

Veterinary medicine

In Veterinary Medicine there are many different topics but today I have focused on short nosed dogs, why they suffer with Brachycephalic syndrome and what issues they have to face through life including breathing difficulties and what negative outcomes are created when bred. I will explain the causes and effects of this syndrome and what in-depth experiments have been performed in order for us to know just how dangerous and uncomfortable this type of breeding is for dogs (mainly French bulldogs).

Many people across the globe long for a 'cute looking' dog otherwise known as a French Bulldog but most people do not realise what effect this has on the dog itself. Statistics tell us that the registrations for a French Bulldog puppy (from the Kennel Club) increased hugely from 2014-2015 going from 9,670 registrations in 2014, to more than 14,000 in 2015. This increase in demand led to an increase in the breeding (putting them in third place for breed numbers registered) but breeding this type of dog comes with many impacts to the animal, such as shortened life expectancy, BOAS (constriction of the upper airway), problems with the nervous system and reproduction, and breathing problems (etc). In result to these negative affects on the dog, people who want one are often portrayed as selfish because of the horrible conditions that the breed will be forced to live with.

To further explore this concept, scientists have carried out experiments (the most common experiment using the Whole-body barometric plethysmography) which showed us a more in depth understanding on just how horribly affected a French Bulldog is if suffering from Brachycephalic syndrome. In this experiment they tested the respiratory function of a French Bulldog by placing the dog inside of a transparent WBBP chamber with a constant ventilating airflow and measuring the pressure changes that occur when the dog inhales and exhales. This test only lasts for about 30 minutes, and so far over 1800 brachycephalic dogs have been tested.

Brachycephalic syndrome is mainly caused by small or restricted nostrils, a narrow throat, and/or small airways. The physical effects of this syndrome on a dog include breathing difficulties, an inability to cope with exercise, respiratory infections and overheating. Various different surgeries have been created in hope to aid a struggling dog effected by this syndrome but no surgery can fully free the dog of these life changing problems; however the surgeries have been proven to be helpful towards a dog, often allowing them to have the ability to have access to be able to do more things in their shortened life.

For over 10 years, the BOAS research group has been investigating respiratory diseases in dogs, now beginning to conduct research into different short-muzzled breeds and whether or

not they are or can be affected by the same breathing problems. This study is now closed but they are investigating why BOAS is mainly seen in 3 popular dog breeds but is very rarely seen in any other dog breed, it isn't never seen but there are extremely limited cases that have been recorded.

On the topic of short-nosed dogs being bred, many people have many different views and opinions on what they think is acceptable and unacceptable. In total, 88.2% of dog owners in a research group agreed to the full or partial banning of short-nosed dogs on the 8th of march 2024; this is because of the horrendous circumstances that these dogs are put under and the pure human decency to put the dog's life before their selfish own desires. In 2023 there was a debate/ discussion in the media about whether or not it should be legal to breed these types of dogs but no further actions were carried out involving the legality of breeding.

In conclusion I personally believe that it is not fair to breed these dogs, for you are then putting them in the impossible situation of them being born with an almost 'disability'. These poor animals have no choice but to live an unfair, disadvantaged life all because of the desires of a few humans. At a stretch, I also believe that the breeding of these animals could fall under the category of Animal Cruelty because of the struggle that is put on the dog and the insane amount of effort it takes just to be able to only partially breathe. I understand that my opinion/ views may differ from various other people, and I fully accept that they are also entitled to their own beliefs, but this is just my personal view on the subject of dogs suffering from brachycephalic syndrome.