

Alpaca shearing recommendations

- Please keep your alpacas dry (and as clean as possible) leading up to shearing day, shearing a wet alpaca is not much fun and if you want to use the fleece you will have to dry it before bagging it up.
- Keep the alpacas in pens close by the shearing area to reduce time in moving animals around.



- The shearing area should be clean and dry and flat. Two opposing immovable tie off points are required to secure the pulleys. These need to be a minimum of 5m apart and preferably not more than 7m apart.
- An electric supply is preferred but not essential.
- Please ensure bags, labels etc are ready for the collection of the fleece.
- If you require a fleece sample to be sent for analysis then let me know and ensure bags and labels are ready.
- Any help would be greatly received e.g. bringing animals to the shearing area, collecting and bagging up the fleece.
- If the herd is a mix of colours then shearing is performed in the order white through to black to minimise fibre cross contamination.

Shearing method

There are many different methods used to restrain an alpaca for shearing, the following describes the method I use, just so you have an idea of what will happen to your alpaca during the shearing.

The alpaca is positioned in the middle of the shearing area, then front and rear legs are placed into the loops of the pulley system. The alpaca is then gently stretched out and lowered to the floor while a helper supports the head. The alpaca is laid on its side and the blanket fleece (best quality fleece) is removed first. The alpaca is rolled over to allow shearing of the other side of the blanket area. The second quality fleece from the legs are then removed. The alpaca is placed into the upright position so the head and neck can be sheared, then rolled onto the side to complete the shearing. While the alpaca is restrained toe nail cutting and teeth trimming can be performed.

As with most things in life accidents will happen and occasionally the alpaca will receive a cut during shearing. If this happens the cut is dried with a paper towel and glued back together with "Super glue" (just like in a hospital). The cut is then sprayed with an antiseptic spray.

To reduce the risk of cross site contamination all equipment is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between sites.

For further information please contact me via email griezites.alpakas@gmail.com or telephone +371 2869 3785. I am also on Facebook at Griezites Alpakas.

