

F.A.Q.'s

Can I switch my pet to a raw food diet right away?

Most pets adapt to the raw diet without any difficulty, but it is always a good idea to transition slowly, especially if your pet has any digestive or bowel problems. It should not take more than a week to make the transition.

In some, not all, cases, pets can experience nutritional detoxification. Detox happens when nutrients going to the body are vastly superior quality that what was previously consumed; the body literally throws out the built up toxins to make way for healthy new tissue. Do not worry—all is well! The body is healing itself. You may notice signs such as runny/weepy eyes, loose or mucous stools, flatulence, itchy skin or oily coat. These will go away as the process runs its course.

How much raw food should I feed my pet daily?

Different dogs and cats have different metabolisms so feed accordingly, but here is a good rule of thumb, all measurements being approximate:

<i>Puppies or Dogs under 30 lbs:</i> 1/3 of 1 lb per 10 lbs of body weight
<i>Junior Dog:</i> 1 lb per 30 lbs of body weight
<i>Active Dog:</i> 1 lb per 50 lbs of body weight
<i>Senior Dog:</i> 1 lb per 80 lbs of body weight

Where can I get more information about raw food diets?

We recommend reading the following books:

- **Holistic Guide for a Healthy Dog**
(Wendy Volhard)
- **Natural Nutrition for Dogs and Cats**
(Kymathy Shultze)
- **The BARF Diet** (Dr. Billinghurst)

There are also many websites dedicated to raw food diets for pets.

Meridian

meats & seafood

Raw Food Diets

For Dogs & Cats



This information is provided for educational purposes. It is not intended to override your veterinarian or animal health care practitioner's medical advice and/or guidance.

Why Feed Your Pet Raw Food?

The idea of feeding your dog or cat raw meat and bones can seem strange and unnatural. The truth is, our carnivorous friends' anatomies and digestive systems are designed to consume food in a raw state.

Switching to a raw natural diet will have a positive impact on boosting your pet's overall health, vitality, longevity and quality of life.

A raw food diet will greatly improve, if not eliminate health ailments such as:

- Allergies
- Arthritis/Joint problems
- Bowel/Urinary problems
- Cancer
- Dental/Breath Problems
- Ear Ailments/Discharge
- Eye Ailments/Discharge
- Lack of Energy/Enthusiasm
- Obesity/Weight Problems
- Parasites/Fleas and Mites
- Poor Skin and Coat
- Weakened Immune System

Without a doubt, visits to the veterinary clinic diminish after switching to raw food.

Kibble & Canned Food vs. Raw Food

Today's cooked kibble/canned pet foods are made of poor to low quality food ingredients. Even the better quality kibble/canned products using grade "A" and hormone free foods lose virtually all of the vital nutrients (enzymes and antioxidants) during the cooking process.

The steady onslaught of degenerative diseases in our dogs and cats has forced us to question and examine the quality of the foods being used and how they are processed in relation to our pet's overall health.

The Raw Facts

Veterinarians and scientists agree that today's dogs' and cats' internal workings are fundamentally the same as their wild counterparts and ancestors.

Dogs are classified as **omnivores**. This means that your dog needs a wide range of foods in their diet including raw meats (including organs), raw bones, fruits and vegetables.

Cats are classified as **carnivores**. This means that your cat needs raw meats including organs, fat and bone.

Consider the dental structure of our dogs and cats. Their fang-like teeth are designed to shred, rip and tear. There are no flat molars to grind food into smaller pieces before swallowing. They are not designed to chew kibble.

Dogs' and cats' saliva is designed to lubricate large chunks of food for easy travel to the stomach. They do not have digestive enzymes in their saliva and depend on these enzymes being present in their food. These enzymes are only present in raw unaltered, uncooked food. Any heat during food processing kills these vital enzymes and taxes the animal's pancreas and digestive and immune systems.

Dogs' and cats' intestinal walls host hundreds of species of micro-organisms and bacteria called **Micro Flora**.

The natural balance of your pet's micro flora provide enzymes, vitamins and minerals, and helps to inhibit the growth of disease forming bacteria such as E-coli and Salmonella.

