



FACTSHEET

VACCINATION OF SOUTH AMERICAN CAMELIDS

Clostridial Diseases

Clostridia are bacteria that are ubiquitous in the environment, particularly in organic material, and soil. Disease can be triggered by various factors such as worms, dietary changes and stress.

These are a serious threat to unvaccinated camelids in the UK. Death can occur within a few hours of rapid bacterial multiplication and toxin production within the gut, although animals with tetanus may survive for several days.

THEREFORE WE FEEL THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CAMELID OWNERS TO VACCINATE THEIR ANIMALS AGAINST CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASE.

There are several vaccines available, but none are licensed for camelids. These are effective against 3-10 of the different types of clostridia, depending on the vaccine.

We advise using a multivalent vaccine that protects against a wide range of diseases in adults, and a narrower spectrum product in crias. These will be targeted at the diseases they are most at risk from as their immune systems will not be fully developed, hence will not respond correctly to a really broad spectrum product.

VACCINATION PROTOCOL (This may need to be modified on certain farms depending on management practices).

- 1: Vaccinate crias at 2-3 days old with "Lambivac". Repeat this 3-4 weeks later.
- 2: At 4-6 months of age use a multivalent vaccine such as "Covexin 10", "Bravoxin 10" or "Heptavac". Repeat this 4-6 weeks later to complete the primary course.
- 3: Vaccinate breeding females annually when they are not pregnant. Include your males in these programmes so that they are not forgotten.

The above programmes have a primary course of vaccines which is needed to obtain full immunity, so it is important that these are completed. Full immunity is not obtained until a few weeks after the second part of the course.

We recommend avoiding vaccinating pregnant animals to reduce stress.

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