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**UK Brachycephalic Working Group**

**September 2021**

### **BWG: Online Resources to Support Veterinary Professionals in Practice**

The Brachycephalic Working Group's (BWG) view is that 'Maximising good health, welfare and temperament overrides all other considerations for dogs'. BWG acknowledges that access to the best evidence and resources are critical to assist veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses to promote the very best health, welfare and temperament in brachycephalic dogs. With this background, and with support from BVA and BSAVA, the BWG has compiled a list of useful resources to help veterinary teams in practice to offer the best advice on health and welfare issues associated with brachycephaly in dogs.

#### **Data Collection and Disease Reporting**

- [Online veterinary reporting form for reporting a caesarean operation on a dog and/or a procedure altering the natural conformation of a dog](#) Provides advice on conformation including that relating to brachycephalic breeds
- [RCVS Guidelines on surgical procedures that could be considered cosmetic](#)
- [RVC's interactive infographic](#) that shows areas of the body where brachycephalic dogs are predisposed to health problems
- [The Kennel Club - BARC \(Bringing About Research Collaboration\)](#), a resource that helps researchers promote their vital research and how owners can get involved

## Disorders and health

- [Health and Welfare of Brachycephalic \(Flat-faced\) Companion Animals: A Complete Guide for Veterinary and Animal Professionals](#) This book, with contributions from several members of BWG, offers a holistic evidence-base on the many issues associated with brachycephaly in dogs
- [BSAVA's Library collection of Companion resources](#) covering brachycephalic health and welfare
- [BWG consensus statement on Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome \(BOAS\): guidelines for veterinary practitioners](#). These guidelines aim to help practitioners (and owners) to appreciate the current understanding of the treatment of BOAS. It has been prepared by a group of veterinary specialists with extensive expertise in the management of breeds affected by BOAS
- [RVC VetCompass infographics](#) on breed and breed-related health issues in dogs
- [RVC VetCompass peer-reviewed publications](#) on breed and breed-related health issues in dogs
- [The Kennel Club - Information about brachycephalic health issues](#) (including articles on BOAS, eye problems, skin problems, spinal problems and breathing difficulties)
- [The Kennel Club - Webcast on brachycephalic health issues](#)

## Ethics and Welfare

- [BVA blog – How do we treat brachycephalic dogs ethically? By Dr Jane Ladlow](#) Jane Ladlow from the University of Cambridge/Hamilton Specialist Referrals considers how [BWG's BOAS guidelines](#) can help veterinary professionals ethically treat dogs with conformation-related issues
- [BVA 10-point plan for veterinary practices](#) - Follow the 10-point practice plan to improve the health and welfare of brachycephalic dogs and promote responsible pet ownership

## Ownership and social factors

- [BSAVA position on responsible pet ownership](#)
- BWG position statement on '[The use of Brachycephalic Dogs in advertising and the media](#)'
- BWG position statement on "[Obesity in Brachycephalic Dogs](#)"

- BWG position statement on “[Stop and think before buying a flat-faced dog](#)”
- BWG position on “[Preventing and Moderating Heat-related illness in dogs](#)”

## Conformation

- [Canine and Feline Sector Group \(CFSG\) Guidance on Dog Conformation](#)
- [BSAVA position statement on inherited diseases and exaggerated characteristics](#) - BSAVA strongly recommends that animals which show extremes of conformation that negatively affect their health and welfare should not be used for breeding.
- [BVA position statement on brachycephalic dogs](#)
- [BVA position statement on extreme conformation](#) - Vets should advise owners not to breed from animals affected by extreme conformation, neutering should be encouraged as a means of preventing the perpetuation of extremes of conformation.
- [Federation of Companion Animal Veterinary Associations \(FECAVA\): Extreme Breeding flyer](#) Includes extensive list of resources at Annex 3 to signpost to advice on poor conformation.

## Health Schemes

- [The Kennel Club and University of Cambridge Respiratory Function Grading Scheme](#)
- [Breed Health and Conservation Plans \(BHCPs\) for the French Bulldog, Bulldog and Pug](#) - These are documents are an ongoing project that use health data and published scientific research to identify each breed's health concerns to ensure that breeders, breed clubs, veterinary researchers and The Kennel Club are all working together to improve dog health
- [The Kennel Club's Breeds A-Z](#) – shows breeders and puppy buyers what health tests and schemes are recommended for each breed
- [The Kennel Club - Find a health testing clinic](#) is a resource that allows breeders and owners to find health testing clinics, including Respiratory Function Grading clinics, near them

## Client and Pet Owner Information Resources

- [Which Pet?](#) pre-purchase consultation framework: e-learning module, downloadable handbooks, leaflet and poster  
*Which Pet?* is a framework designed for veterinary professionals to use to help prospective pet owners chose an appropriate pet for their lifestyle and circumstances.
- [The Puppy Contract](#) - a free tool kit developed to encourage those buying and breeding puppies to do so responsibly
- [PDSA Pet Health Hub](#): BOAS (printable, client-friendly information sheets for owners)
- PDSA Dog Breed information to signpost to clients
  - [Pug](#)
  - [French bulldog](#)
  - [Bulldog](#)
- [The Kennel Club - Information and advice for puppy buyers wishing to buy a flat-faced dog](#)