



# Prospective, Randomized Trial Comparing Two Surgical Techniques For The Treatment of Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) in French Bulldogs

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## WHAT IS A CLINICAL TRIAL?

A veterinary clinical trial is a research study involving client-owned animals with the ultimate goal to advance animal and human health care! An interventional clinical trial allows us to measure outcomes through data and sample collection of a new or novel therapeutic approach compared to one that is standard of care. This allows us to discover new and improved ways to prevent, diagnose or treat diseases.



## WHAT IS A BRACHYCEPHALIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAY SYNDROME (BOAS)?

Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) is a combination of upper airway problems that are caused by the body conformation of dogs with short noses, flat faces and high domed foreheads (i.e. French Bulldogs, Pugs, English Bulldogs). BOAS is a result of excess soft tissue in the upper airway and may present with loud snoring, open mouth breathing, respiratory distress and exercise intolerance. This syndrome can severely affect quality of life and can be life-threatening. It is a progressive condition and requires frequent veterinary visits. Surgical management is often recommended.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY?

Currently in veterinary patients, standard of care surgery for BOAS is a soft palate resection (staphylectomy). Given that some dogs still suffer from breathing difficulty following surgery, modifications that aim to provide a greater opening of the airway have been proposed. One of these procedures is the folded flap palatoplasty. The objective of this study is to compare clinical outcome, by means of an exercise tolerance test and CT anatomy of traditional staphylectomy versus folded flap palatoplasty for the treatment of BOAS in French bulldogs.

### INCLUSION CRITERIA

French Bulldogs  
<5 years of age,  
with breathing  
difficulties as a  
result of BOAS  
and interested in  
pursuing  
CT and surgery

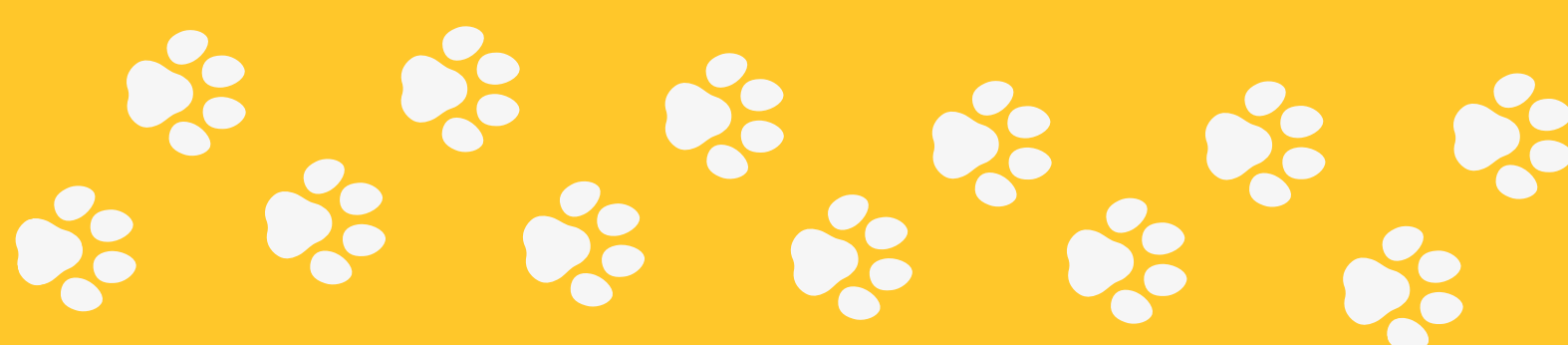
### EXCLUSION CRITERIA

French Bulldogs  
>5 years of age  
and/or  
dogs that have  
previously had  
surgery for BOAS  
and/or dogs  
undergoing  
concurrent  
surgery for hiatal  
hernia

## FINANCIAL INCENTIVE

The cost of the exam fee, head CT scan and repeat exercise tolerance test 3-6 months after surgery, will be covered by the study (~\$1000 total value).

This study is generously funded by **the Lulu Clubb Fund** and **the Crusoe Fund**.



# THE PROCESS:

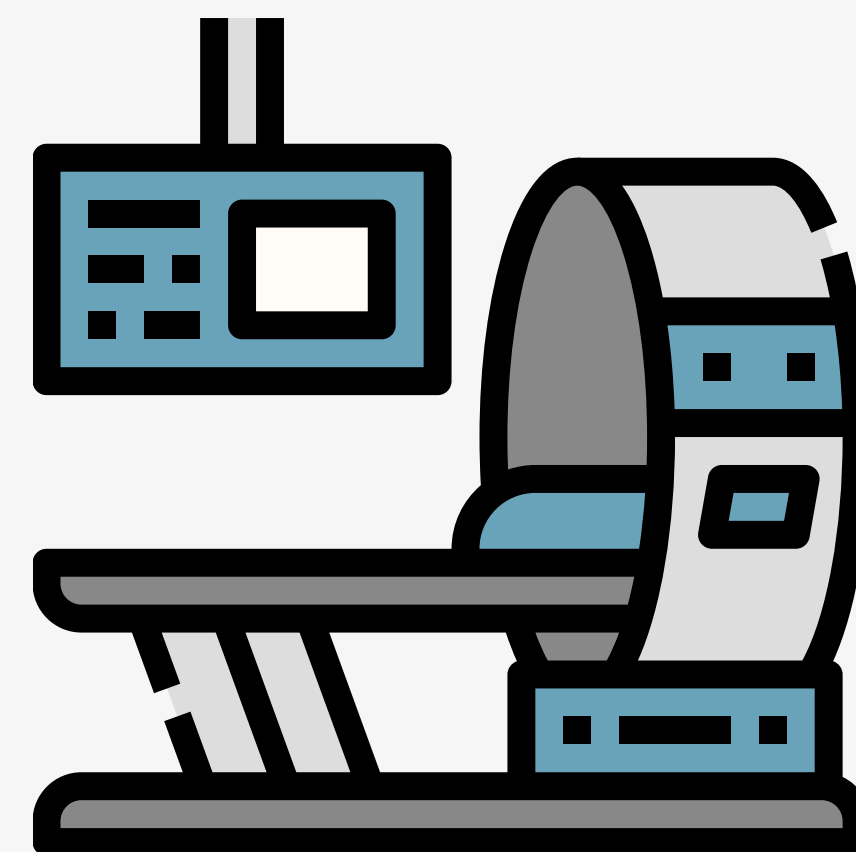
1

On the day of your appointment with the OVC Surgery service, we will ask you to complete a short study questionnaire about your pet.

A 3-minute exercise tolerance test will also be completed. This will involve your pet having a brisk walk through the hospital while a veterinary technician observes its respiratory effort.

In addition, a pre-operative video-fluoroscopic esophageal swallowing study and thoracic radiographs will also be performed. These are both standard of care for BOAS evaluation.

The swallowing study involves giving your pet a liquid food and monitoring the movement through your pet's throat while standing. There is no sedation involved for the swallowing study.



2

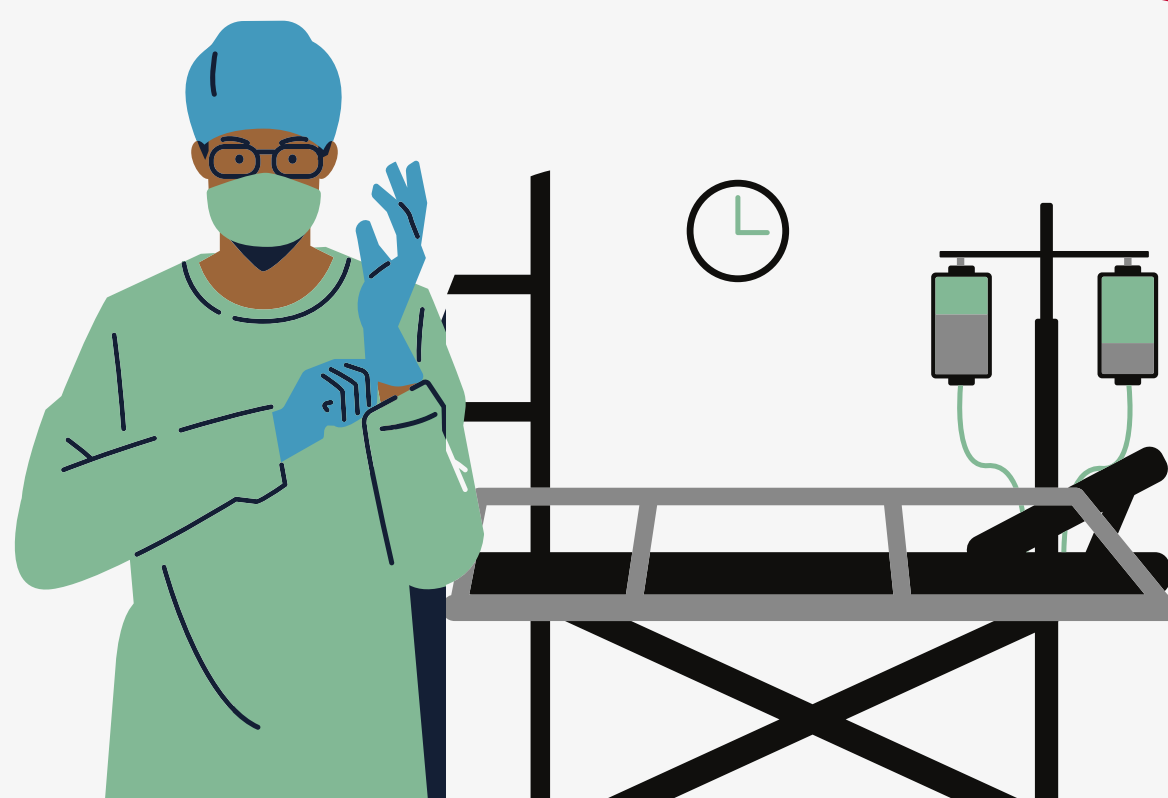
Your pet will undergo surgery the next day.

Prior to anesthesia, we will record the airway exam to confirm the severity of BOAS and to grade laryngeal collapse. This exam is when we evaluate the length of the soft palate, and everted saccules, among other things.

Prior to surgery, under anesthesia, your pet will have a routine surgical planning completed. This will include a CT scan and chest x-rays (if not performed on the day of admission).

Your pet's surgery for the treatment of elongated soft palate will be randomized to either a traditional staphylectomy procedure or a folded flap palatoplasty.

During the procedure, your pet's nostrils will be corrected as well as any other abnormalities such as everted tonsils and everted laryngeal saccules.



3

Your pet will recover in ICU under careful monitoring and be discharged to your care ~48 hours later.

4

Approximately 3-6 months following surgery, your pet will need to return to OVC for a repeat of the head CT scan and exercise tolerance test.

At this time, we also ask that you to complete a questionnaire about your pet and its recovery post-surgery.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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In case of emergency, contact the Ontario Veterinary College at (519) 823-8830 or your referring veterinarian immediately.