

BRACHYCEPHALIC PATIENTS

ANESTHESIA & SURGERY



Because of many years of bad breeding, [Brachycephalic](#) breeds; DOGS (Bulldogs (all types), Boxers, Shih tzu's, pugs, Boston Terriers, Pekingese, etc. and CATS - Persian, Himalayan, Scottish Fold/Shorthair, Burmese) can have trouble breathing because of their abnormal anatomy (short nose, closed nostrils, elongated soft palate (extra tissue) within the throat, small windpipe). Many brachycephalic dogs have a difficult time breathing under normal conditions, and they are more susceptible to life threatening episodes from even minor stressors such as heat, excessive weight, or the anxiety induced by a simple trip to the groomer or a veterinary hospital.

Brachycephalic breeds are at higher risk of anesthetic and surgical complications. Complications can include but are not limited to: esophagitis (fluid accumulation in the esophagus causing inflammation) with the possibility of esophageal stricture, aspiration pneumonia, prolonged anesthetic recovery, respiratory or cardiac arrest during the anesthetic procedure or in recovery. Any of these complications could lead to a trip to the ER, hospitalization, additional expenses, and sadly, even death.

Additional precautions taken with Brachycephalic breeds may include pre-op medication(s) to prevent chance of vomiting (Cerenia), and additional post-anesthetic recovery care including prolonged oxygen administration and additional monitoring (including breathe alert monitors). Because of these precautionary measures, additional charges apply. Because we are a high volume [affordable cost] surgery facility (12-20 procedures per surgeon per day) there is not a dedicated staff member to personally monitor your pet during its entire recovery process. Nor do we have every piece of anesthetic monitoring equipment available.

Gold standard care is to have brachycephalic patients anesthesia & surgical procedures performed at a specialty facility.

A **INCREASED ANESTHETIC RISK WAIVER** is required for **any** brachycephalic patient.

If you have additional questions about your brachycephalic pet's upcoming anesthetic or surgical procedure, please contact your primary veterinarian for a consultation (in-person or virtual). Additional consultation charges may apply.

For more information about caring for brachycephalic pets please visit the following website(s)

- ❖ [Brachycephalic Syndrome](#) by ACVS (American College of Veterinary Surgeons)
- ❖ [Brachycephalic Airway Obstruction Syndrome in Flat-Faced Dogs](#) by Veterinary Partner
- ❖ [The Problem With Pugs: Brachycephalic Syndrome](#) by Petful
- ❖ [Brachycephalic Syndrome](#) by Plumb's Veterinary Pet Owner Guides
- ❖ [Caring for Brachycephalic Dogs](#) by MSPCA/Angell
- ❖ [THE COST OF CUTENESS Health and Welfare Issues Associated with Brachycephalic Dog Breeds](#) by the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA).