

The purpose of this form is to inform you of the risks associated with anesthesia, sedation and occasionally hospitalization, which are inherent for dogs with shorter muzzles (brachycephalic). Not all of these problems may apply to your pet but are apart of brachycephalic syndrome. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please bring them up so that they can be discussed with one of our neurologists

BRACHYCEPHALIC

Brachycephalic is a term for dogs with a shortened muzzle or “smooshed face” appearance. Many dog breeds such as English bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston terriers and several others can experience difficulty breathing due to the shape of their head, muzzle and throat. Owners of these breeds should pay close attention to their pets during exercise, in high temperatures or while at the vet.

COOLING CONCERNS

As dogs cool themselves through gas exchange through their airway (panting), those with narrowed or abnormal airways can have difficulty cooling themselves. This can worsen with heightened anxiety and can become critical if not addressed promptly.

GASTROINTESTINAL PROBLEMS

Dogs who are brachycephalic often swallow more air which potentially increases the chance of vomiting and regurgitation that can subsequently lead to aspiration pneumonia. The VNC will take preventative measures to reduce your pet’s nausea and stomach acid production while also promoting stomach emptying.

RESTRAINT CHALLENGES

Brachycephalic patients can pose unique challenges during restraint for procedures which can make it difficult to perform restraint safely. Occasionally sedation is required to minimize the stress these patients experience during restraint (even for routine procedures).

SEDATION AND ANESTHESIA

Sedation and anesthesia are commonly performed in brachycephalic breeds. However, the recovery process following anesthesia may be more difficult for these patients due to their narrow airways. The VNC monitor all patients very closely, especially in bulldogs, pugs, and other brachycephalic breeds. This diligent monitoring, along with a host of special accommodations and interventions, are often essential to achieving a positive outcome.

TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR NEUROLOGIST

We consider brachycephalic dogs a high-risk population. Please be sure to talk with your Neurologist about the following (as well as any other questions or concerns you may have):

- Any medical and or surgical treatment alternatives for you pet
- Sufficient details of the consent form and how they apply to your pet
- How fully your pet might respond or recover and how long it will take
- The most common complications and how serious they might be

The following section is intended for pet owners who proceed with any of the following services.

CONSENT FOR ANESTHESIA, SEDATION, HOSPITALIZATION

I grant permission for my pet to undergo general anesthesia/ sedation/ hospitalization at the Veterinary Neurological Center. I am aware that my pet has physical characteristics that make anesthesia and sedation more challenging and possibly more risky than for the average dog with a longer nose.

I am aware that brachycephalic breeds such as the English and French bulldog amongst others have a shortened skull, resulting in compressed nasal passage and abnormal throat anatomy. The abnormal upper airway anatomy causes increased negative pressure while taking a breath, leading to inflammation, deformation of throat tissues, and obstruction of breathing.

I am aware that if my brachycephalic pet undergoes sedation or general anesthesia the potential complications include partial or complete airway obstruction during recovery and regurgitation/vomiting which could lead to aspiration pneumonia/respiratory distress.

I am aware that anesthetizing or sedating a brachycephalic pet for any reason can lead to the development of significant complications as described in this document.

Please answer YES or NO to the following questions:

My pet has demonstrated difficulty breathing, exercise intolerance and or collapse episodes.

YES _____ NO _____

My pet has demonstrated difficulty eating, such as gagging, vomiting and regurgitation.

YES _____ NO _____

My pet is receiving or has recently received a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (e.g. Rimadyl, carprofen, deramaxx or meloxicam).

YES _____ NO _____

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the above information and give your consent for treatment.

Client Signature

Date