



CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB®  
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## **CKC Launches First Official Respiratory Function Grading Scheme Screening Clinic March 11 & 12, 2023**

*In conjunction with the Scarborough Kennel Club*

*All-Breed Championship Dog Shows*

*Lindsay Exhibition Grounds, The Commonwell Mutual Insurance Building*

*354 Angeline Street South, Lindsay, Ontario*

*(Anticipated clinic hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
on Sunday)*

The Canadian Kennel Club is thrilled to partner with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) to bring the Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFG Scheme) to Canada — beginning with the first official screening clinic in March 2023. OFA licensed the RFG Scheme for North America in late 2022 and launched its first official RFG Scheme screening in January 2023. This development follows many discussions about the RFG Scheme between CKC, the UK Kennel Club and the University of Cambridge — with the support of CKC's Brachycephalic Breeds Advocacy Committee. CKC recognizes the importance of this initiative, to support members in promoting and preserving the health and wellbeing of all purebred dogs, including brachycephalic (short-

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nosed) breeds.

CKC was pleased to sponsor Canadian lead examiner, Dr. Allison Collier, Assistant Professor, University of Guelph, to train in Portland, OR with OFA-trained lead examiners at the US launch. Dr. Collier's experience was positive, and she looks forward to mentoring other Canadian veterinarians this year. CKC is also pleased to have Dr. Ameet Singh, DVM, Professor of Small Animal Surgery, University of Guelph, on board as a Canadian lead examiner for the RFG Scheme in Canada. This is the first of several RFG Scheme screening clinics to be planned this year.

There is no charge for the OFA registration or exam at CKC's first official RFG Scheme screening clinic. At future events, the standard OFA registration will be \$15 USD and the veterinary exam fees will be set by each examining veterinarian.

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## **How to Register**

Login to your OFA account, or if a new user, register for an OFA Online Account at <https://online.ofa.org/login/>.

Registration questions can be directed to Richard Paquette at [zone4director@ckc.ca](mailto:zone4director@ckc.ca).

For more information about the RFG Scheme, [click here](#).

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## **About the RFG Scheme**

The RFG Scheme, also known as Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway System

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(BOAS) Testing, was developed by researchers at the University of Cambridge in the UK as an objective test to measure the clinical diagnosis and severity of BOAS. The purpose of the RFG Scheme is to increase understanding about the condition, increase awareness, and ultimately reduce the incidence of BOAS. In addition, responsible breeders may use the tool to screen their breeding stock and include the results in their selection criteria.

## **Supporting Breed Health**

Supporting members in promoting and preserving the health and wellbeing of all purebred dogs, including brachycephalic breeds, is a key area of focus for CKC. In 2022, CKC hosted breed club webinars and a national symposium on healthy dog breeding, in collaboration with subject matter experts such as breed clubs of brachycephalic breeds, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), the International Partnership for Dogs (IPFD) and Royal Canin. CKC is also developing an Integrated Breed Health Program (*more information on this initiative will be available in the coming months*), that includes breeder education, breed health strategies, a DNA program, and more, to compliment initiatives like the RFG Scheme and support member breeders with ongoing science-based education and best practices.

We will continue to work with the national breed clubs for the Pug, Bulldog and French Bulldog to arrange additional events and collaborate with key stakeholders to promote and preserve the health and wellbeing of all purebred dogs, including brachycephalic breeds. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead.

