

A RESPONSIBLE STARTING POINT

Before changing *the bowl.*

Use this checklist to prepare for an informed conversation with your veterinary professional and to decide whether your household can manage raw pet food safely.

THIS CHECKLIST DOES NOT

recommend raw feeding, assess your animal, formulate a diet, or replace veterinary and appropriately qualified nutritional advice.

PET AND HOUSEHOLD

Pet name:	
Species:	
Age / life stage:	
Current food:	
Veterinary practice:	

ANIMAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUESTIONS

Start with the individual animal

**Life stage confirmed**

Is the proposed product intended for this species and life stage?

**Health history reviewed**

Discuss diagnoses, digestive history, allergies, dental health and previous reactions.

**Medication considered**

Ask whether diet composition or handling could affect current treatment.

**Body condition recorded**

Record current weight and agree how condition will be monitored.

**Product status checked**

Locate 'complete pet food' or 'complementary pet food' on the actual label.

**Feeding directions understood**

Clarify the amount, frequency, transition approach and what else - if anything - accompanies it.

**Professional review planned**

Agree when to review progress and which changes should prompt earlier advice.

ASK BEFORE USING A COMPLEMENTARY PRODUCT

Exactly what other food is required to make the total daily diet nutritionally adequate?

SUPPLIER AND PRODUCT CHECKS

Look beyond the front of the pack

**Supplier identified**

Record the responsible business name, contact details and relevant registration information.

**Traceability present**

Check batch or lot identification, date information and intact, leak-proof packaging.

**Classification visible**

Confirm complete or complementary status, intended species and life stage.

**Instructions available**

Read feeding, storage, defrosting and safe-handling directions before purchase.

**Formulation explained**

Ask who formulated the product and which current nutritional guidelines are followed.

**Controls explained**

Ask how sourcing, microbiological controls, testing, transport and recalls are managed.

**Claims kept in perspective**

Do not treat words such as natural, premium or ancestral as evidence of completeness.

PRODUCT / SUPPLIER NOTES

HOME SAFETY AND DECISION RECORD

Can the household manage it safely?

☐**Cold storage ready**

Enough freezer space, sealed labelled containers and separation from human food.

☐**Dedicated equipment ready**

Separate utensils, containers and feeding bowls are available.

☐**Defrosting route planned**

A sealed, labelled container can be kept away from human food and preparation areas.

☐**Cleaning routine agreed**

Hands, bowls, utensils, surfaces and the feeding area will be cleaned appropriately.

☐**Uneaten food plan agreed**

Leftovers and spills can be removed and cleaned as soon as reasonably practical.

☐**Household risk considered**

Young children, older people and anyone with a weakened immune system have been considered.

DECISION☐

Proceed after professional discussion

☐

Do not proceed yet

☐

Choose another option

FOLLOW-UP DATE / NOTES
