



Brachycephalic Consent Form

The purpose of this document is to inform you of the significant risks associated with anesthesia or sedation, and even sometimes hospitalization, which are inherent to brachycephalic (short-nosed) dogs. We consider brachycephalic breeds to be a high-risk population. Brachycephalic dog breeds include English and French bulldogs, pug, Boston terrier, and Pekingese, among others. Not all of these problems may apply to your pet but are listed as part of brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome. Additional specific concerns pertaining to your pet will be discussed with you.

- ☐ I grant permission for my pet to undergo general anesthesia/sedation/hospitalization. I am aware that my pet has physical characteristics that make anesthesia and sedation more challenging and carry a higher risk than the average dog with a longer nose.
- ☐ I am aware that brachycephalic breeds have a shortened skull, resulting in compression of the nasal passage as well as abnormal throat anatomy. The abnormal anatomy causes increased negative pressure when taking a breath, leading to inflammation, swelling, deformation of throat tissues, and obstruction of breathing.
- ☐ I am aware that, if my brachycephalic pet undergoes sedation or general anesthesia, the potential complications—including partial or complete airway obstruction during recovery and regurgitation/vomiting—could lead to aspiration pneumonia and respiratory distress. In some cases, these complications can lead to death.
- ☐ I am aware that, if my brachycephalic pet is undergoing anesthesia/sedation for a procedure other than airway surgery, airway surgery—including a temporary tracheostomy—may become necessary in order to safely recovery my pet from sedation/anesthesia.
- ☐ I am aware that airway surgery may result in postoperative swelling. Postoperative swelling is often minor and can be resolved with medical treatment, including keeping my pet asleep with a tube in its airway until swelling resolves. However, severe swelling may necessitate the placement of a temporary tracheostomy tube. If my pet is unable to breathe once the temporary tracheostomy tube is removed, I understand that permanent tracheostomy may be needed; however, this procedure is associated with a lifetime risk of severe complications. If the permanent tracheostomy is not successful, I understand that there are likely no other options available to help my pet breathe.
- ☐ I am aware that the goal of airway surgery is to improve my pet's quality of life by improving their breathing. I understand that it is not realistic to expect that my pet's breathing will resemble that of a nonbrachycephalic dog. Some clinical signs, such as exercise intolerance, noisy breathing, and regurgitation, may persist after surgery. I am also aware that some brachycephalic pets will continue to develop airway abnormalities after a successful initial surgery and that this may require additional surgical procedures.

My signature below confirms that I am the owner, or the agent of the owner, of the pet identified above, and THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AM AWARE OF THE INHERENT RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BREED, AND GRANT MY CONSENT FOR TREATMENT.

Client signature _____

Date _____

Credit: This form was adapted from the Brachycephalic Consent Form created by and used at Cornell University Veterinary Specialists, Stamford, Connecticut.