



March 2020

Spring Newsletter

In this issue:

-  *The CCA Halter & Fleece Shows*
-  *Veterinary checks when buying / selling alpacas*
-  *Getting ready for shearing*
-  *Ideas for using your fleece this year*
-  *Outside matings*
-  *Spring Welfare tips*
-  *Dates for your Diary*

Welcome to your spring newsletter – we're all still hoping for the rain to stop and for spring to arrive, although it's certainly going to be a strange one this year with Covid19 hanging over us. Thankfully, the alpacas know nothing about that and we hope the newsletter takes your mind off it too for a moment ! As ever, please let us know any special requests for the future issues *Thanks !*

Message from our Chairman

As I write this, we are busy with the lambing so early mornings and late night visits to the lambing sheds are the order of the day. I'm just glad we have the barns to lamb in as the weather has been horrible and it would be no fun having livestock of any kind giving birth outside.

The alpacas are coming in most nights to sleep on a dry bed and top up with haylage so hopefully they will be fit and healthy for birthing later on. With our farm being very high and windy we probably do things a little different from some but we are not afraid to shut them in their big shed if we think it is better for them.

In addition to the constant rain we now have the covid 19 virus to deal with and this could yet cause a major disturbance to exhibitions and gatherings in the near future. How this will all pan out regarding the alpaca shows we don't yet know.

It was great to see so many members at the AGM and social recently and this again proved to be a very enjoyable evening. As chair I thanked our hard working secretary and the committee for all that they have done for the CCA during the previous year. The main discussion points of the AGM were the halter show and the proposed new fleece show. Both are covered in more detail in this newsletter. There was also a rule change agreed to the constitution which allows committee members to serve for two years rather than one before re nomination is required. This reduces the paperwork required at every AGM to elect the committee. We thanked Felicia for her many years of service to the CCA as she stood down from the committee along with Roz who also stood down with our thanks for all she has done. We welcomed Tom and Wendy of Dark Sky alpacas onto the committee and look forward to working with them.

We would as a committee like to wish Gary a speedy recovery from his latest operation and look forward to seeing you back to your normal self, Gary.

On a lovely positive note, congratulations to Tracey and Ashley Smetherham on the safe arrival of baby Grace – great to hear that all the family are doing well

To conclude, good luck to everyone in dealing with the challenges that lie ahead, let's hope that our shows survive the virus and we have a great summer of alpaca events.

Stay safe and healthy.

Nigel



The CCA Halter Show – all you need to know!

Sandra, Alpacas of Cornwall

Everything is booked for our Halter Show in May and the judge is confirmed as

Roger Clarke from Amberley Alpacas, Northern Ireland

As usual, we are at **Griggs Country Store**, St Austell, PL26 7JH and judging will start at 10am - so make sure you arrive in plenty of time to settle your alpacas in and get ready for the day ahead!

Of course, we are keeping a close eye on government advice regarding Covid 19 - so will update you if there is any change to the show taking place or the arrangements

Thanks to this year's sash sponsors, who are:

Supreme Huacaya Champion: CARPALLA ALPACAS

Supreme Suri Champion: DARK SKY ALPACAS

Reserve Supreme Huacaya Champion: CORNISH ALPACA SHEARING

Hopefully you will have received your email with the show classes and the entry forms for both the show and to have a trade stand on the day should you wish to have one

Everything is also available in the web site: www.cornwallcamelidassociation.co.uk

It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible there – it's a friendly show and everyone is welcome – whether it's your first show or your 50th !!



Entry opens 15th May

Closes 17th June

Judging 1st August 2020

The new CCA Fleece Show

Sandra, Wendy, Tom and Liz

We are delighted to confirm that we will be going ahead with the brand new Cornwall Fleece Show on 1st August 2020 to be held at Dark Sky Alpacas, St Breward, Bodmin.

It will be an official BAS show, open to CCA and BAS members across the country, and winners will therefore qualify for the BAS National Champion of Champions Show in 2021.

The entry fee is £22 + VAT for BAS members but we are offering a discount of £3 for CCA members as we would love to have as many people participate as possible.

Enter on the BAS website under 'Manage Your Herd'

There are sponsorship packages available and all details are on our website www.cornwallcamelidassociation.co.uk and new Facebook page 'CCA Fleece Show'

We aim to hold judging on Saturday 1st August and then an open morning on the Sunday for people to come and view the winners and collect their fleeces if they would like to. If you are interested in helping out on either day, please let us know – email cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com – thanks !



Camelid Purchasing Recommendations

Sarah Caldwell BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS

At the AGM, Ros asked about best practice when buying or selling alpacas in terms of disease testing and Sarah has pulled this guide together for us.

You can also find this as a download on the CCA website.

The information and dosages provided are the latest recommendations in 2020 but may be subject to change.

Any animal temporarily or permanently being introduced to your land and herd poses one of the biggest risks with regards to parasite and disease spread. A reputable seller should be keen to ensure animals leaving them are free from disease as this also safeguards their reputation.

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

This is completed by a vet following a thorough external physical examination of an individual. The certificate provides security to the purchaser and seller at the point of sale. Any unexpected findings should be discussed prior to purchase. The document may be required for insurance purposes.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATUS

Tuberculosis (TB)

The South-West is a recognised TB hot spot. As a result of this, the biosecurity in this region is often superior to that in lower risk areas and we therefore shouldn't be discouraged to move animals around – providing the necessary precautions are taken.

Purchased animals should be released only once a negative TB test has been confirmed.

Enferplex is still recognised as the most superior test in camelids and involves taking a single blood sample, which is submitted to SureFarm Ltd for subsequent testing in Ireland. Priming with the skin test remains at the discretion of the owner. My personal recommendation is that you do not prime for a pre-movement test. Your vet has to seek APHA approval for a voluntary TB test, and the test results can take up to a month to return, so this should be arranged promptly.

If you are selling, you should perform TB tests on all sale animals as a matter of precaution, even if not requested by the purchaser.

A whole herd test completed within the last 2 months will qualify as a pre-movement test.

Johne's Disease (Paratuberculosis)

This bacterial disease has been isolated in alpacas and is highly contagious. The consequence of this disease being introduced into a breeding herd could be catastrophic. Severe, rapid weight loss and weakness are the most common symptoms, with some individuals developing diarrhoea. Euthanasia is usually required to prevent unnecessary suffering.

The bacteria are excreted in faeces and milk during periods of reduced immunity and stress i.e. unpacking, transportation and shearing. Younger animals are most susceptible to contracting the disease, but unlike other species it does appear to spread between older animals, making infected individuals' carriers and shedders for life.

Faeces taken directly from the rectum and tested using the **PCR** is highly sensitive. I would strongly suggest this test being part of the sale agreement - it could be performed during the quarantine period providing animals can be appropriately segregated from the main herd and the faeces disposed of. It is important to mention with the testing of this disease that a positive result indicates a carrier, however a negative result doesn't fully rule out that risk, as despite the test being incredibly sensitive, the shedding of bacteria is intermittent. This test, unlike other Johne's tests, is not influenced by TB testing.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

This viral disease has been identified in camelids, but not commonly (possibly because we don't look for it?!)

BVD animals are born shedding the virus having contracted it during pregnancy when the pregnant female was exposed. It causes immunosuppression in the carrier animal and also to those animals in contact which are exposed to the virus. This can result in secondary health and fertility issues.

A single blood test for **BVD antigen** will determine whether the animal is negative or positive for the virus, for life.



PARASITES

Resistant parasites will vary between farms. Some sellers are offering to incorporate some of these treatments prior to movement so ensure you obtain a comprehensive treatment list to avoid repeating. If parasite treatments have not been administered, these should be done within the quarantine period to avoid contaminating your land.

INTERNAL PARASITES:

Zolvix drench at 4.5ml/10kg (3 x sheep dose)

This product is the wormer of choice for any new/incoming animals. It is a new generation wormer, so providing it is used responsibly, should not have any resistance and be highly effective at eliminating gut parasites.

Baycox bovis 5%

A single dose should be given orally at 15mg/kg for coccidiosis. It is recommended that a dose of Vitamin B1 (3ml per 50kg under the skin) be administered at the same time.

Flukiver 5%(Closantel)

This treats all stages of fluke and Haemonchus (Barber's pole) worms. Give orally at 1.5x sheep dose.

Tapeworm

Adults: **Praziquantel** at 3mg/kg

Less than 18 months old: **Albendazole** at 10mg/kg NOT IN PREGNANCY

NB. You may see rice-like segments/worms in the faeces following treatment – this is evidence that the treatment has been effective.

EXTERNAL PARASITES:

The recommendations below are to minimise the risk of introducing mites.

Cydectin injectable 2%

Give 0.2ml per 10kg under the skin as a single injection for prevention of mites. Subsequent doses should not be required unless clinically necessary.

Frontline spray (for dogs)

Use topically on areas of hair loss. There are different species of mite and not all will respond to the injectable recommended above.

VACCINATIONS:

Ensure you acquire a comprehensive history as to what vaccines have been administered and when.

SUMMARY:

Veterinary Certificate

TB - Enferplex

Johne's - PCR

BVD - Antigen

Parasites

- Zolvix
- Flukiver
- Baycox (+ thiamine)
- Praziquantel
- Cydectin

And Quarantine

QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Animals should be quarantined for at least **3 weeks** to monitor for signs of disease. The quarantine area should have no direct contact with any other animals, and at least a **3-meter boundary**. Husbandry tasks for the new animals should be completed after the main herd to minimise transmission of any disease/parasites.

During this period, you should monitor for symptoms of disease including:

- Lethargy
- Weight loss
- Diarrhoea
- Hair loss/itching
- Skin lesions
- Respiratory effort/nasal discharge
- Mobility changes

It is essential to poo pick the quarantine area daily and dispose of the faeces.

The area and feed/water containers should be disinfected after the quarantine period is finished.



Get Ready for Shearing

It's almost that time of year again! Most alpacas in the UK are sheared during May to July. This is an essential part of husbandry once a year for Huacaya, every one or two years for Suri depending on the owner's preference.



Note that the local sheep shearer may not have the skill or equipment to shear your alpaca well; alpacas' skin is finer and can be cut easily so book a professional alpaca shearer in advance, they are very busy during this period.

Shearers are happy to shear in small numbers but this can make the overall cost higher, if you can join with other owner/s, especially if one has a suitable barn then this would reduce costs. Vaccinations, toenails and teeth trimming can all be done at the same time for a very small charge.

If done professionally there will be little stress for your alpacas, they are normally sheared lying on their side with the front and hind legs tethered. Then the handler holds the head as the shearer shears off one side, rolls the alpaca and shears to the other side. The whole process should about six minutes causing little distress.

If you do not shear then you could cause unnecessary health problems to your alpaca such as mites and mange.

After shearing it is essential you skirt and pack your fleece carefully so it's ready for you to sell or use to make something wonderful!

Here are the contact details for two shearers that operate in the South West:

Colin Ottery: 07773440354

Allen Muriel: 07870612559

or contact Alpacas of Cornwall at carntremayne@hotmail.co.uk and quote 'shearing'



Ideas for using your Fleece in 2020

From our members



Are you looking for inspiration for your fleece this year?

Four of our members, Ros, Heather, Liz and Felicia, shared what they do with theirs:

Selling products at craft fairs

Ros, Sampford Alpacas

I skirt my fleece then have it commercially spun and also teach about it. I got started by going on BAS and other courses and also learned by my (small) mistakes! I use a commercial mill and employ knitters and then I sell the products at craft fairs. I put loads of effort in to this side of alpacas but I really enjoy it and it's cost effective ☺ My advice to others would be to buy the best possible quality fleeced alpacas you can and then go on courses to learn about what you can do



Selling yarn and other products at their farm shop

Felicia, Popham Alpacas

I send some of my fleece to be made into yarn, sell some to UK Alpaca and the rest to handspinners. I got started by sending my fleece to the Natural Fibre Company and I now use knitters to help turn the yarn into products which we sell in our farm shop – mainly to people who come on our alpaca treks. I put in a moderate amount of effort and really enjoy seeing our fleece turned into products. From my experience, I'd advise to think about your market before embarking on making your product.



Learning to spin and weave, making for friends and family

Heather, Polgrain Alpacas

I'm just learning to spin and currently knitting the yarn up into hats for family and friends. We bought 7 alpacas in May which came with their fleeces so I bought a hand spinning wheel and started learning! I've also ordered a loom so will have a go with that and then decide what to do going forward. I spend loads of time on it – every evening I am carding, spinning or knitting – and I love the enjoyment of people liking my hats. I'm still on a steep learning curve, so will keep you posted !



Having things made for her own pleasure ☺

Liz Brealy

I sell some of my fleece on ebay but have also had some processed and made into a shawl and sent raw fleece to be turned into a rug (shown on the left!) It has hardly taken any time and I love the products which I am absolutely keeping for myself ☺ When I sell the raw fleece I cover my shearing costs.



Thinking about outside matings?

Quality stud males are available from Crewenna, Dark Sky, Popham and Rosecraddock

If your thoughts are turning to matings in the next few months, make sure you check out the wonderful studs on your doorstep here in Cornwall!

Find links to breeder's sites from <https://www.cornwallcamelidassociation.co.uk/breeders->

Top 4 Spring Welfare Tips

Boost Vaccinations for Pregnant Mums

Don't forget to provide pregnant Mum's with a shot of your usual clostridial vaccination between 8 and 2 weeks before they are due to unpack (check amounts and dates with your vet) – this ensures they pass immunity to their cria whilst still in the womb

1

Plasma supplies

If possible and you are expecting births, take blood from geldings for plasma, alternatively identify a reliable and geographically close source.

4

Mites

As always be on the lookout for mites – particularly in the armpits and under the tail. There are several treatments available – if unsure you should speak to your vet

2

Feet

Keep checking regularly – particularly in the wet weather – watch out for infection on the bottom of the pad and between the toes – if they are infected you will often notice the smell and a discharge. If this occurs talk to your vet as antibiotics may be

3



And finallyDates for your Diary

BAS National Show - Telford ~~CANCELLED / POSTPONED~~
~~28th & 29th March 2020~~

HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta 2020 ~~UNDER REVIEW~~
 Friday 17th, Saturday, 18th & Sunday 19th April 2020
 CLOSED - Enter animals 25th March to 2nd April (pre-booked only)

South of England Spring Show Ardingly 2020
 Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May
 Entries open 2nd March to 2nd April

North Somerset Halter Show 2020
 Sunday 3rd May
 Entries open 17th March to 17th April

CCA Halter Show
 9th May 2020
 MA Griggs Pendennis, Lower Sticker, Saint Austell PL26 7JH
 Entries

Devon County Show 2020 ~~MOVED TO 28th, 29th & 30th AUG~~
~~21st, 22nd & 23rd May~~
 Entries open 21st March to 9th April

Northumberland County Show Alpaca Championship
 25th May 2020
 Entries open to 2nd March to 30th April

Cornwall Fleece Show 2020
 1st August 2020
 Dark Sky Alpacas, St Breward, Bodmin PL30 4PG
 Entries open 15th May to 17th June

EAG Fleece Show 2020
 15/16th August 2020

EAG Halter Show 2020
 18th October 2020

Welsh Alpaca Show
 10th Oct 2020

