



Flat-Faced Dogs: Heat Safety

Why flat faces overheat so fast, and how to keep yours safe

PETSLIKEMINE
BREATHING & AIRWAYS

| DOG NAME | BREED | VET PRACTICE | OUT-OF-HOURS |
|----------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Flat-faced dogs (French bulldogs, pugs, bulldogs) overheat far faster and more dangerously than other dogs, because the same narrow airway that makes them snore cannot pant enough to cool them down. Heatstroke can kill in minutes. None of this is about blaming you for the dog you love, it is about getting them through the summer safely.

THE LETHAL COMBINATION

Heat plus exercise plus excitement. It is not only blazing sun, a mild, humid day plus a walk or an over-excited greeting can be enough. A warm car is a death trap in minutes.

SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louder, harder, more frantic breathing | <input type="checkbox"/> A bright red or bluish tongue and gums |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy drooling, distress, wobbliness | <input type="checkbox"/> Collapse |

WHAT TO DO, FAST

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stop, and move to shade or indoors | <input type="checkbox"/> Wet with cool (not ice-cold) water, especially the belly and legs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get airflow over them; offer a drink | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a vet now even if they seem to recover; it can turn fatal hours later |

PREVENTING IT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk only in the cool of the day, never in the heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Never leave them in a car, not even for a minute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep cool and calm indoors on hot days | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep weight down; fat is insulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check the day's heat risk before you go out | |

Written and reviewed by Dr Alastair Greenway MRCVS and Claire Greenway BVM&S MRCVS. This sheet explains and records. It does not diagnose or prescribe. Always follow your own vet's instructions.

How to use. Walk in the cool, never the car, and cool first then vet if it goes wrong. Keep your out-of-hours number to hand all summer.

HEAT + A FLAT FACE = DANGER