

INTERESTING CASE

Breathe Easy

Abby Robertson BVSc
Brachycephalic breeds are those which have short-noses such as Pugs, Boston terriers, Bulldogs, Shih Tzus and Boxers. This shortened face shape can result in the syndrome known as Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS). BOAS may be characterized by narrowing of the nostrils, a small windpipe, and excessive soft tissue structures at the back of the throat (the soft palate and laryngeal sacculles).

Symptoms of the syndrome vary but can include, loud and rapid breathing, snoring, exercise intolerance, retching and collapse.

For minimally affected pups, a regular exercise routine, healthy diet and avoiding overheating will help with breathing and ease other symptoms. Early surgical intervention to widen narrow nostrils will also reduce the risk of deterioration of the airways that can lead to severe BOAS. In more severe cases surgical removal of excessive soft tissue in the back of the throat can also be performed to improve breathing ability.

Both Rocco the Pug and Angel the English Bull dog are patients that have undergone airway surgery to improve their breathing at the Veterinary Centre, Oamaru. We are happy to report that both are doing well, are more active and snoring less.



Angel's nostrils before & after surgery



Relaxed Rocco, on his way home after surgery.

Cotton's Corner

Did you know that us cats get arthritis too? I see plenty of dogs coming in to get their anti-inflammatory drugs to ease their pain but often we get forgotten about because we don't complain as loudly as those whining dogs! But as many as 1 in 3 cats may be affected.

Your human may notice you slowing down, not playing, climbing, jumping, grooming like you used to, perhaps not making it to the toilet in time and being more irritable than usual. The good news is that arthritis can be managed successfully with appropriate treatment and simple changes to your environment or diet. If you're feeling sore then get your human to bring you in to see one of my vets about a treatment plan today! (Check out www.catswitharthritis.com)

... Cotton



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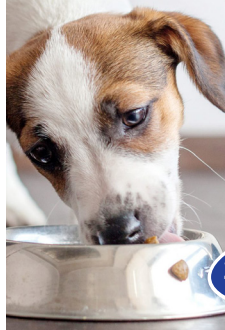


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