



WestOak Bulldogs

Feeding Amounts For a Complete Raw Diet

There are several things to consider when deciding how much raw food you should feed your dog. The guidelines below should help you put together a good feeding plan, and tell how to adjust it for individual pets and circumstances.

- 1. Age:** If your dog is young, he or she will need to consume more calories for growth and to keep up with their high metabolism. This can include puppies up to 3 years of age, depending on the activity level.
- 2. Activity Level:** You need to consider how active your dog is on a regular basis, such as whether he is an agility competitor, a weekend camper, or a couch potato. If you are going to be exercising him more, add in another meal of 1/2 to a full portion, depending on the activity. Just as with people, if you are more active, your body will need more calories to sustain it. If your dog is going to be a weekend warrior, add a third full-portion meal for that day. If you are just going for a really long walk one morning, add a 1/4 to a 1/2 extra meal. It all depends on the length of time and amount of activity.
- 3. Feel:** You should be able to feel your dog's ribs just by sliding your hand along them. If you have to push your fingers into his sides to feel them, he is too heavy. He should also have a waist, meaning his body tucks in after his ribs then back out at his hips. You should be able to feel the tops of his hip bones, but they should not be visibly protruding.

4. Portion size: If you feed raw meaty bones such as turkey necks or chicken legs, you should adjust your ground portion accordingly. If you have a large raw meaty bone, cut out 1/4 of his ground food. If it is a small meaty bone, give two, and add to the ground you already have measured out. Just as with people, you can vary his portion sizes; they do not need to be exact every time.

5. Size of dog: Every dog is different, even within the same breed. Again, this is very similar to people. Different dogs have different metabolisms due to age, activity level and breed. The best way to judge is by feeling their bodies so you can tell that your dog is at a good weight. That can be done daily as you pet them.

To start out use Food to Body Ratio:

How Much to Feed Daily

Real meat is a lot more digestible than commercial food. So the daily serving size should be smaller than when serving commercial pet food. As a starting point, use the food-to-body weight ratio rule:

2%	Seniors
2-3%	Adult
4-6%	Puppies 8 weeks to 1 year
5-8%	Puppies 4-8 weeks

For example, if your kitten is 6 weeks old and his weight is 4 lbs, then you can start by feeding her 3 oz of food daily (5% of 4 lbs). Amount should vary depending on the activity level of the kitten.

If he still acts extremely hungry, you can try splitting up his feedings more. Divide the daily amount into 3-4 feedings a day instead of 2. Constant hunger or weight loss could also be a sign of parasites. Even if he only goes into the back yard, he could still come in contact with fecal matter from other animals such as rabbits or geese, or find a dead bird or mouse. Having a fecal sample run at least once a year is strongly recommended. These symptoms could also indicate a nutrient deficiency, and in that case, a multi-vitamin whole food supplement such as Missing Link or Standard Process Whole Body support might also be needed.

We hope this helps with your feeding process. Just remember to add raw food slowly and check your pet's body every day to make sure he is not gaining or losing too much weight.