



Pet Access League Society Policy and Procedure Manual

SECTION HEADING: Pets

SECTION SUB HEADING: Visiting Restrictions

ITEM Raw Food Animal Protein Diet BOD APPROVAL DATE: October 6, 2014

ITEM # 410 REVISED DATE:

RESPONSIBILITY OF: Executive Director

PALS Raw Food Animal Protein Diet Policy

As facility visitors (pet and handler team) of Pet Access League Society (PALS) Pet Visitation Program, primarily visit in situations where they come into contact with individuals with suppressed and/or compromised immune systems. Due to the potential shedding of pathogenic bacteria, such as Salmonella and Listeria, feeding of a raw food animal protein diet to the visiting pet may result in a higher risk of infecting those with compromised immune systems. As a result animals that are being fed a raw food animal protein diet will be excluded from participating in any PALS programs.

Please note: multiple pet households where an active visiting animal has access to food and/or the bowls used for feeding raw animal protein will result in the active visiting animal being unable to visit due to the very real possibility of eating the other pets' meals and cross-contamination.

This will be a phased program beginning October 1, 2014, with complete compliance by December 1, 2014.

This policy affects all PALS animals, regardless of species, breed or length of service.

To provide better insight into this policy, below are some frequently asked questions and answers.

1. What is a Raw Food Animal Protein diet?

It includes any raw animal protein, including beef, chicken, pork, fish, raw eggs, or other domesticated or wild animal meat. This includes raw bones.

2. How long does my pet have to be off of raw food protein foods before re-starting visitations again?

Once your pet has completed that 90 day restriction and has been cleared for revisiting (re-evaluation after three month absence would be necessary) you would be eligible for the PALS programs again.

3. What if my veterinarian is fine with feeding raw protein diets?

Your vet may very well recommend you feed your animals a raw food protein diet and that may be the best for your pet. However, as PALS must comply with the facilities where we visit policies, in addition to recognizing what is in the best interest for the people that we are visiting. This combined with the fact that they are at a much higher risk for infections and studies have shown that pets who are fed raw diets shed a higher number of pathogenic bacteria, the risk is too great for those with compromise immunity.

4. What are acceptable foods? (home-cooked or commercially-produced)

- Canned, fresh or frozen fish that has been cooked (sardines, mackerel, tuna, etc.)
- Canned, fresh or frozen beef, chicken, pork or other domesticated meat that has been cooked
- Cooked eggs
- Soy and other plant proteins
- Raw, washed vegetables, grains, legumes, or other plants
- Commercial sterilized raw hide
- Commercially stuffed cooked dog bones
- Pasteurized, commercial yogurt
- Pasteurized, commercial cottage cheese
- Pasteurized, commercial cheese
- Raw frozen diets and freeze dried raw foods that utilize High Pressure Processing* (an example of this is Nature's Variety Instinct)
- Frozen Raw bones commercially processed with antimicrobial solution (an example of this is Nature's Variety Instinct Frozen Bones *

5. What are NON-acceptable foods?

Any raw protein from an animal source, including beef, chicken, pork, fish, raw eggs, or other domesticated or wild animal meat. This includes raw proteins that are dehydrated, pasteurized (except those listed as acceptable), freeze dried, frozen or fresh. This includes raw bones.

6. What if my other pets eat raw diets?

If a visiting animal has access to the food or bowl used, it would be best to not feed any of the other pets' raw meats. Inadvertent eating of raw meat or cross-contamination is very real.

7. Why are all PALS volunteers included in this policy, regardless of where they visit?

Because a large percentage of the visits where PALS goes are in assisted living facilities, long and short term care facilities, homeless shelters, and schools which are all places where individuals with compromised immune systems may reside or visit, it was deemed to be a necessary and responsible action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those who we are there to serve.