

**VETERINARIAN'S FORM**

**ASSESSING BRACHYCEPHALIC CAT'S SUITABILITY TO BE AIR-FREIGHTED**

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**DEFINITION**

Brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS) refers to upper airway obstruction caused by any combination of the following anatomical abnormalities:

- Stenotic nares (narrowed nostril)
- Elongated soft palate
- Everted laryngeal sacculles
- Laryngeal collapse
- Nasopharyngeal turbinates
- Hypoplastic trachea (reduced trachea size). May be present but this occurs primarily in the dog

**SIGNS OF UPPER AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING.**

- Exercise intolerance.
- Stertorous breathing (i.e. snorting sound that often occurs with elongated soft palate)
- Snoring.
- Stridor (i.e. wheezing or high pitched whistling sound that occurs with laryngeal obstruction).
- Open mouth breathing.
- Gagging.
- Restlessness.
- Tachypnea.
- Cyanosis, (blue/purple discoloration of the skin, due to poor blood oxygenation in the lungs ).
- Collapse.
- Dysphagia.
- Elevated body temperature.
- An abnormal posture, extending of head and neck to keep the airway open.

Because of their sedentary nature, clinical signs may be less obvious in cats. However, exertion or stress may exacerbate symptoms in some animals.

Another risk factor is body condition score.

- Mildly affected animals have increased upper airway noise (e.g. snoring, snorting, nasal congestion), especially with exercise or exertion.
- Severely affected animals have marked inspiratory stertor and/or stridor, cyanosis, and collapse after exercise.

**VETERINARIAN'S FORM**

**CLINICAL ASSESSMENT OF BRACHYCEPHALIC CATS - QUESTIONNAIRE**

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**Owners Name:** .....

**Address** .....

**Contact Number** .....

**Cats Name** .....

**Microchip Number** .....

**HISTORY**

**Breed** .....

(If Persian or Exotic, continue to next questions)

**Is the cats pedigree registered?** .....

**Registration Number** .....

**Association** .....

**Age (Years/ Months)** .....

**Weight (kg)** .....

**Date/s previously assessed** .....

**LIFE STYLE AND ACTIVITIES**

**What is your cats activity level**

- Sedentary (sleeps most of the time)
- Adequate (about the same as other cats)
- Active
- Very Active

**What does your cat's breathing sound like while asleep?**

- Very quiet (other than when purring)
- Slight snoring / snorting / wheezing
- Frequent snoring / snorting / wheezing
- Almost continuous snoring / snorting / wheezing

**VETERINARIAN'S FORM**

**CLINICAL ASSESSMENT OF BRACHYCEPHALIC CATS - QUESTIONNAIRE**

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Does your cat sometimes stop breathing while sleeping?

- Yes       No

How often does your cat show difficulty breathing when engaged in physical activity? (Difficulty breathing could include your cat appearing very short of breath or appearing easily fatigued).

- Never
- Rarely
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- More than once per day

Does your cat currently have breathing problems, or has he/she previously had them?

- Yes       No

Has this cat ever been airfreighted?

- Yes       No

If Yes, when

Did the cat have problems when it was airfreighted?

- Yes       No

If yes, describe the problems

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## VETERINARIAN'S FORM VETERINARIANS CLINICAL ASSESSMENT

Physical Examination Findings/History: Signs may be acute or chronic in nature. Snoring, snorting, nasal congestion, open-mouth breathing, dyspnea, decreased activity, and heat or exercise intolerance may be reported. However, pet owners may consider some of these symptoms to be normal for the breed and they may report no unusual signs

### BODY SCALE

Very Thin



Underweight



Ideal



Overweight



Obese



*Pictures courtesy of Nestlé Purina PetCare Company*

### Respiratory noise as assessed by the veterinarian.

1 = very quiet; 2 = periodic noise; 3= almost continuous snoring/snorting/wheezing

- Stertorous breathing (i.e. snorting sound that often occurs with elongated soft palate),
- Snoring
- Stridor (i.e. wheezing or high pitched whistling sound that occurs with laryngeal obstruction)

If the cat has Respiratory noise please make a recording (for example with a smart phone) We recommend you record even if no noise evident

Recording made:

- Yes       No

### Breathing Difficulty as assessed by the veterinarian

1 = not evident ; 2= noticeable effort; 3 = distressed breathing)

- Open mouth breathing
- Gagging
- Tachypnea
- Cyanosis, (blue/purple discoloration of the skin, due to poor blood oxygenation in the lungs )
- Collapse
- An abnormal posture, extending of head and neck to keep the airway open

Any recorded previous history of airway obstruction/ breathing difficulties

- Yes       No

Would this cat, in your estimate, be suitable to airfreight?

- Yes       No

Is the airline or pet transporter able to contact you for further information? Please discuss this with the owner.

- Yes       No

**Cats Name** .....

**Microchip Number** .....

**Vet Signature** .....

**Date** .....