



What is the Definition of Brachycephaly?

All these dogs are by definition brachycephalic- with a shortened muzzle where the **Skull width = 80% (or more) of length**



However not all breeds are affected to the same extent. These dogs have different skull shapes, soft tissue quantities within the skull and different sized upper airways. Brachycephalic syndrome is thus different in each breed.

We do not know the prevalence of brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome in each breed. Work by Vet Compass reported that 26% of pugs were reported to have upper airway disease at primary practice (i.e. animals coming to typical vet practices, rather than specialist referral practices), compared with 7-12% of longer nosed dogs such as West Highland Whites or Yorkshire Terriers.

In our research at Cambridge University, we have found that 66% of pugs, and 45% of bulldogs and French bulldogs are affected with brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome to an extent that it affects their quality of life. These dogs are a mixture of dogs recruited from dog shows, as well as pets of owners who have volunteered for the study.



Task

Use the links below to learn more about the research and its findings:

<http://www.cgejournal.org/content/2/1/10>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jvim.13933/epdf>