

RAW Materials Used in Doctor B's BARF

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People who commit to the idea of healthy nutrition for companion animals often have concerns regarding the ingredient sources that we use to produce Doctor B's BARF. Those concerns relate firstly to the healthiness of the raw materials we use (will these raw materials produce maximum health for their pets?) and secondly to the ethics that underpin the production of the raw materials we use. The preference of many people is to only feed so-called "organic" or "biodynamically" raised produce. Another concern is the conditions under which livestock are raised - were those conditions humane?

All we can do is to answer those questions with absolute honesty and let you make the decision as to what you should feed your dog(s) and/or cat(s).

Questions we are often asked include...

Are any of the meats free-range?

For example; are the chickens & the pork raised intensively or are they free range?

Are any of the meat sources 'organic'?

By this, they mean "have the meat animals (or birds) been raised without the aid of pesticides, herbicides or any other chemicals such as chemical fertilisers, anthelmintics, antibiotics etc".



What about the eggs?

Are the eggs sourced from birds in cages, birds raised in barns or birds allowed to free-range?

What about the other ingredients?

Again, this question relates to their "organic" status. Have the fruits, the vegetables, the yoghurt, the kelp, the lucerne etc been raised without the aid of pesticides, herbicides or any other chemicals such as chemical fertilisers, antibiotics etc.

Before answering these questions in detail, the following points should be noted...

Product Affordability

Our commitment to companion animal health includes the aim of keeping our high quality products at an affordable price. In this respect, we recognise that it is part of the more recent evolutionary heritage of our companion animals that they have sourced much of their food from the 'scraps' of the

carer's table. To maintain that position and to ensure that the healthy scraps from modern human food production are not wasted or turned into highly processed foods for companion animals, these are the sources we look to.

This ensures that Doctor B's range is maintained not only at the highest quality, but also sold at an affordable price.

Fit for Human Consumption

It must be emphasized that all ingredients used to produce Doctor B's BARF for companion animals are fit for human consumption at the point of acquisition.

Handling of Raw Materials

From the moment of acquisition, each and every ingredient is handled in such a way as to maintain its wholesome integrity throughout the production of Doctor B's BARF products.

Seasonality produces Variations

With respect to the availability of the raw materials used to make Doctor B's BARF products, we do respect the broad principle of feeding those fruits and vegetables that are in season.

The purchaser of Doctor B's BARF should expect and will notice variations in the appearance and the smell of the food from time to time. One of the causes of this will be small changes in the proportion of meat to bone to fat etc. These proportions will vary in a healthy way from season to season, and depending on the farm and the type of feed the animal was raised on.

The colour will also vary. For example, when lamb meat is sourced from very young animals, not only is it likely to be leaner, it will also have a less intense colour compared to meat sourced from older animals. All of this variation is healthy. It is totally in accord with evolutionary patterns and 'norms'.

Our companion animals are designed to eat this way for maximum health. Doctor B's BARF fully reflects and adheres to this important ideal.

Freshness is a Priority

Doctor B's foods for companion animals are made only from the freshest of raw materials. For example, the basic raw meaty bones as derived from chicken or pork or turkey etc are often at our factory within thirty minutes of their production in the facility producing meat for humans!

And much of the fresh produce we include in Doctor B's BARF is purchased from the fruit and vegetable markets; many of the other vegetables come direct to our factory from the farms they are grown on.

Now to the individual questions...

Are any of the meats Free Range?

Being a proudly 'all Australian' set of foods for companion animals, Doctor B's BARF does contain raw materials derived from free-range sources. However, not all of the meat sources can be free range...

Lamb

In Australia, lamb is raised in a pasture-based system, meaning it would be considered to be "free range", although very little of the lamb produced in Australia could be defined as "organic".

Kangaroo

The kangaroo is all free range, and most of it is likely to be "organic", as none of it is farmed in any true sense of the word. Having said that, even some of the kangaroo might well have come from land that has been treated in some way with modern chemical fertilisers, herbicides etc, so the animal may have eaten plants which have been exposed to chemicals as there are no real controls on kangaroo movements.

Beef

Much of the beef comes from animals raised on pasture, but sometimes, because of availability issues, some beef is sourced from more intensively raised or finished cattle. Although some of our beef meat may come from a landholding that could well be defined as "organic", this would certainly not be true for the bulk of it.

Pork

In the case of pork, this is not free range or indeed "organic" and there are good reasons for this. Free-range pork, especially when it is also raised organically, can contain unhealthy pathogens (see below).

Chicken

The chicken is derived from healthy young birds raised for the human meat trade. That being the case, our chicken meat, bone, cartilage etc is derived from barn-raised birds. None of it could be guaranteed as "organic".

Turkey

The turkey used in Doctor B's products is raised in an environment that is a combination of barn and free-range. As with chicken, none of the turkey could be guaranteed as "organic".

Are any of the Meat Sources Organic?

The answer to this question has already been mostly answered. As you will now realise, the answer is that the lamb, beef, pork, chicken and turkey could not generally be defined as "organic", while the kangaroo may or may not be truly "organic" depending on what sort of pasture they had been grazing prior to harvest.

Truly organic foods in the sense of being produced (farmed) biodynamically or so-called organically (without the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or chemical fertilizers etc) are prohibitively costly, and can be of variable quality and availability. This would put the cost of Doctor B's BARF food out of reach of the average pet owner, and could result in variable supply.

Indeed, pet owners should be wary of any pet food producer that claims to exclusively use food farmed biodynamically or so-called organically – and sells the product cheaply. This is not possible, unless there was some problem with the raw materials, which forced its producer to lower the price.

“Organic” can equal “Inferior”

It is also important to understand that many so-called organic products are often inferior in a number of ways, most particularly with respect to the presence of pathogens. For example, organic pork is highly likely to contain parasites which can cause diseases such as **Trichinosis** and the viral disease **Aujeszky’s**, so that there is no way we would ever use such material.

Are the eggs free range or from caged birds?

Once again, it all depends upon availability. Barn-laid eggs are used preferentially when available.



What about the other Ingredients – are they “Organic”?

Ingredients such as – the fruits, the vegetables, the yoghurt, the kelp and lucerne etc. are sourced from conventional outlets without any emphasis on seeking specifically “organic” produce. Once again, the aim is to source high quality material at a price that allows the Doctor B’s products to be affordable.

Doctor B’s BARF aims to provide high quality, nutritious food for pets at an affordable price for the pet owner.