

URINARY CALCULI

ALSO CALLED UROLITHIASIS, "WATER BELLY," OR KIDNEY OR BLADDER STONES

Urinary calculi is a metabolic disease, resulting in the formation of calculi (stones or crystals) in the urinary tract of sheep and goats, which block the flow of urine. The disease affects mostly males, especially wethers, rarely females. It occurs most commonly in show or pet goats or lambs.



Causes

- Diet: high grain/low roughage diets.
- Rations high in phosphorus; sometimes calcium.
- An imbalance of calcium and phosphorus in the diet.
- Insufficient intake of water
- Genetic factors

Symptoms

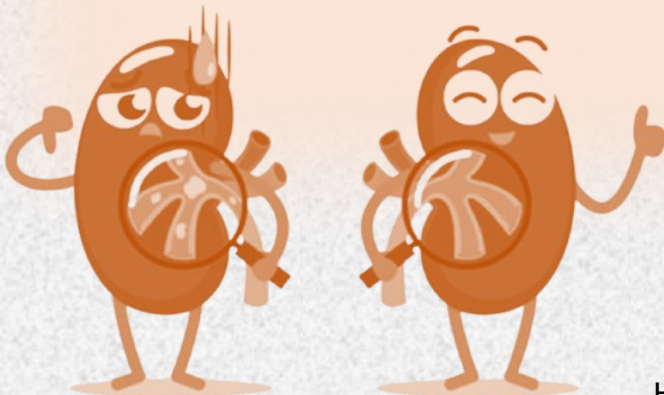
- Restlessness and anxiety
- Depression, lethargy
- Tail twitching
- Abdominal pain and distension
- Humped-up
- Straining to urinate
- Dribbles of urine
- Blood in urine
- Bladder rupture leading to death

Treatment

- Depends on extent of blockage
- Smooth muscle relaxants and anti-inflammatories (Rx).
- Oral doses of ammonium chloride
- Natural remedies
- Supportive care
- Surgical options, depending upon location of obstruction
- Salvage

Prevention

Feed balanced rations
Calcium to phosphorus ratio of at least 2:1
Roughage (long stem forage) in diet
Clean quality water of appropriate temperature
Add salt to diet, free choice salt
Addition of ammonium chloride to diet



Kidney stones

No stones

WHAT ABOUT EARLY CASTRATION?

Castrating at an early age is debated as a cause of urinary calculi, but it is not. However, early castration may increase the risk if you feed your animals improperly.

