

WHAT IS 'BRACHYCEPHALIC OCULAR SYNDROME'?

Brachycephalic breeds are predisposed to eye problems and may have several issues at the same time, hence the term 'brachycephalic ocular syndrome'.

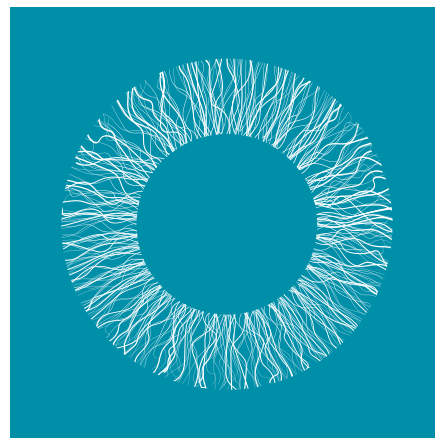
Awareness of the common eye problems that may develop allows early recognition and prompt intervention, to ensure your pet's eyes remain as healthy as possible.

WHAT IS A BRACHYCEPHALIC BREED?

Brachycephalic breeds are those with short noses and flat faces.

This includes dogs such as; Pugs, French Bulldogs, Shih Tzus, Boston Terriers, English Bulldogs, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and Boxers; and cats such as Persians and Exotic/British Shorthairs.

WHY ARE BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS SO PRONE TO EYE PROBLEMS?



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT
TVM-UK.COM/BOS

REMEMBER, IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE FROM YOUR VET

References:

1. O'Neill, et al (2021), Keratoconjunctivitis sicca in dogs under primary veterinary care in the UK: an epidemiological study. J Small Anim Pract.

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BRACHYCEPHALIC OCULAR SYNDROME



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INFORMATION FOR PET OWNERS



COMMON EYE PROBLEMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

DRY EYES

- An optimal tear film is vital for keeping eyes lubricated and healthy
- Dry eye (also known as keratoconjunctivitis sicca or 'KCS') occurs when there is an insufficient and/or a poor-quality tear film
- In the initial stages of the disease, your pet may experience recurrent bouts of sore, itchy eyes with sticky grey-yellow or crusty discharge
- Corneal ulcers and chronic corneal changes, such as pigmentation, may develop later on and can impair vision if left untreated



Brachycephalic dogs are **3.63x** more likely to develop dry eye than other breeds¹

CORNEAL ULCERATION

- Brachycephalic breeds have protruding eyes making them more exposed to the elements, which can lead to dryness, damage and irritation
- Corneal ulceration (where the surface of the eye is 'wounded') is a common resulting complaint in brachycephalic breeds
- Symptoms of a corneal ulcer include; irritation, blinking/winking, redness, cloudy and/or watery eye
- Corneal ulcers are very painful and can rapidly deepen (known as 'melting'), which can cause permanent blindness; brachycephalic breeds possess an increased risk of corneal melting, so need to be treated with even more care and attention

TEAR OVERFLOW AND STAINING

- Due to the flat-face and abnormal eyelid anatomy seen in many brachycephalic breeds, tears may not drain effectively, and therefore may overflow onto the face
- Tears contain porphyrin pigments that turn brown on the coat, resulting in unsightly 'tear staining'



THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT LOTS CAN BE DONE TO HELP IMPROVE EYE HEALTH...

REGULAR VET EXAMINATIONS

- It is recommended to perform ocular screening examinations **at least every 12 months** in at-risk breeds¹ (such as brachycephalic pets)
- Your vet may decide to coincide these with annual health checks performed at booster vaccinations
- Screening examinations will help to **identify any anatomical problems** that may require surgical intervention, **test tear film production** and **look for any active problems** (e.g., ulceration, infection, inflammation)



KEEP EYES CLEAN

- Remove any debris or discharge that builds up around your pet's eyes (or in the skin folds that sit nearby) to keep them clean, reduce tear staining and minimise the likelihood of infections developing
- Performing this as part of your pet's daily hygiene routine provides you with an opportunity to promptly identify any changes or problems with your pet's eyes, so that you can alert your vet and seek treatment early on
- It is important to use a cleaner that is safe to use in and around the eye



LUBRICATION

- Regular eye lubrication should be implemented as part of any brachycephalic pet's daily routine, to help support eye health
- This is also a good way to get your pet used to having eye drops instilled, as many brachycephalic pets will, unfortunately, develop eye problems during their lifetime that require the administration of eye medication
- Lubrication is especially important if your pet is admitted to hospital, as sedative and anaesthetic drugs can lower tear production before and during a procedure, and even for several days afterwards!



PLEASE FOLLOW YOUR VET'S TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS CAREFULLY

Speak to them first if you are having difficulty as they may be able to offer an alternative solution