



WolfTucker Raw Feeding Guide | www.wolftucker.co.uk

Welcome to the WolfTucker Guide to Raw Feeding for Dogs. We have produced this free guide to provide you some background and to dispel some of the myths around the BARF diet and feeding your dog raw food.

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Wolf Tucker Guide to Raw Feeding for Dogs.

We are a family run company based in the UK who cares passionately about the well-being of dogs.

In this guide we hope to provide you with all you need to know about the raw dog food diet (commonly known as BARF which stands for Bones and Raw Feeding or Biologically Appropriate Raw Feeding). We will share with you why we believe this method of feeding your canine companion is the best way to achieve and maintain optimum health and longevity for your dog.



We will explain some facts about canine nutrition and dispel some of the myths you may have heard about a raw food diet for your dog. We will provide information about processed dog food and its connection to common ailments, and we will explain the link between your dog; and its wilder ancestor; the wolf and why this link is important when it comes to canine nutrition.

The objective of this guide is to impart our knowledge and passion for natural raw food feeding to enable you to make an informed decision about the optimum diet for your dog.

2. The Truth about Processed Dog Food

The first question you may be asking yourself is what is wrong with processed dog food, and why might it not be the optimum diet for my dog?

To help answer this question it may be helpful to explore the recent history of processed dog food. You will probably have come across the expression 'as fit as a butchers dog'. This is a commonly used phrase to describe a person (or animal) that is in optimum health. The phrase itself derived from the fact that not too long ago, healthy dogs were fed from the butchers, not the supermarket. It was a well-known fact that a dog fed on butchers scraps would be a very lucky (and well fed) dog indeed.

Before the introduction of commercial pet food, invented by an American gentleman by the name of James Spratt in 1860, dogs ate table scraps salvaged from their human companions or anything they could scavenge or kill. There was no such thing as tinned processed dog food or kibble.

We now know that processed convenience foods are not healthy for humans, so why would we assume the same is not true for our dogs?

As a society in general we have become used to eating convenience foods, and unfortunately we have passed this 'convenience' on to our canine companions. It is much easier to purchase a bag of

kibble that will last a month from the local pet store, especially if we are told that this includes all the nutrition for our dog's needs, rather than have to worry about our dog's nutritional needs at every meal time.

However, health issues that were unheard of years ago are nowadays worryingly common in our canine companions; from obesity to food intolerances, stomach complaints, dental conditions and cancers.

Unfortunately and unquestionably these issues have been on the increase since processed pet foods became the norm.

One of the main reasons that processed pet food is believed to be unbeneficial for a dog, and the hypothesis on which a raw food dog diet is based upon, goes back to how the dog has evolved.

Processed pet foods are unnatural, and certainly not the type of thing your dog would have eaten in the wild. For a start, processed dog food is cooked, and cooking food damages some of the valuable 'live' enzymes found in raw meat and vegetables. These are the very enzymes that your dog needs to be able to digest food properly.

Combine this with the fact that processed foods are full of preservatives and additives, and you come to get a clearer picture of why processed dog food is probably not the best choice of feed to keep your dog in optimum health.

It is not surprising that many of us have considered kibble to be the best food for our dogs. Let's face it; kibble is convenient, easy to store and relatively inexpensive. Furthermore our dogs do eat and appear to enjoy it.

Many of us have also been led to believe that scientifically developed pet food 'brands' are good for our dog because this is what we have been told by the manufacturers advertising claims. However these foods often contain products such as rice, wheat and corn.

This brings us to a very important factor. Dogs are not humans; they have a different anatomical structure and are therefore not designed to eat grains.

Most dry commercial pet foods are at least 50% grain because the carbohydrates are needed to hold the food together. A dog does not need, and certainly cannot properly digest the amount of unnatural carbohydrates found in such feed. This goes a long way to explaining why dogs on a commercial diet have much bigger stools than those fed on a raw diet. It's the first thing people notice when they move to raw; smaller, firmer and less smelly stools due to the high digestibility of the natural food.

Such dry foods can also have a relatively low percentage of good quality ingredients. And certainly not the ratio of meat proteins usually found in a good raw food diet.

And this is where health problems can arise.

It cannot be denied that in modern times the dog's natural diet has been increasingly replaced with highly processed pet foods containing a high level of grain products (as opposed to meats, offal, bones and vegetables).

We are so used to providing our dogs with food out of a tin or packet provided by commercial pet food manufacturers employing clever marketing tools that we have forgotten where our dogs originally came from and how they have evolved.

This poor nutrition combined with improper amounts of exercise (or none at all) are leading to serious health problems for our canine friends.

Nowadays dogs suffer numerous problems which appear to be inextricably linked to their modern day processed diet, and unfortunately these conditions are on the increase. The incidence of obesity, cancers, dental problems and allergies bear testament to this.

More worryingly, there has been a recent trend for product recalls with regard to some pet food feeds and treats, due mainly to toxicity levels and other harmful ingredients.

We would not feed our human family food that we suspect could lead to health problems, so the same ethos must apply to our dogs. As our dog's carers, our dogs rely on us to provide them with love, exercise and correct species appropriate nutrition and diet.

At Wolf Tucker we believe that processed foods are the root cause of many persistent health problems seen today. Fortunately many of these conditions can be quickly resolved by switching to a high quality raw dog food diet.

We believe that an appropriate diet for a dog is one that consists of food groups similar to those eaten by the dogs' wild ancestors i.e., the wolf.

And this is where raw dog food comes into play.

3. Canine Nutrition and the Wolf Within

The key to keeping your dog in optimum health is to give your dog foods that they were originally designed to digest.

To understand what foods a dog is designed to digest we need to take a look at the dog's most wild ancestor; the wolf.

a. The Wolf Within

If you want to provide your dog with optimum nutrition then you need to think wolf. Why? Because the wolf is the wild ancestor of your dog, and as such, they share the same internal anatomy and physiology.

They are from exactly the same family, the wolf's Latin name being "Canis Lupus," and the domestic dog named "Canis Lupus Familiaris." This name classification happened in 1993 due to

overwhelming scientific evidence that the gray wolf species is the common ancestor for all breeds of domesticated dogs.

Dogs, like wolves, have short digestive tracts, made specifically for processing raw meat. If you look at the anatomy and physiology of a dog, you will see that a dog is designed to eat meat. From the short intestines to the powerful jaw bones to the teeth designed for cutting and ripping flesh.

Dogs are opportunistic carnivores. And just like wolves in the wild a typical diet would involve hunting (or finding) and eating another animal.

Dogs are of course natural scavengers, and when hungry will eat almost anything. But make no mistake about it, your dog is essentially a carnivore, this means he is a natural meat eater.

Wolves have survived on the raw meat and the pre-digested foods of their prey for thousands of years. This type of diet is high in protein, easily digestible and provides optimum nutrition and energy.

Just like a wolf, you will also note that a dog's jaw only goes in one direction; up and down, unlike that of an herbivore whose jaw goes from side to side to crush vegetation. As omnivores our jaws can do both. Furthermore dogs and wolves do not produce the digestive enzyme amylase in their saliva which aids the breakdown of carbohydrates. This is another difference between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and a key reason why kibble diets with grains and fillers don't deliver.

For carnivores, the burden of digesting carbohydrates is placed entirely on the pancreas. This is why a dog's diet, just like a wolf's, needs to be full of quickly digestible nutrients. Like those found in raw meat.

Since the beginning of their evolutionary history, dogs and their wild ancestors have thrived on diets based on fresh meaty bones as opposed to grains or cereals.

This is why you would not find a dog grazing in a field for food.

In its natural environment the dog's diet would have been mainly raw, after all nobody cooked the rabbit for the wolf or the chicken for the fox.

This raw meat contained live enzymes, natural anti-oxidants, fully digestible proteins, health promoting essential fatty acids, organic vitamins and minerals, etc. They were definitely not the carbohydrate-filled diets of modern processed dog food of today.

When a carnivore such as a dog or wolf eats an herbivore (for example a rabbit) it generally gets to eat some meat, bone, and organ meats. The carnivore will also digest a small amount of green vegetation found in the herbivore's digestive tract. It is these components that make up a good raw dog food diet. The vitamins and minerals in these food groups occur naturally.

Therefore mimicking what a wolf would eat in the wild is key to maintaining your dog's health in a domestic environment.

Just because your domesticated dog appears to be far removed from a wolf in its appearance and behaviour; don't be fooled – it is not. Domestic dogs of today are not only capable of eating the food of their wild ancestors, but actually thrive on it. This is because despite domestication, their basic physiology has changed very little. This is a key target point for the processed dog food manufacturers. They spend increasing amounts of money searching for ways to debunk the trend and leak out, paid for studies, to show why it is not a good idea to feed raw. The only problem they have is the overwhelming evidence from raw dog food feeders across the globe that will never go back to processed foods. Of course, the one argument they will never win and the principle behind all raw feeding is that of nature and evolution – Wolves are apex predators for a reason.

What could make more sense than to feed a dog a diet which is species appropriate; the diet which its ancestors have thrived upon for thousands of years; the diet that has the highest likelihood of enjoying a long and healthy life because it is eating what it was designed to eat?

Remember; dogs and wolves actually struggle to digest grains and despite marketing literature which tells you otherwise, dogs do not require large amounts of carbohydrates.

Furthermore their protein is derived from the muscle meat of other animals as opposed to protein sources such as grains and vegetable.

Unfortunately, despite owners' best intentions, many domesticated dogs are denied their natural diet. Instead they are fed processed foods which are often unchanging from day to day and most probably do not provide them with adequate nutrition.

4. Raw Food Diet - Dispelling the Myths

One has to consider that if raw dog food was dangerous, dogs would have become extinct many years ago. As we have previously mentioned, processed dog food is a relatively modern invention, **dogs have been eating raw for nearly 15, 000 years** since they were first domesticated!

There are a few misconceptions around the issue of the raw food dog diet which we hope to dispel here as follows:

a. Bacteria.

An argument against the raw dog food diet is that feeding a dog raw meat can lead to bacterial infections. Bacteria are still present on the meat, and just as worrying it could be passed on to humans through poor meat preparation, or via the faeces of the dog. Some people are concerned that a dog's saliva could pass on these bacteria. We therefore cook meat because we think it renders it safe for our dogs.

Of course when preparing raw meat one should take the usual precautions that you would when feeding a member of your family, by cleaning the counter, using a clean knife and washing your hands etc. We have written some useful reminders around handling of raw dog food on our website [here](#). As for bacteria being passed on through faecal matter, then again, the normal precautions of hygiene would apply.

We need to bear in mind that dogs are natural scavengers so are very well-equipped to deal with bacteria. In any event, they are able to deal with the low level of contamination which may be present in fresh uncooked meat. Their saliva has strong antibacterial properties; and their short digestive tract and powerful digestive juices are designed to eliminate food and 'kill' bacteria quickly. The balanced nature of WolfTucker dog food also helps to maintain your dog's immune system in tip top condition.

Suggest you type "Dog food recall" into Google or [check out this site](#) to get an accurate picture of the health scares around dog food.

Don't forget that dogs have been roaming the wild for years eating a variety of rotten carcasses, fruit, fresh game, grasses and herbs. They even eat herbivore faeces; try keeping your dog away from horse droppings!

The anti-bacterial juices in their mouth and stomach are highly effective and mean they can eat things which a human cannot.

Unfortunately it is more likely that processed foods will make your dog ill.

b. The Carnivore/Omnivore debate.

Some people think dogs are omnivores, meaning they are designed to eat both vegetation and meat. It is true that dogs do and can eat vegetation, because they are opportunists, we have a [video of wolves eating berries on our site](#), but they are anatomically carnivores. They belong to the Carnivora order and therefore in their wild state they are basically flesh eaters with powerful digestive juices.

You only need to look at the anatomy and physiology of a dog, to see that a dog is designed to eat meat. From the short intestines to the powerful jaw bones to the teeth designed for cutting and ripping flesh.

Dogs are opportunistic carnivores with omnivorous abilities. However, their entire anatomy and physiology has been designed for a meat eating diet.

This of course does not mean that they thrive on meat alone, and dogs have proven that they can survive on human dinner scraps and certain vegetation during times of hunger. However to optimise their health we need to recognise that they are first and foremost carnivores with omnivorous abilities.

The raw dog food diet recognises this and the WolfTucker meals follow this principle.

c. Bones

What about bones? Despite what you may have heard, dogs do need raw meaty bones. Notice the word 'raw'. Cooking bones makes them brittle and therefore, more likely to splinter and this is why cooked bones are an issue. **Do not feed your dog cooked bones.**

Dogs and their wild ancestors have been eating raw meaty bones for a very long time with no ill effect. You can see by their teeth that canines are purpose built to eat bones. Just as I am editing this for pdf, I am witnessing 16-year old Labrador devour an entire bone.

Chewing on a bone is a very stimulating activity for a dog which also releases endorphins which promote a feeling of well-being.

Perhaps the best thing about bone chewing is that it prevents tartar build up; bones act as a natural tooth brush for a dog.

Don't be fooled into thinking that dental problems for dogs are not as serious as other ailments, bad dental health left untreated can lead to the death of your dog. So it is important that uncooked ones are provided as an addition to any raw food diet. Bones have a vital part to play in the dental health of our canine companions.

5. Don't argue with nature - Why BARF is best

BARF is all about feeding your dog the way nature intended. WolfTucker raw meals take ingredients from nature's table (and nowhere else). At the end of the day; nature and evolution is indisputable; it is the way it is meant to be and BARF feeding is simplicity itself.

If you want to feed your dog a BARF diet, it essentially means you cannot feed your dog any cooked or processed food.

An important distinction in the BARF diet from other raw dog food diets is that it does not duplicate but mimics the evolutionary diet of dogs. This means that BARF feeders do not have to send their dogs out to hunt or kill their prey, but can obtain ingredients from the local store if need be.

In the wild, dogs do not have access to veterinary care and are subject to other dangers such as starvation and natural predators; the BARF diet recognises this. This is why the BARF diet does not duplicate, but mimics its wild counterpart's diet.

BARF allows your dog to be fed a variety of human grade raw meat and bones, fruits and vegetables and supplements with the objective being that your dog will receive a balanced diet.

In the wild dogs eat meat, bones, skin, organs, stomach contents, and an array of other parts. They may feed on fruits, berries, herbs and grasses. Hence the most common BARF diet consists primarily of raw, meaty bones as well as a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, muscle meat and organ meats.

The goal is not to create a well-balanced meal each day, but to create a balanced diet over a period of time. We often give our dogs' eggs or some natural yoghurt as a treat.

a. Benefits

Just some of the physical benefits of a raw dog food diet can be as follows:

- Better weight control
- Improved digestion
- Shinier, healthier skin and coat
- Reduction of allergy symptoms

- Smaller, firmer, consistent and less smelly stools
- Increased mobility in older animals
- More energy and stamina
- Strengthened immune system
- Improved liver, pancreatic and bowel health
- Cleaner teeth and fresh breath
- Savings due to less trips to the vet

b. Behavioural issues

Aggression and behavioural issues can also be linked to poor diet, so switching your dog to a BARF diet could substantially improve any behavioural issues. Some common behavioural problems which may be linked to poor diet are as follows:

Chewing – could your dog be trying out items to see if they supply nutrients that are missing from the feed?

Excessive digging in the garden – again, what is your dog looking for? Is he looking for nutrients in the soil?

Food theft – is your dog hungry, is he or she lacking in nutrients from their own food supply?

Jumping up - In the canine world, jumping up can induce vomiting/regurgitation of food. What is your dog trying to tell you?

Hyperactivity – it is well known that a diet full of chemicals, flavourings, additives and colourings can lead to an increase in negative energy in a dog.

I am sure you can find other examples of behaviour in your own dog which might be linked to a poor diet.

c. Dogs with ailments and chronic conditions

We have previously mentioned that fresh, natural, raw dog food can significantly improve your dog's health and wellbeing. But, not only this, it can also be of benefit to dogs that are suffering from ailments and certain chronic conditions. We are very proud to have seen some dramatic improvements in the health of some dogs when fed WolfTucker.

The BARF diet has been shown to assist with the following:

- Obesity
- Periodontal diseases such as gingivitis
- Degenerative diseases
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Colitis
- Reproductive health
- Arthritic conditions
- Skin allergies
- Ear infections
- Diabetes

6. Feeding BARF “The Wolf Tucker way”

We appreciate that in our fast paced modern lives, we do not always have the time to prepare a balanced raw food meal plan for our dogs, and that’s where Wolf Tucker comes into play.

We have done all the hard work for you.

We have devised a range of healthy raw balanced prepared meals as well as meaty bones and treats for your dog’s culinary delight.

We only work with the highest quality ingredients which we eat ourselves; there are no short cuts when it comes to providing the best food for your dog.

The food is made in small batches to maintain the quality in every single one.

We cater for all ages and types of dog.

All our meals contain omega 3 and 6 oils in the form of flax seed oil. This oil promotes good organ function and can also help with inflammatory conditions from itchy skin to arthritis.

The properties of flax oil are generally considered as excellent, as are polyunsaturated omega oils, which have been shown to decrease the risk of cholesterol, heart attack and stroke, slow accumulation of plaque build-up in the arteries and lower blood pressure.

Flax oil is also well known to be good for brain function.

a. Our Menu

You can choose from a range of nutritious meals for your Adult dog under the Canis Brand as follows:

- [Adult Beef and Tripe](#)
- [Adult Beef](#)
- [Adult Chicken and Tripe](#)
- [Adult Chicken](#)
- [Adult Chicken Primal](#)

And for the new addition to your family we have a range of puppy meals under the Nurture Brand as follows:

- [Puppy Beef and Tripe](#)
- [Puppy Beef](#)
- [Puppy Chicken & Tripe](#)
- [Puppy Chicken](#)

For Breeders, as well as having some great offers ([please contact us](#)) we offer some excellent weaning products:

[Puppy Weaning Food Beef](#)

[Puppy Weaning Food Chicken](#)

[Bones](#)

The Wolf Tucker Bone Yard contains juicy tasty bones and treats ranging from marrow bone to ox feet.

b. Suggested feeding guidelines

Feeding guidelines for specific meals are contained on the product pages for each meal. We also have a feeding guide available for further detail. If you have any questions, please do contact us and we will be only too happy to advise.

7. Further reading

For further reading on the raw dog food diet we can suggest the following books:

Give Your Dog a Bone – Dr Ian Billinghurst

Grow Your Pups with Bones - Dr Ian Billinghurst

The BARF Diet - Dr Ian Billinghurst

Raw Dog Food: Making It Work for You and Your Dog – Carina B Macdonald

Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health – Tom Lonsdale.

Dr Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs and Cats – Richard H Pitcairn DVM, PhD and Susan Hubble Pitcairn.

Natural Nutrition for Dogs & Cats: The Ultimate Diet - Kymythy Schultze

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