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BENEFITS

- Vibrant Skin & Coat
- Stable Healthy Weight
- Healthy Bowel
- Improved Immune System
- Reduced Allergy Symptoms
- Healthy Teeth
- Proper Endocrine Balance
- Improved Energy and Behavior

DEXTER SUGGESTS



Ask our knowledgeable staff about trying a raw food diet for your pet.

More resources:

- *Whole Health for Happy Cats*
- *The New Natural Cat*
- *Your Cat*
- *Ultimate Diet: natural nutrition for dogs & cats*
- feline-nutrition.org
- littlebigcat.com
- catinfo.org

SWITCHING CATS TO RAW FOOD

THE KEY TO SWITCHING CATS TO A RAW FOOD DIET IS LETTING THEM THINK IT'S THEIR DECISION. You can't force cats to eat, and if you push too hard you'll simply convince them that this new food really *is* a bad idea. Your cat may dive right in to the raw food you offer, or s/he may take a month or two of slow encounters and taste testing. Cats are hardwired to fixate on certain foods, especially if they were fed a limited menu in early life. They aren't being finicky, they're being cats. These hints should help you make through the transition.

CAUTION: DON'T TRY TO STARVE YOUR CAT INTO EATING A RAW DIET.

This can be dangerous, especially for obese cats. Fasting a cat for more than 24 hours (or even 12 for an obese cat) can cause *hepatic lipidosis*, a potentially fatal condition. Even a small amount of food will prevent this condition, so take your time with meal changes and don't sweat the small stuff (even dry food).

GOING TOO FAST MAY UPSET THEIR DIGESTION

Even if your cat loves the raw food don't be too quick switching them to a completely raw diet. If they get an upset stomach from too fast a switch, you may end up with a cat that refuses to eat that "dangerous" food after all. Digestive enzymes are a great supplement for transitioning animals to new diets, so discuss this option with our staff.

IF YOUR CAT GRAZES OR FREE-FEEDS

Because you can't leave raw food out all day you need to get your cat on scheduled meals. Adult cats can eat twice a day, kittens and pregnant or lactating cats may need more frequent meals. Spend a couple of weeks leaving less and less food out for snacking, until all the food is being consumed at mealtimes.

We recommend that any dry food be furnished in a foraging toy, such as the "Slim Cat" toy. Small amounts of dry food or dehydrated treats can be fed with such a toy even after you've switched them to raw food for enhancing their home-life activities.

LET THEM GET USED TO IT

Start by putting very small amounts of raw food next to their existing food (wet or dry). Expect them to *not* eat it at first; you are helping them associate this strange new food with mealtime. Don't be discouraged if you spend a couple of weeks serving and throwing out teaspoons of food, it'll be worth it when you see how vibrantly healthy they become once they decide to take the plunge.

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PRODUCTS

- Wildside Salmon
- Bellyrubs Bonito Flakes
- Whole Life Treats

- Dexter's Naturals Fresh Delish Raw Food for Cats
- Rad Cat Raw Food
- Primal Raw for Cats

- Weruva Cans & Pouches
- BFF Cans

- Animal Essentials Plant Enzymes & Probiotics

DRY-WET-RAW

Some cats that have lived all their lives on dry food find it challenging to switch directly to raw food, and benefit from being switched to canned food first. Experiment with canned food types, but be sure to include stew-type foods such as Weruva, BFF, or Merrick so they can experience the different "mouth feel" of chunks of meat. You can even use un-spiced meat from your own fridge as an enticement mixed in with their existing food.

OFFER DIFFERENT MEATS

Be sure to offer different meats when integrating raw food into your cat's diet. Not only is variety important for nutrition, it may make it easier to switch your cat. If they become fixated on a single raw diet, offer the new varieties on the side, just as we recommend when first offering raw food.

USE TREATS

You can experiment with dusting the new and existing food with their favorite dried treat (fish flakes or freeze-dried meat, for example) to encourage them. If your cat loves canned food you can mix a little raw food into it to introduce them to the new flavor. Remember, don't get stressed out if they seem disinterested for awhile.

