

Hospital for Small Animals

BREATHE



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

BREATHE

Brachycephalic
Research
Education
Assessment
Treatment
Hospital (for Small Animals)
Edinburgh

The BREATHE Clinic combines the expertise currently offered by our Cardiopulmonary Service and our Soft Tissue Surgery Service, to provide outstanding care for pet dogs and cats.

Brachycephalic breeds are extremely popular and given the high incidence of upper airway breathing problems that they experience, it is important to better identify and treat affected animals to improve the lives of individual pets and the welfare of these breeds in general. The BREATHE Clinic specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS).

The BREATHE Clinic recognises that there are many happy and healthy brachycephalic pets and in these cases no treatment is required, but we can also help determine the cases where treatment would be beneficial. Around forty percent of owners with BOAS affected animals are unaware that their pet has a problem and have got used to louder breathing, exercise intolerance, difficulty sleeping and regurgitation, thinking of them as 'normal' for the breed. These cases may benefit from management changes or even corrective surgery to allow them to breathe, sleep and exercise better, so they are able to enjoy life to the full.

Therapy at the BREATHE Clinic

We offer routine investigations including head, neck and chest CT, rhinoscopy (rigid antegrade and flexed retrograde) and specialist airway examination.

Importantly, we can also perform whole body barometric plethysmography (WBBP). This is a stress free, non-invasive method for the objective assessment of airway flow and resistance in conscious animals.

Our facility is the only one in Scotland or the North of England, and the advanced technology allows us to accurately and reliably grade the severity of airway problems, to provide important diagnostic and prognostic information for patients. This also allows us to measure the degree of improvement following surgical and management interventions.

A fully conscious, relaxed patient (the test is not possible if pets are panting) spends between five and thirty minutes in a ventilated, transparent, kennel whilst the air flow is monitored in the unit. Pets are monitored continuously and if they show any signs that they are not completely relaxed, then the procedure is cancelled.



If surgical interventions are necessary for BOAS affected patients, they commonly include alarplasty, folded flap palatoplasty, tonsillectomy and laryngeal sacculotomy. Less commonly we perform partial arytenoidectomy for more severe laryngeal collapse and rarely unilateral arytenoid lateralisation for the worst cases of collapse.

Our ability to provide postoperative intensive care is essential for complex and life threatening cases. We routinely recover all of our patients in ICU postoperatively and they are kept under 24 hour supervision in this critical period after delicate airway surgery.



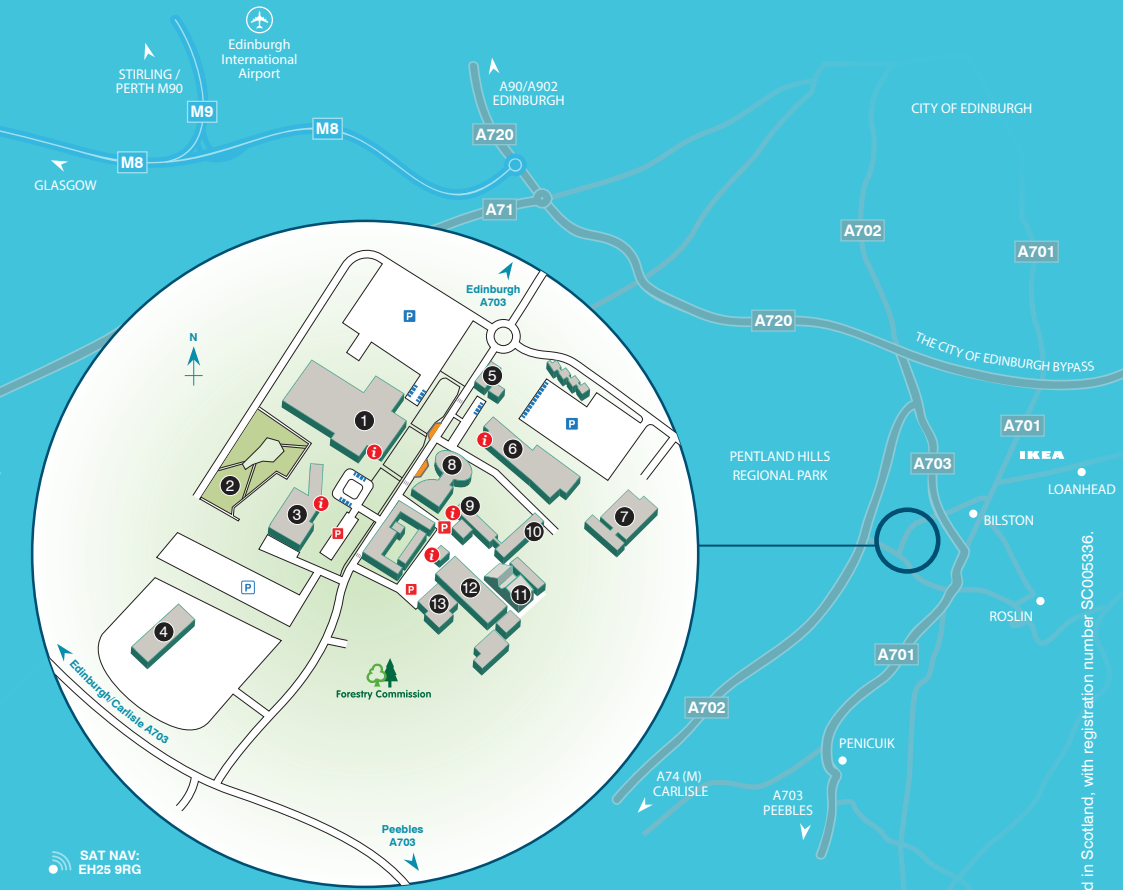
Whilst most dogs with BOAS are assessed by veterinary surgeons with experience of airway problems, whole body plethysmography is the only objective, non-biased method to measure upper airway resistance. This allows us to better understand the pet's particular problem and develop the most appropriate treatment plan.



The BREATHE Clinic

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- 1. Veterinary Teaching Building
- 2. Community Garden
- 3. The Hospital for Small Animals and Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre
- 4. The Bumstead Building
- 5. Campus Service Centre
- 6. The Roslin Institute
- 7. The Greenwood Building
- 8. The Charnock Bradley Building
- 9. Farm Animal Practice
- 10. Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security
- 11. Equine Diagnostic, Surgical and Critical Care Unit
- 12. Equine Hospital and Practice
- 13. Farm Animal Hospital

- P Overflow parking
- Disabled parking
- i Main entrance & reception
- Bus stop
- P Client parking
- P Parking

The Power of Three: The unique offering of Excellence in Clinical, Teaching and Research make up the three pillars of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

As part of The University of Edinburgh, the Hospital of Small Animals is a not-for-profit organisation.