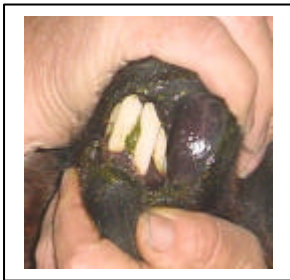


PADDOCK CARD - TEETH



Alpaca teeth trimming

Alpaca teeth may need trimming in older animals and animals where the teeth are not touching the pallet (overshot). At about 18 months of age milk teeth are pushed out and the adult teeth often move forward a bit. Teeth can be trimmed in different ways, this is one of the recommended methods. There are other teeth grinders on the market as well, with a plate protecting the tongue. With those you don't need anything else in the mouth. Teeth can be trimmed down significantly without hurting the alpaca. Beware not to grind down to root level, as this can cause infection. Fighting teeth can also be removed with surgical wire or dog nail clippers. Spray water when using surgical wire to cool down the tooth (will get hot). File down any rough edges when clipping fighting teeth.



Care must be taken when using moving power tools, for animal, handler an operator. Also consider electrical safety because of cords and use of equipment under wet circumstances.

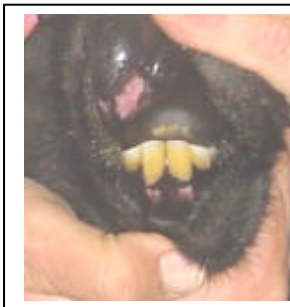
Use Speed control on angle grinders to slow down the disk and avoid overheating of teeth. **Wear a dust mask to prevent inhaling bone dust.**

These teeth have grown too long, growing out past the top gum. This has an affect on the alpaca's eating ability.



Don't cut teeth as with horses, they will "shatter".

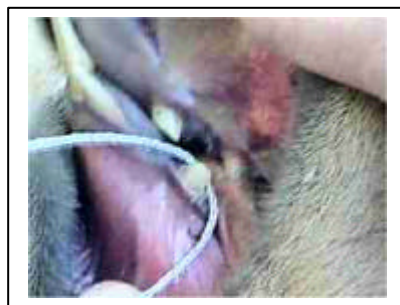
Place a piece of solid doweling, approx 25mm thickness, or alkathine pipe into the alpaca's mouth, placing tongue underneath pipe. Using an angle grinder or dremel slowly grind the teeth back down leaving no sharp edges. Do this until the teeth fit snugly into the top gum.



The end result should look like this or near abouts. Check animals after grinding is complete to make sure they are eating happily.



Fighting teeth



Extraction of fighting teeth can cause problems in the jaw. When removing the teeth at gum level with surgical wire or clipping, one has to be aware that they can grow back, as all cameloid teeth do.