

Carefully Monitored, Real Raw Bones Are Best For Chewing

First, understand that you **MUST** supervise your dog, no matter what you give him to chew. Take chew items away from any dogs who apply the full force of their jaws in a desperate attempt to break open or shred anything they chew, or who wolf down every fragment of any item they manage to break.

In addition to some amount of protein, real, raw bones provide dogs with minerals, mostly calcium and phosphorus but also zinc, magnesium, manganese, iodine, selenium, chromium, iron, etc. in the exact balance required by the body. Raw meaty bones, from beef, lamb, pork, chicken, or turkey should be given to dogs to provide about 60 percent of a dog's total diet, says Dr. Ian Billinghurst, an Australian veterinarian and author of *Give Your Dog a Bone*. Most holistic veterinarians agree, but caution that bones must be introduced slowly, and their access must be modified according to the dog's chewing profile.

Avoid commercially manufactured bones like the plague. Not only do they contain a variety of chemical treatments to "sterilize" them or preservatives to keep the tissues from rotting, these chemicals are not required to appear on the label.

If you buy commercial chews (or are still too full of fear about feeding real, raw bones), purchase one of the follow-

ing chew products. Each manufacturer (save the last one) claims to make its products from American cattle hides in the US.

Drs. Foster & Smith Super Deluxe Rawhide Chews, "Natural Flavor," or Super Heavyweight Bones. F&S claims these are de-limed with extra water and cured without chemicals. Avoid the ground rawhide and pressed rawhide products, which use fragments which may be of more dubious origin, as well as the other brands of rawhide chews that F&S sells. (800) 826-7206.

New England Serum Company Premium Natural Rawhide Bones. NESC claims these are produced without chemical preservatives. Avoid the "flavor basted" bones, which do not have the ingredients of the flavors listed, and the other generic products that NESC sells. (800) 637-3786.



Pet Factory American Beef-Hide Chews. Purportedly, these hides come from selected suppliers, not the market, for quality control. (800) 468-3315.

Ecology Rawhide Treats. Made from free-range, hormone- and toxin-free cattle hides. (800) 709-1567. 🐾