International Conference: Camel milk overview in the Mediterranean basin

Overview about CAMELMILK Project

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La Camelerie, the first milking camel Farm in France

- I start to breed the camel 5 years ago
- Today about 80 camel in the farm, most of them are dromedaries
- I feel in love with camel when I start to understand the king of animal and what is possible with these animals.

- Milking this animal looks to be a perfect animal because of ecological and respectful animal
- Most of that, camel milk is a jewel and it is the reason why we are all sitting here together today.
The beginning of milking process, April 2021
On the year 2021, with helping of Camelmilk project, I decide to transform my breeding as a milking farm.

We start to work without machine and without trained animal.

**TRAINING FOR BABY, MOTHER AND BREEDER TOOK THE BIGGEST PART OF TIME**

It’s the first time for us, but the first time to my dromedaries too to be milking.

Corridor change many times and finally we finish to find the “perfect” size in December.

Many stimulating, massage with hot water, with or without baby, with or without oxytocine...

How to train the animals to go in corridor (food, rope...)

Think about milking corridor
Milking without the machine

- Accept to stay without their baby on the afternoon
- Accept to enter on the mobile corridor we made
- Accept the baby milking in an anormal condition, through the fence
- Accept we touch mammals

- And when everything is ok, many time, small quantity and the animal has absolutely not to move

- Difficulties to have many milk and be sure to have good quality
Milking with the machine!

The first time with the machine for my camel

- Start again all of the things + adapt machine with the calves
- They must learn the noice, oblige to come at the beginning of training
- They must learn the effect of the machine on the udder
- In the same time the calf only want to have some milk and they think too much... It is a real big part of the job to control that the baby don’t touch the machine
Milking corridor and laboratory conception

- Transform one building from 300m²
- 2 month to create, order material, built and transform to find the best solution
- 2 milking place, each one next to an area for babies
- Will use for pregnant female, birth time and after milking season: place for mother who can go outside and place for babies who are waiting their mother
- Must be in accordance with the agreement I wrote
- Problem when finish I realise that the calf can’t be next to their mother
Camel milking training: we love her... all time!

As the camel are lactating one year every 2 year, we started 2022 with new female which have been never training for milking

- About 1 week to learn how to enter in the corridor (rope, food..)
- About 1 week to accept to do it alone
- About 1 week to accept we can touch all the animal
- About 5 minute to explain that they finally don’t want 😊
Milking time in progress
Camel milking training: we love her... all time!
Camel milking training: enjoy your food!

When you think milking time is finish and you collect all the milk... babies are better like you
Milking by hand, only after that the camel accept to give some milk!

The best quality and biggest quantity of milk is arriving when you are friendly with the animal.

So I think different solution : hampered or not, with food or not, alone, together, with the calf or not
The most important is to find a solution to be the most concentrate

Finaly I decide to give nothing to the camel except to speak a lot with them: no food no baby... nothing... Only be here for milking feeling
Nothing has to change to be comfortable: one mistake

I decided to buy new mobile machine in july to have a better rapidity.

It was not the same machine, you can see on the picture that when the female don’t want... you can do what you want... they don’t want.

Rigor is the best things.

- Same timing
- Same order of animal in the corridor
- Same massage
- Same person
- Same size
As I am not a professionnal I absolutely want to ear many person to explain how they make

- Food
- Shower
- Ocytocine
- Calf

Many different stimulation but not the best

The best solution with animal with all time natural life

- Look how the baby start to have milk: the massage to stimulate must be the same
- Before the mother all time smell his baby. I accept that the mother do the same with me
- Faster is it, better is it. When the female wants to give milk, they can’t wait. It is the same when it is finish. Time to stop is now

You must be a calf
How to simulate the mammals

Be a calf means: do the same like a calf

I find a method to open the bar quickly. When the female is agree to give milk it’s not possible she is waiting too long time

Finally I think that the best is to stimulate the complete udder, but specifically the teat, as a calf...

You must have to do it directly after the camel is entry in the corridor, just after clean the teat. When milk is coming and udder ready to deliver the milk, you must put the machine directly
The result:

- No baby
- No stress
- Pleasure only with milking party
- No ocytocine
- No long time
- All time the same hour
- All time the same food
- All time the same machine

- Pleasure start after stimulation and stop as soon as the female is moving. At this time..
  Machine off and stop to collect the milk

Pleasure is coming only with milking delivering: the best solution to stay friendly with your animal and deliver the maximum of quantity of milk