

Raw Feeding for IBD Cats

Healing Can Happen!



Using Freeze-Dried Liver in Place of Fresh

When first introducing organs during the transition, many of us find that our cats do not like or cannot keep down fresh, raw liver. Clearly if there are issues, the rate of introduction should be very slow with the fresh, sometimes they can manage just a sliver. But we still want them to get the benefit from the 5% liver they need in their diet. There are three options:

- 1) If possible, offer a different kind of liver (for instance, beef or pork instead of chicken or turkey. Do bear in mind that many cats are especially sensitive to red meats. This carries through to their organs).
- 2) Cook the liver. Sometimes cooking helps keep it down; sometimes a touch of (unsalted) butter (from grass-fed cows if possible) for cooking helps make it more palatable.
- 3) Use freeze-dried liver. Most cats do enjoy freeze dried liver. In the U.S. and Canada, there are many brands and proteins. In the U.S. brands include PureBites, Whole Life, Stewart's ProTreat, Etta Says, Northwest Naturals, Bravo – and many more.

Please remember – fresh is best. When your cat is fully transitioned to raw, if kitty is still eating only freeze dried liver, it is best to try a reintroduction to fresh liver at some point, perhaps after several months, potentially longer. But freeze-dried liver is a healthy alternative as it retains virtually all of the nutrients of fresh.

How Much Freeze Dried Liver to Feed

CatCentric.org has a link to an online automatic calculator, thanks to Alison Nishiyama. This makes the math much easier! <http://jsfiddle.net/9romx9jc/embedded/result/>

But if you want to understand the math, in order to calculate how much freeze dried liver to feed, you need to know:

- 1) The moisture content of the brand you feed. This is listed in the guaranteed analysis on the package;

- 2) Whether the brand of freeze-dried liver you are using is cooked or raw. To my knowledge, the only freeze-dried *raw* liver is Stewart's ProTreat. If you are not sure, contact the manufacturer.
- 3) The moisture content of the type of liver (beef, pork, turkey, chicken, duck, etc.). This is data from the USDA Nutrient Database (<http://ndb.nal.usda.gov/ndb/search/list>)

Moisture Content of:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Raw Beef Liver | 70.8% |
| Raw Chicken Liver | 76.5% |
| Raw Duck Liver | 71.8% |
| Raw Lamb Liver | 71.4% |
| Raw Pork Liver | 71.1% |
| Raw Turkey Liver | 75.5% |

Moisture Content of:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Cooked Beef Liver | 58.8% |
| Cooked Chicken Liver | 66.8% |
| Cooked Duck Liver | 58.0% (estimated, the USDA does not have a value) |
| Cooked Lamb Liver | 56.7% |
| Cooked Pork Liver | 64.3% |
| Cooked Turkey Liver | 64.0% |

- 4) How much fresh liver your cat needs to eat each day. This is usually 5% to 10% of the diet: 5% if feeding another organ, 10% if not. Alnutrin with eggshell recipes recommend 7%.

Converting Freeze-dried Liver into Fresh Equivalent

The formula to determine how much freeze-dried liver is the equivalent to fresh:

$(\text{The \% of fresh solids} / \text{The \% of freeze-dried solids}) * \text{Fresh Weight} = \text{Freeze-dried Weight}$

This is: the percent of fresh liver solids divided by the percent of freeze-dried liver solids, multiplied by the fresh weight of liver you need to feed.

Fresh solids: 100% - moisture % of fresh liver

Freeze dried solids: 100% - moisture % of the freeze dried liver you are using

Example: freeze-dried raw chicken liver. Brand: Stewart's ProTreat

Fresh Solids % = (100% - 76.5% as per USDA data for raw chicken liver) = 23.5%

Freeze-dried Solids % = (100% - 6.5% as per guaranteed analysis on the package) = 93.5%

(Fresh Liver Solids % / Freeze-dried Liver Solids %): (23.5% / 93.5%) = 25.2%

25.2% * (Insert amount of liver needed. In this example, we will convert to one pound of fresh, so 16 ounces: 25.2% * 16) = 4 ounces of Stewart’s ProTreat freeze dried raw chicken liver is equivalent to one pound of fresh raw liver.

How Much Fresh Liver Does My Cat Need?

When introducing organs, some feed liver to 10% of the diet until they introduce another secreting organ. So how much fresh liver depends on whether you are feeding 5% of the total diet, or 10% (or somewhere between).

| Fresh % | Daily ounces of food | | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 3.0oz | 4.0oz | 4.5oz | 5.0oz | 5.5oz | 6.0oz | 6.5oz |
| 5% | 0.15 | 0.20 | 0.225 | 0.25 | 0.275 | 0.30 | 0.325 |
| 10% | 0.30 | 0.40 | 0.45 | 0.50 | 0.55 | 0.60 | 0.65 |

If you are targeting 5% liver and feed a total of 4.5 ounces of food per day, your kitty needs 0.225 ounces of FRESH liver daily.

In the above example using Stewart’s ProTreat raw, freeze dried chicken liver, to calculate how much liver to use at 5% liver, feeding 4.5 ounces of total food daily, 0.225 ounces of fresh liver is needed. To convert to a freeze dried quantity:

Example: freeze-dried raw chicken liver. Brand: Stewart’s ProTreat

Following the steps already detailed, above:

Fresh Liver Solids % = (100% - 76.5% as per USDA data) = 23.5%

Freeze-dried Liver Solids % = (100% - 6.5% as per guaranteed analysis) = 93.5%

(Fresh Solids % / Freeze-dried solids %): (23.5% / 93.5%) = 25.2%

25.2% * 0.225 ounces of fresh raw liver = 0.06 ounces of Stewart’s ProTreat freeze dried raw chicken liver is the equivalent to 0.225 ounces of fresh raw chicken liver. Because the amounts of freeze dried liver are usually so small, I find it easier to weigh grams.

There are 28.35 grams to one ounce. To convert, multiply the number of ounces by grams per ounce:

0.06 ounces of freeze dried liver * 28.35 grams = 1.7 grams

In this example, 1.7 grams of Stewart’s ProTreat freeze dried chicken liver is needed daily.

Of course, if you need assistance, please just ask in the group.