

A guide to Feeding a species appropriate raw diet to canines (dogs) **ie : (BARF 'biologically appropriate raw food')**

Hi , to start your dog on raw you can do a straight switch from whatever your currently feeding. You will need to start on green tripe for around a week then on the second week introduce chicken at a ratio of 50/50 (tripe/chicken) for adult dogs and for pups 75% tripe to 25% chicken . Don't feed any other proteins or anything else like treats , biscuits etc during this stage as the flora bacteria in your dog's digestive tract will be developing to handle raw meat and bone and if something does cause them an upset tummy you want to be able to single out what it is. If they do get an upset tummy keep some tinned pumpkin in the cupboard at the ready which is great for settling diarrhoea and if that doesn't work you will need something called prokolin which will work. However you probably won't need these as tripe is a good natural probiotic . A dog is highly more likely to get the runs on kibble or tinned foods. You will notice your dogs stools on the tripe will be wetter and black in appearance this is normal. If a little to wet after a few days then introduce the chicken in to his diet and the bone content will firm the stools up. If stools are white and chalky that's too much bone, so add more meat (tripe is classed as meat) , if too wet it indicates too much meat and/or offal so add more bone. You need to slowly build up the amount of offal and bone in his meals as initially dogs can not tolerate much bone or offal, as too much bone can cause constipation and too much offal can cause the runs. After 2 weeks of being on chicken and tripe if he is settled and doing well you can then one week at a time introduce new proteins. Variety is the key to a balanced species appropriate raw diet and ideally in the long run you need to aim for around 5 different proteins (ie lamb, beef, chicken etc). Obviously for some dogs this is easy as they'll eat anything but others may have intolerances, allergies or not just like the taste of certain meats. So that's why it's advised to try one protein at a time so you can easily rule out anything they don't get on with. After a few weeks you may want to feed bone pieces, which is fine but always supervise when doing so . Ideally feed pieces that are bigger than the dog's mouth so they have to gnaw and not try to just gulp the whole thing down in one go. If feeding smaller pieces like wings or necks hold the end and encourage him to gnaw. Worth also mentioning it's not ever advisable to feed kibble along side a raw diet as this will alter the ph of the gut , raising it which means he will not be able to properly break down bone in the gut putting him at higher risk of blockages . Also the higher ph doesn't handle bacteria very well, which can cause bacteria build up resulting in diarrhea and sickness etc. So raw equals a ph of 1 to 2, and kibble 3 to 4 . In the long term your dog's overall diets should consist roughly of 80% meat, 10% bone and 10% offal (5% liver, 5% other offal). Though within the first weeks of feeding raw you do not have to worry about that ratio.

And in the long term you need to feed nose to tail all the different parts of an animal, ie, liver heart, feet etc. Once settled on chicken and tripe it's easiest to feed completes which have the 80-10-5-5 ratio in them and then if you wish you can feed 'diy' which means working out the ratios yourself over the course of a week .

Cost wise it all depends on which proteins you feed . Typically its slightly cheaper to diy than feeding completes , but completes are more convenient as all the works been done for you.

For feeding amounts for dogs and puppies please refer to link on website.
<http://www.rawk9foods.co.uk/raw-feeding-pups>