

Raw Feeding for IBD Cats

Healing Can Happen!



Why Feed a Raw Diet? Scientific Studies & Articles by Vets and Professionals

According to Dr. Karen Becker,

This is one of the most frequent conversations I have with startled visitors to my home who say, 'My gosh! You feed your pets raw meat?' ... as well as clients at my Natural Pet animal clinic who already feed or would like to feed their pets raw, but are getting an argument from their own veterinarians about raw food diets for dogs and cats.

The whole debate about raw food doesn't make a lot of sense to me. Dogs and cats have consumed living, raw meats for thousands of years.

To this day barn cats catch and kill mice, and no one calls poison control. Farmers also don't call poison control when their dog finds a litter of baby bunnies and pops them in their mouth like little Tootsie Rolls. In these cases, no one thinks to induce vomiting or say, 'Oh my gosh! My pet just ate raw meat!'

The truth is both cats and dogs are designed specifically to consume raw meat. Their bodies are adapted to process raw, living foods.

[A Veterinarian's View of Raw Feeding](#) by Andrea Tasi, VMD hosted at FNES.

[The Benefits of a Raw Diet for Your Cat](#), by Margaret Gates of the Feline Nutrition Education Society (FNES)

[The Completely Healthy 'Pet' Food Your Vet Probably Vilifies...](#) Dr. Karen Becker of Mercola's Healthy Pets talks about raw meat diets for pets – "why there's nothing to fear and so much to gain by serving your dog or cat the food nature intended him to eat."

[Raw Feeding Your House Cat: What's all the fuss about?](#) Tracy Dion of CatCentric discusses why raw food is "what the cat is uniquely, specifically, and beautifully designed to eat."

[Benefits of a Natural Raw Diet: Whole Foods for Better Health](#) and [Feeding Cats a Diet of Whole Raw Foods Based on Nature's Model](#) by Linda Zurich of RawFedCats.org

Scientific Studies

[Nutritional adequacy and performance of raw food diets in kittens](#) (Progress report, Winn grant 09-002). The full report has not yet been published. The progress report indicates that "Innate immunity appeared to function at a higher level in the kittens fed a raw diet," and "Digestibility was highest for the raw diets, leading to less fecal matter."

[Role of Diet in the Health of the Feline Intestinal Tract and in Inflammatory Bowel Disease \(PDF\)](#). This 2002 report resulted from research performed at and supported by the Center for Companion Animal Health, School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis. The authors were attempting to develop a "gold standard" diet with a single-source protein fed ground. While the hubris of this approach (and not consulting actual raw feeders, none of whom recommend feeding ground without supplements) cost an animal its life and compromised the health of others, despite this short-coming and sad outcome (not supplementing a ground diet with at least taurine!!), the UC Davis researchers did demonstrate there are obvious and intriguing differences with cats fed a raw diet, especially for IBD cats, where stool consistency returned to normal.