

POLICY ON FEEDING RAW MEAT-BASED DIETS TO PATIENTS IN THE UW VETERINARY CARE HOSPITAL

Diets containing raw meat products and by-products will not be fed to animals in the UW Veterinary Care Hospital.

- If food items are brought from home to be fed in-hospital, any food containing meat or meat products must be cooked thoroughly before delivery to the hospital. No uncooked or undercooked meats will be accepted.
- The only exception made to this policy will be for exotic animals that are admitted by clinicians trained to handle those species. This food will be handled according to established procedures in the exotics area.

RATIONALE

Raw meat-based diets have a high risk for contamination with bacteria, parasites and other pathogens.

- Diets composed of raw meat products pose a risk for transmission of these pathogenic microorganisms to people handling the foods, the materials used to store and feed the diets, and to the animals consuming the foods.
- Animals fed raw meat-based diets may shed high levels of these pathogens in their feces.
- Therefore, both raw meat-based diets and feces from animals fed raw meat-based diets may pose a health risk to hospitalized animals, hospital personnel, and the hospital environment. Animals or people who are young, old, or immunocompromised are particularly at risk from exposure to these pathogens.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Please contact UWVC Hospital Administration

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