

Urinary Calculi (Waterbelly)

Urinary calculi or “waterbelly” is a metabolic disease referring to phosphate salt deposits lodged in the urinary tract. Urinary calculi accounts for 13% of all death losses from nutritional deficiency diseases and ailments.¹ These salt deposits in the urinary tract may block the flow of urine, particularly in male cattle and sheep. Prolonged blockage of the urinary tract typically results in the rupture of the urinary bladder or urethra, releasing urine into the surrounding tissues. Insufficient water intake can also contribute to the problem, causing the urine to become more concentrated, thus making the formation of stones more likely.

Prevention of urinary calculi is accomplished by increasing water intake and acidifying the urine. This entails providing an ample supply of water along with the use of ammonium chloride or other acid forming salts to acidify the urine and prevent the formation of calculi (stones). MIX 30 Liquid Feed contains a significant amount of ammonium chloride and is also very palatable, unlike most other products that contain ammonium chloride. MIX 30 Liquid Feed should be an integral part of an effective urinary calculi prevention program.

¹ M.E. Ensminger; Beef Cattle Science, p. 520, 1976

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