



Zalam â€“ Salt deficiency in camels

Description

Zalam â€“ The salt deficiency

In continuation of our discussion about the salt requirements and deficiency in camels; The salt deficiency in camels is called Zalam (cruelty) among the Pashtun and Balochi camel pastoralists. They consider this deficiency as a punishment and cruelty towards the camels. Salt is one of the important welfare issues of the camels. I interviewed many camel keepers in Balochistan and other parts of the country, salt is one of the main requirements of the camels. They think the salt is the camelâ€™s sword, fighting the challenging weather, thirst, and hunger. If you leave the camel without a weapon (salts) to fight against the long hotter days, and scarcity of feed and water, it is cruelty or Zalam.

<https://arkbiodiv.com/2017/12/17/plants-that-are-liked-such-as-icecream-by-the-camels-part-1-2/>

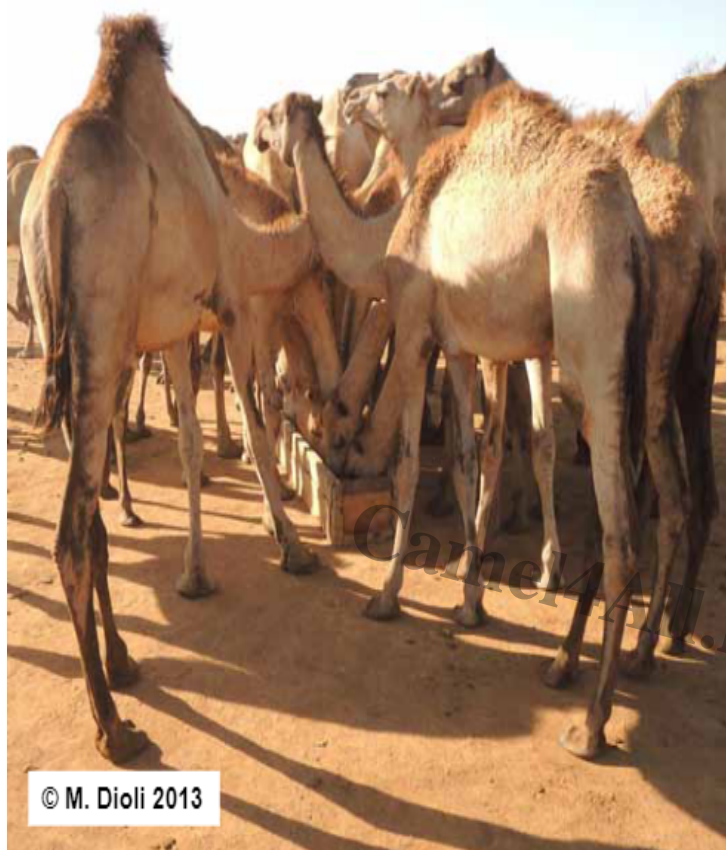
Camel salt requirements per day

According to the camel keepers, the requirements of the salt are based on some factors like; age, stage (milking, working, pregnancy, etc.), food, water, and season of the year. In most cases, the pastoralist has specified certain grazing land based on the salt bushes availability. They graze their camels once a week in the salt bushes inhabited grazing lands. Along with this, they offer salt of 500 g/mature camel in a week. If enough salt bushes are not available, then the requirements per week are double 1 kg/camel/week.

What type of salt should be offered to the camels?

The granular salt is the best suited for the camels as camel use their lips as prehensile organs. Camels are not like cows (lick) so the salt as a block is not good for camels; it can harm the camelsâ€™ teeth. Also, the powder form is not recommended as it gets moist during humid nights. The top priority should be grazing on salt bushes with an additional amount of 1 kg/week per camel.

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Dioli, M. (2013). Pictorial Guide to Traditional Management, Husbandry and Diseases of the One-Humped Camel, 2nd Ed. Open Access: <http://www.ivis.org/newsletter/archives/sep13/sep0213dioli.htm>.



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Some images are provided in the article below by Maurizio Dioli

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328927749_How_much_how Often_and_in_which_form_should_salt_Na

Debate and the way forward

I always love to know the diversity of opinions about a phenomenon. I put some questions for further discussion and looking forward to hearing from different camelists of the world. Here are some questions;

- Camel requirements of salts per day, What is the exact quantity required?
- Do the camels drink brackish/salty water?
- Do the camels drink seawater?

- The impact of salts on the physiological aspects of camel
- Can we regulate the milk taste with the on-off camel salts

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