The Need For Copper:

It's A KeyIngredient In Llama Nutrition, But Too Much Can Be Toxic!

From pipes to pennies to electrical wiring, copper is part of our everyday life. And even though it's needed only in minute quantities, it plays a major role in the day-to-day nutrition and health of llamas and alpacas, too.

Why Copper's One Of The Keys To Life.

Within most animals, copper's main function is the formation of life-giving hemoglobin (or oxygenated blood). However, copper seems to have a symbiotic relationship with another important mineral-iron.

Most deficiency problems are caused by feedstuffs that are too low in copper, because they come from soils lacking adequate levels of trace elements. But even small supplements of this key mineral can make a big difference in the health of copper-deficient animals.

Taking The Concerns Out Of Copper Toxicity.

Even with all the benefits of copper, it can present a real risk. That's because levels that are too high are downright toxic to llamas. Whenever you're supplementing or providing copper to animals, balance is the key. Always avoid randomly using sources of copper contained in supplementation such as free choice minerals, mineralized salt blocks, or trace minerals and additives. Even water can contribute to excessive copper intake, so you should also pay attention to your water source's mineral content.

The problem is that copper accumulates in the body at much lower thresholds than other minerals. That's why excessive intake can actually poison an animal, leading to liver degeneration or, in extreme cases, even death. In addition, too much copper interferes with uptake and distribution of other critical minerals like iron and zinc.

To keep your llamas happy and healthy, the goal is to control the copper level in their diet and prevent excess copper intake. And Mazuri® brand llama diets help make it easy.

Copper Toxicity Threshold: 25 PPM

It's generally believed the threshold for copper toxicity in the llama diet is 25 ppm. However, one research study also indicated that with normal forage levels of copper, 25-30 ppm should be safe, but probably

So how can you provide adequate amounts of copper for your animals, and at the same time, guard against toxicity concerns? One of the best ways is to feed a balanced diet specially formulated only for llamas and alpacas, like those offered by Mazuri -the experts in exotic animal nutrition.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although they have no hump, llamas are members of the camelid family. You can really see the resemblance in those lips!

With Mazuri, you have your choice of three different llama diets, including Llama Supplement Pellets, Llama Diet High Fiber and Llama Diet Coarse. Each is formulated with a precise level of copper that's proven safe, and enables your llamas and alpacas to thrive. In short, your animals get all the copper they need for good health, along with the consistent and balanced nutrition they need for long life.

Copper. Now that you know its benefits and risks, and how it fits in with llama nutrition, there's no need to worry or wonder. In fact, choosing quality feeds to meet your animals' copper needs has never been easier.

DID YOU KNOW?

Copper levels that are too high can be toxic to llamas, resulting in liver degeneration and even death.

Lack Of Copper Can Be A Real Stopper.

What happens when your llamas aren't getting enough copper in their diet? It can result in a number of problems, starting with nutritional anemia caused by a serious lack of hemoglobin in the blood.

DID YOU KNOW?

Trace minerals are those found only in minute amounts in soils and plants. That's why their content in feedstuffs is closely tied to the amount present in the soil.

While the amount of needed copper is just a tenth that of iron, evidence shows it clearly affects iron metabolism at the cellular level. In fact, to prevent nutritional anemia and properly form vital hemoglobin, both copper and iron must be present in the animal's diet. That's why sufficient -but not too high- levels of copper are essential for ensuring the animal's health and long life.
Generally poor performance, severe diarrhea, weight loss, and slow or stunted growth are other symptoms of copper deficiency. Even the animal's immune function can be depressed from inadequate copper levels. In some cases, however, a lack of certain vitamins can also lead to anemia. And you should take note, whether it's a copper or iron deficiency, animals may exhibit the same symptoms.