

# **Surgical Considerations for Obese Brachycephalics**

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## **1. Overview of the Data**

We will explore the data on the rise of two epidemics within the veterinary industry, i.e. obesity and brachycephaly. Key importance will be placed on the increasing demand for a higher cephalic index from our clients. We will also discuss what this now means for our patients, and how surgery should start before we even pick up the scalpel.

## **2. Effects of Obesity**

We will, with the aid of two prominent literature articles, explore how obesity negatively impacts our patients. In particular we will discuss the impairment of protective mucociliary mechanisms, effects on respiratory capacity, and on thermoregulation – all key concepts we must consider for surgery.

## **3. Setting Expectations**

We will discuss the importance of setting realistic expectations with owners. We cannot approach brachycephalic surgery as routine or simple. We must prepare owners for real risks and concerns, well before we enter the theatres.

## **4. Surgical Adaptations**

We will discuss just how obesity may change our surgical approaches and techniques. In particular we will discuss a realistic and thoughtful approach to airway correction for the obese brachycephalic.

## **5. Emergency Procedures**

We will discuss what we do when things go wrong. How can we as good surgeons have a back-up plan when our surgeries don't work. We will discuss two key emergency procedures to preserve the airways and hopefully save our patients lives.