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Global Certificate Course in Canine Raw Feeding

## Raw Feeding Principles

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Raw Feeding Principles:

Raw feeding is the practice of feeding domestic dogs a diet primarily of raw meat, bones, and organs. This feeding method is based on the belief that dogs should consume a diet that closely resembles what their ancestors ate in the wild. The Global Certificate Course in Canine Raw Feeding focuses on educating individuals on the principles and best practices of feeding dogs a raw diet for optimal health and nutrition.

Key Terms and Vocabulary:

1. **Barf Diet:** Stands for Biologically Appropriate Raw Food or Bones and Raw Food. This diet consists of feeding dogs raw meat, bones, fruits, and vegetables to mimic what they would eat in the wild.
2. **Prey Model Diet:** This diet closely resembles what a dog would eat if it were hunting and consuming its prey in the wild. It consists of feeding dogs whole prey items such as whole chickens or rabbits.
3. **Complete and Balanced:** Refers to a diet that contains all the necessary nutrients in the correct proportions to meet a dog's nutritional needs. A complete and balanced diet is essential for a dog's overall health and well-being.
4. **Raw Meaty Bones:** Bones that still have meat attached to them. These bones are an essential part of a raw diet as they provide dogs with essential nutrients and help promote dental health.
5. **Offal:** Refers to the internal organs of animals such as liver, kidneys, and spleen. Offal is a crucial component of a raw diet as it provides dogs with essential vitamins and minerals.
6. **Ratio:** The ratio refers to the proportions of different food groups that make up a dog's raw diet. Common ratios include 80% meat, 10% bone, and 10% offal.
7. **Transition Period:** The period during which a dog is switched from a commercial diet to a raw diet. This transition should be done gradually to allow the dog's digestive system to adjust to the new food.
8. **Fast:** Refers to the practice of withholding food from a dog for a certain period. Fasting can be beneficial for dogs as it allows their digestive system to rest and reset.
9. **Supplementation:** The practice of adding additional nutrients to a dog's diet to ensure they are getting all the necessary vitamins and minerals. Supplements may include fish oil, probiotics, or vitamin E.
10. **Overfeeding:** Feeding a dog more food than they require, leading to weight gain and potential health

issues. It is essential to feed dogs the appropriate amount of food based on their size, age, and activity level.

11. **Underfeeding:** Not providing a dog with enough food to meet their nutritional needs. Underfeeding can lead to malnutrition and health problems. It is crucial to feed dogs an adequate amount of food to maintain their health and well-being.

12. **Raw Feeding Challenges:** Switching to a raw diet can present challenges for dog owners, including sourcing high-quality ingredients, balancing nutrients, and ensuring proper food handling and storage.

13. **Food Safety:** Ensuring that the raw food fed to dogs is safe to consume and free from harmful bacteria or parasites. Proper food handling, storage, and hygiene practices are essential to prevent foodborne illnesses.

14. **Environmental Impact:** Consideration of the environmental impact of feeding dogs a raw diet, including sourcing ingredients locally, reducing food waste, and using sustainable farming practices.

15. **Veterinary Consultation:** Seeking advice from a veterinarian before switching a dog to a raw diet. A veterinarian can provide guidance on the nutritional needs of the dog and ensure they are receiving a balanced diet.

16. **Homemade vs. Commercial:** The debate between feeding dogs a homemade raw diet or a commercially prepared raw diet. Both options have their advantages and disadvantages, and dog owners must choose the best option for their dog's individual needs.

17. **Biological Availability:** The extent to which nutrients in food can be absorbed and utilized by a dog's body. Raw diets are often praised for their high biological availability compared to processed commercial diets.

18. **Dental Health:** The benefits of raw feeding for dental health, including the natural cleaning action of chewing raw meaty bones and the prevention of dental issues such as tartar and plaque buildup.

19. **Weight Management:** The role of a raw diet in helping dogs maintain a healthy weight. Raw diets are often lower in carbohydrates and higher in protein, which can help dogs maintain a healthy body condition.

20. **Transitioning to Raw:** The process of gradually switching a dog from a commercial diet to a raw diet. This transition should be done slowly to allow the dog's digestive system to adjust to the new food.

21. **Raw Feeding Myths:** Common misconceptions about raw feeding, such as the belief that raw diets are unsafe or that dogs cannot receive all the necessary nutrients from a raw diet. Education is essential in dispelling these myths and promoting the benefits of raw feeding.

22. **Species-Appropriate Diet:** The concept that dogs should be fed a diet that is biologically appropriate for

their species. A raw diet is often considered more closely aligned with a dog's natural diet compared to processed commercial diets.

23. Food Sensitivities: The potential for dogs to develop food sensitivities or allergies to certain ingredients in their diet. Raw feeding allows for greater control over the ingredients fed to dogs, making it easier to identify and eliminate potential allergens.

24. Enzymes and Probiotics: The benefits of enzymes and probiotics in a raw diet for promoting digestive health. These supplements can help dogs better digest their food and maintain a healthy gut microbiome.

25. Cost Considerations: The cost implications of feeding dogs a raw diet compared to a commercial diet. While raw feeding can be more expensive, the long-term health benefits may outweigh the initial cost.

26. Meal Planning: The importance of planning and preparing balanced meals for dogs on a raw diet. Meal planning involves ensuring dogs receive the right proportions of meat, bones, and offal to meet their nutritional needs.

27. Food Quality: The importance of sourcing high-quality ingredients for a raw diet. Dogs should be fed fresh, human-grade meat and organs to ensure they are receiving the best possible nutrition.

28. Hydration: The role of hydration in a dog's diet and the importance of providing dogs with access to fresh, clean water at all times. Raw diets can have a higher moisture content compared to dry kibble, which can help keep dogs hydrated.

29. Exercise and Activity: The importance of regular exercise and physical activity for dogs on a raw diet. Proper exercise can help dogs maintain a healthy weight and overall well-being.

30. Monitoring Health: Regularly monitoring a dog's health and well-being while on a raw diet. This includes observing their weight, coat condition, energy levels, and overall behavior to ensure they are thriving on their new diet.

In conclusion, the Global Certificate Course in Canine Raw Feeding provides a comprehensive overview of the key principles and vocabulary associated with feeding dogs a raw diet. By understanding these terms and concepts, individuals can make informed decisions about transitioning their dogs to a raw diet and providing them with the best possible nutrition for optimal health and well-being.