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Your dog is not a wolf.

Currently the trend is ultra-strict prey model raw feeding for dogs and this seems to be because by feeding raw simply because "it's what a wolf would eat in the wild."

If you don't already know, ultra-strictly prey model means no supplements, no fruits carbs or veggies, no dairy, and if you mention grain or starch, you might as well be the anti-Christ.

But are there options beyond the realm of what is considered "acceptable" in typical "prey model raw" that could benefit the domesticated dog that came into being by the folly of man?

Is it really ideal to be this strict – meat, blood, organs, bones and skin?, ruling out **everything** except for meat, blood, bone, and organs?, does this not limit the potential of balance in the domesticated dog's diet?

Modern domesticated dogs come in all shapes, sizes, and colors thanks to the human intervention of selective breeding and feeding ... stretching for more than 1500 years.

But how closely related is our domesticated dog to a wolf today, and what does that mean about your dog **or dogs optimal diet requirements today?**

Credit: laura271gsd1

Many raw feeding advocates commonly reason that dogs share 99.8% of their DNA with wolves - well the statement is true - therefore their ideal diet should be exactly the same as what a wolf would be eating in the wild.

This information commonly stems from this Robert K. Wayne Ph.D's quote, found in his study, Molecular evolution of the dog family, *Theoretical & Applied Genetics*, June 1993, Vol. 9, No. 6.

"The domestic dog is an extremely close relative of the gray wolf, differing from it by at most 0.2% of mtDNA sequence..."

Did consider this statement?

{Reading this I like to remind you ... "while the **genetic difference** between **individual humans** today is minuscule – about 0.1%, on average – a study of the same aspects of the chimpanzee genome indicates a difference of about 1.2%.

The bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), which is the close cousin of chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), differs from humans to the same degree.

Genetics - The Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program
humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/genetics

*"It is therefore important to note that the similarities in DNA sequence between two living organisms **does not always mean they are even remotely similar.***

With raw feeding and then reasoning that only because wild wolves do it – this might be a **revelation** (fresh revealing of thought) might make what you feed less “lawmatic” when considering your dog’s diet.

For example, **human DNA sequences are over 95% identical to chimpanzee sequences and around 50% identical to banana sequences.**

By knowing this and still maintaining to feed the domesticated APBT a total raw species appropriate diet like their relative the gray wolf ...

you then have to make drastic changes and choices relating to you diet ... 98.8% that of the chimpanzee.

Gawie Grobler MK – 11 September 2018} {Nothing wrong with this reasoning ... then by referring to Gen 1.27 ... the diet God gave Adam and Eve ... the same diet for the chimpanzee ... species appropriate correct.

In the same “flow of reasoning” ... man lives a life from that time until the time of Noah let’s call this became “domesticated” and by choice (not in the paradise any more – like the domesticated wolves (your dogs) are not in the wild anymore.

Gen 9.3 and God gave meat ... anything that is alive and moving and reminded man of his close relatives Adam’s diet that is still applicable ... Gen 1 29 but the difference was by choice.

Lastly I like to remind you that the first man’s (Adam’s) relatives lived longer – today’s man only average 70 +years ... this then in relation to the wolves 6 – 8 year lifespan in the wild and the domesticated dog 12 years + living relatively easy and mostly on home cooked meals “some raw meats and bone” and commercial dry food pulse.

Therefore diet/nutrition and environment/circumstances - strenuous work and choice does certainly play a role”

The quote above from this Robert K. Wayne Ph.D continues to be shared far and wide in the raw feeding world, and it certainly does have its merits.

Dogs are indeed very similar to wolves, and most dog breeds in fact can be traced back to wolves.

Also true that both wolves and dogs are, in fact, carnivores.

Because of this it surely then have a lot to do with their dietary requirements.

But does it mean that our domesticated dogs today and wolves have and need the exact same dietary requirements?

And even if so, is mimicking the diet of a wild wolf truly what is best for our domesticated dogs, or rather shouldnt we be improving on this diet in order to achieve the best possible results in our dogs' health?

Since Robert K. Wayne Ph.D's work was published in 1993, there have been many more studies on the similarities of dogs and wolves, as well as what changes our domesticated dogs may have experienced as they evolved from their wild ancestors through selective breeding by the folly of man.

Of course, the obvious changes would be appearance and temperament.

But diving deeper, we have discovered differences beyond that as well. As it turns out, that .02% difference between the gray wolf and the domesticated dog is more significant than it seems.

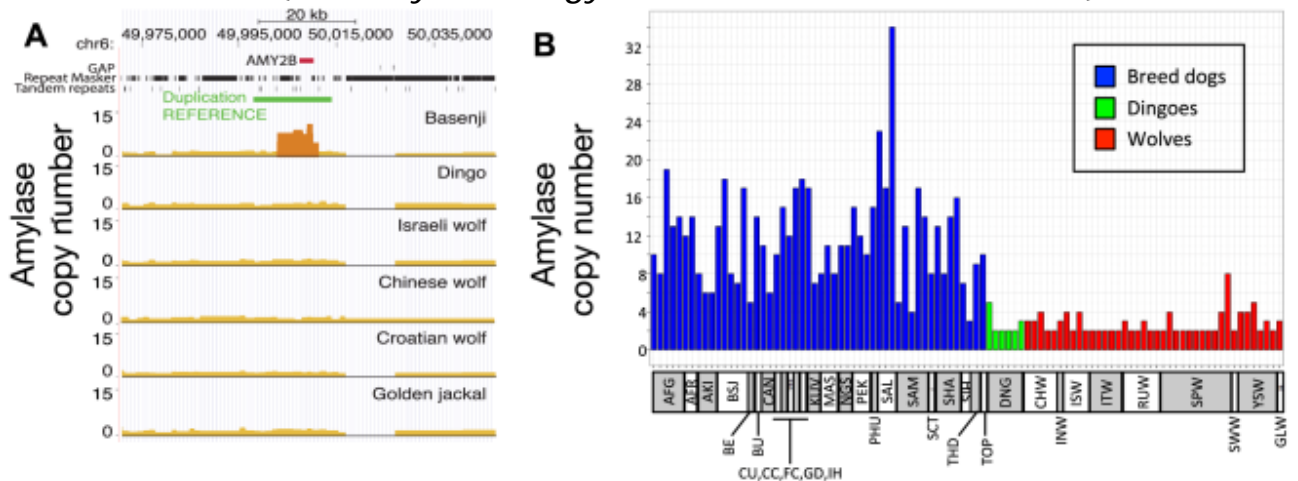
Know this ... Researchers have found differences across dog breeds and wolves in the number of amylase genes.

This study identified that wolves only had 2 copies of the gene responsible for the production of amylase, yet found a range of 4 to 30 copies of this gene in domesticated dogs. Interesting or fact - yep?

Fact.

Dogs that were domesticated in agrarian societies showed that they developed more of these genes than breeds that originated in areas that did not rely heavily on agricultural production.

And not only that – the above mentioned research revealed amylase genes in domesticated dogs that differed by breed, it also found that dogs produce a type of maltase that differs from that produced by wolves – here's the kicker - instead sharing similarities with omnivores and herbivores. *{Now my "theology has taken a knock MK ha ha}*



Genome Sequencing Highlights the Dynamic Early History of Dogs, published Jan 16, 2014 (Click photo to be directed to study and full sized image)

*"Our results **show** that adaptations that allowed the early ancestors of modern dogs to thrive on a diet rich in starch, relative to the carnivorous diet of wolves, constituted a crucial step in early dog domestication." [Source]*

This means that despite what many raw feeding resources like to claim, both domesticated dogs *and* wolves do in fact possess amylase (although in the pancreas and small intestine rather than in the saliva) – and the domesticated dogs far more so than wolves.

Therefore, a dog's nutritional requirements very well may somewhat differ from that of wolves.

But it's understandable that the human race have choices {this is what make us different from animals - MK} and will we make choices on what we know by hearing, by experience, by what they see, by circumstances, by culture or religion and the level of knowledge we have.

Again clearly, dogs are carnivores – this is fact.

They may not be obligate carnivores like cats or ferrets, but after considering a dog's jaw structure, teeth, short, acidic digestive system, and predatory behavior, it is hard to deny that a domesticated dog is still a carnivore rather than an omnivore.

The fact that our domesticated dogs today do have the ability to “digest starch” and will eat some vegetables, fruits and cooked food certainly doesn't mean that they require it as part of their diet; it simply means that it can be digested, it can be utilized, and that starches, grains, vegetables, fruit and cooked food may have a place in a domesticated dog's diet depending on the individual dog's energy level, metabolism, and even genetics.

It should also be said that the diet of a wild canine is surely not optimal.

After all, that's why wolf's, jackals and other predator's canines are called “opportunistic” or “scavenging” carnivores – they do eat what they can find, and what they find might not always be the best option for their health but they eat it anyway.

The domesticated dogs today live with humans and not in the wild or with wild primates and eat what they get from their human masters.

In the wild wolves have been known to starve for several days or even weeks on end, eat rancid, parasite-infected, rotting carcasses, and when ravishing hungry will eat anything else to survive and do sustain injuries from their meals such as cracked teeth, which can become seriously infected and even diarrhea.

Wolves do not live as long as our domesticated dog for or many of these reasons.

This “appeal to nature” logical fallacy can apply to all areas of dog ownership.

Is it natural for our dogs (relating to be wolves) to live inside, to get vaccinations, to be dewormed, to be on heartworm prevention, to get bathed dipped sprayed and groomed, or to walk on leashes?

It can be argued that domesticated dog breeds themselves are “unnatural”.

We have bred them to be wire-coated, single coated, dwarf, and brachycephalic. We’ve bred down or enhanced their temperament and predatory instincts – sometimes even specifically bred for aggressive temperaments and predatory instincts - but all the same domesticated dogs today are not the same as wild wolves in nature – related yes ... to something that was once a wild animal, and is now a domesticated working dog and pet.

That, in and of itself, is unnatural; but just because it’s unnatural, doesn’t mean it is inherently bad.

In the search {*as dogman a quest for life MK*} to provide the best possible diet for your dog, realize that simply basing your decisions off of what a wolf would eat in the wild (then by choice) or what is more “natural”, is not the best choice.

Also keep in mind that there is not one specific diet that every single domesticated dog breed would be able to thrive on.

Dogs should be looked at as individuals that have differing nutritional requirements which depend on many factors, including but not limited to energy level, metabolism, health, genetics and climate.

Limiting your options to strict limitations based on only what wolves eat is {might be and mostly are... MK} unnecessary, misguided, and even potentially dangerous.

Vitamins minerals and EFA as supplements, fruits/veggies, dairy, and even some specific chosen grain and starched can and are a helpful addition too many raw diets. *(As a conserved dogger and more so with the working dog breeds - you want to give the very best as diet for your dog ... no arguments here MK)*

See the difference ... Choosing to feed a raw diet should be a step in providing optimal nutrition to your dog, rather than just a step in providing the most "natural" diet.

To be clear, I do believe that a properly balanced and precise prey model raw diet can indeed provide adequate nutrition to dogs **because** the dogs are after all still carnivores – and I think I could even safely go so far as to say most dogs can. However, this by many animal highly qualified on hand nutritionists today it is not a strict mindset or choice anymore and a made up balanced nutritional diet including plant matter is commonly if followed bring success.

Any dog owner (some old doggers) should not feel like they are breaking a "rule or a holy commandment" if they choose to start supplementing the diet, or if they want to give some veggies and home cooked foods as part of what they are feeding or now and then, or even if they choose to start feeding part grains and starches to a dog that can't keep on weight.

Every dog is different, and despite what some may tell you, a strict prey model diet does *not* work for every single dog.

Tail end.

This article is not anti-raw.

All the article is pointing out is the flaw behind the “feed raw because it’s what wolves eat” theory, and explaining that supplementing a prey model diet should not be looked down upon.

Every dog is different and has different dietary needs.

It’s important for raw feeders to continue to do research as more studies become available. As raw feeding grows in popularity, so will the research behind it.

More about anti-nutrients:

<http://www.everydayhealth.com/columns/johannah-sakimura-nutrition-sleuth/antinutrients-are-nothing-to-fear/>

<http://www.instituteornaturalhealing.com/2009/07/lectins-a-little-known-trouble-maker/>

Lectins.

Lectins are involved in food allergies/sensitivities, inflammation and autoimmune disease, just to name a few.

For instance, lectins are linked to celiac disease.

Even weight gain and low energy can be linked to lectins.

Because the lectins also circulate throughout the bloodstream they can bind to any tissue in the body — thyroid, pancreas, collagen in joints, etc.

This binding can disrupt the function of that tissue and cause white blood cells to attack the lectin-bound tissue, destroying it.

This is an autoimmune response.

The lectins in wheat for example, are specifically known to be involved in rheumatoid arthritis.”

Small amounts and infrequent feeding should prevent lectin damage in healthy animals but in ill animals even small amounts could be problematic.

This anti-nutrient thing is overplayed.

These problems shouldn't even arise in an otherwise healthy dog.

Yes, they might be something to consider if your dog has a specific health condition, but even then, I don't think feeding small amounts of grains, starches and plant matter along with a raw diet will cause the massive amount of harm implying it will cause.

It seems incredibly unlikely that a small amount of grain would cause these issues.

From the opposite side.

Looking at the 2% DNA difference from the opposite side.

Heather Lyons - The 0.2% difference is only mitochondrial DNA, which is vastly different by definition than an animal's complete genome.

Mitochondrial DNA, abbreviated as mtDNA, refers to a very very small circular piece of DNA found in the mitochondria of every complex animal.

This DNA is COMPLETELY SEPARATE from the animal's genome, which is housed in the nucleus of almost all cells in an organism.

Mitochondrial DNA is about the same quantity of DNA contained by the average bacterial cell.

There is **no information available** regarding the similarity of the entire genome of a gray wolf compared to a domestic dog, and unfortunately this misunderstanding if the information has helped encourage the "my dog is a wolf" mindset.

By saying grain and starches “may be appropriate in some circumstances”, I do not mean that all dogs should be fed a diet **high in starch**. I feed raw myself and I **don't believe** most dogs need grains and starches.

However, they may be useful in “some” situations, such as when a dog cannot keep on weight and health issues have been ruled out.

(For instance, someone recently posted about their dog getting 8% of their body weight per day, yet still not being the weight the owner would like, and asking if adding grains would help her dog. The dog had no prior health concerns and had regular bloodwork and fecal tests. I feed raw because I want to feed a whole, fresh, unprocessed food to my dogs.

But to be able to afford complete raw – then having the facilities and knowhow to prepare and store raw diet – constant availability do cause problems and then raw dog feeders revert back to a best brand dry commercial anyway. {Come on ... the dogs must eat MK}

It only makes sense that unprocessed would be better than processed kibble.

However, like the article suggests, dogs are not wolves.

The other side of the coin.

Know this ... Dogs are actually more closely related to other dogs than they are to wolves, and like the article says, there are actually differences when it comes to wolves and dogs' capabilities to digest starches.

This doesn't mean dogs should be fed a high starch diet – it is simply pointing out that **dogs ARE different than wolves**.

Then looking at whole prey diet in nature compared to raw diet we feed today.

99% raw feeders feed raw from certain available raw cuts from domesticated farm animals and birds.

It's a story on its own to fathom in the wild balanced raw with the butcher cuts raw (come on! normally the cheapest and leftovers from prepared human meat sales) – considering the organic value – no pesticide influence no antibiotic influence, no fertilizer and preservative influence between the two choices.

The thing I find most prey model feeders fail to take into account is that wild canids – wolves, coyotes etc. eat more than just prey.

While they may shake out the stomach content of large animals and eat only the lining, when it comes to small prey the entire animal is consumed, digestive tract and all.

Wolf biologists have also noted that in the spring time wolves will frequently kill multiple young deer when herds are available and then eat ONLY the stomach content (partly digested milk solids) and walk away from the rest of the animal. This interesting behavior is mentioned in “Wolves of the Yukon”.

In one case upwards of 15 young elk were killed in one hunt and only the stomach contents consumed, making a good argument for including yogurt or kefir in the diet.

Jackals and coyotes have frequently been documented eating in seasons melons and squash, beans and berries out of farmers' fields and while the jackals and coyote is not as closely related as the wolf, the coyote lives closer to the way early dog did – close to the fringes of human society – on the farms and between humans and domesticated animal alike - eating what it can find compared to wolves who tend to avoid human areas.

Looking in from the other side of reason.

Modern dog **did not descend from Modern wolf** –

This is the truth ... modern dog and modern wolf both had a common ancestor but went their separate way in evolution thousands of years ago and while hybridization did occur in some breeds, domestic dog is still a unique animal.

The domesticated dog evolved at the fringes of society eating our off casts, it evolved at our fireside eating our leftovers, it evolved scavenging and eating a much greater variety than wolf in the wild ever did.

With this it might just can open some to chage their minds just a little bit.