

Dear Pet Parents,

I wanted to share with you some exciting news! In the desire to strive for excellence and to continue to provide the best care to you and your beloved pet, we have partnered with a Board Certified Veterinary Nutritionist®. The goals of this partnership were to discuss, evaluate, and create safe feeding practices within the facility and to evaluate the safety and quality of the dietary products we currently provide. We are delighted to share with you the following information and changes to protocol:

Treats

- **Did you know that a pet should not receive more than 10% of his or her daily calories from treats or toppers?**
 - Doing so could cause nutritional imbalances which may lead to or cause progression of certain illnesses.
 - Additionally, if treat calories are not accounted for, it can also promote or worsen pet obesity (which has been shown to lessen lifespan by 3+ years)
- **What have we done to help?**
 - Our partner, Dr. Bullen, has evaluated the current treats we offer and helped to create treat guidelines based on a pet's specific weight and caloric needs
 - Additionally, Dr. Bullen has evaluated and provided feedback on the safety of each treat product
 - These guidelines allow us to continue to provide high value treats to your pet(s) while reducing the risk of overfeeding treat calories
- **What can you do?**
 - Let us know if your pet has any specific dietary needs (including if you do not want them to get treats)
 - Every pet is unique in their tolerance and acceptance to different treats and ingredients

Open Farm Pet Food Review

- **Did you know that we currently offer food for pets that stay at our resort?**
 - If you don't want to bring your pet's food, we've got you covered!
- **What have we done to ensure that we are only offering the best to your pet?**
 - We currently carry products from a company called Open Farm. We asked Dr. Bullen to evaluate the company and its products.
 - What did she find?
 - Open Farm prides itself on sustainable, humane, and ethical ingredient sourcing
 - They are one of the more transparent of pet food companies regarding full nutrient profiles, ingredient sourcing, and quality control
 - Their quality control measures (pertaining to microbial/ bacterial contamination) are disclosed and can be tracked for each product
 - Each dietary product includes supplemental taurine. While this is not a requirement for high quality pet food, it does add a layer of comfort regarding optimizing your pets health.
- **How does this affect you?**
 - If you would like your pet to be fed one of our Open Farm products, please let us know and we would be happy to help!
 - Please remember, every pet is unique in their acceptance and tolerance to food and ingredients. As such, please let us know if your pet has any known allergies, hypersensitivities, or GI issues.

Changes to protocol

- **We will no longer be able to accommodate feeding raw products to our furry guests**
 - In addition to traditional raw products, “raw” also includes freeze-dried, raw-coated/ topped, and high pressure pasteurized
 - Raw does not include sous vide/ gently cooked (as long as it reaches and maintains an internal temperature of 165°)
- **Why the change of protocol?**
 - Raw diets are significantly more likely (compared to non-raw diets) to have bacterial contamination, thus and increased risk of resulting in a food-borne illness (i.e. food poisoning)
 - The common bacterial contaminants can cause illness to BOTH pets and their pet parents
 - While healthy pets and people do not often have a problem, any immunocompromised (old, sick, immunosuppressed, etc.) or immunoincompetent (puppies and/or children) individual is at risk of developing severe illness
 - With the current state of affairs regarding COVID 19, there are many more “silently” immunocompromised people spanning a wider age range than previously thought
 - We absolutely respect, and do not judge, your potential decision to feed raw, however we must consider the potential impact to our staff and clients, in addition to promoting the health and wellness of *all* of our guests
- **What does this mean for you?**
 - Please rest assured that your decision to feed raw at home will not affect our ability to care for your pet.
 - We will still provide the best of care to all pets regardless of at-home feeding philosophies.
 - We provide safe alternatives which include our gently cooked (sous vide) products from Open Farm
 - If you do not want to feed one of our products, you may absolutely bring a non-raw diet of your choosing.
 - For additional information, please see our “Feeding Raw” handout

We understand that you may have questions and/or may want additional information. As it is always our desire to provide accurate and up to date information, please see helpful links at the end of this letter.

Wag on!

~The Luckydog Team

Additional Nutritional Resources:

1. <https://www.petnutritionalliance.org/>
2. <https://petnutritionalliance.org/chart/index.php/manufacture-report>
3. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/petfoodology/>
4. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2016/01/raw-diets-a-healthy-choice-or-a-raw-deal/>
5. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2019/07/raw-cat-food-tuberculosis/>
6. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/11/dcm-update/>
7. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/nutrition-resources-for-pet-owners/>
8. <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/The-Savvy-Cat-Owner-s-Guide-to-Nutrition-on-the-Internet.pdf>

9. <https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/The-Savvy-Dog-Owner-s-Guide-to-Nutrition-on-the-Internet.pdf>
10. <https://acvn.org/frequently-asked-questions/>