

EXTERNAL PARASITES

Overview

There are three main external parasites to watch out for in Alpacas in New Zealand - ticks, mange (mites) & lice.

Causes & Symptoms

Ticks - Visible on the body between late spring and early autumn when grass is long. It is commonly found in the warmer parts of NZ and the most common areas to find ticks are on the head, ears, legs and udder.

Mange - the skin thickens developing lesions around their feet, under the abdomen and groin area, under tail and very common on their necks. There is often loss of fiber surrounding the affected area.

Lice - biting themselves on various parts of the body, or rubbing themselves against fences, buildings or posts. Also, large amounts of dandruff is in the fleece at shearing.










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Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

There are no licensed products or doses for treating alpacas - some cattle and sheep doses can be used. See table below.

When to call us

- If you notice sudden weight loss or poor body condition
- Lethargy, reluctance to move or excessive lying down
- Skin lesions, redness or crustiness and excessive itching.

Parasite	Product	Dosage
Ticks Newborn & Young Cria Alpaca 6 months +	Frontline 	Dog spot-on or spray Use dog dose with same weight as Cria. Apply to chest & armpits only
	Cyrex 	Soak the animal in the sheep dose of the product. eg: watering can works well. Soak down the back, then roll over and soak down the belly.
	Ivomec or Dectomax injection 	Use at 1.5x the cattle dose rate
Mange (mite)	Eprinex Pour on 	Painted directly onto the affected area. DO NOT use as pour-on product.
	Ivomec or Dectomax injection 	Inject under the skin of the neck at 1.5 - 2x the cattle dose rate. Repeat in 10 days time.
Lice	Cyrex 	Soak the animal in the sheep dose of the product. eg a watering can works well. Soak down the back, then roll over soak down the belly. Ideally needs to be applied after shearing when fleece is short.
	Ivomec or Dectomax injection 	Use at 1.5x the cattle dose rate.



INTERNAL PARASITES

Overview

Alpacas in NZ are susceptible to the same internal parasites as sheep and cattle, so resistance to drenches is probably common.

Common internal parasites include roundworms, whipworms, tapeworms and liver worms. Barbers Pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) is a significant concern, especially in humid conditions, as it causes anemia due to blood loss.

Relying on drenches alone is not enough to control worms.

Pasture & animal management is important.

Causes & Symptoms

They can show signs of pale mucous membranes, dull coats, weight loss, diarrhoea, loss of appetite.

Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

Oral drenches are the best to use for Alpacas (pour-on drench is not useful due to thickness of Alpaca skin) and although easier to administer, most injectable products only contain one active ingredient. To slow the development of resistance we recommend using drenches containing at least two active ingredients.

Drench doses are weight dependent. Under-dosing is likely to be ineffective



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and may cause drench resistance. Overdosing can result in poisoning, particularly with Levamisole (clear), therefore weight should be accurately estimated to decrease any risk of toxicity. If unsure have one of our vets or techs visit your animals or give a sheep dose twice 24 hours apart.

As for External parasites, there are no products licensed for alpacas, so 1.5 x sheep doses are used. *See table below.*

New animals arriving on property:

- Keep separate from other animals for a week (allows you to monitor health too)
- Give a quarantine drench (Zolvix® or Startec®) regardless of drench history (1.5x sheep dose)

Faecal Egg Counts (FEC)

- **Pre-drenching:** collect a fresh dung sample and take to your vet clinic for a FEC (this will give you an assessment of the number of eggs present and an indication of whether your alpaca needs drenching)
- **Post-drenching:** FECs can also be used to monitor the effectiveness of drench used by taking a dung sample 7-10 days after drenching and bringing into your vet clinic for testing.

When to call us

- If you notice sudden weight loss or poor body condition.

Drench type	Product	Dosage
Oral	Triple drench	1.5x sheep dose only (<i>contains Levamisole</i>)
	Barbers Pole drench	1.5x Sheep Dose <i>Barbers Pole drench is best used in late summer & autumn as this is the danger period for Haemonchus Contortus worm.</i>
Injectables	Ivomec Genesis Dectomax	1.5x Sheep Dose