



Alpaca Care

- **Shearing**, once per year. We recommend shearing in late September or early October in Victoria. You must keep a watchful eye on alpaca the first few weeks after shearing. If you are experiencing bad weather regardless of the time of year they are shorn they may need to be sheded to avoid hypothermia. It is important that alpaca grow back a good 20+mm of fleece before summer as animals shorn in summer can get heat stress and sun burn.
- **Toe nails trimming**, maybe two or three times a year depending on terrain. We usually do toenails at shearing time and then again six months after that. From experience we find that the better fleeced, lighter coloured alpaca need their toenails trimmed more often and you may find they may need to be done every four months.
- **Drenching, for intestinal worms**. Similar to sheep and goats, maybe two or three times per year depending on area. Check with your local vet. We used to drench regularly but now only do it if it is necessary. If your alpaca are healthy, in good condition with a good body score and have a good diet they may not need to be drenched. Again this is very area dependant and local knowledge is essential. By doing faecal egg count, regular worming can be avoided.
- **Vaccinations**, (usually 5 in 1), for common animal diseases they may be susceptible to. We use "5 in 1" and inject animals at shearing time. It is a good idea to do cria at about 6 to 8 weeks of age and then again 6 weeks after that. Then yearly.
- **Vitamin D supplements**. We find that in the lower altitudes of Australia you will have some animals that need vitamin D supplements especially during winter. This can be done by injection, say 3 times during winter about 2 months apart. It's also good to inject pregnant females 6 weeks before giving birth to cria.