

Brachycephalic Consent

Anesthesia, Sedation and Hospitalization

Brachycephalic is a term for "short nosed." Several breeds may experience difficulty breathing due to the shape of their head, muzzle and throat. Shorter nosed dogs include English Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Shar Peis, Pekingese, and many other breeds.

Due to a shorter than average nose and face in proportion to their body size this can cause problems at times. Owners with brachycephalic breeds must pay extra attention to their animals during exercise, heat and while obtaining veterinary care.

Overview	The purpose of this form is to inform you of the risks associated with anesthesia/sedation and occasionally hospitalization, which are inherent for dogs with shorter noses(brachycephalic). Not all of these problems may apply to your dog, but these are part of the brachycephalic syndrome.
Respiratory Problems	Brachycephalic dogs have a shortened skull, resulting in a compressed nasal passage and abnormal throat anatomy. The abnormal upper airway anatomy causes increased negative pressure while taking a breath, leading to inflammation, deformation of throat issues and obstruction of breathing. We encourage referral for corrective surgery in moderate to severely affected dogs.
Cooling Problems	As dogs cool by panting, dogs with narrowed airways may have difficulty cooling themselves. This may be made worse by anxiety and stress.
Stomach and intestinal problems	Brachycephalic dogs may swallow a lot of air which can lead to increased vomiting or regurgitation that can lead to aspiration and pneumonia. If possible, we pre-treat brachycephalic dogs with medications to reduce stomach acids, and promote stomach emptying.
Sedation and Anesthesia	While sedation and anesthesia are commonly performed in brachycephalic breeds, especially bulldogs, recovery from anesthesia may be more difficult for these patients due to a narrowed airway. We have our anesthesia team very closely involved in sedation and anesthesia of brachycephalic breeds, especially bulldogs. Careful monitoring is essential to a good outcome.

We consider brachycephalic dogs a high risk population. Please discuss any concerns you may have with your doctor.

I grant permission for my pet to undergo general anesthesia/sedation/hospitalization at Bluebonnet Animal Hospital/Bluebonnet Riverside Vet. I am aware that if my pet is a brachycephalic-type breed, I understand that anesthesia and sedation may be more challenging and possibly more risky than for the average dog with a longer nose. I am aware that brachycephalic breeds, such as the English and French Bulldog, Boston Terrier, Pug, Pekingese, Shar Pei, and others, have a shortened skull resulting in a compressed nasal passage and abnormal throat anatomy. The abnormal upper airway anatomy causes increased negative pressure while taking a breath, leading to inflammation, deformation of throat tissues and obstruction of breathing. I am aware that if my brachycephalic pet undergoes sedation or general anesthesia the potential complications include partial or complete airway obstruction during recovery and regurgitation/vomiting which could lead to aspiration pneumonia/respiratory distress. I am aware that anesthetizing or sedating a brachycephalic animal for any reason can lead to the development of significant complications as described above.