

# You aren't feeding a raw diet correctly!

If you have been feeding raw for any length of time you have most likely heard “You aren't feeding a raw diet correctly!”

Guess what? You aren't, “they” aren't, and neither am I. We aren't right, but we're not wrong either.

There is no perfect way to feed your pets a raw diet. I can find an article from a vet or pet nutritionist that supports every single way you, “they” or I am feeding. I can also find an article from a vet or pet nutritionist that tells me you, “they” and I are feeding all wrong too.

There's no magical formula to feeding raw. What you eat in a day would most likely not work nutritionally for someone else so why would what someone else feeds their dog work for yours?

All of my dogs are fed differently depending on their needs at the time. If their coat is dry I may add more salmon. If their stool is a little too solid I may reduce the amount of bone in their meat or decrease the number of raw meaty bones I give them or add some pumpkin or a variety of other things. If we've hiked a lot I may increase their portion size or give them a food with a higher fat content or both. If they've just had surgery and haven't eaten for a bit I will definitely increase their portion size and definitely add more tripe and kefir (if they've had surgery they are on antibiotics and antibiotics kill ALL biotics so you'll need to add the PRObiotics back into their gut). They sometimes get snacks like baby carrots, green beans, etc. They always help me clean out the refrigerator so this may include cottage cheese, leftover veggies, boiled eggs, etc. They NEVER get organ meat every day. I limit organ meat like I do the salmon just once or twice a week or in very miniscule amounts like what is in the BRB Complete or Puppy Mix.

My 9 year old pit/dane mix has the least balanced diet of any dog I know. She is allergic to A LOT, including beef, chickpeas, almonds, wheat and I could go on and on. She cannot take any multivitamin supplements because they all contain at least one ingredient she is allergic to. Before I had her tested for allergies she was so miserable she didn't even want to be petted because it made her itch more. She primarily gets venison and duck which are cooling foods, pork and salmon which are considered neutral foods, she tolerates fowl well (turkey, quail, chicken), and even though she is allergic to beef she does not have a reaction to tripe. Questions that I ask myself when feeding her: Does her coat look good? Does she have dry skin? How's her energy level? What does her stool look like? What does her bloodwork say? If all of those questions are answered the way we would like to see them answered, I consider her diet perfect for her. Would that be a perfect diet for another one of my dogs? NO. For example, venison wouldn't be a great choice for my great dane because he needs the extra fat in his diet. I cannot see any instance that I would limit fat for a young dog, they need that for development.

**If you are feeding ANY type of raw or lightly cooked food for your pets, whether it's once a week or every day, you are doing a great job and your pet is healthier for it.** It doesn't have to be difficult and you really don't have to worry so much if you're “doing it right”. If you want recipes for homemade pet food that give exact nutritional values you might want to look into ordering [The Forever Dog: Life](#) coming out June 4<sup>th</sup>.