



SPECIALIZING IN RAW
FOOD DIET FOR

CATS

BUDDIES NATURAL PET FOOD LTD.
RAW FOOD GUIDE

BACK TO BASICS
For Kittens, Adults, & Seniors.

www.buddiesnaturalpetfood.ca

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At Buddies Natural Pet Food, we are dedicated to helping your cat achieve optimum health. We realize that switching to, and feeding, a raw diet can be a touchy subject with some people. **You are not alone!** Buddies is here to provide you with the educated answers needed to help you switch to a healthy lifestyle choice for your cat. ***Buddies wants to make raw feeding simple and easy to do.*** We are happy to give you positive support to get you on your way!

Why Raw?

 A raw, fresh diet is biologically/species appropriate for your cat. Cats are Carnivores; there are different types of carnivores out there, cats fall into the Obligatory Carnivore category. This means they need meat, organs, and bone to survive and thrive. They are not able to get any nutrition from plant matter and carbohydrates.



 Cats digestive tracts are ideal for digesting meat. While omnivores and herbivores have *long* digestive tracts with a lower stomach acidity to ferment their food, carnivores have short digestive tracts and high stomach acidity to break down and pass raw meat and bone quickly and safely.

 Chronic diseases can be directly linked to feeding processed foods to our cats as it destroys and alters enzymes, amino acids, vitamins and minerals. Cats are one of evolutions most successful predators. They have never needed to develop the ability to metabolize and synthesize nutrients from plant matter. Not only are they unable to utilize grains and carbohydrates but these can actually cause them harm. Grains change the cat's naturally acidic PH., cause dental disease and affect their digestive and urinary tracts. Cats naturally do not drink a lot water due to the high moisture content in their natural diet: raw prey. Processed food, due to the high carbohydrate content, causes further dehydration.

Step 1: Transitioning to a Raw, Fresh diet!

Transitioning an adult or senior cat onto raw can be a little tricky sometimes. Cat's are stubborn and independent, and in many cases very opposed to change...especially in their diet.

If you have a kitten switch that little one straight away, cold turkey, onto raw.

With Adult and Senior cats there's a little more to it...

- 1) Transition your cat to being fed twice a day rather than free feeding (having a bowl of kibble out for your cat to help themselves whenever they'd like).
- 2) Transition your cat onto 100% canned food from kibble before introducing raw.
- 3) Mix the raw into the canned food. At first with more canned than raw and slowly reverse the ratio.



Remember! Cats can be apprehensive to new foods, this is normal! Transitioning a cat takes time and patience, and while it can be frustrating just keep reminding yourself of all the benefits and keep at it!

Step 2: How much do I feed?



An average cat should be eating 2% - 3% of their body weight, whereas active cats can eat between 4% - 6%. Kittens can eat up to 8% of their body weight! Unlike dogs, cats are generally very good at self regulating. Your cat will know when it's full! Give your cat it's food and allow them 15 minutes or so to eat.

Whatever they leave refrigerate it for their next meal!

For example, when feeding an adult cat the average 2.5% of their body weight this is what it should look like...

An up to **5LB** cat can be fed up to **1/8 lb** (which is half of one of our quarter cut pieces)

A **6 - 10LB** cat can be fed up to **1/4 lb** (which is one of our quarter cut pieces)

A **11 - 16LB** cat can be fed up to **1/3 lb** (which is approximately one and a half of our quarter cut pieces)

- ◆ **INCREASE** for active and growing cats
- ◆ **DECREASE** for non-active and senior cats
- ◆ **USE YOUR JUDGEMENT.** You know your cat best!

During the first few weeks of raw not only will you notice a healthier, happier cat but you may see signs of what we call “**the detox**”. This is simply your cats body trying to push out the preservatives, sugars, and other toxins which they have stored in their body from eating a processed diet. Just as if you were to go from a highly processed diet to a fresh diet yourself. This is completely normal and all a part of the healing process.

Some signs that your cat is detoxing are...

Runny/Tearing Eyes

Excess Shedding

Increased “kitty cat” smell

Upset Stomach

Itchy Skin/Paws

Bad Breath

If your cat is showing these symptoms keep an eye on them. If they persist for more than a month or so consider contacting your veterinarian. However in almost all cases these do pass! One step back before one hundred steps forward!

What else do I need to know?

◆ What about Taurine!?

While dogs produce some levels cats do not; they rely solely on their food. Not enough taurine in their diet can result in heart problems, ocular issues, and more. Red meat, organ meat (heart in particular), and most shellfish are ideal ways to ensure your cat is getting enough taurine in their diet! Some more benefits include: lowering high blood pressure and cholesterol, and maintaining urinary tract health!



◆ Bones in their food will hurt my cat! Especially poultry!

Raw bones are perfectly safe for your cat to ingest. Cooked and smoked/dehydrated bones have the tendency to splinter as the process they must go through removes moisture from the bones making it brittle and hard. Raw bones and necks, especially poultry, are soft and easy for your cat to digest. Remember their stomach has a low PH perfect for breaking down bones and bacteria.

◆ Won't my cat get sick from eating Raw Meat?

The likely hood that your cat will get sick is next to none. This is because Fluffy and Garfield are specifically designed to digest raw meat, organs, and bone! A carnivores stomach is 3 times as acidic as a humans stomach. This level of acidity kills most pathogens and bacteria. If for some reason something survives this your carnivores digestive system works quickly and short, expelling everything as waste in a matter of hours.

Thank you for learning about Raw Feeding with Buddies Natural Pet Food! Please don't hesitate to ask our Buddies Staff any further questions! You can reach us in person at our Retail locations (see back page), via email at buddiesnaturalpetfood@gmail.com, or by phone (see back page)!