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**"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged
by the way its animals are treated" Mahatma Gandhi**

ANOTHER OPINION ON RAW MEAT FEEDING, 2001

By: Stephanie L. Prewitt

I have an opinion about feeding raw meat to domestic pets and my opinion is based on medical research, a formal education in canine development and my forty-year experience in the behavioral sciences. My concern about the practice of raw meat feeding to our canine companions includes both the **physical dangers** and the **adverse psychological effects** that this practice has on our pets. There is an *abundance* of written material readily available to the general public by way of advertising from the raw meat **"dealers"** to promote their expensive product resulting in a *fad-like* response from the easily influenced consumer.

There is very little published information on the unbiased and factual consequences of raw meat feeding except in the form of medical text books, medical journals and formal education provided to veterinary students and graduate DVM's and this information is not usually circulated to the general public. Unfortunately the abundant advertising provided by the raw meat **"dealers"** **includes such claims that raw meat feeding is responsible for curing dozens of ailments.**

This claim alone should be a red flag to the discerning consumer

I have been informed that the surgeons at an emergency animal clinic are refusing to perform elective surgery on, or use blood donations from **raw meat fed dogs** due to the **high risk of contamination towards staff members and other animals** from the pathogens that these raw meat fed dogs harbor.

Health care facilities are refusing the entrance of therapy dogs that are **raw meat fed** because of the **high risk of these dogs carrying and passing on the pathogens that they harbor to their patients with compromised immune systems.** These patients include the young, the elderly, the weak, the sick, and those who are taking medications and or receiving medical procedures and treatments.

Although the raw meat **"dealers"** and their supporters also claim that this practice is the *natural* way to go, I disagree, particularly with puppies, so let's start there.

In the wild the adult members of a wolf/coyote/fox/jackal pack will ingest their kill, let it stay in their stomachs for a while and then regurgitate it to the pups partially pre-digested.

Through evolution they instinctively know that fresh, raw meat is difficult for an infant's undeveloped digestive system to assemble and eating it would leave them vulnerable to

weakness and disease due to the fact that their systems are not yet mature enough to properly digest the raw meat or and cope with the pathogens contained within it.

As the pups mature, they too will chow down on fresh kill, which is *natural* behavior in the wild. The ingestion of raw meat will then *naturally* stimulate the carnivore's bio-chemical fight/flight response, which activates the excitement hormones: adrenaline, cortisol and testosterone. These hormones are the fuel that stimulates the carnivore's prey drive and hunting instinct. This bio-chemistry is necessary in the wild where hunting and killing is their only means of survival.....



but take a moment and think if that is the sort of response that you want to nurture and accelerate in a domestic animal living in a neighborhood filled with other family pets.

If for some reason you are late feeding your dog the raw meat meal you are risking responsibility & liability that your pet will revert to their *natural* instinct to hunt, chase, kill & eat whatever small prey is available. This was the case with one of my clients who had come to me for a consultation regarding what he thought was an inappropriate aggression problem that his dog had towards other animals. His dog had apparently jumped the fence, ran next door, caught, killed and then ate the neighbor's small pet in front of the child who owned it.

As the story unfolded, my client explained that he had been delayed coming home and was therefore late feeding his dog. He then told me:



"I feed my dog the best organic raw meat that money can buy".

As he made this last statement he got it! The dog was conditioned to raw meat feeding.....Dad was late with dinner.....*naturally* the carnivore readily responded to his instincts and was fully prepared with an increased prey drive from raw meat feeding and fully equipped with four-wheel drive to efficiently solve his hunger problem.



Your raw meat fed dog may never do this but is the risk worth it?

Unfortunately the participants of the cruel/inhumane/illegal activity of dog fighting also know about stimulating "*blood lust*" in their fighting dogs through the practice of raw meat feeding and use it with obvious results.

Please be informed that you also put your dog at unnecessary risk for contamination from bacteria, e-coli, lysteria, salmonella, parasites & neospora that are all found in raw meat. These organisms do cause physical discomfort, serious illness and sometimes result in death.

Please be informed that dogs are not immune to being infected or affected by these organisms, as the raw meat "dealers" would lead you to believe.

Please be informed that these pathogens can be passed on to human family members from a pet by way of a dog kiss.

Please be informed that you can greatly reduce the risk by simply COOKING the meat first.



**FREEZING PRESERVES PATHOGENS INDEFINITELY, WHILE
COOKING KILLS PATHOGENS & PARASITES IN MINUTES**

Another Client informed me that they would have to postpone our training sessions because the purebred pup that she was waiting to adopt was born dead along with all his littermates. The autopsy discovered that the unborn pups had all died of a bacterial infection commonly found in raw meat which was potent enough to kill the unborn pups but had only affected the mother with mild bouts of diarrhea! The breeder had apparently started the dog on raw meat feeding prior to conception and of course stopped immediately upon finding out what had killed the pups. The mother dog was medicated with the appropriate antibiotics and her next litter was alive and healthy. 🐕 🐕 🐕 🐕 🐕 🐕 🐕

My motivation for encouraging you not to feed raw meat to your domestic canine is for the health and safety of your dog and your environment. The motivation for the raw meat “dealers” to convince you to use their product *is because they want to sell it to you!*



My advice is that you do your homework *and please:*



read as much on the dangers and risks of raw meat feeding as you have read on the promotional advertising of this potentially damaging product.

To find the name of a veterinarian in your area who will educate you and help you to rehabilitate your dog from the damage done by accidental or intentional ingestion of raw meat, simply make telephone inquiries.

Stay conscious and keep your 👁 eyes, 👂 ears, ❤ heart and 🎓 mind open for the truth that makes the most sense to you as you alone are responsible and liable for the decisions that you make and their consequences on your family pack and it's environment.

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