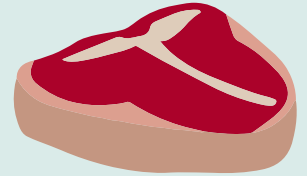




Feeding Your Pet a Raw Diet

What is a raw diet?

- A raw diet is uncooked and unprocessed meat, bones, and sometimes eggs, milk, and unwashed fruit or vegetables
- A raw diet can be found fresh, frozen or dehydrated
- Raw diets can be made at home or purchased at a store



Why should I avoid feeding a raw diet?



- **You and your pets can get sick** from germs that are often found in store-bought and home-made raw diets
- **Raw pet food can contain germs** like *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, *Campylobacter* and *Listeria* that can make you, your pet and members of your family sick
- **These germs may be resistant to antibiotics.** These germs can cause infections that can lead to longer illnesses, hospitalization and even death
- **Therefore, raw diets are *NOT* recommended for pets**

What can I do to be safe if I choose to feed a raw diet?

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water after feeding your pet or touching the food
- Clean and disinfect surfaces such as counter tops, refrigerators, microwaves, bowls, and utensils that touch raw food
- Pick up pet waste right away and wash your hands after. There is a higher risk for pet waste to spread germs when you feed your pet a raw diet
- Avoid touching your pet's mouth or letting them lick your face after they eat



How should I store and prepare raw diets?



- **Raw diets are *NOT* recommended for pets, but here are some suggestions if you choose to feed your pet a raw diet:**
 - Freeze raw pet food until use
 - Store raw pet food in its own container
 - Thaw raw pet food in a microwave or refrigerator only
 - Use or refrigerate raw pet food within 2 hours of thawing it
 - Discard raw pet food if it sits out for more than 2 hours

