

FAQ: SNUB-NOSED BREEDS AND AIR TRAVEL

What are snub-nosed or brachycephalic breeds? Brachycephalia refers to a flat and wide skull shape.

Which breeds can no longer travel in the cargo hold?

Air Canada does not accept brachycephalic, snub-nosed or mixed breeds of snubnosed animals when the breed on the Health Certificate states the following:

Dogs

- Affenpinscher □ Boston Terrier
- Boxer
- Brussels Griffon
- Bulldog (all breeds) - Incl. American, English, French, Dutch
- Chihuahua (apple-headed)
- Chow Chow
- English Toy Spaniel
- Japanese Chin
- Lhasa Apso
- Pekingese
- Pug (all breeds) - Incl. Chinese
- Shar-Pei
- Shih Tzu
- Teddy Bear Dog - Incl. Zuchon or Shichon
- Tibetan Spaniel

Cats

- British Short hair
- Burmese
- Exotic Shorthair
- Himalayan
- Persian
- Scottish Fold

Why are these breeds more prone to respiratory problems?

Brachycephalic breeds are prone to respiratory problems because they have all of the same anatomical structures in their short snouts as animals with longer snouts. These structures are compressed in brachycephalic breeds.

What are the potential complications?

As a result of their smaller nostrils, a longer soft palate, and narrowed trachea (or windpipe), brachycephalic breeds don't breathe as efficiently as animals with averagelength snouts. They can have difficulty cooling off when playing, exercising, or if they are stressed or overheated. Their airway can actually collapse (either partially or completely) and cut off their airflow.

Why won't Air Canada accept these animals for travel in the cargo hold?

We tested a lower temperature restriction and implemented a requirement for larger cages, hoping to still be able to accommodate brachycephalic breeds in the cargo hold. We observed that these breeds were still prone to experiencing breathing difficulties during air travel.

Where can I find out about pets travelling in the cabin or as checked baggage?

For information regarding passenger travel with pets in the cabin or as checked baggage, please visit: <https://www.aircanada.com/ca/en/aco/home/plan/special-assistance/pets.html>