
Post-partum Problems

Problems after parturition (ie. Post-partum) are uncommon, but may include prolapse of the uterus and vagina, haemorrhage, uterine tears and uterine infections. Good hygiene is important when dealing with a dystocia to reduce the risk of introducing infection into the uterus.

Post-partum Breeding: When to rebreed?

Involution (i.e. return to normal size) of the uterus progresses rapidly in alpacas and is complete by 3 weeks after parturition. A small amount of discharge, often blood tinged, is sometimes seen during the first 5-7 days post-partum.

In general, rebreeding should be delayed until 15-20 days post-partum, and occasionally a female may not be receptive for up to 40 days post-partum.

Infertility

Compared with many other livestock, infertility in alpacas is relatively uncommon and most problems can be resolved using different management strategies.

Fertility problems should always be discussed with your veterinarian, who will be able to carry out the necessary reproductive examination and fertility assessment. Alpaca owners should keep good breeding records, as an accurate history is a vital part of any fertility assessment.

FURTHER READING

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Much of this material has been adapted from An introduction to the unique reproductive physiology and breeding activity of SACs by Dr. Deidre Bourke: Proceedings of the International Alpaca Conference, held in Fremantle, WA 1998, with significant contributions from Dr. Ewen McMillan, Dr. George Jackson, and Carolyn Jinks.

Australian Alpaca Association (03) 9873 7700
www.alpaca.asn.au
