Camel mothers fed on chumvi Kuria, in good condition

How to prepare and feed Chumvi Kuria to Camels

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**Introduction**

Lack of minerals is a major cause of poor productivity of camels. Natural sources are inadequate and inaccessible. Among other serious effects, mineral deficiencies reduce feed intake and digestibility leading to poor growth rates and milk production.

A home made salt ration “Chumvi Kuria” has been shown to increase milk yield and calf growth by over 30%. It also significantly improves the body condition.

**How to prepare ‘Chumvi Kuria’:**

**Step 1:**
Collect old or fresh livestock bones. If they are fresh, sun dry them for a week to reduce smoke (carbon).

**Step 2:**
Burn the bones in a container on an open fire for 2 hours to soften them and kill any micro-organisms.

**Step 3:**
Grind the bones using stone and grinder or other methods. Note: Bone meal can also be bought from the market.

**Step 4:**
Take the salt from Chalbi desert and remove stones. Note: Red Magadi or kitchen salt can be used in place of Chalbi desert salt but this slightly lowers the quality of ‘Chumvi Kuria’.

**Step 5:**
Weigh 2 kg of the bone meal and mix with 3 kg of Chalbi desert salt to get ‘Chumvi Kuria’ (2 units bone meal to 3 units of Chalbi desert salt).

**Feeding Chumvi Kuria to camels**

Pour ‘Chumvi Kuria’ into a home made trough (wooden or half drum) and allow camels to lick freely. Alternatively, mix with drinking water. Ensure that there is ‘Chumvi Kuria’ in the trough at all times.

**Benefits of feeding Chumvi Kuria**

Left: Less milk with less foam when no salt
Right: More milk, more foam when salt.

**Other Benefits:**
- Improved camel body condition
- Over 30% increase in growth rate of camel calves
- Females conceive easily
- Camels require water less frequently.