

Title:

Evaluation of perioperative gastroesophageal reflux in brachycephalic dogs with upper airway obstruction

Investigators:

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Study description:

This study evaluates the frequency which dogs regurgitate stomach contents into their esophagus during surgery. We are especially interested in how often this happens in English Bulldogs, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Shiz Tzu, Boxers, and Pekinese with upper airway obstruction. In addition to the frequency of occurrence, we are also examining risk factors for reflux. Patients will be enrolled after completion of an upper airway examination, and will only be participating in the study while they are under anesthesia for surgery. Dogs in the study will have an esophageal pH probe inserted down their throats during surgery. This is an extremely safe monitoring device used frequently in humans. If reflux is documented under anesthesia, clients will be notified and dogs treated appropriately. The cost of the pH probe and pH monitoring will be covered by the study. In addition, participants will receive \$50.00 off the total bill. All other expenses incurred during hospitalization, regardless of the results of the pH monitoring, are the responsibility of the owner, including treatment for reflux should this occur.

Duration of study:

The study is ongoing and will continue until 20 dogs are enrolled in each group - those with gastro-esophageal reflux (GER) and those with no clinical signs. It is expected that enrollment will be complete by June 2011.

Potential benefits to veterinary medicine:

The long term goals of this investigation are to minimize risk associated with airway surgery in veterinary patients and better understand the effects of various surgical, pharmacologic, or anesthetic manipulations on esophageal pH. The study focuses on gathering pilot data regarding the prevalence of GER in an at-risk population. This study will generate important clinical information, but will also facilitate development of a model system to gather objective esophageal pH data in a number of different surgical and anesthetic situations.