

# VLA Miscellaneous Exotic and Farmed Species Expert Group



**Veterinary  
Laboratories  
Agency®**

South American Camelids  
Veterinary Information Sheet  
Aide memoire for the diagnosis of  
common disease syndromes



Condition	Main differential diagnoses	Samples
<b>Skin disease</b>	Parasites ( <i>Chorioptes</i> , <i>Psoroptes</i> scabies, <i>Demodex</i> , harvest mites, lice) Abscesses / CLA Dermatophytosis / ringworm <i>Dermatophilus</i>  Orf (uncommon)  Neoplasia	Superficial and deep skin scrapes and hair plucks from number of sites especially interdigital areas Deep swab or tissue sample by biopsy for culture Hair pluck and skin scale for culture Fresh moist crust and scale with hair pluck for cytology and culture Formalin-fixed and fresh skin tissue samples for histopathology and electron microscopy Formalin-fixed skin tissue
<b>Abortion</b>	Salmonellosis, <i>Campylobacter</i> , BVD, neosporosis, opportunist bacteria, <i>Chlamydophila</i> , toxoplasmosis, leptospirosis, <i>Brucella</i> , infectious causes are not common	In all cases: fetus, placenta and maternal serum
<b>Ill-thrift / weight loss</b>	Dentition BVD Trace element deficiency (rare except copper) Malnutrition  Worms / coccidia Liver fluke TB  Johne's disease (uncommon)	Clinical examination (radiography) Plasma / serum for PCR and SNT respectively Plasma and serum (EDTA for haematology with Cu)  Assess diet and history - serum, EDTA, heparin, Ox-F bloods may help to rule out other primary conditions Faeces Faeces and serum for liver enzymes Discharging sinus from subcutaneous lymph node; carcass – ZN, histopathology, culture Faeces (ZN smear, culture & PCR) and serum (AGIDT - Limited sensitivity)
<b>Alimentary Disease</b>		
<b>Young stock</b>	Coccidia, parasitic gastroenteritis (PGE), cryptosporidia, rotavirus, coronavirus, <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>E. coli</i>	Faeces for routine parasitology and culture as appropriate
<b>Adults</b>	Liver fluke / PGE / coccidia  Gastric ulcer  Hepatic lipidosis	Faeces (and serum for liver enzymes) for parasitology  No specific tests. Faeces, serum, EDTA, heparin and Ox-F bloods to rule out other disease Carcass, liver histopathology, serum, Ox-F blood

*These differential diagnoses are not an exclusive list. Other conditions may be involved and the results of any tests must take into account the history including feeding regime and clinical signs.*