

## Raw food for dogs

While dogs are predominantly carnivorous, their adaptable bodies also allow for the digestion of plant matter. Dogs can be fed either a PMR diet (80% muscle meat, 10% edible bone, 10% offal) or a BARF diet (70% muscle meat, 10% edible bone, 10% offal, 10% vegetable).

We recommend that you include at least one white protein, one red protein and one source of fish per week. Green tripe is also a fantastic addition to a raw diet for digestive support, especially for dogs who consume plenty of raw meaty bones.

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### PUPPIES

Puppies are likely to adapt well to a fresh whole food diet. In fact, they should thrive on it! However, we still recommend that you go gently with any change of diet and always take care to observe how their body responds. They will need 3-4 meals a day for the first few months and 2-3 meals thereafter (until they're full grown). Their food intake should start at 10% of their body weight and gradually decrease to 2.5% for adult dogs. During growth spurts they will need more food.

If your puppy is going through the usual practice of being vaccinated, desexed and treated for fleas and worms, it's important to remember that these things can upset the natural gut flora and may lead to incidences of vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy. Try not to confuse this for a bad reaction to new food.

### ADULT DOGS

Many dogs who have been raised on a commercial pet food diet can seem to be in good health for many years. Dogs are resilient creatures. They can survive in a variety of environments, on many types of food, and not show signs of poor health until a serious health condition has set in.

Our hope is that through the choices you make, your dog will thrive in good health, rather than just survive. By improving their overall wellbeing you will reduce the likelihood of them developing common degenerative illnesses that often show up in dogs between the ages of 5 and 10. These conditions are usually related to inflammation in the body, so removing the factors that contribute to this is the best way to support your dog's health.

The ease of transitioning an adult dog onto a raw diet is dependent on their gut health and whether or not they are addicted to their previous food. Each dog is different and it is a part of our journey with them to learn and discover what will work best for their individual health.

### SENIORS

It's never too late to make changes to your dog's diet. In fact, feeding your elderly dog a nutrient dense raw food diet may support them in their later years to be more comfortable and energetic! Calcium, glucosamine, chondroitin and essential fatty acids are all vital to maintaining the musculoskeletal system as it ages, and all can be found naturally in raw meat and bones.

The support of a pre+probiotic would also be of great benefit to elderly dogs, as their digestive system may be compromised after years of imbalanced gut flora.

### DOGGY SMELLS

Many people believe that bad breath, stinky farts and that "doggy smell" are a part of the package that comes with owning a dog. This is not actually true! Smelly dogs are usually presenting symptoms of less than ideal health. Bad smells, whichever end they are coming from, are related to the balance of good and bad bacteria in the gut. Whatever food your dog is on, the addition of a pre+probiotic may help to make a difference. Cleaning up their teeth with suitable bones and tendons may also help if they have poor dental condition. However, the best thing you can do is give them a raw diet that is high in quality proteins and free from grains and preservatives, as well as keeping their gut healthy with digestive enzymes and a good pre+probiotic.

### SUITABLE TREATS

#### SMALL BREEDS

Chicken necks, roo cutlets, duck feet, lamb ears, beef tendons.

#### MEDIUM BREEDS

Bully sticks, rib racks, lamb clods, turkey necks, roo pad.

#### LARGE BREEDS

Lamb necks, goat spine, moo tubes, cows hooves, deer foot.

The information and advice on this article is based on our own research and years of personal experience. We are not veterinarians and do not claim to diagnose, treat or cure any condition, only pass on what we have learnt and witnessed.

This article is intended as an educational tool and we are not responsible for how any individual uses the information provided. All advice is general. Every animal is unique and we cannot assure that our recommendations are suited to all circumstances.