

**BOARDING POLICY ON RAW MEAT DIETS
EASTSIDE ANIMAL CLINIC
FALL 2018**

Multiple published studies have shown that a significant percentage of dogs and cats fed raw meat diets shed pathogenic bacteria and parasites into their environment. In addition, the majority of pet food recalls thus far in 2018 have been raw foods due to bacterial contamination. The FDA has also received reports of human illness from handling raw pet foods. Because of this risk and the lack of scientific data to support any significant benefits of such diets, the FDA, CDC, AVMA, and AAHA DO NOT RECOMMEND their use.

Eastside Animal Clinic's boarding facility is dedicated to the safety and well-being of our clients' beloved pets. Storing raw meat diets for boarders has its own health and safety concerns, and we have very limited refrigerator space. Handling of such food creates additional risk to staff members. Sanitizing food and water bowls, utensils, bedding, toys, floors, cages, runs, and outdoor exercise areas from the types of bacteria and parasites associated with raw meat diets is a daunting, if not impossible task. Furthermore, Eastside provides boarding for many elderly, frail, and immunocompromised pets that are at greater risk of infection and severe illness from such organisms. Therefore, due to all of the concerns listed above, the veterinarians and management of Eastside have made the following boarding policy:

*Eastside Animal Clinic will no longer store or feed any raw meat diets for boarding or hospitalized pets.

*Any pet coming in for boarding that is fed a raw meat diet at home will be required to have a Fecal PCR completed with all negative results one week prior to admission at the owner's expense. The test takes several days to obtain results, and owners must assume any and all consequences of a positive test results that precludes a pet from staying at Eastside.

*Owners of pets fed raw meat diets must agree to and provide a cooked or commercially cooked canned or dry food for their pet, and assume all responsibility for any health problems associated with the change of food given.

*Pets fed raw diets must comply with all other boarding requirements as published on the EAC website or provided by staff.

As the legal owner of _____, I have read, understand, and agree to the EAC Boarding Policy on Raw Meat Diets above.

Signed, _____ Date _____