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This use of high levels of carbohydrates is also putting excess pressure on the organ systems, in particular the pancreatic system. In order for the pet to process the carbohydrates into energy it must convert them to sugars (sucrose, etc.) then to fat, then to energy. This raises the blood sugar levels to, and beyond, the required limits, forcing the pancreatic system to overreact. This daily dose of hyperglycemia followed by hypoglycemia causes several pancreatic related maladies including diabetes.

In conclusion, it would appear that if we want to mitigate those trips to the vet, and the expensive therapies they might involve, we should start feeding what the pet was designed/evolved to eat – mostly raw meaty bone material mixed with various vegetable matter and little grain. We did our homework and came to this decision and we believe all those who analyze their pets, will do the same. We encourage all pet owners to take control of the companion's diet just as you would your own. All of us would survive on macaroni and cheese with cola to drink, but we doubt we would look or feel our best.

Why Feed a Raw Diet?



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WHY FEED A RAW DIET?

The diet our pets (dogs and cats) have to come to expect out of the bag was developed through a series of historical events. These events have little or nothing to do with nutrition, but more to do with marketing and customer demand. Without going into too much detail, the broad brush explanation is that with the industrialization of the food industry from the 1850's forward the normal raw meaty diet of our pets was put further and further out of reach for the pet owner. This precipitated both a demand by the pet owner and a waste handling problem for the processors. The solution? Package the waste from the processors into pet food and sell to the demand. The problem was one of preservation of the product without refrigeration – a canned cooked product was born. As the product gained acceptance, new, cheaper sources for protein were required and refuse from the grain industry seemed the practical solution. The evolution of driving cost out of the process and deliver, while maintaining a cheap source of pet food for the needs of a growing middleclass, brought us to the extruded briquette we call “kibble”.

Once the product became a marketable item, the diets started to be analyzed for quality and were found lacking in many areas, taurine deficiency in cat food, for instance. So the solution decided upon was not improving the source of the diet, but rather to chemically alter the product to reflect the dietary requirements of the pet. This was then deemed a “balanced diet”.



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This whole notion is fraught with problems. Not the least of which is the inability of the pet to control the intake of these minerals and vitamins – in particular, calcium. Ian Billingham DVM believes is contributing to the high rates of hip dysplasia and arthritis in pets. It also means that with ability to alter the chemical make up of these carbohydrate based energy forms more are used in the food for pets which are essentially carnivores. The use of high levels of carbohydrates upsets the systems the pet has evolved for digestion.

It is well known that pets fed high carbohydrate diets will have their digestive system shift from an acidic base to an alkaline base. This shift could allow the growth of bacterial parasites and yeast in the pet's digestive system not normally seen or able to defend against.

According to Tom Lonsdale DVM, the whole canine/feline dentistry profession owes its livelihood to the pet food industry. The problems of periodontal disease and plaque build up have far reaching effects, beyond the teeth and gum areas. The immune system's preoccupation with fighting the bacteria causing plaque takes resources away from other infectious areas. Once the gum area becomes infected the process of healing causes collagenases to be produced. These enzymes dissolve the gums so they bleed and the blood can deliver the bacteria fighting white blood cells. The problem is that prolonged use of this process by the animal allows these collagenases to become blood born as well, and they will start to dissolve collagen based organs in other areas of the body, such as the skin, heart valves, stomach linings, etc, all of which have become perennial problems for pets.