



SPECIALIZING IN RAW
FOOD DIET FOR

DOGS

BUDDIES NATURAL PET FOOD LTD.
RAW FOOD GUIDE

BACK TO BASICS
For Puppies, Adults, & Seniors.

www.buddiesnaturalpetfood.ca

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At Buddies Natural Pet Food, we are dedicated to helping your dog 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 dog. ***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 dog. You may have heard that your dog is an omnivore. They are actually **Carnivores**. There are different types of carnivores out there, dogs fall into the **Facultative Carnivore** category. This means they **need** meat, organs, and bone but will eat some plant matter if necessary.



 Dogs 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.

 Processed foods contain grain, large amounts of plant matter, and preservatives that your dog is not naturally equipped to deal with. The grain and sugars stick to their teeth causing plaque and bring down their stomach acidity, not to mention come out practically the same way it went in resulting in large, stinky stool! Raw feeding allows your dogs digestive system to use nearly all the “good stuff” resulting in small, almost odourless stool! Rah-Raw!

Step 1: Transitioning to a Raw, Fresh diet

Puppies: Any dog that is still growing is considered a puppy.

Puppies require balance straight away. They need to be transitioned directly from kibble onto a balanced diet of muscle meat, bone, and organ (vegetables are optional) and given a variety of proteins from the start.



Adults & Seniors: While you can go straight onto a balanced diet for these guys, that may upset their stomachs depending on how long they've been on kibble. It is a good idea to slowly transition them starting with 100% Bone-In Chicken or Turkey Ground. The bone will help bind any loose stool. Slowly introduce new proteins, and lastly, organs. Dog depending this can be a slow process, but be patient and keep at it...the end result is so worth it!



During the first few weeks of raw not only will you notice a healthier, happier pooch but you may see signs of what we call **“the detox”**. This is simply your dogs 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 dog is detoxing are...

Runny/Tearing Eyes

Excess Shedding

Increased “doggy” smell

Upset Stomach

Itchy Skin/Paws

Bad Breath

If your dog 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!

For all life stages you can either go “cold-turkey” onto raw OR do one meal raw, one kibble during the first week or so. We will warn you though, it is very common for your pup to refuse the kibble meals and force you into the “cold-turkey” method after a few tastes of raw!

Step 2: How much do I feed?

When feeding raw you must calculate in percentages. We'll teach you how!

Puppies: These guys eat A LOT. Age and breed depending they can eat up to 10% of their body weight! If you have an idea of what they are going to mature to, weight wise, you can feed 2 - 4% of that. Otherwise here's the breakdown for your average pup...

2-4 months = 10 - 8% 4-6 months = 8 - 6% 6-8 months = 6 - 4% 8-12 months = 4 - 3%



Adults/Seniors: Your average dog will eat somewhere between 2-4%. An easy way to figure this out for your average dog is this; to feed 2% of their ideal, healthy body weight you must feed **1/2 LB of raw** for every **25 LB of dog**. For example...

For a **75 LB** Shepherd, you can expect to feed **1.5 LBs** of food over the day.



For a **50 LB** Springer Spaniel, you can expect to feed **1 LB** of food over the day.



For a **25 LB** Beagle, you can expect to feed **1/2 LB** of food over the day.



REMEMBER every dog is different and you know your dog best. If they are losing too much weight, increase their food. If they're gaining too much weight, decrease their food.

- **INCREASE** for active and high metabolism dogs
- **DECREASE** for less active and senior dogs

Common Misconceptions

There are a lot of misconceptions about raw feeding. Here are some of the most common ones that we hear...

◆ **Raw will make my dog vicious once it gets the taste for blood!**

*This is completely, 100% **not true**. Feeding your dog a raw diet will not make him or her vicious. There are many of our customers that have dogs who eat raw, yet still live harmoniously with their farm animals. Yes that's right, they can have chicken for breakfast and still hang in the coup!*

◆ **My family and I will get sick from the raw meat and our dog!**

Your family will not get sick if you follow proper meat handling practices, just as you do when cooking meat for yourself. Wash your dogs bowl after each feeding. Wipe down all surfaces used while preparing their meals. Your dog will not likely make you sick. It's true that they do shed bacteria in their feces. However this does not pose a risk if you pick up after your dog and don't ingest their feces..

◆ **Bones in their food will hurt my dog! Especially poultry!**

Raw bones are perfectly safe for your dog 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 are soft and easy for your dog to digest, remember, their stomach has a low PH perfect, for breaking down bones and bacteria.

◆ **But my dog has evolved to eat kibble, he's not a wolf!**

You're right, your dog is not a wolf. That being said they do have similar digestive tracts. Kibble has only become a common feeding practise in the last 100 years or so. Just because a dog can survive on something does not mean they are thriving. A dogs digestive tract tells you all you need to know, from the length of their digestive system to the acid /PH level in their stomach. They also have jaws and teeth ideal for tearing through meat and an esophagus that is ideal for gulping these large portions.



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)!