

Central Region Newsletter November/December 2022

Your Central Region Newsletter From The Alpaca Association New Zealand

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Greetings everyone,

I can't believe that Christmas is almost upon us. Where has the year gone!!??

Whilst we haven't got together as much as we would have liked over the last 12 months I think next year will see a new "normal" and as as Committee we are planning on organising a few workshops during the year. These will be open to all alpaca owners, so even if you aren't a member of the NZ Alpaca Association please feel free to get in touch if you would like to be invited along. It's always a great way to meet other alpaca owners and learn more about these wonderful animals.

This edition of the Newsletter contains a fantastic range of articles and a special thanks goes to Stephen Kellam for pulling it together.



We have included show results for the recently held Central Region Colourbration; some great insights and things to consider when your alpacas reach their twilight years; everything you need to know about facial eczema as well as a comprehensive article on birthing.

Hopefully most of you have either had your alpacas shorn or have this booked in with your shearer. If you haven't we have included an up-to-date list of shearers. Ideally you should be getting in touch with your shearer September/October to book this in so they can include you in their schedule.

For those of you that have either had cria or are expecting shortly I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing new additions either during visits, via Facebook or at shows in 2023.

Finally have a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to catching up in the New Year.

Ros Scott, AANZ Central Region President

Central Region Colourbration 2022

The CR Colourbration show was held November 5 at Manfeild in conjunction with the Manawatu A&P Show. A great turn out for both breed and fleece. A huge thanks to our Convenor Cheryl Hunter for all of your efforts and of course for our Judge Diane Marks for her insightful critiques and sense of fun. We all certainly appreciate it! Below highlights the Supreme Fleece and Breed Results

Supreme Breed Champions

SURI

Black Fancy Grey Brown Light Fawn White

HUACAYA

Black Fancy Grey Roan Brown Mid/Dark Fawn Light Fawn White Shadow Wood Magical Kiss Gotland Spotify Avon Tui Wild Sky Gotland Raggerty Anne Avon Tui Montana Mist Avon Tui Sirius

Q Taz Sharp Dressed Man Thief of Hearts Sugar Sweet McKenzie Fields Hollywood McKenzie Fields Cupid Thief of Hearts All Spark Nevalea Peaches McKenzie Fields Kabachi Thief of Hearts Mystic Force

Supreme Fleece Champions

SURI

Black Fancy Brown Mid/Dark Fawn Light Fawn White

HUACAYA

Black Fancy Grey Roan Brown Light Fawn White Shadow Wood Ultimate Art Gotland Spotify Shadow Wood Luxuria Gotland Apache Shadow Wood Casper Ngahere Tacas

McKenzie Fields Moonlight Thief of Hearts Fire N Ice McKenzie Fields Hollywood McKenzie Fields Matchmaker Legacy Rhyme Waters Edge Maggie Mae Thief of Hearts Special Edition



By Stephen Mulholland, Ph.D. (Republished from AANZ Magazine August 2016)

Not everyone keeps alpacas for commercial purposes, for some they are treasured pets and companions. As such, we want them to have the longest, and best, lives possible.

As alpacas get older some of their care needs change and this article tries to address some of the issues for keeping your older animals happy and healthy. The ease with which this can be done is affected by both your herd size, and by how easily your animal can be handled. The better your knowledge of what is "normal" for your alpaca, the more likely you are to catch problems when they are still small and manageable.

When is an alpaca "old"?

Alpacas (and llamas) are considered "aged" when they hit 12 years old (as per Chapter 11 of Llama and Alpaca Care – Medicine. Surgery, Reproduction, Nutrition and Herd Health). This is an excellent book full of the latest veterinary knowledge of camelids and I reference it often. But as anyone who owns camelids knows, animals in their teens vary widely in their health, vigor and apparent age. There are some female alpacas that can still successfully reproduce and nurse into their early 20's, while others struggle to maintain weight at age 12. Deciding when an animal has transition from "aged" to "old" is a matter of observation and understanding the specific needs of individual animals. Alpaca and llamas can be expected to live into their 20s with a bit of luck, care, and good management. A 15 to 20 year life span is more typical currently in New Zealand. The oldest alpaca we have ever had died at age 24 and 4 months. The oldest alpaca I know of in New Zealand lived to be about 29. But of course those animals were born when we knew much less about camelids, and it is possible that the cria being born today might have different lifespans (and only time will tell if modern management practices result in longer lifespans than the practices of two decades ago). Why do alpacas vary so widely in their health in their later years? We don't know the whole story, but it is likely influenced by factors of genetics, their start in life, what they were exposed to in their early years, and how demanding a life they have led.

Common problems with older animals:

Nutrition and Supplements

Good nutrition is vital for maintaining the health and body condition of older animals. Older animals can have trouble getting sufficient food from grazing, either due to mobility issues or decreasing ability to eat and chew effectively. It is also possible that an older animal has a decreased ability to absorb nutrients.

This could be due to parasite-inflicted damage to the intestinal walls years earlier. Issues can arise with older animals purchased as adults, as you have no idea what health problems they had in their youth, and the impact these could have on their health in their older years.

When offering supplements it is important that you ensure the older animals get what they need without socially excluding them. Younger, pushier animals may try and monopolise the tasty extra feed, not leaving enough for the less dominant animals. (That being said, in our experience the older animals are often some of the most dominant, though your experience may be quite different from ours.) If your herd size is small enough, separating animals and feeding each their own quantity works well, but this not always practical depending on your herd and farm setup. It may be more efficient to separate your herd into "compatible" groups at feeding time to ensure everyone get their fair (and required) share. Note- when feeding supplements always consider the need to maintain a balanced diet. Talk to your vet about what options would work best in your circumstances.

One easy trick is to provide twice as much supplementary feed every other day. The dominant animals can only eat so much, and will eventually wander away leaving the lower-social orders to eat their hay-nuts-chaff or other feed in peace. This can also be easier than trying to separate the older animals at every feeding session. Some feed, particularly grain-based, can be dangerous if consumed in too large a quantity, so again talking to your vet is a good idea.

Teeth

Camelid teeth grow throughout the lifetime of the animal. Ideally the growth rate of the teeth matches the wear from eating grass, hay and other woody materials. As time passes, the chance of problems with the teeth increases.

Incisors – These front teeth are used to tear the grass. In some older alpacas they can become so worn down that they cannot eat effectively. While the worn teeth cannot themselves be corrected, the animal can be provided 'easily to eat' feed in the form of very long and lush grass, hay, dried lucerne chaff, or processed "alpaca nuts" to help them get sufficient nutrition. **Molars** – These teeth are at the back of the mouth are used during "cud chewing", the rumination that helps to grind down the plant material for better digestion in the rumen. They can wear unevenly over time, and develop sharp edges that cut the insides of the gums, or they can wear into a shape that prevents easy and efficient chewing. Many alpacas will show signs if they are having trouble with their teeth. "Quidding" - hold a large wad of material in one cheek all the time – is a way they try to keep their tender gums away from sharp teeth. An animal that is dribbling out food while eating may also have a dentition issue.



ABOVE - Wainui Coat

Older teeth are also more susceptible to breaks, abscesses, or tooth loss. Problems with molars can often be addressed by a veterinarian trained in dentistry (usually equine dentistry). If you think you alpaca may be having trouble chewing their food, talk to your vet.

Fleece and Temperature Regulation

Fleece grows more slowly as an animal ages, and this can affect how you manage their temperature through summer and winter. You have to look at your own circumstances (location, climate, farm facilities) and determine if heat or cold stress plays the greater danger. Older animals can be more vulnerable to both heat and cold, so extra provisions for shade and cooling in summer will have to go along with shelter and warmth in winter.

How often and how closely an animal is shorn will play a large role in their health during their later years. An animal only growing 20 to 30 mm of fleece each year may only need to be shorn every second or third year. If that animal lived in a place with particularly harsh winters, then "shearing" might only involve roughly clipping back the over-long fiber while leaving a considerable amount (20+ mm) on the animal. Yes, your alpaca will likely look quite ragged after such a trim, but they will be very appreciative of the extra fleece when the cold winter winds start blowing!

Other solutions can include acclimatizing your alpacas to wearing covers (winter coats) before they become a necessity.

Also be sure to provide extra food during the colder months to help them keep warm. When the grass is very short, long (50mm) fiber from hay will help stimulate the rumen, which helps to produce heat and keep the alpaca warm. You should also plan to place your older and more vulnerable alpaca in a paddock that provides good shade and shelter from wind/rain/sun/snow or whatever your local climate may throw at them. Alpaca can be trained to spend their nights indoors, which can be a good way to keep them away from the worst weather. By making such housing routine, it prevents the stress caused by man-handling reluctant older and vulnerable animals into a shelter.

Eyes

Old alpaca can suffer from cataracts and may go partly or completely blind. This is by no means the end for the affected animals. If you have "safe" paddocks in which they can live, the vision-impaired animal may be able to carry on for many years. As alpacas are very social animals, you may find that a "friend" will look after them in the paddock. Sometimes this can be a bond between two alpacas, in other cases herds will often have some alpaca who task themselves with making sure the herd does not get scattered. They will go back to find and assist stragglers. You may have to alter some aspects

of your paddocks to make them safe for such animals, and more frequent checks of the herd may be needed to ensure the affected animal is continuing to cope well. We have a friend whose small herd has a fun pair of wethers. One is mostly-blind, the other is completely deaf. The two are inseparable, and working together they safely navigate their way through life. Alpaca with vision impairments may need to be housed at night for their safety (along with a few friends of course). Animals that cope well in full daylight may become much more nervous or agitated as light levels drop, and as such may need to be moved to safety before dusk.

Leg Tendons (and other mobility problems)

Wear and tear on joint, tendons and other aspects of the muscular and skeletal systems can cause both pain and mobility problems. Alpacas can get arthritis. An alpaca with "bad" legs might still live a long and happy life. In our experience we purchased a 16 year old female as part of a whole-herd transfer. (See photo) When we got a good look at her forelegs we noticed that due to contraction of her tendons her fetlocks were nearly scraping the ground. "Poor thing," we said, "she's not likely to last through the winter." But she lasted through that winter and six more, before dying at age 23 of an unrelated condition. By keeping her in paddocks that had a gentle contour she could cope even with a slow and awkward gait. With leg issues, particularly arthritis, pain can become a significant issue. As camelids are notoriously stoic, it can be difficult to spot one suffering from chronic pain.



Above - Beautiful Blaze.

An animal in pain might display a hunched posture, a reluctance to stand – which might be spotted as an animal that is kushed more often than the rest of the herd, have a change in gait (locomotion), show a loss of weight (because they cannot spend enough time grazing and foraging), or a drastic change in social status. We had one 8 year old wether that developed early- onset arthritis, and it was clear that when the other boys began rambunctious play he was obviously afraid of body contact- the playful chest-buts and leg nips that playful boys enjoy. In his case we eventually had to have him euthanized as he was both in constant pain and he could no longer happily maintain social connection with his fellow alpaca.

Having an outsider (either a veterinarian or another experienced camelid owner) assess your older animals periodically can be useful, as it can be easy to miss a slow incremental slide downwards in terms of mobility and discomfort, which a set of fresh eyes can spot instantly.

Parasites and Infection

Fleece and teeth are not the only body functions that can slow down with age. So to, the immune system may struggle to cope with environmental challenges as it ages. The most common problem is likely to arise from an increased vulnerability to internal parasites (worms). Older animals should be checked frequently to assess their body condition scores. An animal losing weight, presuming it has access to good feed and teeth sufficient to consume that feed, should be checked for

Knowing when it is the end

Don't let an old animal suffer

It can be hard to let go. You are responsible for the welfare of your alpacas. An animal that enters a slow slide downwards into worsening health can make it too easy to justify keeping it alive. Set a clear criteria for when a humane end is the right thing to do. Many animals will tell you when they are finished with life; you just have to be willing to listen. Of our 5 geriatric animals that have died in the last three years four passed away naturally, and one was helped along by our skilled and compassionate veterinarian.

In conclusion

Caring for older animals does mean that you will have to occasionally sacrifice your own convenience for their welfare, and some alpaca will require more of your time than others. Keep an extra-sharp eye on the "oldies", and knowing when and how to intervene to ensure that their quality of life is maintained is important – and rewarding.

Thanks to Vicki Cordier and Barbara Christensen (Bv.S.C.) for their feedback and assistance in writing this article.

By Stephen Kellam. Modified from the Dec 2021 CR Newsletter.

Once again, the facial eczema season approaches and the reissue of this article seems timely. Facial eczema (FE) is a very serious but avoidable disease that affects sheep, cattle, goats and especially llamas and alpacas. It particularly affects animals on the North Island. Alpacas should have a healthy lifespan of 15-20 years so preventing them from being affected by FE is vital.

Background.

The FE season starts in early January. The disease is caused by a toxin contained in the spores of a fungus that grows on dead grass in the paddocks. Growth of the fungus begins after several days of warm humid weather with night time temperatures of over 13°C, especially with rain, heavy dews or high relative humidity. The fungus follows by producing spores on the ground-level decaying grass leaves. When eaten by animals, the spores release their toxin into the gut which causes severe liver and bile duct damage. Eventually this leads to an irritating photo-sensitization of the skin which the animal tries to relieve by persistent rubbing of its head against objects (e.g. fences, trees). This causes swelling and peeling of the skin, especially around the eyes and on the jaw and ears. They may also show restlessness, urinate frequently, shake, have drooping ears and swollen eyes and seek shade to avoid sunlight. Unfortunately, by the time these symptoms are seen, significant damage to the liver has already happened.

Veterinary assistance is absolutely essential in treating affected animals.

Detection of the Spores.

Counting spore numbers is a reasonable indicator of how toxic the grass in a paddock would be if eaten. There are many commercial and local veterinary services available for doing spore counts and they will explain how you should take the samples. The bagged grass samples are returned to them for sending on to the testing laboratory. Local area spore counts may be available at feed stores and vet practices. Aggregated counts for areas nationwide can be viewed on the Gribbles Veterinary website during the FE season. The graphs shown are real-time and indicate when the spore counts are climbing.

Counts in excess of 30,000 spores/g sample are regarded as hazardous to all stock. The peak of the spore counts is usually in March/April though the magnitude and exact timing will vary with seasonal conditions.

It should be noted that spore counts are highly variable between farms in the same vicinity, between paddocks at the same farm and even within a paddock.

Facial Eczema - continued

Effectively, this means that local spore counts can be taken as a guide but alpaca owners must carefully time their protective measures to ensure the health of their animals. Even if you are unable to take spore count samples, it may be assumed that the FE season starts early in the New Year on the North Island and your preventative measures should have already started.

Protecting your alpacas.

There are four parts to achieve the best protection for your animals.

1. Preventing growth of the fungus

Spraying paddocks with fungicides - ideally, this should be done before the start of the season as the fungicide kills only the fungus cells and not spores already produced. Thiabendazole sprays have been shown as effective in reducing spore production throughout the FE season. Your vet or farm supply store can advise on the appropriate product and application method.

Alpacas may graze the sprayed paddock only after a number of days as specified in the product description. The treatment provides a level of protection for around 6 weeks unless there is significant rainfall. Reapplication of the fungicide to each paddock will be necessary and taking samples for spore counts will indicate when the protection is fading.

2. The topping of pastures

This should be avoided during FE season as it increases the amount of dead material at ground level in the pasture.

3. Reducing exposure to the toxin.

• Rotate your alpacas around paddocks that have good growth on them.

• Grazing to low level must be avoided. Paddocks with minimal remaining grass should be closed off until good regrowth has occurred. Heavy rain helps by washing spores into the ground.

• Alternative feedstuffs - these should be freely available during the danger periods, particularly good quality hay as they reduce the proportion of paddock grazed material

4. Minimising toxin damage.

Zinc supplementation is used as an effective protectant against the toxicity. Practically, zinc oxide in alpaca nuts (kibble) is the only way of getting an alpaca to consistently consume enough zinc. Sacks of kibble formulated with additional zinc are widely available from farm stores during the FE season. Putting any zinc compound into the drinking water is ineffective as alpacas drink only small volumes each day and the zinc has a bitter taste. Slow release boluses (Time Capsules) and oral zinc sulphate slurries must not be used for alpacas as potentially toxic levels of zinc may be absorbed.

Facial Eczema - continued

Given that it takes about two weeks for the blood zinc levels to rise to a protective state, the feeding of zinc-containing kibble is normally started by New Year. Introduction should be gradual - initially add some to normal alpaca nuts and steadily increasing the proportion over 7-10 days until the correct level is reached. Two grams of elemental zinc per 100 kg live weight per day is recommended by the feed manufacturers and scientific literature. This means 188g of zinc kibble should be fed to each 75 kg animal per day, ideally half in the morning and the the other half at an evening feeding. Always mix the kibble in with a generous handful of chaff to prevent any alpaca from choking.

There are no studies with alpacas into the maximum dosing period so rightly or wrongly, the recommendation for sheep is followed - 100 days (14 weeks). The graph below shows the theoretical rise and fall of spore counts over the FE season but the real shape will depend on the actual weather. Some years have actually seen two peaks separated by several weeks.



It is obvious from this graph that a return to low numbers of paddock spores may not be reached until well over the 100 day dosing period, a reality that is likely to occur more often with climate change. When this happens, many owners will continue dosing. There is a risk of a mild but reversible side-effect due to the zinc though it is a much better scenario for your alpacas when compared with death through liver failure.

In an ideal world, every alpaca owner would use all of the above measures to prevent FE but in reality, few owners of small numbers of animals on lifestyle blocks will have the equipment to spray their paddocks. Feeding zinc kibble is both practical and essential for these owners. For larger block owners, boom spraying is a viable option. All owners should manage points 2 and 3 above with alternative feeds such as hay being particularly valuable.

If you have any questions or concerns about FE or any other alpaca health matter, do seek advice from a vet.

By Stephen Kellam.

(Adapted from: https://www.tekorito-alpacas.co.nz/alpaca-reproduction.html)

Birthing season is undoubtedly the most exciting time in the alpaca calendar. After nearly a year, all of those matings and successful 'spit-off' tests will finally bear fruit. Depending on your matches, cria fleece colours can sometimes be an exciting surprise! This article discusses the last months of pregnancy, the unpacking of the cria and care of the newborn.

Alpaca pregnancies are invisible to the eye until the final months as the foetus is only about the size of a small bird at six months gestation. At this time, if the dam is suckling the previous year's cria, she will wean it by refusing to give it further milk. The dam will then 'dry off' and growth of the new foetus can accelerate. Increasing staple length of the dam often disguises swelling of the abdomen but can become visible once she has been shorn. Movements of the foetus are clear in the final two months as occasional rolling motion, kicking of the abdominal wall or the foetus laying in a strange position in the uterus. Swelling of the udders occurs at about two weeks before unpacking. Some females can reach term without showing much, if any, swelling of the abdomen or obvious udder development. The dam's behaviour towards males is the simplest indicator that they remain pregnant.

The birthing process (Unpacking).

The great majority of dams will unpack within the 340-370 days window with most crias arriving in the warmest hours between 11am and 4pm. If the weather conditions are poor or likely to deteriorate, the dam is able to defer going into labour. This is an evolutionary legacy of life at altitude where her instinct is to unpack only during good weather to give her cria the greatest chance of survival - it must dry, stand and feed quickly.

Spotting a dam going into labour is not always easy and around the expected unpacking date usually requires frequent paddock visits. In a ideal world, every owner would have a birthing paddock right next to the house so that the tell-tale symptoms of labour can be spotted. By this time, it is a good idea to have your birthing kit ready. This should contain everything you will need at the time or at short notice.

Your Birthing Kit.

This should contain the following, at minimum:

- Electronic thermometer,
- A tube of water-based lubricant,
- A cria sling (belly sling) and weighing scale,
- Disinfection spray as described in the text,
- Clean towels or paper towels,
- Colostrum powder plus appropriate feeding bottle and teats,
- Mobile phone with your vet's number available.

Unpacking can be broken into three stages:

- Stage 1. The start of contractions. The dam may become restless, hum frequently and will usually move away from the herd. She will also stop grazing, make frequent visits to the communal midden and may alternate standing and sitting in an effort to become comfortable.
 The duration of this stage varies considerably but finishes when contractions reach one each two minutes.
- Stage 2. Birthing of the cria. This is marked by the fluid (chorioallantoic) sac breaking and is complete when the cria is on the ground. The process normally lasts between 5 and 30 minutes but may be interrupted by resting periods. It can take significantly longer if it's the dam's first cria or if she is overweight. It is common to miss the unpacking of older females who have had a number of crias as it is quickly over.

Fifteen minutes into Stage 2 labour, Saffron's contractions have caused the cria's head and both forelimbs to emerge.





Almost all crias are born head-first, facing downwards, with the majority of dams unpacking in the standing position. As contractions increase the head appears closely followed by one forelimb, the second appearing some minutes later. Strong contractions are needed to pass the cria's shoulders and chest. Interestingly, some dams will pause and resume grazing for a

Forty five minutes into Stage 2 labour saw strong contractions and most of the cria was pushed out.

Birthing Season - continued

period during this stage of labour, with the cria dangling. Time in this position does allow fluid to drain from the cria's lungs. The remainder of the cria is passed shortly afterwards, with the help of gravity. The umbilical cord detaches very quickly after unpacking and the dam does not lick the cria.

 Stage 3. Expulsion of the placenta. This normally occurs within 20 minutes of the cria unpacking but can take up to one hour. If it has not passed within 8 hours or you suspect that an incomplete placenta was expelled, veterinary assistance will be needed.



Never pull the cria or the placenta to 'assist' their passage as it can cause serious damage to the dam. Alpacas have been birthing for millennia without human help.

The new cria recovering in the cushed position. Saffron had already passed the placenta (right).

Abnormal labour (dystocia) is unusual in alpacas but suggested if stage 1 of labour is longer than 6 hours or the dam shows distress through repeated standing, sitting, rolling and vocalising. Should this be seen, a veterinary must be called immediately. The most common dystocia involves the head and a single leg emerging but the other leg being retained in the uterus - a situation that may be corrected with veterinary intervention.

With the cria on the ground, the epidermal membrane covering the cria's neck and thorax should be removed and the umbilical cord stub disinfected using alcoholic iodine or chlorhexidine solution spray. Be aware that the dam may attempt to protect her cria from your activities. The stub will drop off after a few days as will the gel caps covering each toenail. The dam and cria should then be allowed to bond and all the herd members will examine the new addition. The dam and cria will hum to each other frequently as part of bonding and this may continue for several weeks. If everything has gone well, it is best to stand back and watch, particularly important if it was a maiden birth or if the labour was long. This is because the dam may be exhausted and become careless around the cria.

Care of the Newborn Cria

Most crias born around full-term of 355 days are fully developed. However, a number will be dysmature, being born within the normal gestation window but have not fully developed inside the uterus. They can be recognised by having low birth weights, unerupted incisors and drooping (floppy) ears, the epidermal membrane being stuck to the mouth and toes and being very slow to stand after birth. Occasionally there is an inability to stand correctly due to tendon laxity. Depending on their degree of dysmaturity, these crias may require assistance. This can range from help in standing and introduction to the dam's teats through to needing to be sheltered with the dam. Very occasionally a particularly weak cria may be born and this will need immediate veterinary help to survive, particularly if weighing less than 5 kg. Birth weight should be taken and this should be checked on a regular basis to confirm a normal weight gain pattern. The cria may lose up to 0.25kg in the first 24 hours but gain between 0.25-0.5kg daily from that point. Although the average weight of a newborn cria is about 8kg, maiden dams tend to have lighter offspring.

All newly born crias will spend a short period recovering and wriggling on the ground. It will then move to the cushed position before attempting to stand. Once upright, it will instinctively look to suckle from the dam. The birth to suckling sequence can be achieved in under an hour and most will be there in under two hours. A few crias will need help to locate their dam's nipples as they may attempt to suckle from the wrong dam or even head for a dark area in a stable or into a bush. New mothers should be checked to ensure milk flow as waxy plugs block the nipples. It is vital that the cria drinks the dam's colostrum as it contains antibodies (IgG) that provide passive immunity for the cria. A cria should consume 10-20% of its body weight of colostrum within the first 24 hours though antibody absorption is greatest in the first 12 hours. These antibodies are unable to pass across the alpaca placenta so must be consumed. Other compounds contained in the colostrum provide gut protection from harmful bacteria. Immunisation of the dam with a 5-in-1 vaccine (for example Multine 5-in-1) a few weeks before the unpacking date increases the antibody concentration in her colostrum.

Should any dam be unable or unwilling to feed their new cria, the alternative colostrum should be used from your birthing kit or sourced urgently. Alpaca colostrum is obviously ideal if available but goat or bovine types can also be used. These latter two are often supplied as powders that must be dissolved in water. It is very important that the manufacturer's instructions are followed especially regarding warming of the solution to 40°C. Never use a microwave or stand the bottle in very hot water otherwise the antibodies needed by the cria will be destroyed.

Dams will only feed their own crias and they check that the right one is feeding by sniffing at the base of the tail where there are scent glands. The cria's tail will be raised at the start of feeding but slowly drop during the session. Opportunist crias may attempt to 'steal' feeds but are quickly pushed away when noticed.

Within 24 hours, the cria will pass meconium, a thick and tarry dark waste composed of cellular material, mucus and ingested amniotic fluid. Should the cria not excrete the meconium, it may become lethargic and require veterinary assistance. Unfortunately, these droppings are easily missed in the paddock so the behaviour of the cria must be watched over this period.

Birthing Season - continued

A single cria is almost always unpacked. Twin births are fairly rare and due to low birth weights, one or both crias may not survive. Although most twin pregnancies are either resorbed or aborted early in gestation, there have been cases in New Zealand of both thriving.



A more detailed version of this article is available on: <u>https://www.tekorito-alpacas.co.nz/alpaca-reproduction.html</u> and more photographs of the unpacking on: <u>https://www.tekorito-alpacas.co.nz/alpaca-reproduction2.html</u>

Contact Area Method Blanket First Samples Toenal	Area Method Blanket First Fleece Toenal	Method Blanket First samples Toenal	Blanket First Fleece Toenal	Fleece Toenai	Toenai	<u>0</u>	Injections	Requirements / Experience
03 3278952 Nationwide. (021 2562839 Global in off- shearpac@hotmail.com season	Nationwide. (Global in off- season	free	Cut/ estyle	~	7	7	7	Good sense of humour and a smile when the shearers arrive. 1 years experience. The shearer will be in touch to organize in advance his requirements.
03 3198778 021 2517742 Nationwide F mike091@windowslive.com	Nationwide		loor	Ν	Ν	γ	7	Good to have two or more helpers. I bring one with me. I need a power source, a flat area to shear and have alpacas penned. 20+ years shearing, 9 years alpaca shearing
03 2313112 027 4681903 nigelwood777@gmail.com	NZ Wide p	р	ble, but refers floor	7	7	7	7	Power source. Shearing sheep for 19+ years; Shearing Alpacas for 12+ years
021 0335589 lkscott@xtra.co.nz	North Island wide	2/2	Table	√ Suiting customer and environment	٢	7	7	Prefer 230v power supply but do have battery options. Catch pen preferred but portable yards supplied by arrangement. All medications carried plus organic options including alpaca tonics and skin remedies. Over 20 Years shearing locally and internationally.
07 8703920 021 02236850 otto.fam@xtra.co.nz	Mainly Waikato		Table	No - but will do show fleece if required	٨	7	7	Helpers required – two preferred, access to power needed. 6+ years experience
06 7520668 janicesaldridge@hotmail.co.nz Wanganui	Taranaki to Wanganui		Table	1	γ	γ	Л	Power source, alpacas penned, at least helper 8+ years experience
06 3578177 Bring alpacas to 027 3258101 me in Palmerston eric@thiefofhearts.co.nz North area	Bring alpacas to me in Palmerston North area		Table		Л	7	7	22+ years experience
03 689 8516 027 3030544 Patterson.gus@gmail.com	Canterbury/Otago	66	Floor	7	γ	7	7	4 seasons shearing both big and small jobs. Requirements are flexible for what is available at each place and can be worked out ahead of the shearing date. Has never left a job unfinished!
021 02931781 Auckland, shunshearing@gmail.com Canterbury	Auckland, Northland and Canterbury		Floor	7	Л	γ	٨	Contained area and assistance if there are large numbers. 6 years experience shearing alpacas, 6 years sheep and 6 years llamas.

A List of Shearers - August 2022

-	Power source; Will bring helper but extra hands always appreciated 13+ years experience	Can shear with or without power source. Alpacas penned and a area to shear preferably with somewhere to tie restraints. Bring own helper. 10 years experience in sheep and alpaca shearing Charges: \$25 per Alpaca shorn. \$5 per Alpaca for Injections \$5 per Alpaca for Injections	At least one assistant required. Two years experience with alp	Animals must be penned in rediness. A flat area for shearing and power source needed. Can also do hand shearing for alpacas with overgrown fleeces. 2+ years experience shearing alpacas.	Must have a flat area suitable for shearing. Due to COVID rule animals must be penned prior to arrival. Power nearby preferably. Experience: we have our own alpacas so know the animals like the backs of our hands.	Animals must be penned in readiness. No additional assistanc is required. 30+ years of experience with sheep and goats, 3+
	7	7	7	7	7	7
	7	٨	7	7	7	7
	٢	Ч	No	٨	Ч	No
	Not usually, can do show fleeces in one piece	Not usually, can do show fleeces in one piece	N	If required	٨	No
	Floor	Floor	Table	Floor	Floor	Table
	Otago and Canterbury, Australia, Europe	Canterbury. Will travel to other areas in the South Island with travel costs incurred.	Hawkes Bay	Wellington, Wairarapa and Horowhenua to Palmerston North	Lower North Island and South Island.	Western BOP
	022 6147970 bravoshear@bigpond.com	027 337 8925 matthewsshearing@hotmail.com Facebook: @matthews shearing	027 817 6646 admin@smallfarmserviceshb.co.nz www.smallfarmserviceshb.co.nz	027 529 2491 allan.oldfield@gmail.com	021 034 9950 ShearLight22@gmail.com	027 372 8860 leonj@windowslive.com
	James Dixon	Michael Matthews	Justin Bray	Allan Oldfield	Shear Light	Leon Jovanovic

As of November 2022, this is the most up-to-date list of shearers. If you know of any shearer not listed here, please e-mail us and we will add them.

Your Central Region Committee

[1		
Ros Scott	President	rtg.scott71@gmail.com	
Stephen Kellam	Vice President	tekorito-alpacas@inspire.net.nz	
Cheryl Hunter	Secretary	cherylfletcher@inspire.net.nz	
Cheryl Wheatley	National Council Rep	Cheryl@zl2max.gen.nz	
Carey King	Committee Member	home@monarca.co.nz	
Virginia Darlow	Committee Member	corinium@inspire.net.nz	

Based in the idyllic Wairarapa Valley we are here to connect you with your alpaca <u>purelyalpacas.nz@gmail.com</u>

TE KORITO ALPACAS

- Huacaya alpaca sales
- Farm visits available
- Fibre products from our own alpaca fleeces

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