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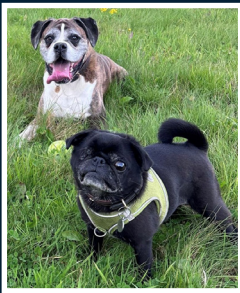
Here at Croft Vets, we love all breeds of dogs but today let's talk about brachycephalic breeds like Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pugs, and Shih Tzu's.

BOAS (Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome)

It is a multifactorial disease meaning that lots of things can contribute to obstructive airway disease and those dogs that are affected can show several different clinical signs.

Not every dog is affected so here are some of the clinical signs to look out for:

- **Exercise intolerance:** Due to a lack of oxygen they might get tired after short walks or might need to rest more than other dogs.
- **Nasal noises:** These can be due to narrow nostrils or excess cartilage present at the back of the nose, noises can be high pitched or low pitched.



- **Regurgitation:** Due to the increased negative pressure associated with obstructive airway disease reflux and regurgitation is common. Some of these patients also have hiatal hernias (where part of the stomach passes through the diaphragm from the abdomen into the thorax).
- **Stertor:** This is due to a thickened and/or overly long soft palate. It is characterised by a snoring noise often when the dog is awake and when the mouth is open.
- **Obstructive sleep apnoea:** Inability to sleep with head in a normal position or periods of non breathing.
- **Stridor:** This is due to a narrow of collapsed larynx, this is usually a more high-pitched noise.
- **Heat intolerance:** Due to the excess soft tissue around the mouth, throat and nose these dogs often struggle more in heat than longer nosed dogs.
- **Collapse:** Obstruction to breathing results in a reduction of oxygen to organs and the brain, which might result in fainting.



What can we do to help? If you own a flat faced dog and see any of the above signs in your pet then please contact us, we are happy to help! There are several things that can be done to help these dogs, but the first step is understanding whether your dog suffers from obstructive airway disease and to what degree. Cambridge University has developed an exercise tolerance test to assess this, and we are proud to offer **FREE exercise tolerance tests** with our nursing team to see if your dog suffers with obstructive airway disease and ways that it can be managed. This might include weight management, exercise management or surgery. These exercise tolerance tests are currently free with our nursing team, you will be referred onto a vet if necessary.

Book an appointment with us today and help your dog climb a mountain in 2024 like Poppy pug!

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Proud to be your vet!