



Post-Operative Home Care Instructions – Brachycephalic Breeds

Dear Owner,

Your pet has undergone a procedure today. As a brachycephalic (flat-faced) breed, they require additional monitoring and care during recovery, particularly in the first 10–14 days.

Please read the following instructions carefully.

1. Breathing Monitoring – VERY IMPORTANT

Brachycephalic breeds are at increased risk of airway swelling and breathing difficulties after sedation or surgery.

Please monitor for:

- Increased breathing effort (laboured breathing)
- Noisy breathing (snoring, wheezing)
- Open-mouth breathing at rest
- Blue or pale gums
- Restlessness or distress

If you notice ANY of the above signs, contact your vet immediately or attend an emergency clinic.

2. Activity Restriction

Please strictly follow the rest instructions provided in your main orthopaedic post-operative sheet.

Avoid excitement, barking, or stress.

3. Temperature & Environment Control

Keep your dog in a cool, well-ventilated environment.

Avoid warm rooms and direct sunlight.

Do not leave your dog unattended in a car.

Cooling aids such as cool mats or fans may be used (not directly onto the face).





Information sheet - Arthrodesis



4. Feeding Instructions

Offer small, soft meals for the first few days.

Avoid large meals.

Feed in a calm environment.

Monitor for vomiting, regurgitation, or difficulty swallowing.

5. Medication

Administer all medications as prescribed.

Do not stop medications early unless advised.

6. Wound Care (if applicable)

Keep the surgical site clean and dry.

Prevent licking using a buster collar if advised.

Monitor for redness, swelling, or discharge.

7. Gastrointestinal Signs

Monitor for vomiting, regurgitation, reduced appetite, or lethargy.

Contact your vet if these occur.

8. When to Seek Immediate Veterinary Attention

- Breathing difficulties
- Collapse or weakness
- Persistent vomiting or regurgitation
- Refusal to eat for more than 24 hours
- Excessive lethargy
- Pale or blue gums

9. Follow-Up

Attend all scheduled rechecks and contact your vet if you have any concerns.

Final Note

Brachycephalic dogs can deteriorate quickly after anaesthesia. If in doubt, seek veterinary attention.

