

Functional Grading of BOAS (Veterinary examination instructions)

| | | Respiratory noise ^a | Inspiratory effort ^b | Dyspnoea/ Cyanosis/ Syncope ^c |
|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Grade 0 | Pre-ETT | Not audible | Not present | Not present |
| | Post-ETT | Not audible | Not present | Not present |
| Grade I | Pre-ETT | Not audible or mild | Not present | Not present |
| | Post-ETT | Mild | Not present to mild | Not present |
| Grade II | Pre-ETT | Mild to moderate | Mild to moderate | Not present |
| | Post-ETT | Moderate to severe | Moderate to severe | Mild dyspnoea; cyanosis or syncope not present |
| Grade III | Pre-ETT | Moderate to severe | Moderate to severe | Moderate to severe dyspnoea; may or may not present cyanosis. Inability to exercise. |
| | Post-ETT | Severe | Severe | Severe dyspnoea; may or may not present cyanosis or syncope. |

ETT= exercise tolerance test

The clinical grading was based on respiratory signs before (pre-ETT) and immediately after the exercise tolerance test (post-ETT). ETT should be performed by the vets with trotting speed approximately 4-5 miles per hour for 3 minutes. If the dog refuses 3 times due to inability to exercise (rather than urination or sniffing stops), the test is failed.

^a Respiratory noise (i.e. stertors and stridor) was diagnosed by pharyngolaryngeal auscultation. **Mild**: only audible under auscultation; **moderate**: intermittent audible noise that can be heard without stethoscope; **severe**: constant audible loud noise that can be heard without stethoscope.

^b An abnormal respiratory cycle 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. Mild: regular breathing patterns with minimal use of diaphragm; moderate: evidence of use of diaphragm and accessory muscles of respiration; severe: marked movement of diaphragm and accessory muscles of respiration.

^c Dogs that have had episodes of syncope and /or cyanosis as documented by owner's report are classified into Grade III without ETT. Mild dyspnoea: presents sign of discomfort; Moderate dyspnoea: irregular breathing, signs of discomfort; severe dyspnoea: irregular breathing with signs of breathing discomfort and difficulty in breathing.