

Something to Chew on

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HEALTHIER FOOD FOR HEALTHIER PETS

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Why You Should Be Feeding Your Pets Raw Food

As evidenced by looking at their teeth, cats and dogs are carnivores – meaning that they have evolved to eat meat – specifically raw meat. When we feed our pets the appropriate, balanced raw food diet we tap into what they were designed to eat for optimal health and well-being.

A minimally processed, natural, fresh diet is advantageous for any living being – including humans, and is what your cat or dog would have consumed in the wild.

Both cats and dogs have simple, short digestive tracts designed to extract nutrition from raw meat, fat and bone. To live a healthy life certain enzymes and amino acids are required – and for carnivores these can be found in a raw diet.

A balanced raw diet is most beneficial when it includes a combination of: Muscle Meats, Meats with Bone, Organs (such as liver, hearts, kidneys), Fruits and Vegetables.

Changing a pet with an existing health problem to a raw food diet can result in an improvement in condition, while healthy pets can expect to avoid common ailments to live a longer, happier and healthier life.



Healthier teeth, fresher breath and improved heart health

Raw diets and diets containing bone have been observed to show improved dental and heart health in canines and felines. Dogs and cats have teeth designed for ripping and tearing flesh from bone, and for chewing bone into tiny digestible bits. The size of the bone fed to your pet should be dependent on the size of the animal. Owners who feed their pets a raw diet may see noticeable dental health benefits and better breath. Good dental and oral health can also be linked to good heart health.



Skin is healthier, with fewer dermatological irritations and the coat glossier with less shedding

One of the more perceivable changes that owners may notice in their pets on switching to raw feeding is a marked improvement of the skin and coat. Skin may become less dry and the coat shinier. Food allergies are a common affliction in dogs. Pet owners who choose to feed a raw diet are likely to notice that their animals stop developing hot spots and itching, and experience less skin infections.



Better digestion results in smaller, less odorous stools and less flatulence

Raw feeding has shown pets, and in particular dogs, who consume a balanced raw diet of muscle meat, bone and organs, tend to produce less waste and less frequently. Their stools also improve in consistency and odor.



Body Composition, more muscle, less fat

When fed muscle meat, bone and organs in a raw diet, rather than grain and corn based diets, the carbohydrate and sugar content of your pet's diet is lowered. This can have a direct result on your pet's weight and muscle mass.



Strengthened immune system and reduction in inflammatory conditions



More energy

Raw diets are uncooked and never processed. Consider it the canine equivalent of "clean eating."

Growing Up Raw

By Jennifer Hanger

Although I can't guarantee everyone will experience what I have if they switch to raw, I can testify to the following as my experience of changes in the lives and health of my dogs since switching to raw.

• In late 2014 I lost yet another beloved Saint Bernard before the age of 7 to cancer. As I was still grieving the loss of my boy Jack, I learned that my even younger girl, Hopeless, had colon cancer. The day I learned of her cancer I was devastated and started looking at some of the studies and research I had already begun doing of the dog food industry.

That night I went to my local grocery store and bought meats, organs, fruits and vegetables to make my first batch of raw food. I stopped by a local hunting store and bought my first meat grinder.

I spent that evening grinding my first batch of raw food and the next morning I fed all of my dogs raw and disposed of what kibble I still had on hand. My dogs loved it and I could tell almost immediately I was doing the right thing.

Within a few days, I started noticing changes in my dogs. Some of my older dogs seemed to have a little more pep in their step and my girl diagnosed with colon cancer seemed more comfortable and was eating better.

I also started noticing my dogs were leaving smaller and less smelly "fertilizer piles" in my yard. They were all eating better and just seemed happier.

Over the course of 9 years since making the switch, I have lost no more dogs to cancer. Hopeless lived to be just shy of 11 years old without any cancer treatments or medications, just a healthy raw diet.

In short, I have personally seen my dogs living longer and happier lives simply by switching to the food nature intended them to eat, RAW.

Please feel free to contact me to share your raw experiences and stay tuned as I share more of my insights and experiences with my dogs and feeding raw.