Control of mastitis
1. Identify the infected lactating camels in the herd and milk them last
2. Wash hands before and after milking each animal
3. Where possible wash the udder of the camel before milking
4. Use easy to wash and hygienic containers for milking and storage of milk
5. Avoid tying of teats
6. Ensure the teat is completely stripped of milk

Treatment
Consult animal health technical person

Points to Remember
Some reagents are supplied as concentrates and require dilution. Dilute with water
**Introduction**

Mastitis causes part or whole of the camel udder to swell. The disease is mainly caused by bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus agalactiae*). Some local camel keepers believe the disease results from 'bad eye' or the envy of neighbours with ill feelings on another's herd.

It is commonly referred to as Budha by many camel keepers. Milk from an infected camel may contain blood, flakes and changes colour from white to yellow or red.

**Signs and Symptoms of mastitis in camel**

- One or more quarters of the udder is swollen, red and painful.
- Reduced milk production.
- Difficulty in milking as the teat canal sometimes blocked.
- In severe cases, one or more teats may die off.
- The disease may cause abscess in camels’ udder.

**Mode of spread of the disease**

The disease causing bacteria can spread from an infected camel to a healthy camel through:-

- Poor milking hygiene
- Contact with wound on the udder or teats
- Milkers not exhaustively milking the animal
- Teat injury which may be caused by tying of teats and tick bites among others.
- Initial stages of the disease (sub clinical) can only be de-tected by use of California Mastitis Test (CMT).

**How to screen for Mastitis Requirements**

- Clean Water
- (preferably bottled water)
- CMT solution
- CMT paddle
- Strip cup

**Procedure**

- In case one buys CMT reagent that not premixed, mix with water following instructions on the bottle
- Place the paddle as shown with the handle facing the tail of the animal.
- Place the paddle directly facing each quarter of the udder.
- Squeeze each teat once (about 2 ml) directly into its corresponding dish until milk sample from each teat is collected.

- In each dish with milk sample, add the same amount of reagent (CMT solution).
- Gently agitate the paddle to mix well with milk.
- Wait for about 30 to 60 seconds and observe the results.

- Animal with mastitis will show gel-like formation on the dish indicating a positive reaction with the reagent. See the hind left dish in the picture above.

- Sometimes milk with mastitis may taste salty or have blood clots.