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[home](#) [page](#) [about us](#) [contact](#)

[us](#)

Table of
Contents

**VETMED
2015**

**VETMED
2014**

**VETMED
2013**

**VETMED
2012**

**VETMED
2011**

**VETMED
2010**

**VETMED
2009**

**VETMED
2008**

**VETMED
2007**

**VETMED
2006**

**VETMED
2005**

**VETMED
2004**

**VETMED
2003**

**VETMED
2002**

**VETMED
2001**

**VETMED
Home**

**Editorial
Board**

For Authors

- **Authors
Declaration**
- **Instruction
to Authors**
- **Guide for**

Authors

▪ **Fees**

▪ **Submission**

Subscription

Veterinarni Medicina

Digestibility of total and phytate phosphorus in young calves

V. Skrivanova, M. Marounek, R. Dvorak

Veterinarni Medicina, 49 (2004): 191-196

[[fulltext](#)]

Two experiments were conducted to determine digestibility of total and phytate phosphorus (P) in young calves. In the 1st experiment 14 male calves received a commercial milk replacer (6 l of milk per day) and had free access to a starter concentrate. In the 2nd experiment 21 male calves were divided into 3 groups and fed *ad libitum* a milk replacer (Group I), milk replacer and starter concentrate (Group II), and milk replacer and silaged maize cobs (Group III). Digestibility measurements were carried out at the age of 10 weeks (1st experiment), and 12 and 16 weeks (2nd experiment). In the 1st experiment phytate P accounted for 27.0% of the total P intake. Phytate P was assayed by capillary isotachopheresis. On average, 27.9% of ingested P, but only 3.0% of phytate P were recovered from the faeces. The proportion of phytate P in total faecal P was 5.8%. In the 2nd experiment phytate P accounted for 8.9, 13.8 and 8.6% of total P in diets of calves of Group I, II and III, respectively. On average, 6.6% of ingested P and 3.6% of phytate P were recovered from the faeces. Dry matter of faeces contained total P, phytate P and phosphate P at 9.74, 0.65 and 4.69 mg/g, respectively. Faecal concentrations of total P significantly correlated with