

# PACKAGE AND PRACTICE FOR PICA IN ANIMAL

1. Pica is a disturbance of appetite, food intake or nutritional status in domestic animals. It is most commonly observed in cattle, buffalo, pigs, horse, sheep, goats, dogs and cats.
2. Pica is most commonly associated with dietary deficiency of bulk or more specific nutrients like fiber, individual nutrients like salt, cobalt or phosphorous.
3. Miscellaneous factors like boredom, chronic abdominal pain and brain disturbances (like rabies, nervous acetonemia) are also responsible.
4. Affected animal either eats or drink material other than normal food. Animal may chew bones (Osteophagia), feces (Coprophagia) or infants (Infantophagia).
5. Sheep generally eats wood, barks, carrions etc.
6. Salt hunger in cows/buffalo leads to coat licking, leather chewing, and earth eating and drinking of urine.
7. Pica may lead to serious consequences in animals in the form of death of newborns in cannibalism, poisoning (lead or botulism).
8. Lodgment of foreign bodies in alimentary tract or accumulation of wool or fibers or sand may cause obstructions.
9. Ingestion of sharp foreign bodies may lead to perforation of esophagus or stomach or occasionally traumatic reticulitis in cattle.
10. Ingestion of foreign object like polythene bags, garbage may leads to several digestive problems like impaction in animals.
11. Pica causes perverted appetite which deleteriously affects growth, reproduction and productivity of animal ultimately incurring economic losses to a farmer.
12. Pica can be treated by inclusion of different nutritional factors specially phosphorus and deworming with potent anthelmintic and observing its clinical response.
13. The syndrome of Pica can be prevented by providing properly balanced ration with inclusion of trace minerals, salt, roughages etc.
14. Animals should be provided with roughages like straws or hay. Diet should be supplemented with some vegetables or fruit pulp.

SMS A.H & Vety.  
Dr. Aniyang Lego  
9862669907  
aniyanglego@gmail.com