

2007 Litter
Raw Feeding Journal

Mama Sóley was fed a 99% raw food diet during pregnancy. We followed the Billingham plan with some modifications, mostly a higher ratio of meat to bone. Sóley was raised on raw food from 11 weeks of age, but we do give some kibble while travelling and as treats in the Buster cube, etc. That's why I say she eats 99% raw. I believe this is the first "raised on raw" litter of Icelandic Sheepdogs in North America.

On October 17th she delivered 5 healthy puppies without any assistance, besides some help with drying some of the pups, in about one hour and ten minutes. Good job! She ate the placentas which is a natural part of the process. Her first meals were a "smoothie" made from homemade organic kefir with some maple syrup and egg. This tempted her to eat and take in fluids over the first couple of days when she didn't want to leave the whelping box.



The pups were nursed exclusively until they reached 4 weeks of age. On Day 28 (November 13) we chopped up some chicken necks and put them in the pen. They instantly knew this was good stuff and began to gnaw away. They got some chicken bones to chew each day of that week but at that age they couldn't consume much of the meat. The meaty bones fulfilled their natural instincts to chew and reduced the tendency to chew on their dam while nursing!



Day 34 (November 19) - they got their first meal of raw. I put a 4 ounce chicken mince patty in a ziplock bag and floated it in a bowl of warm water, to bring it to room temperature. I put the chicken mince on a plate. Within seconds of putting the plate down in the pen, I had three pups sniffing and then gobbling down the chicken. Our little boy pup joined in when they were about half done. Dainty little



Ziggy (Elska) slept through most of the meal but she got up in time to lick some chicken off the plate.

Day 37 (November 22) – The pups have had meals of raw ground chicken meaty bones for three days in a row. Today they got a meal of lean ground beef with some added bonemeal to balance the calcium:phosphorus ratio (1 cup ground beef to 1.5 tsp bonemeal). They ate 2 cups of food! I fed them on a glass pie plate to get them used to eating from a different container. They are all eating very quietly and cooperatively from the same plate.



Day 38 (November 23) – The pups ate some more ground beef with some coarsely ground chicken mince (meat and bone) and some chopped chicken liver. They ate from a metal plate today. They also got a small amount of diced cooked chicken as treats during their first clicker training experiences.



Day 41 (November 26) - The pups ate beef and chicken liver over the weekend. I thawed a 4 pound block of ground beef with bone and mixed that with 1 pound of green lamb tripe and 2 pounds of ground duck necks. The beef we're getting from the Pickering butcher seems to be low in bone content (they probably can't put harder beef bone through their grinder) so the tripe and the duck necks will help balance that. No surprise the pups loved the meal with the added tripe. They are eating two meals a day now, each meal is about a pound of food so that equals about 3 ounces per pup.

Day 42 (November 27) I had thawed some quail quarters for the cat and decided to throw a few pieces to the pups, thinking they would rip some meat off the bones. I started to hear crunching - they went through those tiny quail bones pretty quickly! I watched carefully to make sure the bones went down safely. The pups have obviously graduated to bigger bones!

Day 43 (November 28) Pups got to sample some of mom's diet today, it's a mixture of ground chicken, turkey, beef and lamb meaty bones, with some eggs, canned sardine and pork liver. It's lumpier and crunchier than their usual

minces but there were no complaints. I am thawing ground turkey and ground beef and will make a mix for them with some eggs, fish, beef heart and liver and a bit of pureed vegetables.

Day 49 (December 4) Pups are eating the same food as Mom - chicken, turkey, lamb and beef meaty bone mince with other whole foods including eggs, organ meats, ground heart, canned fish, and some homemade yogurt or kefir made from organic unhomogenized milk. Pups are getting two meals per day and lots of training treats throughout the day (cheese, cooked meat).

Bones are the most fun!



Day 49 - Day 54 (December 9th) House-training has commenced - we have been keeping two of the pups crated upstairs each night and we carry them downstairs to the yard when they wake up. We also put all the pups outside after bone-chewing sessions and naps. Have had several potty successes so far!

Ziggy (Elska) will no doubt be the fastest to train as today we caught her scratching at the sliding door when she needed to go out!

Weaning started at 8 weeks of age - at 9 weeks the pups would occasionally be allowed to latch on and suckle for about two seconds. When I noticed weaning had started I began to feed three meals daily – I wanted Soley to wean them naturally at her own pace. That’s an important natural rearing principle.

Updates on the Pups





Tindra, Leika and Elska are in raw-feeding homes. Disa and Kona are fed kibble. Disa also gets meaty lamb bones to eat which is great. I recommend giving bones to pups on a regular basis for the exercise of chewing and providing a natural recreational outlet for their energies.