**Feeding Your Puppy a Natural Diet**

**Why feed Raw?**

We raise all of our dogs on a natural raw diet, the one which we feed is called **‘Prey Model Raw’** rather than ‘BARF’ or other raw diets that you may or may not have heard of. We feed this way because it is that closest we can get to what a canine would naturally if left to it’s own devices ie. In the wild. The health benefits to feeding a raw diet are extensive, and can be found at the end of the feeding guide that I have included. Some raw diets include vegetables and grains in addition to meat, however these are not necessary - dogs are carnivores not omnivores – this can be seen by looking at their teeth if nothing else. You can find more info on the science behind this at

<http://preymodelraw.com/why-pmr/>

 **Is it a Balanced Diet?**

You may wonder where a dog gets all the vitamins and minerals from that are present in vegetables? When meat is cooked, the cooking process destroys that majority of useable vitamins and minerals that are contained within. You may be familiar with this happening with overcooked vegetables in our diet, the same applies to meat for animals. We do not have the level of acidity in our stomach that a dog has, which is why they can eat any raw meat (including chicken and pork) without the risk of Salmonella or other bacterial infections. As long as a variety of raw meat, organ and bone is provided, your dog will not need any other additions to his diet (instead of feeding fish which I find a bit messy I use a high quality salmon oil – personal preference!). If you really want to it would not harm your dog to include the odd vegetable, but do it in the knowledge that he probably won’t get anything out of it – dogs do not have the enzyme present that breaks down the touch cellulose fibres found in vegetables – but neither will it do him any harm.

You can find attached a breakdown of the different vitamins and minerals that are found in various meats and organs. The more variety in the diet the better, although there may be certain meats that don’t agree or your dog won’t, its just a case of see what works! One of ours will not eat minced pheasant, another refuses lamb kidney unless she is pregnant…each to their own!

**How Do I Feed Raw?**

You will find a fairly comprehensive guide included in this pack on how to achieve the balance in a raw diet, how much to feed, when to feed and what to avoid. Ideally a dog would be fed whole prey, such as a rabbit or a chicken, or a part of the animal for a smaller dog, but this is not always cost effective or possible to get hold of. We are in a fortunate position where we can feel whole prey to our dogs, which they love to eat, but often it is far more practical for most people to prepared minced raw food. I have listed below some very good suppliers, who can deliver the food straight to your door and have a good selection of products and meats. There are pros and cons to feeding minced raw food. They are more convenient and in most cases come ready prepared with the right ratio of meat, organ and bone that your dog needs, all you have to do it weigh out the correct amount and not have to worry about cutting up carcasses and measuring out liver etc. Some dogs will find there is a bit too much bone in certain minces and will need some extra meat or an egg putting in, others may need an extra chicken wing for a bit more bone…all dogs are different and you will soon learn what your dogs requirements are. The bad thing about feeding minces is you lose the teeth-cleaning benefits that crunching on down on whole bones gives…to remedy this it’s advisable to let them chew on bigger bones such as beef ribs/backbones. If possible stay away from weight bearing bones such as marrow bones, they are too dense and can break teeth. For shelties I have found that a piece of oxtail does the job very nicely…I count it as a meat meal as they can get a decent bit of meat off one, it keeps them occupied for ages and gives the teeth/jaw a good workout!

**Where can I get raw food from?**

Feeding a natural raw diet is becoming more and more popular amongst the dog community, and there are various brands and suppliers now available, differing greatly in packaging and price! Personally we recommend going straight the source to get the best quality and price, instead of using branded raw meals that can often be found in bigger pet shops (although it can be worth having a look at what they offer – Natures Menu do packs of heart chunks and breast chunks, which contain no bone and can be good if you are struggling to find inexpensive meat to add extra if needed).

I have included a list of some suppliers that I have found to be very good. RawToGo is the main supplier that I use, as the other services do regular delivery routes to most parts of the country, but living so out of the way none of them come near to us, RawToGo are slightly more expensive for products and postage, but they offer delivery to your door on pretty much any day of the week and can work at very short notice. They are also very knowledgeable and very happy to give help and advice if you have any problems.

If you are planning on feeding the more natural way – whole meat and bones – then it’s worth checking out other resources. If you have a good relationship with your local butcher, you may well find he’s happy to sell you his end of day trimmings and waste at a greatly discounted price, or even for free! You may have to sift through it and remove anything unsuitable, but it’s well worth the saving! Another route if you live in a rural area is to contact local farmers or gamekeepers, and see if you can buy off them game or animals that they have shot, if they have spare (often pigeon shooters kill far more birds than they have space for!) it’s more time and hassle to feed this way, but your dog will love you for it and it can be quite satisfying knowing how much money you are saving!!

**If at any point during your dogs life you have any questions or queries regarding his diet or what is/isn’t suitable to feed him, no matter how trivial it may seem, please contact us and we will be very happy to help ☺**

**Suppliers and Resources**

**Suppliers**

* RawToGo – supplied by DAF Animal feeds. Offer a tailored delivery service to your door. Good quality food and customer care.

www.rawtogo.co.uk or call 01873 268086

* DAF Animal Feeds – major supplier to many smaller raw food suppliers. Produce the meat themselves, so are the cheapest to buy from, but same quality. They operate regular delivery routes to most of the UK, must be booked in advance.

www. daf-petfood.co.uk/4-daf-frozen-dog-foods

* Raw2Paw – supplied by DAF Animals feeds and a range of other suppliers. Very good selection of products. They offer both a delivery route service, or a courier service like RawToGo.

www.raw2paw.co.uk/ or call 01934 419662

**Resources**

* Interesting reading on what is in commercial pet food…

<http://www.homevet.com/index.php/diet-discussion/item/315-an-excerpt-from-the-book-food-pets-die-for>

* Raw Feeding Myths – if you have any concerns about the Prey Model Raw (PMR) diet, this is worth reading.

<http://rawfed.com/myths/>

* A good resource for PMR feeders – with success stories, FAQ’s and Forum threads

[www.preymodelraw.com/](http://www.preymodelraw.com/)

Once again however, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call or email us. We take our duties as responsible breeders very seriously and offer lifetime help and advice if it’s required. This is not just for diet questions, but anything that you may need help or advice about.