

# Brachycephalic airway obstructive syndrome.

**Snuffling, snorting, snoring and coughing...** are common sounds we hear from our brachycephalic pets and are often mistakenly considered normal.

While these dogs are full of personality and life, they commonly have issues with their respiratory tract and related issues with the gastrointestinal tract.



## Airway issues:

Increased upper airway resistance leads to increased airway pressure and turbulence.

We see increase inspiratory effort and most importantly we **hear** respiratory noises. These include:

- Turbulence from narrowed nares.
- Stertor – noise made in the nasopharynx oropharynx or soft palate.
- Snoring and sleep disorder breathing (apnoea while sleeping)

## Gastro-intestinal signs:

These are common but often overlooked as being related to the airway issues.

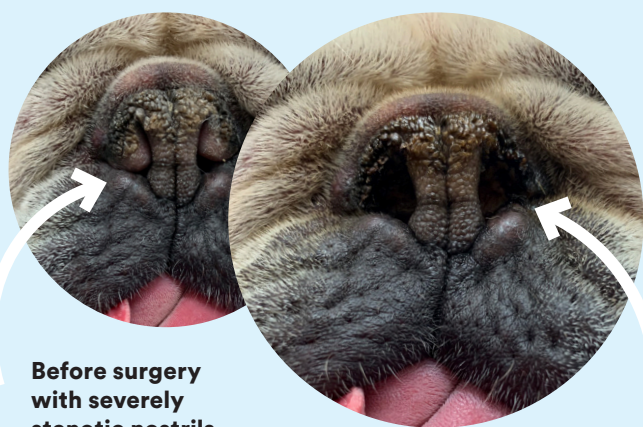
These include vomiting, regurgitation and diarrhoea.

## What can veterinarians do?

- History – what signs are the clients seeing and hearing?
- Assessment – looking, listening, upper and lower airway exam
- Intervention – Nares can be opened up, soft palates can be shortened and thinned, excess pharyngeal tissue can be removed.

## In summary:

- Most brachycephalic patients have some degree of airway obstruction.
- Airway obstruction affects patients everyday.
- 90-95% of cases benefit from surgery. These benefits often include additional reductions in the GI symptoms.



Before surgery with severely stenotic nostrils.

After surgery at ACE resulting in open nostrils

Please contact ACE Vet Hospital for information regarding our surgical referral services or to discuss how we can help with Brachycephalic airway obstructive syndrome.