



Switching, grinding, breeding

Switching to raw food

Feeding raw meaty bones works wonders for the health of dogs. But getting started, overcoming your fears can be a trifle unnerving. We've all heard the bad press about dogs choking on bones, the vet bills associated with the perforation of a dog's bowel and the nasty bacteria said to lurk in every mouthful of raw food. We don't want to do our pets even the slightest harm. Besides we have a self-image to preserve. We don't want to appear reckless, flouting conventions and open to ridicule.

Relax, wipe the sweat from your brow and dry your palms. Switching your pet's diet is the most important thing you can do to promote health, vitality and longevity. Happily most dogs are in touch with their inner wolf and seize on the first juicy bone you offer. Some dogs, though, addicted to the commercial offerings, may take a bit of persuading.

Let's assume your dog is relatively young, has no major/painful problems with teeth and gums (see Chapter 7) and hitherto has been fed a commercial or home cooked diet. The first question then becomes: Do you introduce changes gradually or switch the diet abruptly?

I recommend that, if possible, you make a complete change without any lead-up. Simply stop the old diet and start the