

Copper Status in Camels and Affecting Factors

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ABSTRACT

Camels are used for many activates including race, meat and milk production, as power animals for transportation and agriculture or just as social prestige. Copper is an important trace element for many biochemical body functions. Copper deficiency can cause many deleterious effects that can affect animal health and/or production. Copper status could be detected as concentrations in plasma or serum and/or liver tissue as the main analyzed samples. Detection of animal copper status is important to assess the necessity of the animal supplementation needs for the element. Reports on copper status in camels are accumulating and variable values have been presented. Many factors could affect copper status in camels which could be summarized in dietary copper intake, location of camels, breed, presence of dietary interfering elements, physiological status, season and age. These factors and other reports in literature on copper status in camels including comparative values with other ruminants are discussed in this article.

Keywords: Copper, Camels, plasma, liver