



### **Feeding bones to dogs...**

Dogs are designed to eat bones but for some reason many veterinarians and the like do not recommend feeding bones. Certainly this attitude is understandable if perhaps a surgeon has had to remove a bone splinter or a bone stuck in the digestive tract.

Feeding raw bones has many benefits and providing you are sensible with the size of the bone for the size of the dog for example then there really is not a great deal of risk involved

#### **The advantages of feeding raw bones are;**

Bones provide calcium in a readily useable form and are of great benefit to dogs especially growing puppies, particularly during their growth. Cooked bones do not provide this form of Calcium and can also be dangerous to feed to the possibility of splintering. Many additives to commercially produced food contain calcium, however usually industrial or technical grade that are termed as simple minerals. These simple minerals are poorly absorbed and utilised by the dog.

Feeding bones will assist in maintaining healthy teeth. Chewing on bones helps to remove plaque and contributes to lessening tartar. If teeth are healthy and in good condition there is a reduction in bad breath. Feeding bones to dogs will also reduce dental conditions.

Anal glands function more efficiently; if the right amount of calcium is fed dog's faeces will become firmer. Many commercial diets cause the faeces to become soft and this can lead to further health problems.

Dogs will benefit from the introduction of healthy bacteria to the gut. Healthy gut flora is essential to assist with normal digestion.

The most probable reason dogs actually enjoy old decaying bones or animal manure, would be to support the body with healthy gut flora, something that is unlikely achievable when consuming a commercial diet.