

YARINGA ALPACAS HEALTH PROTOCOL

as at JULY 2018

This is the health protocol used at Yaringa Alpacas. It is what we do with our own animals at this point in time and is constantly changing as we learn more about these remarkable animals. We aim to have animals which thrive rather than survive.

Although we are happy to give copies to other breeders, it is by no means a recommendation that this is what you should be doing, and we understand that many breeders will have different protocols which work equally well in their situations.

It is essential to check whether the soil in your area is deficient in either cobalt or selenium before following this protocol, and in any event veterinary advice is recommended before implementing any protocol.

Before buying these products it is wise to check the expiry date on the packaging as it can vary dramatically. Some products have up to three years life while others may be near (or in fact over) their expiry date. It is important to store these products as per the instructions on the packaging.

VACCINATIONS

We vaccinate all adults twice a year – once at shearing (October) and once mid year (April).

We vaccinate all cria at 2 months, 3 months and 6 months.

We ensure all animals arriving have received a vaccination in the last month prior to arrival.

Brand: currently using **Glanvac 6+B12** which is a 6-in-1 vaccine
Method: subcutaneous (under skin)
Dose rate: 1 mL per dose
Warning: be careful not to use the one “including selenium” unless this is what you want

DRENCH

We do “worm counts” twice a year and drench when worm counts indicate it is necessary.

We drench all cria at weaning as this is when they are most susceptible to pick up worms.

We drench all animals arriving onto the property before they go out into paddocks.

Brand: We are currently using **Q-Drench** for animals on farm and **Zolvix** for animals arriving.
Method: oral
Dose rate: Dose according to the bottle. Under-dosing with drench just builds up worm resistance so if you are in doubt about your alpaca’s weight, go slightly higher.

VITAMIN ADE

We give all adults ADE mid May and early July each year and again at shearing.

We give all pregnant females a dose about 3-4 weeks before they are due to give birth (which for us is summer/autumn).

We give all cria a dose at 1 month, 3 months, 5 months, 7 months and then they go onto the adult program.

Brand: **Hideject**
Method: IM (into muscle)
Dose rate: 0.5 mL cria (under 6 months) then adult dose, 1 mL adults
Warnings: Different brands have dramatically different dose rates so check them out carefully

VITAMIN B12

Our area is cobalt deficient so we give all adults a dose every three months. In October and April this is done using the **Glanvac6+B12** vaccine. In January and July we use a standard B12 product.

Method: IM (into muscle)

Dose rate: 1 mL per adult

Warning: be careful not to use the one “including selenium” unless this is what you want

SELENIUM

Our area is selenium deficient so we give all adults a dose at shearing.

Brand: **Selovin LA** (please note – this is sold in 500 mL packs and is between \$200 and \$300 per pack so not viable for most small breeders)

Method: subcutaneous (under skin)

Dose rate: 1 mL for animals over 9 months – 0.5 mL for animals between 3 months and 9 months.

Warning: It is very easy to overdose on selenium so if using a product like this make sure you are not introducing selenium from another source.

Selenium also can be purchased in other products such as vaccines and B12 – but this will not stay in the system as long as **Selovin**.

SMALL BREEDER ALTERNATIVES

Although **Glanvac6+B12** only comes in 250 mL or 500 mL packs, **Ultravac** (5 in 1) can be purchased in packs as small as 50 mL.

B12 can be purchased in 100 mL bottles which are not expensive.

Sometimes smaller breeders purchase small quantities of drugs from bigger breeders bulk packs.

ANIMALS WHICH FAIL TO THRIVE/USEFUL IN POOR SEASONS

VAM is a multi-vitamin product which can be used frequently for animals which are failing to thrive.

Method: IM (into muscle)

Dose rate: 1 mL per animal

Coforta is a phosphorous supplement which we use occasionally with animals which are not holding their weight well or a cria which is “failing to thrive” or animals which have swollen joints.

Method: IM (into muscle)

Dose rate: 1 mL per 10 kg of body weight