

# RAW FEEDING CHEAT SHEET



## HOW TO PORTION FOR

ferrets



%  
40-51

### MUSCULAR TISSUE (BONELESS MEAT)

chicken, turkey, quail, duck, pheasant, partridge, cornish hen, squirrel, rabbit, beaver, muskrat, pork, beef, lamb, goat, goose, venison, bison, kangaroo, alpaca, ostrich, etc.

%  
25

### MUSCULAR ORGANS

- **heart** (high in B vitamins)
- **lungs** (high in selenium)
- **green tripe** (high in manganese)
- **gizzards**

### OPTIONAL PARTS

- **tongue** (high in fat)
- **trachea** (source of chondroitin)
- **tendon** (source of collagen)
- **gullet**
- **pizzle**
- **ears**
- **uterus**

Freeze wild caught animals at -4F / -20C or below for 3-4 weeks.

Sodium of any item should not exceed 25 mg of sodium per 1 oz / 28g.

Skin with fur or feathers attached is a great source of animal-based fiber.

Kits (baby ferrets) should be fed as much as they're hungry for.

Taurine is essential for ferrets!

Heart is high in taurine!

Don't feed cooked or bare bones.

Supervise while eating.

Count the muscle meat on bones into muscle meat percentage.

### WHOLE PREY

*The desired & balanced meal for ferrets!*

- mouse (5%)
- rat (5%)
- hamster (5%)
- gerbil (5%)
- guinea pig (10%)
- quail (10%)
- rabbit (10%)
- pheasant (14%)

### RAW MEATY BONES

- rabbit back (15%)
- chicken wing tip (46%)
- duck wing tip (39%)
- chicken toes (80%)
- duck toes (60%)
- quail (10%)
- cornish hen (39%)
- pheasant (14%)
- chicken neck (50-75%)
- rabbit foot (40%)

%  
10-12

Bone percentage of each cut/animal.

%  
6-8

### 2ND SECRETING ORGAN

- **thymus** (high in LA)
- **pancreas** (digestive enzymes)
- **brain** (high in DHA)
- **kidney** (high in B vitamins)
- **spleen** (high in iron)
- **eyeball** (high in iron)
- **testicle** (high in B12)
- **ovaries**

%  
2-4

### LIVER

Liver is a staple secreting organ in the raw diet because of the vitamin A content.

### Quick Notes

- Sweetbreads are a mixture of thymus and pancreas.
- Lower the organ percentage to 2% if you are feeding ruminant animal/duck liver due to a high concentration of copper/vitamin A.

# DON'T FORGET THESE NUTRIENTS!

## Omega-3s (EPA DHA)

**0.025g per 1000kcal fed**

Smelt, anchovies, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic salmon, herring, sardines, or Nordic Naturals fish oil.

## Vitamin D

**1.4mcg per 1000kcal fed**

Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic salmon, Atlantic herring, pasture raised egg, beef liver, or cod liver oil.

## Vitamin E

**9.4mg per 1000kcal fed**

NOW/Solgar vitamin E oil.

## Iodine

**115mcg per 1000kcal fed**

Maine Coast Sea Seasonings kelp, dulse, or triple blend flakes.

## Manganese

**1.2mg per 1000kcal fed**

Cooked blue mussels or green tripe.

## Zinc

**18.5mg per 1000kcal fed**

Red meat, pasture raised egg, canned oysters in water or Good State/Trace Minerals ionic zinc.

### Quick Notes

Canned seafood should be in water only.

If the diet is high in red meats, zinc shouldn't be deficient.

### Calculating how much to feed daily

\*kits should be fed as much as they're hungry for\*

10-12% of adult ferret's body weight

% in decimal \* body weight  
= # oz/g of food daily

### Calculating daily caloric intake

200-300 kcal per kg of body weight for adults

300+ kcal per kg of body weight for kits

### Calculating nutrient requirements from kcal intake

kcal intake / 1,000  
= *percentage intake of 1,000 kcal*

percentage intake \* NRC kitten nutrient per 1,000kcal  
= *# of that nutrient needed daily*

### Nutrient ratio relationships

Calcium:Phosphorus  
1.1:1

Zinc:Copper  
8.8:1

Zinc:Iron  
0.9:1

# NRC NUTRIENT REQUIREMENTS

for  
ferrets

## Essential nutrients

RA per 1,000 kcal

Crude Protein (g)	56.3
Arginine (g)	2.4
Histidine (g)	0.83
Isoleucine (g)	1.4
Methionine (g)	1.1
Methionine & Cystine (g)	2.2
Leucine (g)	3.2
Lysine (g)	2.1
Phenylalanine (g)	1.3
Phenylalanine & Tyrosine (g)	4.8
Threonine (g)	1.6
Tryptophan (g)	0.40
Valine (g)	1.6
Taurine (g)	0.10
Total Fat (g)	22.5
Linoleic Acid (g)	1.4
α-Linoleic Acid (g)	0.05
Arachidonic Acid (g)	0.05
EPA+DHA (g)	0.025
Calcium (g)	2.0
Phosphorus (g)	1.8
Magnesium (mg)	100
Sodium (mg)	350
Potassium (g)	1.0
Chloride (mg)	225
Iron (mg)	20
Copper (mg)	2.1
Zinc (mg)	18.5
Manganese (mg)	1.2
Selenium (mcg)	75
Iodine (mcg)	215
Vitamin A (Retinol) (mcg)	250
Cholecalciferol (D3) (mcg)	1.4
Vitamin E (α-tocopherol) (mg)	9.4
Vitamin K (Menadione) (mg)	0.25
Thiamin (mg)	1.4
Riboflavin (mg)	1.0
Pyridoxine (mg)	0.625
Niacin (mg)	10
Pantothenic Acid (mg)	1.43
Cobalamin (mcg)	5.6
Folic Acid (mcg)	188
Biotin (mcg)	18.75
Choline (mg)	637

Vitamin A:  
1 RE = 1 mcg retinol  
1 IU = 0.3 mcg retinol

Vitamin E:  
1 IU = 0.67 mg for  
d-alpha-tocopherol

Vitamin D:  
1 IU = 0.025 mcg