# Canine Nutrition Fact Sheet 3

# Raw Feeding

Opinion is definitely divided on this one! If you talk to a raw feeder they will greet you with open arms and talk enthusiastically about the health and behavioural benefits of feeding a raw diet.

However if you talk to popular dog food manufacturers, some long standing breeders and some Vets you can be very firmly warned off ever feeding a raw diet!

They believe that by feeding raw diets you, your family and your dogs are at risk from contamination. These arguments have been countered by the raw food manufactures as false and state that providing you store, thaw, handle and feed raw diets correctly raw dog foods pose no greater risk of contamination than those from your own raw meat products purchased from a supermarket.

It is true that when it comes to diets there is not a ‘one size fits all’ scenario. However, the fact that more people are now demanding to know what actually goes in to the food they are feeding their furry family members is C:\Users\Home\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ECMC9B0N\1024px-Musical_note_nicu_bucule_01.svg[1].pngmusicC:\Users\Home\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\ECMC9B0N\1024px-Musical_note_nicu_bucule_01.svg[1].pngto our ears!!

### What are the facts?

*“Raw feeding is the practice of feeding domestic dogs, cats and other carnivores a diet primarily of uncooked meat, edible bones, and organs”.*

*Typically two main principles of raw feeding can be followed.*

1. A diet consisting of a mix of not only meat and organs but also fruits, vegetables and supplements such as fish oil, coconut oil, digestive enzymes and bone.
2. A diet which works on the principal that dogs are purely carnivorous and do not need fruit and veg.

When considering a raw diet the whole prospect can look daunting! Historically, before raw food became a popular choice of feeding, you had to source raw meat in the form of chickens, cuts of meat and organs from the butchers to make up your own balanced diet ……… Who has time to do that these days?

Raw feeding nowadays is easy. Most raw foods comes conveniently ready prepared and frozen so that you literally defrost the amount to be fed, put it in your dog’s bowl and away you go. You don’t even have to touch the meat if you don’t want to!

Raw feeders often report health benefits of a shiny coat, healthy skin, cleaner teeth, small stool quantities, better weight control and reduced behavioural issues.

A raw diet can be particularly useful for food related allergies, skin conditions, anal gland problems, arthritis, dental health, obesity and with your Veterinary Surgeons guidance can help in the management of disease conditions such as diabetes, pancreatic disease, epilepsy, urinary problems, cognitive dysfunction and hormonal imbalances.

### But what if raw feeding is not for you?

At Hillview we believe that feeding an appropriate diet for your dog and your circumstances is the biggest consideration after socialising, habituating and training your dog. We understand that feeding your dog is your choice so we offer a variety of well researched, good quality, value for money foods.

The Natures Menu food we offer is available in different preparations to cater for every taste, size of dog and accommodate even the fussiest eaters! Grain free, gluten free with no added preservatives, colorants or additives.

For the raw feeders: complete frozen blocks, frozen nuggets and to compliment those diets a natural mixer.

For those who would rather not feed a raw diet but still wish to offer their pet premium quality wet food, a range of Natures Menu **Pouches and Cans**  provides all the goodness of raw, lightly cooked and sealed for freshness. Also popular with raw feeders for convenience when travelling or away on holiday.

If you are thinking of making the change to raw feeding or would like to know more about the range of foods on offer then please get in touch.

Both Lisa and Tracy have many years’ experience providing advice about feeding dogs for health and wellbeing. They are qualified as raw feeding experts and are able to offer professional, unbiased advice on all aspects of feeding whether it is raw, tinned, pouched, ambient or dry – in fact however it is prepared!

Please check back regularly for updates. New foods are being introduced to the market almost daily; however we are particularly excited about a new food which is due to be launched in the next couple of months which will offer a ‘raw’ food in a dry form! Remember to like our facebook page so you will be the first to hear about it!