



THE COST OF CUTENESS

Protecting the health of your flat-faced pet

Pets with very short noses and squished faces are known as brachycephalic (literally "short-headed") breeds. Breeding for these unnaturally short skulls makes your pet more vulnerable to serious medical issues, including **b**rachycephalic **o**bstructive **a**irway **s**yndrome.

Remember BREATHE for signs of BOAS and other common medical issues in flat-faced breeds, and consult your veterinarian if you notice any of these problems.



Breathing difficulties, such as snorting, snoring, coughing, excessive panting or shortness of breath.



Regurgitating (vomiting) food immediately after eating, gagging or other signs of gastrointestinal problems.



Eyes that are red, squinting or chronically discharging fluid.



Apnea (sudden stops in breathing); dogs who suffer from apnea may regularly sleep with their mouth open or head propped up.



Tight nostrils or other visible restrictions to airways while at rest.



Heat intolerance or overheating easily.



Exercise intolerance, including excessive panting or collapsing after light exercise.

→ Learn more at hsvma.org/brachycephalic.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR PET'S HEALTH?

Regularly and gently clean and dry the areas between your pet's facial skin folds.





Monitor your pet's weight; just a few extra pounds can worsen health issues.

Watch for weakness in the hind legs, which could indicate joint or back issues.





Avoid air travel and long walks in hot or humid weather.

Pay attention to your pet's teeth; crowded teeth are prone to dental disease.

