Bligh Park Pet Health Centre

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Part of submission to:

Most Supportive Vet nomination 2014

'Maker's instructions' that we believe to be essential for the health and wellbeing of all dogs and cats

Until three weeks of age mother's milk is best for puppies and kittens. However from three weeks raw meaty bones become the best, indeed the essential requirement of all pet dogs and cats.

- 1.) **Nutrients**: Raw carcasses or raw meaty bones provide the exact nutrient requirements (proteins, fats, minerals, vitamins, trace elements) in the perfectly digestible form. Note that there are NO carbohydrates, except for a small amount of herbage, in natural food.
- 2.) Digestive enzymes: Raw food comes complete with masses of enzymes that digest the food without the young animal's pancreas needing to produce much in the way of extra enzymes.
- 3.) **Teeth and gum cleaning**: When puppies and kittens cut their first teeth between 3 and 6 weeks of age they are liable to suffer severe gum inflammation unless they rip, tear and chew at raw meaty bones. Uncontrolled gum disease leads to many of the chronic diseases seen in domestic pets worldwide.
- 4.) **Mental stimulation**: It's a young carnivore's birthright to rip and tear and chew. That's what sets the endorphins (brain chemicals) surging. Puppies and kittens get a natural high. More than that their immune systems, neurological and hormonal systems get a boost. Contented pets are healthy pets.
- 5.) **Physical exercise**: Ripping and tearing at natural food exercises and strengthens jaw, neck and shoulder muscles. Exercise releases more brain chemicals, too.
- 6.) **Probiotics**: Natural food contains lots of bacteria, especially if pets eat the whole carcass of other animals. It's these bacteria that replenish gut bacteria and ensure good bowel health and good digestion.
- 7.) **Imprinting**: In nature it's the first meals that have a big impact. The smell, taste and texture of the food have a powerful effect on the developing animal. The memory becomes programmed on what is best, most nutritious and most fun to eat. Puppies and kittens also learn to eat communally.

N.B. Clearly junk food fails in every aspect. Worse than that, the pet's body is flooded with toxic compounds and the gums and teeth, instead of being cleaned and massaged, are clogged with sludge. The bowels are overextended with starchy, indigestible fillers — resulting in copious foul smelling faecal discharges.

Instead of being imprinted with healthy diet preferences, millions of pets become addicted to junk pet food. Junk food poisoning, mouth rot and carbohydrate fuelled obesity are inevitable consequences.