

Mange in Alpacas

Mange in alpacas can be caused by a variety of mites including, *Sarcoptes*, *Chorioptes* and *Psoroptes*, with *Chorioptes* being considered the most commonly seen in the UK.

Clinical signs

Although the different types of mange may theoretically have different clinical signs, general signs include:

- Itching
- Alopecia (hair loss)
- Scaling
- Thickened skin
- Crusting
- Papules/pustules

Diagnosis

A full skin examination may be required in order to exclude other causes of skin diseases. Diagnostic tests which can be completed on dermatology cases include:

- Skin scrape
- Swab
- Microscopy
- Biopsy
- Blood tests

Treatment and control

Treatment of mange in alpacas is different to that of other livestock as camelid fibre does not contain lanolin. This affects the uptake of some products, so it is important to discuss treatment protocols with your vet.

Key points on treatment:

- Ensure the correct dose is used based on the animals weight
- Ensure administered by the correct route
- Close monitoring may be required, including taking further skin scrapes
- Ensure that treatment is given for the correct period of time
- No products for the treatment of ectoparasites are licensed in alpacas, so treatment is off license. For more information on this see the *Off-license Medicines* factsheet.

Call Drove Farm Vets for more information or with any concerns:

01793 501 499

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year