

The Royal Treatment Veterinary Center

Feeding Your Pet – Explaining the Options

Food selection is ALWAYS BY TRIAL AND ERROR.

There are no reliable proven or effective tests for food allergies. You must simply carefully try foods to see how well your pet responds to the change. How you change the food is also important. Food changes should be done slowly (refer to the diet change handout).

The Corn/Wheat Grain Issue

A major cause of inflammation in the GI tract of carnivores is feeding corn, wheat and other grains, and carbohydrates. It is best to consider diets that have no grains to avoid an inflammatory response.

In large breed puppies decreasing carbs helps them grow more slowly and avoid joint disease. In addition, slim animals are more likely to NOT develop arthritis in the later years than overweight animals. Carnivores require protein and fat rather than carbohydrates to be wildly healthy—it's what their digestive organs have been adapted to digest.

Dry Kibble

Dry food is NOT BETTER FOR THE TEETH. Often it may be worse for the teeth. In order to make each kibble stick together they often use glutens and sticky carbohydrates. These stick to the teeth and create tartar build up.

Raw Diet/Home Cooked

Raw food does not mean simply raw meat. It must be a completely balanced food, prepared with all the minerals and vitamins needed for the animal. There are a number of companies that are making great raw food diets (see our list of recommendations).

Pre-prepared commercial raw foods are carefully processed to avoid contamination; they know you are going to feed it raw. Many animals with chronic allergies, arthritis or gastrointestinal problems can improve immensely on a pre-prepared commercial raw food.

High Pressure Pasteurization (HPP) uses extremely high pressure to destroy disease causing bacteria, but also destroys beneficial bacteria and has been shown to denature some of the available protein in pet food. HPP can only destroy bacteria present in the food and cannot prevent recontamination from some other source.

We recommend feeding non high-pressure pasteurized foods that are carefully processed using other methods and which offer the most readily available protein for a biologically appropriate carnivore diet.

Some animals need more processed food because they are deficient and can't properly digest raw foods. But if treated to balance the deficiency, they then may do well on raw foods.

Pre-prepared vs. homemade—some people prefer to cook for their pets. If you have time and can commit to doing this correctly, it can work well. Refer to Dr. Royal's book "The Royal Treatment: A Natural Approach to Wildly Healthy Pets" for diets and options for ingredients.

Animals with special health risks or specific needs should have a veterinary evaluation based on their medical condition.