



In Adult Dogs, Does Feeding a Raw Food Diet Increase the Risk of Urinary Calculi Formation Compared to Feeding a Complete Dry Kibble Diet?

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Hello and welcome to the paper 'in adult dogs, does feeding a raw food diet increase the risk of urinary calculi formation compared to feeding a complete dry kibble diet?'

I'm Emma Taylor and I'm one of the two authors of this paper. And this Audio Summary will give you some of the highlights of this particular Knowledge Summary. So this paper was written with the idea in mind that the option to feed raw diets to dogs has grown in popularity and is now readily available commercially. Subsequently, there are now many conversations and discussions around raw feeding and urinary health happening on social media and pet forum groups, with claims that raw feeding is beneficial to urine composition, and may even reduce the risk of kidney or urine stones.

So there has historically been concerns regarding excessive protein intake and the risk of calculi promoting substances. But current studies measured the relationship between protein and growth rather than health and welfare. So to see if there was any scientific proof or evidence to support these claims, we decided to conduct this Knowledge Summary with the research question, which is also the title of the paper, which investigates urine calculi and complete raw meat diets in adult dogs.

Our search criteria were constructed in a way that captured as many publications dealing with raw feed as possible. So the use of BARF and other raw meat associated terms were not eliminated from the search. However, only complete raw feed was considered for this Knowledge Summary. So we searched literature for two databases. We searched CAB abstracts and PubMed, and even with reduced sensitivity of search terms, the return of publications was still small with a total number of 129 publications.

However, after excluding papers that were not dealing with urine composition or papers that were relating to complementary feeds only, or were review papers or not peer-reviewed material, we were left with only one piece of peer-reviewed evidence. This one piece of literature also identified that evidence is still undetermined on whether a raw feed diet maintains healthy urine composition parameters, and whether raw feeding increases the risk of urolithiasis in adult dogs. It was a conclusion that was shared in our paper and proves that although raw feeding is popular, there is currently very little published evidence-based scientific research to support the hypothesis that raw diets are healthier, or at least more nutritionally balanced than other diets.

So in light of this, our clinical bottom line is to advise professionals working within the veterinary science or nutrition field to proceed with caution when advising clients and to rely on their professional experience until further peer-reviewed evidence is available.

Thank you for listening to this Audio Summary.

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