



Urinary calculi

(UC) also called urolithiasis, "water belly," or kidney or bladder stones

What is it?

A metabolic disease, resulting in the formation of calculi (stones or crystals) in the urinary tract of sheep, goats, and camelids, which block the flow of urine.

Who usually gets it?

Mostly wethers. Sometimes intact males.
Females rarely

What are the symptoms?

Restlessness and anxiety
Abdominal pain and discomfort
Humped-up appearance
Straining and inability to urinate
Bladder rupture → death

What usually causes it?

High grain: low roughage diets
Rations high in phosphorus
Phosphorus: calcium imbalance
Insufficient water intake
Genetic susceptibility

Is there a treatment?

Depends on extent of blockage
Smooth muscle relaxants
Oral doses of ammonium chloride
Surgical options, depending upon location of stones.
Salvage by processing

How do you prevent it?

Correct diet formulation; calcium to phosphorus ratio of at least 2:1
Source of roughage in the diet. Clean, constant supply of water.
Adequate salt intake (~4% of diet); addition of ammonium chloride to diet (~0.5%)

