

*“Let food be thy
medicine and
medicine be thy food”*

— Hippocrates

The use of a raw diet for your pet has been recommended. Using such a diet has a great number of health benefits for your pet but it also comes with some risk when handling such as bacterial or toxoplasmosis infections. This brochure will give you instructions on how to properly handle raw food properly, how to avoid contaminations, what signs to watch out for with your pet, and medical requirements for your pet. Please be sure to read all the information and ask any questions that you might have.



BOWMAN
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How to properly handle raw food:

- Wash your hands well with warm water and soap prior to food preparation.
- Use utensils and a cutting board expressly used for the preparation of the pet's food.
- Wash surface areas, utensils and cutting board in hot water and soap following use.
- Wash your hands well with warm water and soap after prep.
- DO NOT place raw food or your hands in your mouth or eyes without properly washing hands first.
- Once the pet is finished eating, clean the bowl or plate with hot water and soap.
- If the pet has a tendency to get food on its muzzle or around the feeding area, clean this up as well. Again, wash your hands well if you come in contact with the raw food during the clean up

How to avoid contamination of foods:

- As a rule of thumb...if you think the food looks or smells bad, toss it out. The food should look fresh.
- Thaw food ONLY in the refrigerator. Do this by placing the food (still in bag) in a bowl or on a plate on the lowest shelf in the refrigerator, away from other foods as much as possible.

- Never leave the pet's food out. Let the pet eat all it wants and then pick it up immediately. Do not allow your pet to free feed throughout the day.
- Food can be kept in the refrigerator in a sealed container for approximately 3 to 4 days. This is dependent on the temperature of your refrigerator.
- Immediately freeze raw foods not currently being used. Double bag and place away from other foods in the freezer if possible.



Medical requirements for your pet:

- We do recommend that your pet have **blood work done 6 months following the start of a raw diet.**
- A particular diet that is recommended for your one pet may not be suitable for your other pets. If you would like to feed the recommended diet to all pets in the household, please consult your veterinarian first.
- Raw diets, like all other diets, are not a complete diet. Because of this, we will recommend certain supplements to round out the diet. It is essential that your pet take these supplements.
- Specific ratios and amounts will be given to you so that you know how much to feed your pet. It is important that you follow these instructions.

- We recommend that during the process of getting your pet onto a raw diet, that you bring your pet in periodically (every couple of weeks) just to have their weight checked. Many pets will lose weight and we want to monitor this.
- If soup bones are recommended, use large enough bones that the pet cannot swallow them whole. Also monitor the pet at all times while chewing on the bones to be sure that they do not swallow larger pieces.

Adverse signs or symptoms:

Most pets tolerate a raw diet very well and have no health issues *but* there are the occasional times when the food might cause some adverse reactions or we have a bacterial or toxoplasmosis infection. Here is a list of signs or symptoms to be aware of:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Increased urination
- Bloating
- Lack of appetite
- Changes in behavior

If you notice any of these symptoms, please call us.

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