

Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) is one of New Zealand's more serious animal health issues. Nationally cattle and deer farmers are engaged in a programme to control Tb to protect their export markets and maintain NZ's reputation for high quality, healthy farming. Tb is spread when an infected animal discharges infectious bacteria, which are then inhaled or ingested by another animal; Bovine Tb is also able to cause disease in humans.

Camelids (in this case alpaca and llama) are susceptible to Tb and as such the responsible option is to Tb test as required by the Voluntary AANZ Camelid Tb Control Scheme.

Benefits of the AANZ Camelid Tb Control Scheme are;

- A contribution to the national animal disease control, meaning improved acceptance of the industry by mainstream farming groups
- Access to A&P shows, animal events and other venues where our camelids have the potential to generate trade for members
- Increased trading and export opportunities
- Protection of your herd from Tb, by knowing the status of animals coming on to your farm

Joining

- **The scheme is completely voluntary – but AANZ strongly recommends that all camelid owners join the scheme and test once a year or as the scheme requires in your area.**
- To join make an application on the AANZ Camelid Voluntary TB Control scheme application form or contact AsureQuality. Forms are available from the AANZ and AsureQuality.
- Tb allocations (forms) can be also issued for testing if you do not want to join the scheme. Contact AsureQuality or your vet.

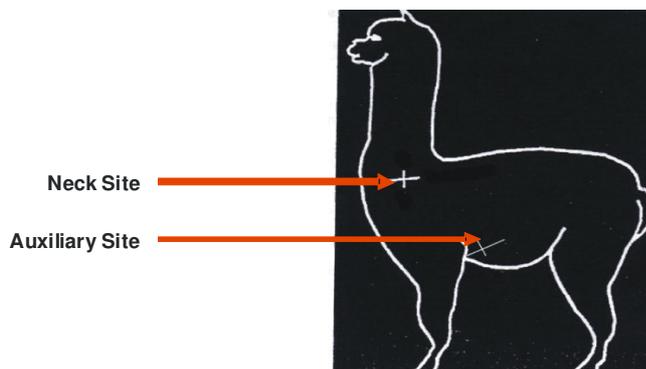
Testing

- Tb testing must be carried out by a qualified person. For a list of testers in your area contact AsureQuality or your vet.
- Any testing carried out is at your own cost. AANZ does not subsidise the scheme.
- Camelids can be tested using a single tuberculin test (bovine only) or a comparative test (bovine and avian). Avian Tb is not considered to be an animal health problem.
- **The single tuberculin test (STT) is approved for use as a primary Tb test for camelids.**
- The test is not to be applied to any camelids within 60 days of any previous tuberculin test. (Could result in "false" positive reaction)
- There are two sites that have been deemed acceptable for Tb testing in camelids. **The neck site** (at the base of the cervical area about level with the animal's back, also called the cranial scapular site) and **the auxiliary site** (behind the front leg)
- **The neck site is the AANZ preferred and recommended site.**
- All camelids on a property over the age of 6 months must be tested to gain a "Whole Herd" status.

More info on the Animal Health Board website www.ahb.org.nz
phone 0800 4 TB INFO

to:

- 1 To register a herd and obtain a herd no.
- 2 Check herd or area status
- 3 Arrange pre-movement TB tests or annual herd tests
- 4 Make any general TB control and ID inquiries
- 5 Request current area status maps



Results

- A negative test is a swelling at the test injection site of less than 3mm, read 72 hours after injection.
- There must be 3 clear tests over a specific period before a Clear (C) status is given. A herd that tests negative for Tb is assigned a “clear” status, denoted by the letter “C”. The number that appears after the “C” indicates how many years the herd has tested clear after the initial 3 clear tests, to a maximum of C10. E.g. C4 = clear tests for 4 years.
- If the whole herd fails to return a negative test, the herd will be given a “suspect” herd status and certain movements of herd will be restricted until further testing is carried out.
- An alpaca or llama that tests positive for Tb is referred to as a “reactor”. AANZ and all other necessary bodies will be notified of any reactors.
- Reactors to the skin test will be given a secondary test (blood test or comparative test) to confirm the presence of Tb, or to clear the animal.
- **A positive test in one camelid does not mean the whole herd will be slaughtered.** Only reactor camelids **may** have to be put down.
- If Tb is confirmed in a reactor camelid by the secondary test, the whole herd will be given a “Suspended” herd status and any reactor camelid will have to be post-mortemed within 30 days. Certain movements of herd will be restricted until further testing is carried out.
- If Tb is cultured from a reactor camelid, the herd will be given an “infected” status and will be placed on movement control measures.
- Regular testing is then carried out on “suspect, suspended and infected” herds until the whole herd is redefined as “clear” once more.
- If a reactor camelid is proved to not be carrying Tb the whole herd returns to its status before the “reactor” was identified.
- **If you have a camelid that tests positive your tester will know what to do.**

Tb Areas / movement restrictions

- The animal health board sets different Tb status areas, dependent on the Tb risk.
- Maps of Tb areas are available fromASUREQuality
- Camelids located in **Tb vector free** areas with “C1” status must test annually. If the herd has “C2” or higher the herd must be tested annually, biannually or triannually, depending on the area. Camelids with clear status in **Tb vector free** areas can move freely.
- All camelids located in **Tb vector risk** areas must be tested annually. In a **Tb vector risk** area, often referred to a movement control area, camelids with clear status can be moved freely as long as the camelid being moved has tested clear for Tb within 60 days of being moved.

Stud Movement Rules

Please check the following document in your Information Pack when accepting stud males on your farm or bringing your females for mating to another farm: ***Tb Scheme Guidelines for Movement of Alpacas for Mating Purposes***

Other Issues

- Camelids joining your herd should have tested negative for Tb or be from a clear herd, or from a MAF monitored import.
- Newly assembled herds in a new location adopt the status of the lowest of the alpacas forming the herd.
- If a camelid is introduced into your herd and has tested negative for Tb, or is from a clear herd within a Tb vector free area, it will not affect your herd status.
- Camelids that are introduced from import quarantine do not affect the herd’s status.
- In vector risk areas, control of Tb vectors (possums, ferrets) on your property is encouraged to reduce the risk of the introduction of Tb to your herd.

Showing and TB

- **All A&P shows require camelids to have been tested for Tb.**
- **This means you need to have either a current whole herd clear status if from a Vector Free area and the appropriate 60 day test *if from a Vector Risk Area.***

The Voluntary Camelid TB Protocol is approved by the Animal Health Board.

This Paddock Card summarizes the Voluntary Camelid TB Protocol.

More details on the Voluntary Camelid TB Protocol are to be found in the AANZ Information Pack

ALPACA ASSOCIATION NEW ZEALAND INC

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