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***The parasites question in feeding raw fish.***

Raw fish is very safe for your dog – in fact, it is also safe for most humans.

It is important to note however, that there could be a risk of parasites but this you can easily minimize.

Humans in general are paranoid of parasites and even more so raw dog feeders.

The wild wolf families still are and have safely consumed raw fish for thousands of years with no ill effects.

Simply stated, if your dog's immune system is functioning well, parasites will not be a concern.

Then there are some cases where parasites might be a concern.

That is if your dog is immune compromised or if you have a stubborn worm problem in your dog or dogs, then you might want to consider your fish as a source.

There are three main parasites in fish.

Flukes (trematodes) - can be commonly found on the fish's skin or in the organs - for the most part, they are harmless to dogs.

Only members of the canid family are susceptible to them – cats, bears and other predators do not suffer the same illness as dogs, coyotes and wolves do.

Fortunately, most flukes are visible to the eye.

Roundworms (nematodes) - look like big, but short human hair (25-150 mm long, 2 mm in diameter).

They lie perpendicular to the fishes' muscle striations (the pattern of striae in the flesh) and have a white translucent sheen.

In particular wild salmon may contain roundworms, but farm raised salmon hardly ever does.

Unfortunately, farmed fish usually are be fed growth hormones and contain residues of drugs meant 'to prevent diseases'.

These hatcheries are very often owned by large companies that also produce cattle feed, and recycle human foods.

You can imagine that feeding these fish recycled, rancid foods causes them to contain damaged cholesterol and trans fatty acids.

Tapeworms (cestodes) - is the largest threat with raw fish.

Tapeworms are found in the internal organs (especially the intestines) and body cavities of the fish.

You can avoid them by feeding only eating the flesh of the fish, staying away from all organs – but then you also will lose the benefit of the nutrition from the organs.

Here is the problem solver - simple.

Fortunately, there is an easy way to prevent your dog from getting parasites from raw fish: freeze it.

Freezing will kill all parasites in the fish, rendering it safe for your dog to eat.

Freeze all of your dog's fish for a week before feeding and you will not have to worry about parasites.