



How to Talk Raw

These are the basic talking points recommended by veterinary nutritionists on the topic of raw food. See the resources for additional reading!

1 RAW FOOD ISN'T HEALTHIER

No scientific studies have shown a benefit to a raw food diet for pets. In fact, study after study has confirmed that these diets can cause problems for pets and people.

2 IT'S NOT JUST PETS AT RISK

While some people believe the anatomy of a dog's intestinal tract means they tolerate bacteria better, they can and do become clinically ill. Worse still, people in the household can become seriously ill if exposed during feeding or cleaning up after the pet.

3 DOGS AREN'T WOLVES

Dogs evolved alongside humans to eat many of the same foods we do. In fact, dogs have more salivary enzymes to digest starches than their wolf companions. Dogs evolved to thrive on a variety of foods both raw and cooked- like we did!

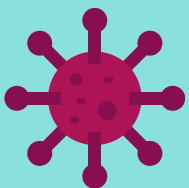
4 ENZYMES DON'T COME FROM FOOD

It's true that cooking changes certain physical characteristics of food (that's the whole point!) But your dog doesn't need live enzymes in food for it to be properly digested- their body manufactures the needed enzymes itself in organs such as the pancreas.

5 MEET YOUR MEAT

Wanting to know where your pet's food comes from is a valid concern. Find a pet food company that values transparency, quality control, and shares information about recalls and sourcing.

Risk Factors



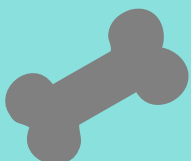
INFECTION

Up to half of raw food diets may test positive for Salmonella, which can infect not only the pet, but people who live with the pet. Other pathogens found in raw diets include E. coli, Campylobacter, Clostridium, and Listeria.



DIETARY IMBALANCE

Creating a healthy, balanced diet is very difficult to do for the average pet owner. The majority of recipes available online are not complete and balanced, which can contribute to diseases such as hyperthyroidism, bone disease, or heart disease.



BONE INJURIES

Ingesting bones has caused injuries in dogs ranging from gut perforations from bone shards, to broken teeth, to intestinal blockages requiring surgery. Running bones through a grinder can reduce some of these injuries.