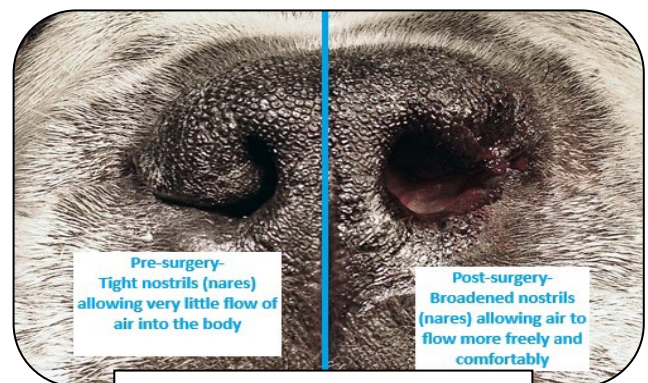
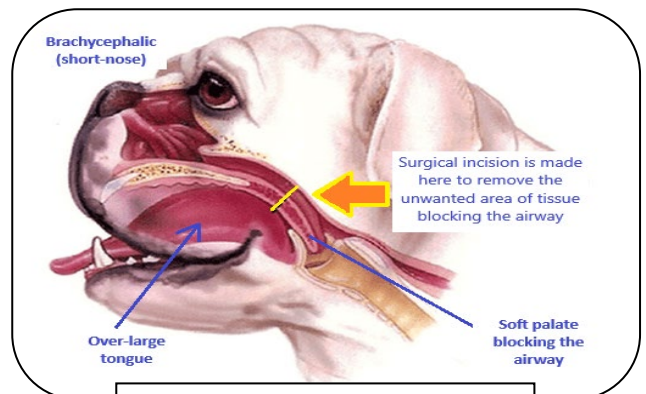
- French Bulldogs
- Pugs
- English Bulldog
- Boxers
- Dogue de Bordeaux

Commonly effected cat breeds include:

- Persians
- Himalayan

The prognosis for animals who have undergone one or more of these types of surgery can be life changing. The surgeries themselves do come with risks, including swelling of the airway post op and the possibility of revision at a later point. It is advisable to discuss the best route of action with your vet to see if they would be recommended in your pet's unique situation.

Treatment - The goal of treatment is to open up the airway to ease breathing effort, and reduce damage to the surrounding structures from overexertion and pressure, examples of this being achieved are:



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