

Digestive Enzymes and Your Pet's Health

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“...White Fang's ancestor, the wolf pack leader, moved silently through the coniferous forest of the Pacific Northwest, stalking his prey in a routine that had been repeated throughout his life. His sense of smell allowed him to pursue his adversary long before he was able to see her. He instinctively knew that as he pushed his way through the under brush, his pack mates would circle their intended quarry and charge as one. The fact that he had not eaten in two nights, combined with the fear he felt radiating from the doe and her fawn, caused an overwhelming rush of anticipation and desire. Unable to restrain his primitive needs any longer, he charged.....”

This was a typical day for a distant relative of our companion animals. They, like our ancestors had to rely on finding food the old fashion way, hunting - then eating their prize raw!

The 90's have born a number of buzzwords, and convenience is probably the most overused. One of the prices that we pay as a society for this convenience is a serious decline in our overall health. This threat to our health is generally in the form of fast food. Fast or processed food is all the rage for both humans and pets. Although years of nutritional research have gone into the development of pet food, one of the most important facts about your pets' normal physiology was forgotten. Dogs and cats, like all animals, were designed to eat their food raw. The zoological community has not forgotten this fact. It is well known that diets entirely or partially raw are essential to long term health of their animals. The reason for this is ENZYMES!

PET OWNER: How does the lack of enzymes in commercial food jeopardize my pet's health?

DR. ROBECK, DVM: Very simply, processing of food places the entire burden of digestion upon your pet's digestive system. Processing food also makes food partially indigestible. Thus, more food must be eaten to provide the micro and macronutrients essential to your pet's health. Further, long-term exposure to undigested food can cause inflammation, allergies and disease. Ultimately the immune system is compromised.

PET OWNER: What can I do to help my pet fight the illnesses associated with processed food?

DR. ROBECK, DVM: Move to the country and let your dog and cat experiences their instincts! Or, very carefully, prepare a raw food diet for them yourself. Or more realistically, supplement your pets diet with digestive enzymes.

PET OWNER: How do digestive enzymes work?

DR. ROBECK, DVM: Digestive enzymes can easily be administered to your pet at mealtime. The supplemental enzymes will begin to break down food before it reaches the small intestine, where most of digestion and absorption of nutrients takes place. The supplemental enzymes replace the enzymes that would normally be found in raw food. The results are better nutrition, stronger immune system and more energy.

PET OWNER: Should I place all my animals on digestive enzymes?

DR. ROBECK, DVM: Absolutely! Enzymes are safe, with no toxic side effects. Plant enzymes are considered a food supplement and should be a part of every animal's diet. Overwhelming evidence exists which suggests that the addition of plant based enzymes to your pet's diet will remove the stress placed upon their bodies' from eating processed food and promote an increased resistance to disease. This increase in overall health will result in a long and happy life.

Dr. Robeck is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and holds a Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology. He currently works for Sea World of Texas where part of his research involves the use of enzymes with captive animals.