

Brachycephalic Fit to Travel Assessment for Road Based transport.



| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Name of Veterinarian: | Town: |
| Vet Phone contact: | |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Name of Owner: | | Owner Phone contact: | |
| Name of Pet | Breed: | Age: | |
| Microchip #: | Weight: ____ kg | Colour: | Male / Female |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Travel Plan | Anticipated Date of Travel: | Total Trip duration: (days) |
| Departure Town: | Destination Town: | Expected regional temps: (°C) |

Pet Owner Questionnaire (Owner to Complete before taking Pet to Vet for assessment)

You are presenting your Pet for a Brachycephalic Fit to Travel assessment with a registered Veterinarian. Your dog will undergo a thorough clinical examination, in particular assessing the respiratory function but also looking at other risk factors such as obesity, temperament and any pre-existing significant medical conditions.

Does your dog suffer from any of the following diseases?

- **Congestive heart failure (requiring Furosemide treatment):**
 No Yes: _____
- **Epilepsy/seizures (requiring long term medication):**
 No Yes: _____

What is the frequency of breakthrough seizures?

- None Less than one every 3 months Greater than one every 3 months

Please provide a copy of previous medical case notes for your pet to this Vet, if not presenting your pet to your regular Veterinarian for this assessment.

Signature of Pet owner _____ **Date** _____

I declare that all information I have provide is true & correct and that while I may rely on this assessment or any advise from the Vet or Dogmovers regarding the safety of transport for my pet I acknowledge that my Pet is at higher risk due to its hereditary Brachycephalic condition and that I will not hold the Vet or Dogmovers responsible in the event my pet requires veterinary treatment or dies as a result of being transported.

Brachycephalic Fit to Travel Assessment for Road Based transport.



Veterinary Assessment

Section A

History of chronic medical conditions

Congestive Heart failure: (requiring Furosemide therapy) Automatically classed as Grade III

Epilepsy / Seizures: (On treatment, however unstable with > one seizure every three months) Automatically classed as Grade III

Clinical Examination:

Score

| | | | |
|------------------|--|----------|-------|
| Nostrils: | <input type="checkbox"/> Open | Score: 0 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Mild Stenosis | Score: 0 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Stenosis | Score: 2 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Stenosis | Score: 3 | _____ |

(see guidance notes for grading instructions)

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|----------|-------|
| Body condition score (BCS): | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Score: 0 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Score: 0 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Score: 2 | _____ |

(See attached Body condition score chart for grading instructions)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----------|-------|
| Crate Temperament: | <input type="checkbox"/> Calm | Score: 0 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excited, but settles quickly | Score: 0 | _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Extremely excitable or anxious | Score: 2 | _____ |

(see guidance notes for further information)

Note to Vet: This assessment is for Road Transport and any Stress or Anxiety may affect the Pet more in the event it is travelling over several days. Separation anxiety and cage related stress are specific risk factors for Pets with BOAS on Road based transport.

**Total Score
Section A**

Brachycephalic Fit to Travel Assessment for Road Based transport.



| Section B | Section C |
|---|---|
| <p>Resting Examination: Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory patterns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Normal Score: 0 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiratory effort¹ Score: 3 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Dyspnoea Score: 4 _____ • Stertor/Stridor²: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not audible Score: 0 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mild Score: 2 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Score: 4 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Score: 6 _____ <p style="text-align: right;">Score Section B _____</p> | <p>Post Exercise Examination³: Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory patterns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Normal Score: 0 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Inspiratory effort¹ Score: 3 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Dyspnoea Score: 4 _____ • Stertor/Stridor²: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not audible Score: 0 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Mild Score: 2 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Score: 4 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Score: 6 _____ <p style="text-align: right;">Score Section C _____</p> |

¹**Inspiratory effort:** characterized by evidence of increased effort to inhale the air in with the use of diaphragm and /or accessory muscles of respiration and/or nasal flaring with an increase in breathing rate.

²**Respiratory noise** (Stertor and/or stridor) is diagnosed by pharyngolaryngeal auscultation.

Mild: only audible under auscultation with a stethoscope.

Moderate: Intermittent audible noise that can be heard without a stethoscope.

Severe: Loud, constant audible noise that can be heard without a stethoscope

³**Exercise Test:** This is designed to keep the pet active until fatigued. Depending on temperature and humidity this may only be 1-2 minutes. Encourage the pet to trot at 6-8 Km/hr but not pulled on the lead. Toilet stops should be accommodated. If the dog has reasons that it cannot manage this pace (e.g. Osteoarthritis, obesity, anxiety) a fast walk should be attempted. The dog should be auscultated immediately following the exercise test.

Note:

- The Highest score from Section B **or** C is added to Section A score to give the Total BOAS score.
- **If the dog fails test based on section A + B score, then the exercise test is not required.**

Score section A: _____

Highest score of either section B or C: _____ **Total BOAS Score:** _____

Grading:

Grade I: **0 - 2 BOAS score.** No significant clinical abnormalities. **Your dog is Fit-To-Travel.**

Grade II: **3-5 BOAS score.** Minor risk factors identified, however your dog is **Fit-To-Travel**

Grade III: **> 6 BOAS score. Failed assessment, not Fit-to-Travel.**

Veterinary Surgeon

Date:

Signature.

Brachycephalic Fit to Travel Assessment for Road Based transport.



Guidance Notes for the Veterinary Surgeon

1. **Initial examination:** The dog should be kept as calm as possible with gentle restraint. If the dog is stressed, allow some time for the dog to settle. If the dog cannot be calmed, then the initial examination should be graded according to the post exercise exam (Section C). Auscultation is performed directly over the larynx from the side, avoiding any upward pressure on the pharynx and larynx. Head should be in a neutral position, not flexed.
2. **Body Condition score:** see attached AAHA BCS chart (use the 9-point system)
3. **Nasal stenosis grading:**


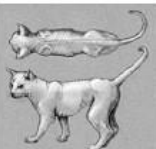
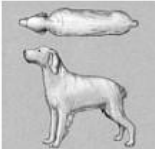
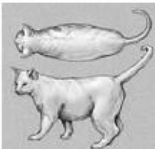
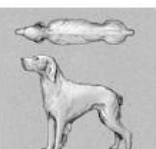
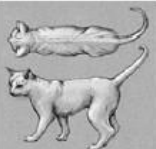

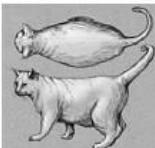
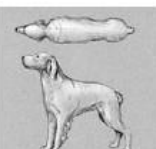
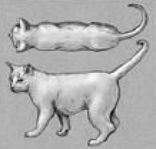


4. **Crate temperament test:** How a dog behaves in the travel crate can significantly affect how safely that animal travels. Anxiety or excitation can lead to dyspnoea /respiratory failure and hyperthermia. This is particularly true of Road Based transport which may occur over several days. If the travel crate is not available, the test can be performed in a hospital cage at the Veterinary clinic and the owner should be encouraged to crate train their pet.
5. Dogs with a history of Congestive Heart Failure (requiring Furosemide therapy) and dogs with unstable seizures/epilepsy (being medicated, but with breakthrough seizures of frequency greater than one every three months) are automatically classified Grade III (unfit to Travel).
6. Professional recommendations such as weight loss programs (for dogs with BSC 7,8 9) upper respiratory tract investigation with a view to stenotic nares/ LATE/ soft palate/everted lateral ventricles surgery can be made where indicated. All these considerations will not only improve the dog's safety and comfort in flight but will also improve the dog's overall quality of life.

Brachycephalic Fit to Travel Assessment for Road Based transport.



Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Systems

| 5 Point | 9 Point | Description | 5 Point | 9 Point | Description |
|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|--|
| 1/5 | 1/9 | <p>Dogs: Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.</p>  | 3.5/5 | 6/9 | <p>Dogs: Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.</p> <p>Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 5 and 7.</p> |
| | | <p>Cats: Ribs visible on short-haired cats; no palpable fat; severe abdominal tuck; lumbar vertebrae and wings of ilia obvious and easily palpable.</p>  | | | <p>Dogs: Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.</p>  |
| 1.5/5 | 2/9 | <p>Dogs: Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.</p> <p>Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 1 and 3.</p> | 4/5 | 7/9 | <p>Cats: Ribs not easily palpable with moderate fat covering; waist poorly distensible; obvious rounding of abdomen; moderate abdominal fat pad.</p>  |
| | | <p>Dogs: Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist.</p>  | | | <p>Dogs: Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.</p> <p>Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 7 and 9.</p> |
| 2/5 | 3/9 | <p>Cats: Ribs easily palpable with minimal fat covering; lumbar vertebrae obvious; obvious waist behind ribs; minimal abdominal fat.</p>  | 4.5/5 | 8/9 | <p>Dogs: Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.</p>  |
| | | <p>Dogs: Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.</p> <p>Cats: Shared characteristics of BCS 3 and 5.</p> | 5/5 | 9/9 | <p>Cats: Ribs not palpable under heavy fat cover; heavy fat deposits over lumbar area, face and limbs; distention of abdomen with no waist; extensive abdominal fat pad.</p>  |
| 2.5/5 | 4/9 | <p>Dogs: Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed.</p>  | | | |
| 3/5 | 5/9 | <p>Cats: Well proportioned; waist observed behind ribs; ribs palpable with slight fat covering; abdominal fat pad minimal.</p>  | | | |



©2010 Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association. All rights reserved. Available at aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/NutritionalAssessmentGuidelines.pdf