

AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS

Brachycephalic Breeds Regulations

Brachycephalic breeds of dogs and cats are typically purebred animals with shortened or flattened noses. These breeds are known as: brachycephalic, snub-nosed or flat-faced breeds. They have a significantly higher risk of health complications due to their short snouts which can result in a compromised respiratory system. This condition is known as Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS).

Symptoms of BOAS are:

- Noisy Breathing
- Snoring
- Coughing
- Reverse Sneezing
- Nasal Congestion
- Shortness of Breath

- High Blood Pressure
- Low oxygen concentration in blood
- Fainting or collapsing
- Excessive flatulence (from gulping air)
- Exercise Intolerance

Animals that suffer from BOAS experience breathing difficulties which can intensify during exercise, warmer conditions or when they are anxious due to stress or unfamiliar surroundings.

If BOAS is not handled within the correct manner, it can quickly lead to a life-threatening situation.

It is vital that extra precautions are taken when transporting animals known to be of higher risk of BOAS. To assist you in the decision about transporting your pet, we highly recommend reading the Brachycephalic Breed information on the [RSPCA website](#), and YOU MUST consult with your vet prior to transport.

The below is a list of breeds known to potentially suffer from BOAS:

DOGS

- Affenpinscher
- American Bully
- American Bulldog
- Australian Bulldog

DOGS

- French Bulldog
- Japanese Chin/Japanese Spaniel
- Lhasa Apso
- Neapolitan Mastiff

Boston Terrier

Pekingese

Boxer

Pug

Brussels Griffon/Griffon Bruxellois

Chinese Pug

British/English Bulldog

Dutch Pug

Chow Chow

Japanese Pug

Dogue De Bordeaux

Shih-Zhu (Tsu) (Tzu)

English Toy Spaniel/King Charles Spaniel

Tibetan Spaniel

French Mastiff

Valley Bulldog

CATS

Exotic Short Hair

Persian/Himalayan

Our Policy

If you are planning to transport a Brachycephalic breed of animal with AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS, you (sender and receiver) will be required to acknowledge your animal/s have not shown any symptoms and have been examined by a veterinarian for BOAS, and any similar respiratory problems prior to transportation.

Non-Acceptance for Transportation

Due to safety concerns for pets, sometimes it is not possible for us to accommodate all animals.

We may choose to delay or cancel transport in situations where there are unusually hot, humid or stormy weather conditions or transport delays that occur out of our control.

We may decide your pet should not be transported if it exhibits any of the following symptoms:

Loud or Unusual breathing

Nasal Congestion

Shortness of breath

Obesity

Signs of over excitement or stress

If your pet exhibits any of the above symptoms at any time, it would be highly recommended that you seriously consider the need to transport your pet. If transportation is unavoidable, it is recommended

to consult with your vet about your pet's individual needs and determine the best method of transportation.

Please Note: AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS acceptance of your pet does not absolve you of full liability in the event of an adverse health event. It is your responsibility to properly assess your pet's condition and suitability for transport. At all times when transporting Brachycephalic breeds YOU MUST consult your veterinarian prior to transportation.

Additional Precautions to consider when Transporting Brachycephalic Breeds

COLLARS AND/OR HARNESESSES – As BOAS affects your pet's ability to breathe, we recommend any Brachycephalic breed is transported without harnesses, collars or choker chains.

INSURANCE – AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS has public liability insurance as well as transit insurance, but these insurances do not cover veterinary bills, death or loss associated with BOAS or any other existing condition an animal may have prior to transportation.

AIR CONDITIONING – All AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS vehicles provide your pet climate control during transportation, however, as previously stated BOAS is not always triggered by heat alone, other factors can also cause this condition, therefore air conditioning alone does not guarantee the wellbeing of your pet during transportation.

EXTREME WEATHER – In the event of extremely hot weather, AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS reserves the right to postpone or cancel the transportation of seriously affected breeds. Where possible, we will always attempt to contact the customers/clients affected by the decision to postpone or cancel in advance if we have any concerns in relation to the temperature prior to the trip. In these situations, rebooking or refunds can be arranged.

Road Transport:

Sadly, BOAS is a condition which can progress extremely rapidly. Your pet can go from seemingly normal to severe heat stress within a very short timeframe. Although we make regular stops to check on our passengers, unfortunately, the nature of pet transportation means that pets are unable to be attended to at all times, (for example, we may be on freeway or in area where it is not safe to stop) and therefore we cannot guarantee that we would be able to assess your pet to get them to a veterinarian quickly enough to save its life due to its condition.

If an animal in our care requires veterinary attention or passes away due to BOAS during transportation, AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS will not refund any prepaid transportation fees. We will exercise the normal duty of care in respect of care for your pet.

Where AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS feels the need to seek veterinary attention for your pet, any costs associated with treatment will be your responsibility. We will make every effort to contact the owner to authorise this treatment. If we are unable to contact the owner, you acknowledge AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS will make the necessary decisions based on veterinary advice and our duty of care for the animal.

Should BOAS be the cause of the need to take your animal to the veterinarian, please be aware that the animal will likely be required to stay at the vet for an extended period of time. In these instances, AUSSIE PET CONNECTIONS will not be able to wait for treatment to be finalise, and this may result in additional costs to the customer for extended care, boarding and/or alternative transportation to complete the journey. All costs are payable as per our terms and conditions.

Flights:

Virgin class x breeds as a Brachy Breed whereas Qantas will fly x breeds as per non Brachy Breed Animals.

There are extra costs to be aware of

AIRLINES STIPULATE THAT WE MUST have an agent at both Departure and Arrival Points for lodging and hand over on day of flight.

Cost will vary depending on area and date/time of lodging/collection. Agents will have a surcharge for outside business hours.

You MUST have a BOAS check completed with vet. (VIRGIN STIPULATE THAT YOUR VET MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN VETINRARY ASSOCIATION)

You MUST choose a crat size one up from that of which a similar sized dog or cat would normally need (see notes on choosing correct crate size)

There are other conditions for Brachy Breeds such as time of day and weather conditions to think about.

Qantas will fly all hours depending on the weather but Virgin WILL NOT fly between the hours of 9am and 6pm. (As of June 2024, Virgin will fly all hours, depending on weather conditions June through to August.

Up to low 20 degree is ok for breeds. But you do not want to fly them if quite humid.

They are not to be flown during thunder storms or extreme weather.

If you are unsure, please call or email to discuss.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK WEATHER CONDITIONS RIGHT UP TO FLIGHT DAY/TIME.

If the weather in not suitable, you must call immediately to change your flight date or time.

If you are unsure if your dog or cat classifies as a Brachycephalic breed, please contact us to discuss further.

****THIS POLICY IS INCLUDED AND INCORPORATED AS PART OF OUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AS SET OUT ON OUR WEBSITE.**
