

Reproduction

The female alpaca- hembra - begins her breeding life at around 12-15 months of age, and is an induced ovulator- the act of mating and the presence of semen stimulates the female to ovulate. Males machos - are ready to mate from around 2 years of age, and will dribble the semen into the uterus throughout the entire mating, which lasts 15 to 30 minutes. The gestation period of the alpaca is 11-11.5 months, and the offspring are known as Cria until weaning time at around 6 months when they become Tuis. The female is normally re-mated 14-21 days after giving birth, and can reproduce successfully for at least 16 years. Twins are rare occurring about once in 1000 deliveries. Alpacas usually give birth during the day and birthing is generally trouble free and very quick. Crias usually stand and nurse within one hour and are often hard to catch a few hours later!!

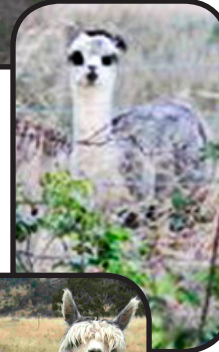


Shelter

Trees and bushes provide the best protection against extremes of heat and cold. Most alpacas will not voluntarily seek shelter in sheds. There is no need for special fencing as alpacas are generally content to stay in their own backyards.

Alpaca Association Membership

The Australian Alpaca Association Ltd. (AAA) represents owners at all levels and is the collective voice of over 2100 members in all States. The Association is the primary resource for breeding and promoting alpacas providing you with the tools, information and support you need to enjoy all the benefits associated with owning alpacas. AAA is the voice for the industry to promote alpaca breeders interests to governments, associated industries and media in Australia and around the world.



Alpaca Facts



The alpaca is a member of the South American Camelid family, and grazes at an altitude of 3-4000 metres on the Andes Mountains Altiplano, which runs through Peru, Chile, Bolivia and Argentina. In their native land alpacas have been a source of meat, fibre and leather production for thousands of years. An inquisitive, almost mystical animal, they were closely integrated with the Inca culture. The alpaca's lifespan can be over 20 years. Their easy management makes these enchanting and beautiful creatures a dream to farm, and their soft pads are gentle on Australian fragile soils.



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