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Global Certificate Course in Canine Raw Feeding

# Canine Nutrition Basics

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### Introduction

Canine nutrition is a crucial aspect of caring for your dog. Providing a well-balanced diet is essential for their overall health and well-being. In this course, we will delve into the basics of canine nutrition, focusing on raw feeding as a dietary option for dogs.

### Key Terms and Vocabulary

1. **Macronutrients:** Macronutrients are the essential components of a dog's diet that provide energy. They include proteins, fats, and carbohydrates.
2. **Proteins:** Proteins are vital for a dog's growth, development, and maintenance of body tissues. They are made up of amino acids, which are the building blocks of protein.
3. **Fats:** Fats are a concentrated source of energy and play a crucial role in maintaining healthy skin and coat, as well as supporting various bodily functions.
4. **Carbohydrates:** Carbohydrates are a source of energy for dogs, although they are not considered essential. They can come from sources like grains, vegetables, and fruits.
5. **Micronutrients:** Micronutrients are essential vitamins and minerals that dogs need in small quantities to maintain proper health.
6. **Vitamins:** Vitamins are organic compounds that play a vital role in various metabolic processes within a dog's body. They are essential for overall health and well-being.
7. **Minerals:** Minerals are inorganic compounds that are necessary for various bodily functions, such as bone health, muscle function, and overall well-being.
8. **Raw Feeding:** Raw feeding is a diet for dogs that consists of uncooked ingredients, such as raw meat, bones, fruits, and vegetables. It is believed to mimic a dog's natural diet in the wild.
9. **Prey Model Raw (PMR):** PMR is a type of raw feeding that aims to replicate the natural diet of a wild canine. It typically consists of muscle meat, bones, organs, and a small amount of fruits and vegetables.
10. **Biologically Appropriate Raw Food (BARF):** BARF is another type of raw feeding that includes a wider variety of ingredients, such as fruits, vegetables, grains, and supplements, in addition to raw meat and

bones.

11. Complete and Balanced Diet: A complete and balanced diet meets all of a dog's nutritional needs in the right proportions. It is essential for maintaining optimal health and preventing deficiencies.
12. Omega-3 and Omega-6 Fatty Acids: These essential fatty acids play a crucial role in maintaining healthy skin and coat, supporting brain function, and reducing inflammation in the body.
13. Antioxidants: Antioxidants are compounds that help protect cells from damage caused by free radicals. They play a vital role in promoting overall health and reducing the risk of chronic diseases.
14. Hydration: Adequate hydration is essential for a dog's health. Water is crucial for digestion, nutrient absorption, temperature regulation, and overall well-being.
15. Caloric Requirements: The number of calories a dog needs varies based on factors such as age, size, activity level, and overall health. It is essential to feed your dog an appropriate amount to maintain a healthy weight.
16. Food Allergies: Some dogs may have food allergies or sensitivities to certain ingredients. Common allergens include grains, dairy, and certain proteins like beef or chicken.
17. Transitioning to a New Diet: When switching your dog to a new diet, it is essential to do so gradually to prevent digestive upset. Slowly introduce the new food over a period of 7-10 days.
18. Challenges of Raw Feeding: While raw feeding can offer numerous benefits, it also comes with challenges such as sourcing high-quality ingredients, balancing the diet, and ensuring food safety.
19. Consulting a Veterinarian: It is crucial to consult with a veterinarian before making any significant changes to your dog's diet. They can provide guidance on the best nutrition plan for your individual dog.
20. Meal Planning: Creating a meal plan for your dog can help ensure they are receiving all the necessary nutrients in the right proportions. Consider factors such as protein sources, variety, and supplements.
21. Food Safety: Proper handling, storage, and preparation of raw food are essential to prevent contamination and foodborne illnesses. Follow guidelines for safe food practices when raw feeding your dog.
22. Label Reading: When selecting commercial pet food or supplements, it is essential to read and understand the labels. Look for complete and balanced formulations that meet your dog's nutritional needs.
23. Home Cooking for Dogs: Some dog owners prefer to cook homemade meals for their pets. If you choose this route, ensure the recipes are balanced and meet your dog's nutritional requirements.
24. Weight Management: Maintaining a healthy weight is crucial for a dog's overall health and well-being.

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Monitor your dog's body condition and adjust their diet and exercise as needed.

25. Exercise and Activity: Regular exercise and mental stimulation are essential for keeping your dog healthy and happy. Provide opportunities for physical activity and play to support their overall well-being.

26. Digestive Health: A healthy digestive system is essential for proper nutrient absorption and overall health. Consider feeding probiotics or prebiotics to support gut health in your dog.

27. Senior Nutrition: As dogs age, their nutritional needs may change. Consult with your veterinarian to adjust their diet to meet the requirements of senior dogs and address any age-related health concerns.

28. Puppy Nutrition: Puppies have specific nutritional needs for growth and development. Ensure they are receiving a diet that is appropriate for their age and size to support healthy growth.

29. Working Dogs: Dogs with active lifestyles or working roles may have higher energy requirements. Adjust their diet to meet their increased caloric needs and support their performance.

30. Quality Ingredients: Choose high-quality ingredients for your dog's diet to ensure they are receiving the best nutrition possible. Look for human-grade, organic, and locally sourced ingredients when possible.

## Conclusion

Understanding the basics of canine nutrition is essential for providing your dog with a healthy and balanced diet. Whether you choose to feed your dog a raw diet or opt for commercial pet food, ensuring they receive the right nutrients in the correct proportions is key to their overall well-being. By familiarizing yourself with the key terms and vocabulary in this course, you will be better equipped to make informed decisions about your dog's nutrition and health.