

YARINGA ALPACAS HEALTH PROTOCOL

as at JULY 2013

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 and once mid year.

We vaccinate all cria at 3 months, 4 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
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: currently using “Ivomec” injectable
Method: subcutaneous (under skin)
Dose rate: bottle says 1 mL for each 50 kg. As we have been told that under-dosing has no benefit, we use 2 mL per adult, 1 mL per cria

VITAMIN ADE

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

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 and 7 months.

Brand: currently using “Hideject”
Method: IM (into muscle)
Dose rate: 0.5 mL cria, 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.
We give all cria a dose at 2 months and 4 months.

Brand: currently using “Troy”
Method: IM (into muscle)
Dose rate: 1 mL per adult, ½ mL per cria **
Warning: be careful not to use the one “including selenium” unless this is what you want

** We use B12 plus selenium for our cria.

SELENIUM

Our area is selenium deficient so we give all adults a dose at shearing. The cria get it in their B12**.

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 6 months – we do not use for animals under 6 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

SMALL BREEDER ALTERNATIVES

If you need both B12 and selenium, you can purchase “B12 plus Selenium” rather than standard B12.

Brand: currently using “Cobalife VB12 plus Selenium”
Method: IM (into muscle)
Dose rate: 1 mL per adult, ½ mL per cria **

If you need both B12 and vaccination, you can buy combinations of these drugs.

VAM

We have been running trials with VAM and we are impressed with the results.
We give all adults VAM in February and July.
We give all cria a dose at 2 month, 5 months and 7 months

Method: IM (into muscle)
Dose rate: 1 mL per animal

D3

We have recently discovered D3 which we have been trialing with a few cria who we feel need more vitamin D than the ADE has provided.

Method: IM (into muscle)
Dose rate: 0.4 mL followed two weeks later by 0.3 mL followed two weeks later by 0.3 mL

COFORTA

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