

SOUTHERN ALPACA GROUP NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

December already – how did that happen?! As I write this the day is foggy and cold, the first snow of the winter has gone, and there's more forecasted before Xmas, looks like we may have another tough winter.

All the usual seasonal reminders apply, see below for those who didn't get the Newsletter last year

You should by now have dosed your all your alpacas for parasites, the mild autumn has been ideal for worm numbers to increase. If you take faecal samples – ask your vet for a sensitive test. Prolonged hard frosts kills the parasites and eggs on the ground, and so this will really be helpful in their control. Coccidea is a real threat to cria, and the stress of weaning can increase their burden, it's a good idea to dose them with Baycox a week after weaning.

*Another really important job is to give **all** of your alpacas a dose of ADE either by injection, which lasts about 3 months or paste, every 6 weeks. It used to be thought that this was only necessary for crias, growing youngsters and pregnant females but Members have reported Rickets in adult wethers too, despite being fed Camelibra. Rickets is a painful condition – alpacas sit around a lot and move stiffly, when allowed to progress legs begin to look crooked and the alpaca gets very thin as it won't want to graze.*

Condition score regularly (every fortnight at least) this means get your hands on – a good excuse for a cuddle! And trim those toenails they seem to grow faster in wet weather for some reason and may need doing every few weeks, especially the white ones.

Grass will have lost most of its nutritional value – so supply good quality, sweet smelling hay, hard to get hold of this year, or haylage, ad lib and renew it every few days – make sure you have enough space for them all to feed without competition. Most of us are feeding camelibra and maybe fibregest too which gives a good balanced ration designed specifically for alpacas. Another good source of feed that is ideal for alpacas is Readigrass by Dengie and alfalfa pellets – no more than half a kilo of concentrate feed per alpaca per day in total. Don't over feed the fatties!! Thin animals may be fed on unmollased sugar beet eg Eurobeet or Speedibeet – both need to be soaked (sugar beet is also very good for lactation), micronized peas and oats in equal quantities.

We welcome our new Members and would encourage all of you to come along to the events that we have coming up in the future. They're an ideal opportunity to make new friends and share experiences and learn.

We are hoping to add to this years events a summer evening BBQ – we're looking for a venue for this- please let us know if you'd like to host it and a fibre training day in the autumn, date and venue to be confirmed. Should you wish us to cover anything else then please put in your suggestions to Nikki or Karen and we will do our best to accommodate them. (Training days arranged so far will be held at Meon Valley Alpacas as it is central to the Membership.)

EVENTS

Haltering to Show ring – The secrets of success at Meon Valley Alpacas and taken by Jay Holland. *Saturday 19th March 2011*

Veterinary workshops by Camelid Vet Karin Mueller of Cambridge University

Birthing and the cria – *to be held at Meon Valley Alpacas on Saturday 3rd April 2011*

Nutrition – *to be held at Meon Valley Alpacas 24 September 2011*

REGIONAL SHOW

Exciting news we are to hold our first BAS Regional Group Alpaca Show on Saturday 10th September 2011 at The Romsey Show, Broadlands, Hampshire.

This promises to be a great event for us all and we anticipate lots of entries (up to 150) from breeders large and small. Romsey Show receives around 25,000 visitors, so a really good opportunity for us to show off our alpacas and promote the industry to people who enjoy the countryside. To be run as a colour championship, to BAS Rules, and as a short fleece show open to all registered alpacas with Huacaya and Suri classes. The minimum fleece length for Huacayas is 1 inch, suri 3 inches.

Entries will be taken on line, so all very easy. Being only a one day show with limited entries, at a time of year when most of us have finished births and school holidays it is sure to be very popular, so to avoid disappointment get your entries in as soon as they open, around the beginning of July. There will be Junior Handler Classes and possibly a fun obstacle course in the lunch break ... details to follow.

We will be looking for lots of volunteers amongst our Members to help make this a very successful show. There will be lots to do for example putting up penning the day before and taking it down again at the end – we need stewards on the day for the collecting ring and help on the Secretaries table.

Romsey Show organisers are being very generous and are supplying us with a marquee, pa system and most of the rosettes, however there are numerous other costs involved and therefore we are also looking for sponsorship. This will be in the form of sponsoring championships as listed below which will entitle you to some great advertising in the catalogue and allowing you to place your banner round the show ring.

Please indicate on the forms below which items you would be happy to help with and which training days you'd like to attend... and return asap to Nikki Hayton. Places will be limited on all training days, so book soon to avoid disappointment. We will contact you with details of sponsorships and payments for training when we have received your forms. Please try and get them in by the end of January or sooner... It is also time for you to renew your subs

In the meantime – have a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes 2011

Karen Oglesby

Show & Events	Yes
Steward on Day of Show	
Help before & After Show	
Sponsorship please contact for details	
Alpaca Training – Haltering to Show ring – The secrets of success with Jay Holland on Saturday 19 th March 2011 at Meon Valley Alpacas.	
Neonatal Clinic - The pregnant female, the birth and care of the cria to be held at Meon Valley Alpacas on Saturday 3 rd April 2011	
Nutrition - by Karin Mueller to be held at Meon Valley Alpacas on 24 September 2010.	
BBQ – late summer event to catch up and share experiences. Learn how to make a rope halter using special knot	
Name: Email/phone Address:	
I would be willing to host BBQ or training day	