



Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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Diet Recommendations for Small Mammals with Bladder Stones/Urine Sludge

Increase water intake

Make sure both a bottle and water crock are available at all times. This includes both in the cage and in the area where they get out to exercise. Make sure the bottle is properly positioned in the cage and is functional, and the water is changed daily.

Greens

Gradually increase fresh green intake (Green leaf/Red leaf/Bibb etc.) to upwards of 15-20% of their diet if they can tolerate it. Specifically select low calcium greens (avoid kale and spinach). Focus on the greens more than other vegetables, and even a smaller amount of fruits.

Exercise

Get the animal up and moving. The more they move the more they shake up their bladders and move the naturally occurring sediment around. When feasible and safe, get them outside to move around, play, and get natural sunlight.

Enclosure

Make sure to use a high quality absorbent bedding, and something that will wick their urine and other moisture away. Make sure to clean the cage on a regular basis, especially if they like to lay in the area they urinate.

Hay

Offer a variety of grass hays and completely eliminate alfalfa from the diet.

Pellets

Feed a grass hay based pellet, with no added seeds or grains, and control the amount. Start with decreasing the volume to 50% of what is recommended.

- Rabbits - now 1/8 cup per 5 pounds
- Guinea pigs and chinchillas- now 1 tbsp per animal

Treats

Completely eliminate packaged treats. The increase in greens will be their new treat.

We strongly recommend annual health examinations and routine blood work on all exotics!

