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[TOP](#) > [Available Issues](#) > [Table of Contents](#) > [Abstract](#)

ONLINE ISSN : 1880-1404

PRINT ISSN : 0916-717X

## Biomedical Research on Trace Elements

Vol. 16 (2005) , No. 3 198-202

[\[PDF \(547K\)\]](#) [\[References\]](#)

### Recent progress in exploring the essentiality of the ultratrace element cadmium to the nutrition of animals and man

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#### Abstract:

Cadmium-poor nutrition (< 15  $\mu\text{g}$  Cd/kg feed dry matter (DM)) did not affect feed intake and growth rate, while it affected reproduction performance. Intrauterinally cadmium-depleted kids were often phlegmatic, too lazy to eat and drink, and died of muscle weakness. With oral application of the control feed (300  $\mu\text{g}$  Cd/kg DM), they slowly regained their mobility. Feeding them 65  $\mu\text{g}$  Cd/kg feed DM prevented myasthenia. The normative cadmium requirement of goats (and animals in general) amounts to < 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  diet DM. The daily requirement of humans might be < 3  $\mu\text{g}$ .

**Key words:** cadmium, essentiality for animals, geological influences, intake by man, foodstuffs

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To cite this article:

Manfred Anke, Wolfram Dorn, Mario Müller and Mathias Seifert, "Recent progress in exploring the essentiality of the ultratrace element cadmium to the nutrition of animals and man", Biomedical Research on Trace Elements, Vol. 16, pp.198-202 (2005) .



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