

ANAESTHESIA AND YOUR FRENCH BULLDOG

This article is re-printed in memory of "Gordon", who passed away after a procedure to remove grass seeds from his nose, as reported last newsletter.

The French Bulldog Awareness Group of WA strongly recommends that if your Frenchie needs anaesthesia for a procedure to be performed that is performed by a vet who is aware and experienced in giving anaesthesia to brachycephalic dogs such as British Bulldogs, Pugs and French Bulldogs. We have some on our website, alternatively you can contact us for more recommendations.

Frenchies are a brachycephalic breed, ie short skulled breed, which alters the structure of the airways and makes their breathing less efficient. Anaesthesia is riskier in Frenchies, so extra care must be taken in administering anaesthesia. A Frenchie who is being anaesthetised must have an endotracheal tube that is the proper length. The Frenchie's shorter neck sometimes means that a tube of the proper length for a breed of the same size may be too long for a Frenchie and may extend into a bronchus instead of having its tip in the trachea. The diameter of the tube should be appropriate for the dogs trachea, and this may be narrower than normal.

Moreover, when determining the amount of anaesthesia to use it should be taken into account that many Frenchies require less anaesthesia than for more active breeds and may eliminate anaesthesia more slowly from their systems. After anaesthesia a Frenchie must lie on his belly to keep his large tongue from relaxing and clogging up his throat and the tracheal tube must not be removed until the dog is fully awake. Careful monitoring should continue throughout the procedure, while the dog is waking up and when you take your Frenchie home. You cannot be too careful with a French Bulldog undergoing anaesthesia.

Pre -surgical sedatives should not be given to French Bulldogs and Isoflurane is the optimum anaesthesia to use. Be aware that this is a more expensive surgical procedure. If your vet refuses or does not acknowledge the special care a French Bulldog needs when undergoing anaesthesia it is highly recommended you go to another vet who will. The life of your French Bulldog depends on it.

If you have questions or are not sure of what is being recommended by your vet please do not hesitate to contact

