

Caring for Brachycephalic and Heat-intolerant Dog Breeds

The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS) and Singapore Veterinary Association (SVA) encourage pet owners to understand breed-specific health risks to ensure the proper care and well-being of their dogs

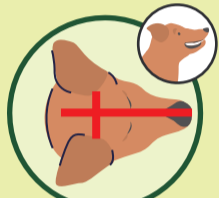
Brachycephalic Dogs

Flat-faced dogs with shortened snouts and compressed faces

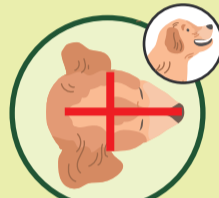


Examples

Pug, Bulldogs (French and English), Shih Tzu, Boston Terrier, Chow Chow, etc.



Long snout



Normal snout



Short snout

Health concerns

- At risk of eye, dental and skin issues which can affect their lifespans and quality of life
- Increased susceptibility to Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS), which can cause:
 - Breathing difficulties, noisy breathing (e.g. snoring), coughing and sneezing
 - Increased risk of overheating and heat stroke

Heat-intolerant Dogs

Dogs with thick double coats of fur – a long, coarse topcoat and a denser, fluffy undercoat



Examples

Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamute, Chow Chow, Samoyed, etc.



Single coat



Double coat

Health concerns

- At risk of heat-related illnesses in Singapore's hot and humid climate
- Heat-related illnesses include heat stroke and hot spots – itchy, painful skin sores

What can I do as an owner?



1

Keep your dog cool and hydrated – limit heat exposure, provide water, and ensure your dog's environment is well-ventilated.



2

Keep your dog at a healthy weight (e.g. ribs cannot be seen but can be easily felt) and regularly groomed.



3

Watch for signs of heat stroke. Seek veterinary attention immediately if you suspect your dog has heat stroke.



Early signs of heat stroke

- Panting, distressed, or noisy breathing
- Restlessness or agitation
- Vomiting, diarrhoea



Severe stages of heat stroke

- Confusion
- Bruising and/or bleeding
- Seizures
- Weakness or collapse

What should I do if I plan to acquire a brachycephalic or heat-intolerant dog?



Stop and carefully consider the health and welfare issues, care and potential medical costs associated with these breeds.

Adopt or shop responsibly from sources that prioritise dog welfare through responsible breeding practices.

