

THE RFG expansion goes live February 18th 2026

What is the RFG? = Respiratory Function Grading

THE RFG is a test that shows

- 1) how well a dog can breathe before and after exercise
- 2) how well they can control their own body temperature during that exercise

Is it a certified test?

The RFG has been recognised worldwide and is approved standard with certification of testing for BOAS “Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome” - results are recorded

What is BOAS?

B= shortened muzzle

O= obstructive (air flow is altered / obstructed)

A = airway (from nose to lung)

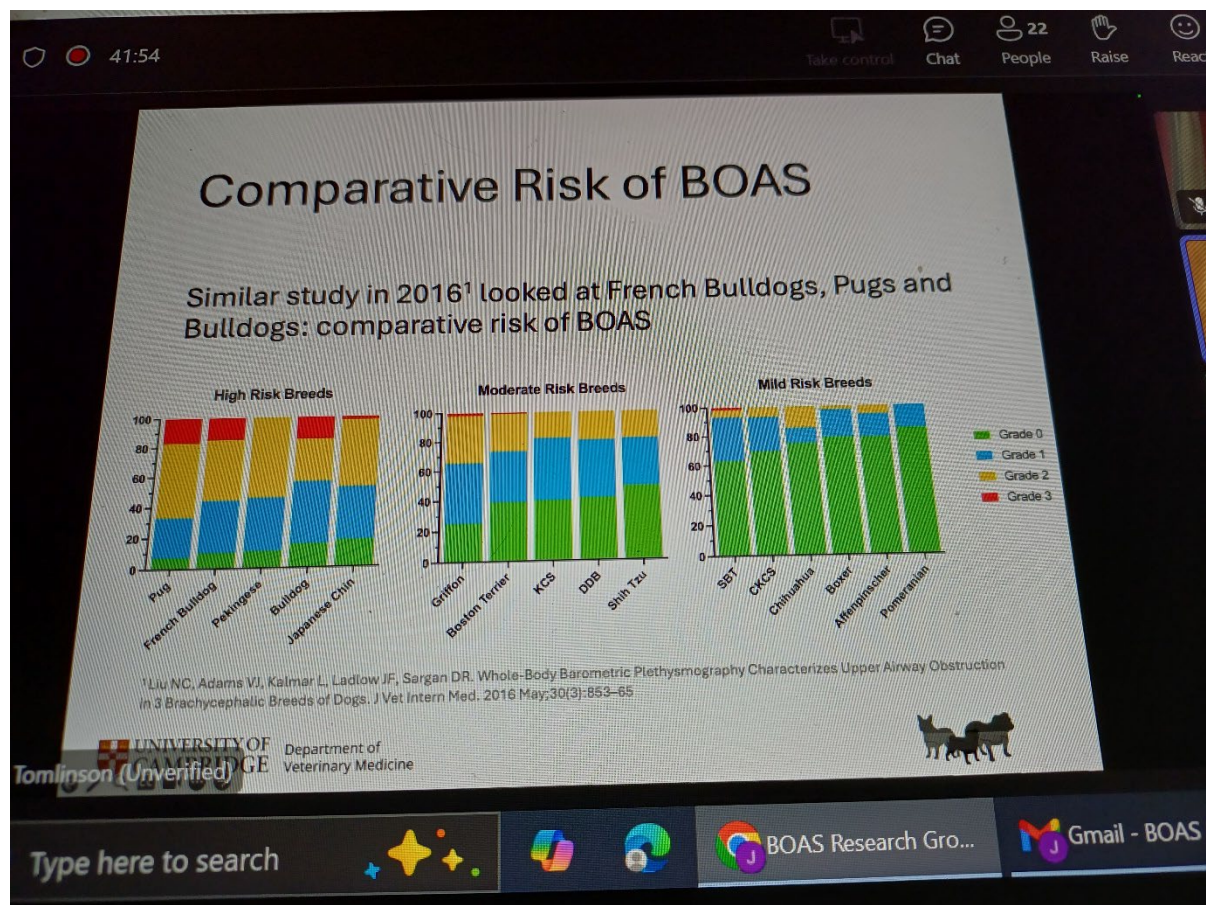
S = syndrome (many causes from stenotic nostrils, crowding of the throat to tracheal collapse)

What does the test involve?

It is a non – invasive / painless test which involves listening to a dog's breathing with a stethoscope before and after a 3-minute period of exercise. Temperatures are checked pre/ post exercise.

Which breeds are involved?

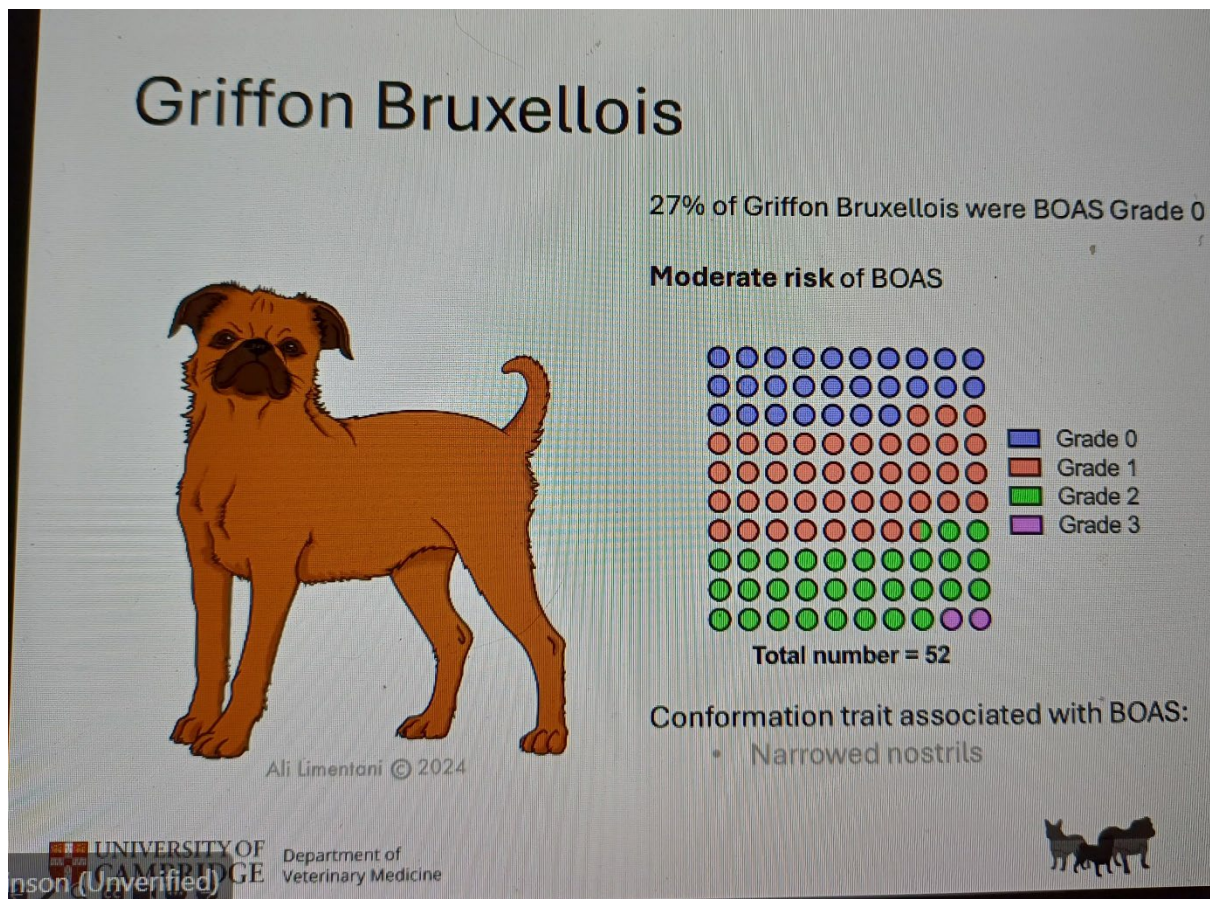
So far, the English Bulldog, French Bulldog and Pug have been in the first round of tests.



As of today, the Griffon Bruxellois, Japanese Chin and Peke will be in the next round of tests.

What data do we have so far?

100 griffons have been tested for research and the feedback from the team was very good with comments such as “can you find some affected Griffons? “Griffons are not behaving like other breeds and may need a breeding protocol of their own”.



67 out of a 100 Griffons showed no symptoms of BOAS
- approx. 2/3rd - but we are at MODERATE RISK

What do the grades mean?

0= no BOAS (27%)

1= no clinical symptoms of BOAS / sub clinical (40%)

2= moderate BOAS (symptom levels vary) (31%)

3 = severe BOAS (stridor/ cyanosis/ collapse) (2%)

What was the main cause of BOAS in Griffons?

Nostril size was the main cause (rarely throat crowding/ tracheal collapse) – although it is not used towards your RFG score.

Please can you share close up nostril photos of any dogs officially graded with RFG giving their grade and age of testing – anonymously. This will be used to develop a nostril picture guide specific to Griffons by the RKC.

How do we get tested?

RFG testing is available at most shows.

Crufts is offering free testing on a first come first served basis this year if anyone is interested

The Griffon Bruxellois Club has arranged BOAS and patella testing with Francesca Tomlinson (Cambridge team) at its Championship show on April 12th this year to be held at Drayton Village Hall – 40 places bookable in advance.

Why test?

From June 26th 2026 BOAS testing will become a “Best practice Test”. This will be followed by a 6-month grace period.

We have 10 months to get testing, lets improve our numbers /data and test.

The three first breeds have improved their data from 50% presumed affected to actually 15% affected by testing a bigger population size.

There is a huge drive against brachycephalic breeds and “banning their breeding on welfare grounds”. Testing helps us monitor breed health so we can be proactive in preserving our breed.

When should I test?

Dogs can be tested from 12 months of age.

It is recommended to test before breeding, and every 2 years thereafter.

Take control Chat P

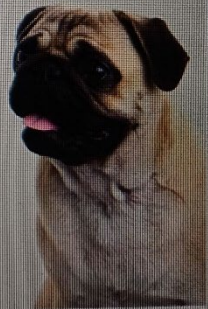
Respiratory Function Grading Scheme

French Bulldogs, Bulldogs & Pugs

RFG current breeding advice

		DOG ONE (sire or dam)			
RFG Grade for each dog		Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
DOG TWO (sire or dam)	Grade 0				
	Grade 1				
	Grade 2				
	Grade 3				

The Kennel Club and University of Cambridge
Respiratory Function Grading Scheme



Can results change?

Yes, they can change with age.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN – BOAS is not reverse sneezing but any other noise except normal panting is abnormal.