RESPIRATORY FUNCTION GRADING SCHEME (RFGS) CLINIC

Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Pugs

May 20 & 21, 2023

9 am - 4:30 pm

$70 ($15 OFA fee NOT included)

Held during the KW Kennel Club Dog Show
The Aud, 400 East Ave., Kitchener, ON

Saturday - examiner: Dr. Matt Wittenwich
Sunday - examiner: Dr. Ameet Singh

Pre-Registration is Required using OFA Online: https://online.ofa.org
Go to your account, or create one, then pick the dog you want tested, select the RFGS clinic date and fill out the application.

Email: poire.yvonne@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

SPACE IS LIMITED, LAST CLINIC FILLED QUICKLY, DON'T MISS OUT!

BULLDOG CLUB OF CANADA

BULLDOG CLUB OF ONTARIO

Pug Club Of Canada

FRENCH BULLDOG FANCIERS CANADA

FRENCH BULLDOG CLUB OF CENTRAL CANADA

The Examination

1. A short health survey regarding the dog's breathing history.

2. A brief physical exam while the dog is calm including auscultation where the assessor listens to the dog's breathing with a stethoscope gently positioned on the side of the neck. This establishes a baseline for any clinical signs of BOAS.

3. A short exercise testing consisting of a brisk three-minute walk. This is designed to expose clinical signs of the disease in an otherwise calm and asymptomatic dog. It is not designed to asses cardiovascular fitness.

4. A post exercise auscultation after increased airway activity to compare to the pre-exercise baseline.

RFG Scheme Screening

The noise the trained veterinarians are listening for during auscultation include:

- **Stertor** - a low pitched vibrational noise heard above the level of the larynx

- **Stridor** - higher pitched 'sawing' noise heard over the larynx

- **Nasal stertor** - low pitched nasal snort/vibration

- **Nasal stridor** - high pitched nasal whistle, usually on breathing in

RFG Scheme – What Does the Grading Mean?

The Respiratory Function Grading Scheme (RFGS) utilizes a sliding scale of 0 to 3 to objectively diagnosis BOAS:

- **Grade 0** - the dog is clinically unaffected and free of respiratory signs of BOAS (no evidence of disease, no BOAS related noise heard even with a stethoscope)

- **Grade 1** - the dog is clinically unaffected but have mild respiratory signs linked to BOAS (noise is mild and only audible with a stethoscope)

- **Grade 2** - the dog is clinically affected and has moderate respiratory signs of BOAS (noise is audible even without a stethoscope)

- **Grade 3** - the dog is clinically affected and has severe respiratory signs of BOAS (noise is audible even without a stethoscope)

Publication of Results

Grade 0 and Grade 1 - are considered clinically normal and BOAS unaffected as they exercise without difficulty and do not appear to have any clinical signs related to airway obstruction.

Clinically normal dogs **(Grade 0 and 1) will receive OFA certificate numbers, and their results will be posted on the OFA website**.

Grade 2 and Grade 3 - when stertor or stridor noise is heard without a stethoscope, whether intermittent or continuous, these dogs are considered affected with clinical signs affecting their quality or life.

Grade 2 or 3 results will only be posted on the OFA website if their owners authorize release of abnormal data.

BOAS Breeding Recommendations

Using the RFG Scheme grades are the guidelines in the chart, concerned responsible breeders can apply the selective genetic pressure to reduce the chances of producing puppies affected by BOAS.

However, since the inheritance of BOAS is not fully understood and is not entirely predictable, this guideline cannot guarantee that all puppies from unaffected parents will be free of BOAS.

Ultimately, responsible breeders use the RFG Scheme to screen their breeding stock and include the results in their selection criteria.

DOG ONE (sire or dam)

RFG Grade for each dog	Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Grade 0	Green	Green	Green	Red
Grade 1	Green	Green	Green	Red
Grade 2	Green	Green	Yellow	Red
Grade 3	Red	Red	Red	Red

DOG TWO (sire or dam)

Green - These mating combinations have the lowest risk of producing puppies effected by BOAS

Yellow - A Grade 2 or 3 mating will increase th risk of producing puppies affected by BOAS

Red - These mating combinations have a high risk of producing puppies affected by BOAS and are not recommended