



Farm Veterinary Solutions

ALPACA CARE GUIDE

Alpacas need a little extra consideration to help them thrive and live a healthy life. Especially those with chronic health conditions. Regular health checks, faecal exams and weigh-ins may uncover diseases before they become chronic and debilitating.

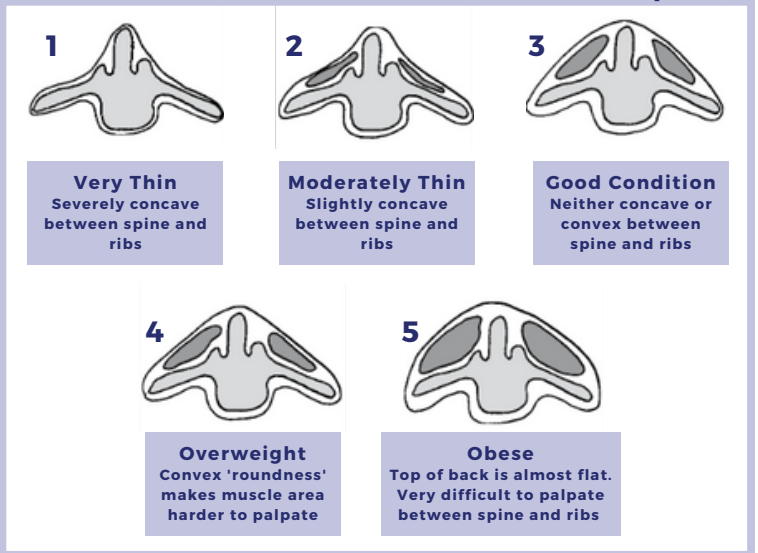
CONDITION AND NUTRITION

Regular body condition scoring helps to assess any losses or gains in condition.

These changes may suggest health problems such as parasitism or the need to alter nutritional management.

Obesity may be due to overfeeding of supplements or feeding too high quality forages relative to nutritional requirements. Obese alpacas are more susceptible to heat stress, metabolic problems, infertility and locomotive problems.

Cross Sections for Condition Scores in Alpacas



Camelids need long-stemmed roughage: pasture, hay, silage (greater than 4cm) to keep the forestomachs functioning normally.

A diet based on very short (or non-existent under drought conditions) pasture, chaff and grains/pellets or very lush spring pasture is not adequate to maintain ideal conditions for gut fermentation.

We recommend body condition scoring every 3 months and used as a tool with your vet to monitor nutrition and signs of disease.

Animals with darkly pigmented and heavy fleeces have lower vitamin D levels in blood.