

Paddock Card - Mucosa Colour

It is highly recommended when doing regular body condition scoring to also check the colour of the mucous membrane of your alpacas. This is easy to do and also very important as alpacas can be infected with the Barber's Pole Worm (Haemonchus). BPW is a parasite that can rapidly cause serious anaemia.

When holding the alpaca securely, pull the lower eyelid gently down to the point where you can see the inner skin (mucous membrane). The mucosa should be rosy pink or slightly red. Light, pale or white are an indication of anaemia and you should involve your vet as quickly as possible.

With experience and regular checking, you will gain confidence in your ability to determine normal eye membrane colour or pale colour that requires intervention. You could record your results and a scale of 1-5 may be helpful with 1 being white or near to it, 3 being normal and 5 very rosy and bright.



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Level	Mucosa Colour FAMACHA	Treatment
5	Red	No
4	Pinkish Red	No
3	Pink	Maybe
2	Pinkish-white	Yes
1	White-very pale	Yes