

Raw meat based diets in dogs and cats

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Summary

Raw Meat Based Diets for dogs and cats are increasingly popular. There exist no studies, that prove a positive effect on health in dogs and cats, but there exist many case reports concerning infections by bacteria, virus and parasites via raw meat in dogs and cats. Also nutritional imbalances as deficiencies regarding trace elements or oversupply with protein are not rarely seen. In our studies bacterial load of RMBD diets and the influence of feeding RMBD diets in dogs are examined.

Research Objectives

Risks of RMBD Diets are identified for example regarding the microbiome and metabolome of dogs fed RMBD diets versus dogs fed commercial diets. Also influence of feeding RMBD diets in dogs are examined. In another study, blood parameters of dogs fed RMBD diets are compared to feeding levels of several parameters calculated by computer-aided ration calculation.

Key Findings

In dogs fed RMBD diets malnutrition is seen not rarely, expressing in various clinical symptoms. In one present study it could be detected, that the dysbiosis index in dogs fed RMBD diets is more negative than in dogs fed commercial diets. *Listeria monocytogenes* is the most found frequently detected bacterium in commercial RMBD diets, followed by *Salmonella* spp.

The so-called "BARF-Profile" (blood levels of vitamins and trace elements) does not correlate with levels of parameters fed to dogs calculated with computer-aided ration calculation. So ration calculation still remains gold standard in dog and cat nutrition.

Selected Publications

1. Schmidt M, Unterer S, Suchodolski JS, Honneffer JB, Guard BC, Lidbury JA, Steiner JM, Fritz J, Kölle P. The fecal microbiome and metabolome differs between dogs fed Bones and Raw Food (BARF) diets and dogs fed commercial diets. *PLoS One* 2018; 13(8): e0201279.
2. Kölle, P, Schmidt, M. (2015): BARF (Biologisch Artgerechte Rohfütterung) als Ernährungsform bei Hunden. *Tierarztl Prax* 2015; 43(6): 409-419.
3. Hajek, V., Zablotzki, Y., & Kölle, P. (2021). Computer-aided ration calculation (Diet Check Munich©) versus blood profile in raw fed privately owned dogs. *Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition* (online)

Funding

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Pharmaceutical company	Untersuchung der Keimbelastung von Rohfutter und Kot gebarfter Hunde	2014	2018