How you can help

We would like to record Pugs, French bulldogs, and Bulldogs in the WBBP chamber and measure their respiratory function. We will be happy to arrange your visits to the Queen’s Veterinary School Hospital in Cambridge, please contact:

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Thank you very much in anticipation!
What does the study involve?

1. Free veterinary examination
   - Stethoscopic examination (throat and chest)
   - Assessment of the nostrils
   - Respiratory sign assessment
   - A 3-minute trotting exercise tolerance test

2. Head measurements
   - Photos are taken of the head: frontal view and lateral view
   - Soft tape measurements: skull length, cranial length, muzzle length, cranial width, eye width, neck length, neck girth, chest girth, and body length

3. DNA sample collection
   Two buccal swabs are taken from inside the mouth (cheek)

4. Respiratory function assessment
   - The dog is placed in the WBBP chamber where it can move about
   - 5-10 minutes are allowed for the dog to acclimatize to the chamber
   - Recording is started and the dog is monitored for 20 minutes whilst it is breathing spontaneously
   - The test ends and the dog is removed from the chamber

Significance of the study

This study targets both healthy brachycephalic dogs and BOAS-affected dogs, in order to establish a screening test for BOAS. The long-term aims of this study are to improve the health and welfare of brachycephalic breeds by reducing the incidence of severe BOAS and to give these dogs a better quality of life.

WBBP flow trace of a healthy French bulldog

WBBP flow trace of a BOAS-affected French bulldog