



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Position Statement

HEAT TOLERANCE

Nostrils that are **wide and large**, as described in the Standard, and a normal sized trachea, are key in good respiratory health in any brachycephalic breed. (A database of trachea test results is now available on Bulldogs at the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), at www.offa.org).

Dogs and cats, both domestic and in the wild, are susceptible to environmental heat to some degree because they do not possess sweat glands as humans do. As a result, they use a water evaporation mechanism to remove heat by panting. In order to prevent heat-related problems, wild animals limit their activity levels. Most wild dogs and cats are active only at night, and for only short periods to prevent heat build-up problems.

A Bulldog is bred for bursts of activity in cool climates, like a wild cat, which is healthy although it has a similar adaptation to excessive heat. When given a choice between lying outside on a summer day and staying inside an air-conditioned building, many Bulldogs would rather be outside. Most can snooze for several hours in temperatures over 90 degrees F. without having problems from the heat.