



The Oakwood Alpaca Blood Drive

Thursday 26th March 2020

What is the Oakwood Alpaca Blood Drive?

On Thursday 26th March, we will be holding the Oakwood Alpaca Blood Drive, if you'd like to participate this means a vet will come to your site and take a unit (450ml) of blood from a small group of alpacas, this is providing the alpaca presented has met the requirements needed. This blood will then be made into 2 bags of plasma (which can be kept frozen for 2 years!) for your alpacas.

What is plasma & why should we do this?

Plasma is a fraction of the blood which contains the immunoglobulins (a type of protein) and also transports nutrients and hormones.

If newborn cria do not receive enough colostrum (the initial milk from your hembra) they may suffer from a failure of passive transfer, where insufficient immunoglobulins are taken on board. Failure of passive transfer causes a significant number of cria deaths, and can be caused by weak crias, insufficient nursing by the hembra, mastitis, blocked teats, poor milk production or poor maternal instincts.

Apart from failure of passive transfer, plasma transfusions should also be considered for any sick cria, those born prematurely or in difficult +/- or assisted unpackings.

Plasma given intravenously or intraperitoneal can save lives. However, advanced planning is key, often we are presented with cria that need plasma urgently and therefore, having a supply on hand is vital as by law, it cannot be sourced externally to your holding and the antibodies are often holding specific. To produce the plasma the collection bags have to be ordered in specially and a special centrifuge is needed. Because of this, vets cannot produce plasma in an emergency situation, so having a supply frozen that can be defrosted according to your vets instructions is key.

There is only one blood group in South American Camelid species, which means when you come to use your plasma you do not need to blood match the cria with the plasma donor. Therefore, any bag of plasma produced from animals on your holding can be used for your cria!

How much does it cost?

1 unit of blood produces 2 bags of plasma. 1 unit of blood can be taken per alpaca. Please note that reasonable time will not be charged.

- Pre-arranged visit fee: £42.00 per farm inc. VAT (£35 ex. vat)
- First 5 bags of plasma produced: £123.60 each inc. VAT (£103 ex. vat)
- Bags 6-10: £105.06/bag inc. VAT (£87.55/bag ex. vat)
- Bags 11+: £82.40/bag inc. VAT (£82.40/bag ex. vat)

Prices are including VAT



Why does my Alpaca need a health check before the blood is taken?

Animals presented for the Oakwood Alpaca Blood Drive will need to have a thorough health check from a vet before having the blood taken (1 unit of blood per alpaca), this will rule out any pre-existing medical conditions which is to ensure that they are fit and healthy to have a unit of blood taken to make the plasma. If you think an alpaca is unwell then please do not select it for donating.

Which animals make the best donors?

The ideal donor will be a castrated male aged 2 – 10 years old, although if a healthy adult male is not available then an unbred female can also be used in the same age range. Donor animals should weigh more than 50kg, have a good temperament, and not be on any current medication or have any known health issues.

We also recommend any animal you may wish to use as a donor has had a recent clostridial vaccination (e.g Bravoxin 10) ideally 2 weeks before the donation day. This is to protect the donor after treatment and for to ensure maximum antibodies for the cria. If you haven't vaccinated your animals before please remember you will need a primary course which requires two vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart so you would need first dose by the end of January 2020.

Where do I collect my plasma from after the blood is taken?

The plasma from your animals will be able to collect from the Oakwood farm department in Harleston. Each bag of plasma will be labelled and reserved for your holding. They will be frozen in bio-secure bags ready for you to put into your freezer for future use!

How do I sign up for the Oakwood Alpaca Blood Drive?

Please contact the Farm Department in Harleston on 01379 852146 and speak to one of the farm reception team. They will be able to discuss with you the details of your alpacas and reserve you a slot. Alternatively, please email admin@oakwoodvets.co.uk