



# PAWPRINTS

**HEALING COMPANION ANIMALS AND HONORING THOSE WHO LOVE THEM IS OUR PASSION AND PRIVILEGE.**

## Another Flat Faced Summer

*Hot Information for Owners of Brachycephalic Breeds*

By, Becky Wesoloski, CVT



The summertime heat can be tough on any pet but is even tougher on brachycephalic breeds (or “short-nosed”) such as Pugs, Bulldogs, Persians, and Himalayans. They do not sweat through their skin like humans do; they regulate their body temperature through panting and the pads of their paws.

Brachycephalic breeds have many upper respiratory obstructions that make it more difficult for them to cool down via panting than those with a longer nose. A pet with a longer nose is able to lower their body temperature when air is passed over the tongue while they pant, which causes saliva to evaporate, cooling the blood circulating through the tongue. The blood cooled in the tongue circulates to the rest of the body, efficiently cooling the animal.

In brachycephalic breeds, their airway and nostrils are narrow, which means they have to work harder to move air, which makes them generate more heat. This extra work may cause the airways to become inflamed and swollen. They also have an elongated soft palate that flaps loosely in the throat creating snorting sounds. Another obstruction is extra tissue in their throat called laryngeal saccules that turn inside out, blocking the airway.

We advise:

- Keeping your pet inside during the hottest parts of the day
- Watch for heat stress
- Provide plenty of water
- Have your veterinarians phone number nearby in case of emergency
- Never leave your pet in cars



### New faces of PAWS Veterinary Center

Dr. Denise Gordon, Chelsea,  
Dr. Justin Keener, Teri & Jessica

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- Becky Wesoloski, CVT
- Healthier Choices *For The Kale Of It*  
- Jason D. Boggs,  
Technician Supervisor
- Water Is Not Just For Drinking *Hydrotherapy For Small Animals*  
- Jason Levinsohn, B.S.,  
CCRA
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- Summertime Fun *A Tribute To Our Clients and Patients*
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