



Brachycephalic is a term for “short-nosed.” Several dog 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 and many other breeds. The shorter than average nose and face in proportion to their body size can cause problems for these breeds at times. Owners with brachycephalic breeds must pay extra attention to their animals during exercise, heat/humidity 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. Please discuss any specific concerns with your attending veterinarian.

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 tissues, and obstruction of breathing. We encourage corrective surgery (performed by others) 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 or stress.

STOMACH AND INTESTINAL PROBLEMS

Brachycephalic dogs may swallow a lot of air which can lead to increased vomiting or regurgitation, and this could lead to pneumonia. In general, we pre-treat brachycephalic dogs with medications to reduce nausea, decrease stomach acids, and to promote stomach emptying.

RESTRAINT CHALLENGES

Due to their airway, and in some bulldogs, their intrinsic personality as “tough” dogs, it may be difficult to restrain them safely. This is a particularly significant problem with more aggressive dogs. We occasionally need to sedate them, or ask family members to help with some routine procedures to avoid unnecessary stress on the patient.

SEDATION AND ANESTHESIA

While sedation and anesthesia are commonly performed in brachycephalic breeds, recovery from anesthesia may be more difficult for these patients due to a narrowed airway. Our veterinary care team is well-versed on these special precautions and remains closely vigilant in the pre-anesthetic induction, anesthetic and recovery periods.

We consider brachycephalic dogs a high-risk population. Please be sure you talk with your pet's doctor about the following:

1. Any questions you have related to anesthesia safety and/or hospitalization.
2. Specific questions related to this consent form and how they apply to your dog.
3. If there are any specific concerns related to your pet and how their associated risks will attempt to be mitigated.
4. The most common complications of the proposed procedure(s) and how serious they might be.

I grant permission for my pet to undergo general anesthesia/sedation/hospitalization at the Specialists in Companion Animal Neurology (SCAN). I am aware that my pet has physical characteristics that make anesthesia and sedation more challenging and possibly higher risk 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, and others have a shortened skull, resulting in a compressed nasal passage and abnormal throat anatomy. This can result in increased inflammation of the airways and obstruction of breathing which, in the worst cases, may not respond to medical intervention.

I am aware that if my brachycephalic pet undergoes sedation or general anesthesia the potential complications include (but are not limited to) partial or complete airway obstruction during recovery, excessive airway inflammation and/or regurgitation/vomiting which could lead to aspiration pneumonia and/or respiratory distress and/or respiratory arrest.

I am aware that anesthetizing or sedating a brachycephalic animal for any reason can lead to the development of significant complications as described in this document.

Please answer YES or NO to the following questions:

My pet has demonstrated difficulty breathing, exercise intolerance, and/or collapse episodes.

YES NO

My pet snores when he/she sleeps.

YES NO

My pet has demonstrated difficulty eating, such as gagging, vomiting, and regurgitation.

YES NO

My pet has had airway surgery already.

YES NO

My pet has been anesthetized and/or sedated before and had difficulty with anesthetic recovery.

YES NO

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand the above information and give your consent for treatment.

Signature

Date

