



Liver Disease The Raw Solution

The liver is the largest gland in your pet's body. Its function is to manage and metabolize the intake of fats and proteins that are essential to a species-appropriate diet. The liver is one of the most important organs because it is the filter, but also the manufacturer of vital blood proteins, fats, and blood clotting agents. The liver secretes bile for digestion, deactivates hormones and performs many other functions. Therefore, a diseased liver is a **SERIOUS** problem!

What Causes Liver Disease?

Genetics, drug overdose, poison, malnutrition, parasites, cancer, or infectious disease can all contribute to a diseased liver. However, poor dietary choices are also one of the major causes of liver disease.

Typically, the recommended solution is to feed your pet a low protein diet, however current research is showing that low protein diets can contribute to further liver degeneration. The ideal diet for a pet provides maximum nutrition without overtaxing the liver. Pets with liver disease require high levels of good quality protein in an easily digestible form that will not produce high levels of ammonia during digestion.

Why Big Country Raw Diets?

Dry commercial pet food burdens the liver and kidneys primarily due to inferior quality proteins, and by causing dehydration. To continue to feed dry commercial pet food is to continue to contribute to the disease itself! Take for example a prescription "liver" diet. The ingredient list includes the following: Brewers Rice, Pork Fat, Soybean Meal, Pasta Product, Pork Protein Isolate, Chicken Liver Flavor, Vegetable Oil and Powdered Cellulose. Where is the "food" in this diet?



Suggested Dietary Recommendations

Red meats like beef, pork, and lamb tend to produce high levels of ammonia during digestion, causing further damage to the liver. Instead, choose menu items such as:

- Chicken Dinner
- Turkey Dinner
- Turkey Salmon Lamb
- Duck Dinner
- Pure Rabbit
- Fish Dinner

Fruits and Vegetables

Dogs can also tolerate high quality carbohydrates such as pureed fruit and vegetables. Fiber helps to absorb excess ammonia, so adding fruit and vegetables to the diet is beneficial for most dogs with liver disease. Adding Big Country Raw SuperFood Blend or Fruit and Vegetable Blend is recommended. Suggested portions would be $\frac{1}{4}$ cup per 1 lb of raw.

Essential Fatty Acids

Omega-3 Fatty Acids, such as those found in THRIVE Herring Oil, are also necessary because fish oil protects liver cells. Follow suggested dosage on container.

Vitamins and Minerals

THRIVE Trimineral Boost contains kelp, spirulina, and alfalfa. Together, these three ingredients contribute many naturally occurring minerals, digestive enzymes, amino acids, and phytonutrients that can aid in digestive and liver disorders. Follow suggested dosage on container.

Milk Thistle

Milk Thistle can be purchased at any health food store. It can help treat hepatitis and prevent damage to the liver. Suggested dosage is 250 mg for a dog under 25 lbs, and 500 mg for a dog over 25 lbs once daily.