

Success Story: Treatment of Pica in Camel

Pica or allotriophagia is commonly associated with parasitism and deficiencies of phosphorus, salt or protein and has been widely reported in camel as well as other livestock species. In a study conducted by ICAR-NRCC, a very high incidence (51.66%) of pica was recorded in camels of all age groups at an organised farm. Camel calves of less than one year of age showed vices of licking the manger and corral walls along with eating floor soil. Pica was more pronounced in active growing camels between 1-5 years of age. Common vices observed were osteophagia, geophagia, lithophagia and coprophagia depending upon the availability of that particular object in the vicinity of the camels

ICAR-NRCC, Bikaner has developed a novel mineral mixture for treatment of Pica. This specially designed mineral mixture at the rate of 50 gm per day per animal for two months was found to relieve the camels from symptoms of pica as well as there was improvement in haemato-biochemical and serum mineral profiles in camels fed with the mineral mixture. For extension of the technology various trainee farmers at the centre were made aware about this technology.



Geophagia and Osteophagia in Pica affected camels

The composition of the designed mineral mixture (per 100 kg) was as follows: Dicalcium phosphate (Ca_2PO_4) 59.00 kg; calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) 40.50 kg; zinc sulphate (ZnSO_4) 0.230 kg; copper sulphate (CuSO_4) 0.160 kg; manganese sulphate (MnSO_4) 0.030 kg and cobalt sulphate (CoSO_4) 0.050 kg.