

# Wash and go... into the desert

Shampoo created for creatures with the hump over the heat

By Mishaal Khan Siddiqui

AN ALL-NATURAL shampoo promises to soothe sensitive skin, and leave hair smelling pine fresh. So what makes it different from many other products promising the same?

This shampoo has been designed especially for camels in the UAE.

When a camel breeder in Al Ain complained about his livestock suffering from irritated skin due to bacteria, mites and insect bites, scientists in a laboratory in Germany began working on a secret potion to soothe their sores.

Katharina Wilms, chief executive officer for Wilms Pine Wood Healthcare Products, said: "We heard a new shampoo was needed for camels, and researchers in the UAE heard about our special ingredient."

The ingredient, pine wood, can be found in cooler climates, such as parts of Scandinavia and Russia, and has proven anti-bacterial qualities.

"The pine wood is extracted from the centre of a tree trunk. But, the rest of the ingredients are a secret," said Katharina.

Heinrich Wilms, founder and managing director of Wilms, created the shampoo for camels in his sawmill in Melle, Germany, adapted from a shampoo he had already developed for animals.

The shampoo has now been tested on the 350-strong camel farm in Al Ain. It was tried out on animals farmed for meat and camels for racing.



**TOUGH SKINNED:**  
Camels at a UAE farm

Entrepreneur Birgit Kemphues has been closely involved in the project and even found herself elbow-deep in lather, washing the camels' hair. She said: "After being tested for four weeks, three times a week, the animals appeared less stressed

and calmer. Before, they would be washed only with water, or chemical shampoos and products that made their skin shiny but didn't help the problem of irritated skin."

*mishaal@7days.ae*

**CASHING IN ON CAMELS**  
Camels are big business in the UAE, here are just a few of the ways they make people money:

**CHOCOLATE:** Camel milk chocolate may not taste exactly like its bovine counterpart but producers predict it will be a hit.

**CLONING:** Scientists have already cloned two camels in the UAE and say the technology could be used in the medical industry and for camel breeding in the future.

**RACING:** Fast animals can change hands for millions of dirhams among fans of camel racing.