

FEEDING RAW IS SIMPLE-THE FACTS

AN INTRODUCTION - WHY FEEDING RAW IS THE BEST CHOICE

We all want our dogs to live a long life in optimal health. Like any other creature on earth, they need to eat the diet that nature intended for them in order to thrive. In the wild dogs do not cook food, nor do they run salivating toward a field of grain (unless there is a juicy rabbit hiding in the undergrowth). Indeed, it is the rabbit and other prey that nature intended for Dogs; they will eat the whole animal, sometimes burying it to return and finish it off later. Raw food is how a Dog's vitality and well-being is provided naturally.

Nowadays the term we use to describe this natural and raw diet is "Biologically Appropriate Raw Food" (BARF). Before the war most dogs were fed meat scraps and bones and left over food from the kitchen or table – the introduction of grain based cereal dog food was mainly due to the lack of meat scraps/rationing during the war and then later, the cost savings of processed food saw the dried pet food industry become a billion-pound powerhouse in the UK alone.

DID YOU KNOW: The adage "fit as a butcher's dog" came from the idea that the Butchers Dog was given all the best raw meat scraps and bones and so had a varied and healthy diet.

THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR DOG

There is a lot of scientific evidence published across the internet detailing how a BARF diet will support your Dogs natural bodily functions and strengthen his immune system. Well worth reading and making an informed choice about your dog's future. Aside from a much happier and healthier dog, a raw diet can help resolve the health issues common in kibble fed dogs. Along with a shiny, smooth coat, you will notice:

- Cleaner teeth and fresher breath
- Overall reduction in that "doggy" smell
- A calmer temperament
- Chronic allergies and skin infections will disappear
- Arthritis will significantly reduce or disappear
- Improved energy and vitality
- Fewer visits to the Vet
- The chewing and ripping actions of eating raw meaty bones helps develop your Dogs jaw, neck, and shoulder muscles

- A huge benefit to you is less poo; it will also be harder, easier to pick up and less smelly!

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU TO MAKE THE SWITCH TO RAW

We recommend that you read as much as possible about raw feeding and the following books can really help you to realise that you do not need a degree in nutrition to feed a healthy, balanced diet, just some guidelines and common sense.

Work Wonders - Tom Lonsdale

Give your dog a bone - Ian Billinghurst

Anything by Doctor Conor Brady, Dogs First

If you need a little extra help then please contact us so we can advise, get to know your dog and help you design a diet specific to his breed, age and weight and energy requirements, taking into account any allergies or health issues.

INTRODUCING THE DIET TO YOUR DOG

We think that the simplest and most successful method is to fast the dog for a day and then just do it - make the switch.

Don't worry about fasting your dog. In the wild, an animal might chow down on an entire carcass of a rabbit one day and CHOOSE not to eat for a day or so after.

Raw fed dogs tend to eat less as they digest the whole meal which they do not do with kibble as they are not designed to eat cereal. In fact many dogs find it hard to get any significant nutritional value from grain based kibble and have to overeat or scavenge for faeces and carrion in a desperate attempt to get the nutrients they need.

FEEDING GUIDE

An adult dog needs to be fed 1.5-3% of their healthy bodyweight daily. All of the meat in our meals is sourced from human grade suppliers. Our meals are supplied frozen – simply defrost what you need when you need it.

FAQ's

Are raw chicken bones dangerous for my dog?

Again, if you think about what a wild Dog would eat, the answer is no. Chicken bones are soft enough so that they bend easily and break well for the dog to digest. Please remember though that Dogs would never spit roast a chicken over a campfire in the wild, so NEVER feed cooked chicken bones, or indeed

any cooked bone. The cooking process makes them brittle and sharp, so they could splinter in the throat or gut and this IS dangerous.

What about bacteria?

Dogs stomach's are very acidic meaning a healthy raw fed dog can manage bacteria without a problem. If you've ever taken your Dog for a rambling walk across a field and stumbled across the rotting carcass of a dead animal that enticed your Dog to lick and chew, you'll have noticed that they don't care about a bit of bacteria! That concern comes from projecting our own sense of what is safe and naturally appropriate for us, onto our Dog and of course as we are not the same species we both thrive on entirely different diets.

What about worms?

All dogs are susceptible to worms and should be checked regularly-we recommend using diatomaceous earth and things like hairy rabbit ears as a natural wormer and then having a regular poo test to understand the worm burden your dog carries, then you can worm appropriately- not disrupting your dog's digestive balance with chemical over worming.

Natural Animal Nutrition only use high quality, human grade meat, locally sourced fresh from the Abattoir and our meals are created and frozen that same day. Our vegetables are just as fresh and also sourced locally. We do not use any chemicals or preservatives, nor do we use fillers such as grain - most raw fed dogs carry very little worm burden but it is important to check.

Can raw food help with weight loss?

Feeding your Dog as nature intended provides a diet high in protein and low in carbohydrates so he won't feel hungry. Your dog will have increased energy for regular exercise and these two things combined will restore your Dog to optimal weight for height and help prevent future obesity. In tests raw fed dogs often self-regulated themselves once their nutritional needs were met. As previously mentioned, because they digest much more of their food when fed a meat and bone based diet, they often eat significantly less.

Will raw meat give my dog a taste for blood and increase aggression?

No! Remember it is their biologically appropriate food and if anything it will make them calmer. Just in the same way that as parents we recognise that feeding our children sweets, junk food and e-numbers can make them hyperactive and irritable, the same goes for our Dogs. Processed, chemically manufactured, nutritionally bankrupt dried or cooked food is the canine equivalent of junk food and will have a negative impact on your Dogs health, not the raw food it is biologically programmed to thrive on.

If manufactured Dog food is a Billion-pound industry in the UK alone, it must be ok really?

So are human fast food meals but that does not mean that if you ate such food every day and nothing else it would give you a healthy diet. Species inappropriate food will never give your Dog the health, vitality and long life it deserves.

The ingredients are low quality and not how nature intended your dog to eat. Humans are the only animals that cook food. No other creature on earth does, and the process will deprive the nutritional content your Dog needs.

It is packed full of harmful chemicals to give the product a long shelf life. We don't want to eat chemicals so why would we want to feed them to our Dogs? Most processed food contains grain which is impossible for a Dog to digest. Combined with all the chemicals, your Dog is likely to suffer from itchy skin, allergies, smelly wind, smelly poops, bad breath and be sluggish/overweight. It also doesn't maintain any sort of dental hygiene unlike a natural diet would.

Why do many mainstream vets actively promote against feeding a raw diet?

All the current training for vets is done using information from the big processed pet food providers; they write the training manual so it's not surprising their view is biased. Many of these vets are funded by the sales they make of processed food and the "special" diets offered are a huge financial incentive for them to promote the idea you need a science degree to feed a dog.

Fortunately there is now a Raw Feeding Vets Society who promote healthy eating and have great information on their site. www.rfvs.info

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