

### --- A ---

#### ACUTE ALLERGIC REACTION

An acute allergic reaction is caused by the entry of an antigen into the body;

- Drugs; vaccines, medications, antibiotics, etc
- Chemicals in the environment; household cleaners like carpet cleaners, air fresheners
- Insect stings
- Common natural allergens; pollen, mould, etc

Clinical signs include:

- Swelling of the face and/or body
- Hives
- Itchiness
- Redness of the skin
- Agitation / restlessness
- Feeling hot to the touch

Although rare, dogs can experience life-threatening reactions. Signs of severe allergic reactions that require immediate veterinary attention include;

- Difficulty breathing due to inflammation or swelling of the throat /airway
- Collapse
- Shock
- Abnormal heart rhythm

**Action:** Keep the dog calm. If it's due to an insect sting, try to remove the sting. Transport to the Vet immediately.

### --- B ---

#### BRACHYCEPHALIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAYS DISEASE (BOAS)

This is a common disease seen in brachycephalic breeds, for example, Bulldogs, Pugs, Boxers. The dyspnoea is caused by airway obstruction secondary to the abnormal anatomy of these breeds and has several components which include:

- Stenotic nares
- Long soft palate
- Everted laryngeal sacculles
- Hypoplastic (narrow) trachea

Clinical signs include:

- Dyspnoea
- Exercise intolerance
- Stertorous (snoring) breathing sounds
- Collapse / syncope
- Cyanosis

**Action:** Any dog with dyspnoea requires immediate transport to the Vet.

#### BURNS

Burns are a result of intense heat which damages the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Serum leaks from the damaged tissue and can lead to blister formation.

Clinical signs include:

- Redness
- Moist skin
- Charred leathery skin
- Pain
- Heat
- Signs of shock

**Action:** Remove from the source of the problem, douse the area in cold water and cover the area in a sterile non adherent dressing. Transport to the Vet as soon as possible.