
Do I need to trim alpaca toe nails?

Posted by teresa - 2007/09/14 15:06

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Re:Do I need to trim alpaca toe nails?

Posted by drpro349 - 2007/09/14 15:20

Alpacas have two toes on each foot. Each has a toenail. If you live in naturally rocky terrain, you may never need to trim your alpaca's toenails as they may wear down on the rocks naturally. But most likely you'll need to learn this skill.

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Re:Do I need to trim alpaca toe nails?

Posted by clearskyblues - 2007/09/15 02:25

Just like with humans and other animals, the growth rate of the nail varies from alpaca to alpaca. Most ranchers find they need to trim nails from a month to once a quarter. (You can tell when the nail needs trimming when it bends over the pad of the feet or protrudes).

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Re:Do I need to trim alpaca toe nails?

Posted by perudreamin - 2007/09/15 02:54

But do so carefully - and it's best if someone who knows how (particularly your vet) shows you the first time. Just like with dogs, alpacas have a quick that supplies blood to the nail that you can cut too close. (You can apply cornstarch or gauze to stop the bleeding).

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Re:Do I need to trim alpaca toe nails?

Posted by olivia_terach - 2007/09/15 03:40

Be VERY PATIENT when you trim your alpaca's toenails. An alpaca's only defense against predators is to run, so they really don't like people handling their feet.

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Re:Do I need to trim alpaca toe nails?

Posted by antongs - 2007/09/15 04:02

So cutting toenails is not an activity they enjoy, but they can learn to tolerate it, and after a while it will just become part of your routine.

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