

Why Raw Meat or Orijen Instead of Biscuits?

Plain and simple, dogs are carnivorous. This is not a debatable fact. Dogs have been classified scientifically as carnivores. To learn about the choice between raw and biscuits we have to look at dog food digestion. To understand that we first have to look at the Timber Wolf, also known as the Grey Wolf. Dogs share 99.8% of their DNA with the Timber Wolf and, as such, their digestive system is nearly identical. Many people believe that dogs are omnivores since they eat both plant- and meat-based foods. However, dogs are actually classified as carnivores. Carnivores are also known as meat-eaters. This term describes animals who have a diet consisting mainly of meat, whether through predation or scavenging, which includes dogs.

How do we know this:

- **DNA:**

It has been proven scientifically that your dog is a very close relation to its wild ancestor the Timber/Grey Wolf. So closely in-fact 3 breeds today can still mate with wolves.

- **Teeth:**

Carnivore teeth, including dog teeth, are sharp and pointed as they are designed to slice through and penetrate tough raw meat. Teeth are also elongated which makes catching and killing prey much easier. By comparison, herbivores have teeth designed for grinding plant matter.

- **Jaws:**

The jaws of a carnivore move vertically in a chomping motion. This allows a dog to slice through meat. Dogs also have the ability to open their mouths and throats widely which enables them to swallow large chunks of meat and fat rapidly.

- **Saliva:**

The saliva of a carnivore contains no Amylase which is an enzyme that breaks down starch (carbohydrates) into sugars. Only the pancreas produces Amylase which makes a high carbohydrate diet a poor choice for carnivores, including dogs, as it puts extra strain on the digestive system. Unfortunately, many dog food brands are high in carbohydrates. You also may have noticed that your dog doesn't chew his or her food as much as you'd expect. That's because carnivores don't need to mix food with saliva for proper digestion like herbivores and omnivores do. Carnivores simply bite off the largest amount of meat or fat they possibly can and swallow it whole. Many commercially-produced biscuits contain corn and other grains and plant matter such as fruits and vegetables which sound great, but in reality, do not provide dogs with enough animal protein for optimum nutrition. It always looks nice to see fruits and vegetables on a bag of dog food but this should never be a major focus for any food you feed to your dog.

So what does your dog really need for appropriate dog food digestion?

Protein is the essential ingredient that leads to healthy dog food digestion. Proteins help with essential body functions including cellular regeneration, tissue maintenance, hormone and enzyme production, muscle growth and it provides sustained energy.

With this in mind, not all proteins are created equal. Factors affecting the quality of proteins include the source and the digestibility of proteins for a dog.

Meat-based proteins, also called animal proteins, have an amino acid profile that is considered to be a **complete** protein for dogs. On the flip side, plant proteins are considered to be **incomplete** as the amino acid profile does not fulfil the daily requirements a dog needs for optimal health. So not only are proteins important, but the proteins you feed your dog should largely be animal-based instead of plant-based. Whilst we are talking about digestion you will instantly see the difference in what the dog passes out, it will be much smaller, harder and a lot less smelly. Why? They can digest it. Imagine never having to pick it up again? If you do it is easy.

Therefore, if we wish to feed our dogs a food they would choose we need to consider carefully the sources of the ingredients. A dog will survive on most if not all commercial diets however we want your dog to thrive not just survive.

Nature provides its species a diet they would thrive on, so as owners we should aim to do the same, if possible. We appreciate not everyone is able to do so, hence we stock other foods at KURI, they too come

close to nature. However if we are advising you on the choices between raw and biscuits then don't be surprised when we tell you to feed them raw, because nature intended them to eat it. How do we know? Well if you see your dog cook its food tell us.

If you want to test this information on your dog please drop a large steak in a bowl and the food you are feeding them now in the other. Let them decide. I am sure they will make the right choice.

Just a few more points that people ask us all the time:

- **Mixing:** Can I mix biscuits and raw food? Our answer would be no. Dogs are designed to eat raw, mixing both can upset their digestive system. So please keep to one or the other.
- **How much do you feed:** It depends on the dogs activity levels and its age, a general idea is between 1% to 3% of their body weight, so a 10kg dog would consume between 100g and 300g a day. Puppies between 2% and 3% per feed, so a 10kg pup would eat 200g to 300g per feed.
- **Do young puppies need anything else:** Nature provides 2 foods from birth to death, milk and solids, as soon as your pup stops drinking milk it can eat raw. A mum would regurgitate the food for 4 weeks, for breeders we recommend adding 10% warm water at body temp. It is that simple.
- **How do I change to raw:** Overnight, dogs are designed to eat a raw diet. However we would suggest starting them on tripe first, it is nature's probiotic.
- **Will it cure allergies:** Nothing in life is 100% certain. We can say it will do no harm, and should go a long way to alleviating if not entirely stopping them, depending on what they are allergic too.
- **Will my dog lose weight:** We have a simple rule with feeding a raw diet, if they gain weight feed them less, if they lose weight feed them more.
- **How do I keep a dogs teeth clean:** The sad fact of life on biscuits is over 85% of dogs over 2 years of age have periodontal disease. Feed raw meaty bones, they are nature's tooth brushes. Never cooked only raw. Nature doesn't feed cooked bones, it knows cooking makes them brittle.
- **What difference will it make:** Your dog wont smell, no bad breath, firmer stools, they drink less water as the food already contains it (blood), you will see greater muscle definition, more agile, shiny and softer coats, tear staining disappears, wet noses, happier dogs. Often much less health problems.
- **Picky fussy dogs:** There is no such thing, they are just looking for a food they know they like eating.
- **My dog grazes on its food:** That is because it is a food that they consider is not worth eating, change it for a steak, see if it grazes on that.
- **Is it expensive:** No, its extremely cost effective in comparison to the major dog food brands, it will in most cases save you money by switching to raw food.
- **What flavours should I feed:** Any, however if your dog has suffered from allergies in the past we would keep them off the beef varieties until the allergies have gone. We would always suggest starting your dog off on the green tripe. Green tripe is nature's pro-biotic, it helps settle the dogs gut, by repopulating it with good bacteria. Variety is the key to any diet, we suggest you give your dog lots of different meat sources, for example lamb, chicken, rabbit, hare, wallaby, salmon, beef and venison.
- **Can I feed it frozen:** Yes, especially in the summer, in the winter please defrost. For pups make it room temp.
- **Can I feed Bones:** You must feed bones, they are nature's toothbrushes. Please make sure they are **RAW** bones and size appropriate. If you feed cooked bones you will harm your dog. Cooking makes bones brittle, they splinter and could rupture the dogs abdomen. We ask you a few questions to settle your concerns. Have you ever seen a cat die eating a bird? Or a fox die eating a chicken? No, because the food is not cooked. Size matters, so large dogs could choke on smaller bones they can swallow whole. I don't mean chicken bones, as the bones are tiny or fish, both are fine for all dogs. I mean knuckle bones for example that could be swallowed in one go. More dogs choke everyday on tennis balls, socks and other small objects. But we say use common sense and don't leave them alone with bones that they could swallow whole.
- **Will I notice any changes if I swap to raw:** Yes, lots of positive ones too. Much smaller stools which are firm and much less smelly, fantastic for those tasked with the collection duties. Dogs drink much less water as the food rehydrates them naturally, therefore they are more hydrated. Older dogs appear to become younger, no smelly breath, no dog smell, shining coats, muscle growth and calmer dogs all-round. Skin allergies can settle down and in most cases disappear, along with ear infections, tear staining and anal gland problems too. Why? Because nature wouldn't do that to its dogs. For some reason humans think that we can beat or replicate nature by using science, in my view we are still striving to understand nature, and have an extremely long way to go.

- **Is there enough calcium in raw meat to grow my dogs bones?**

Science continues to research this question, hence now know that the calcium to phosphorus ratio that is often quoted is no longer current or relevant when it comes to bone growth. A study conducted by scientist here in NZ over the last 5 years conclusively proved calcium intake has no effect whatsoever on the growth of bone. The study earned the NZ scientists world wide recognition. In fact too much calcium is detrimental to your health, as these following articles will show you. (please read them all)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/351/bmj.h4580>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24114400>

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/289423/myth-breaking-bone-scientists-take-top-prize>

So if you hear that the Calcium to Phosphorus ratio is an issue with raw food it is incorrect, misleading and just perpetuating a myth that has been spread for decades as we thought calcium was required for bone growth when in fact it is Phosphate.

Phosphate grows bone as per this article:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3461213/>

It is nice to know Phosphate is found in most foods but the following are in the top 10. Salmon, Beef or veal, all meats, nuts and shellfish. Of course these are the ingredients in the diets we stock at KURI.

- **Do I have to feed raw frozen to give my dog the best food:** Fortunately at KURI we have an alternative food called Orijen. The company uses completely different methods than most of the commercial cooked biscuits manufacturers around the globe. Orijen ranges from 80% meat based protein and 20% veg to 60% meat and 40% veg. They are the only company that steams its food! Both steaming and freezing lose 5% of the nutriment content. Compared to 100% loss at the temps manufacturers cook kibble at over 400C. Check out their website here : <http://www.orijen.ca/why-orijen/>

At KURI we firmly believe that we should only stock foods that are biologically appropriate for your dog, hence we have a very limited choice but we believe its an informed choice and the best option for your best friends.

Please look at these links for further information about feeding your dog a raw diet:

<http://www.rawessentials.co.nz/site/webpages/general/processed-vs-raw-food>

<http://www.rawmeatybones.com>

<http://www.barfaustralia.com>

Any further questions please don't hesitate to contact any member of staff.

If you want any further articles on raw feeding please contact us and we will be happy to send these out.