

Treatment of Hypocalcemia (tetany)

Emergency treatment

Animals that have hind limb rigidity, cramping, muscle fasciculation, spastic movement, or weak or paralyzed limbs, should be treated as an emergency.

Give calcium gluconate 10% at a dosage of 100 mg/kg. Since the dosage and the drug concentration are the same, milliliter volume to administer is equal to the animals' weight in kilograms.

For example : a frog weighing 20 grams would receive .02ml of 10% calcium gluconate.

This dosage should be given every 4-6 hours for 24 hours. Animals that are large enough for injection can receive intramuscular injections, smaller animals can receive it topically.

- Animals undergoing emergency treatment should also receive amphibian Ringer's soaks and antibiotics (enrofloxacin 10 mg/kg topically, once a day for 5-7 days) to help maintain fluid balance and prevent sepsis while the animal is stressed.

Long-term maintenance

Once clinical signs are improved, begin topical application of 5 - 10% calcium gluconate, 1 drop per 10 grams of body weight, once a day for 30-60 days.

Ensure oral calcium intake in the form of gut-loaded and calcium-dusted prey items.

Provide UV-B spectrum light in the range of 280-310 nm for at least 20 minutes a day.