

## Is Raw Meat Safe for Dogs?

**A diet of raw meat opens the way for many parasites to enter your dog's body.**

*By Jon Geller, DVM*

Q. We have a 4-year-old dog. My boyfriend's mom gives the dog raw meat sometimes. I have read a lot of articles that say it's not healthy to feed your dog raw meat. Is it OK for dogs to eat raw meat?

A. The raw-meat diet is a topic of great controversy in veterinary medicine.

Most veterinarians don't like it because of the toxic bacteria that is present, such as E. coli and Salmonella.

In addition, raw meat is often riddled with parasites that will take up residence in the intestines of a dog that eats the meat. These parasites can migrate about the body, often curling up in a little cocoon-like structure known as a cyst. They can live in the intestines, wreaking havoc with normal digestion and causing diarrhea and vomiting.

Once you have looked at these worms, flukes and tiny parasites under a microscope, you hope that they never make their way into your own body.

So to answer your question, no, I don't recommend giving your dog a raw-meat diet. Jon Geller, DVM