

Notes on Neck Injuries
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Number 1 on list is pain control. Use banamine at 1cc/100lb SQ. Can give twice a day. Two things with giving banamine--make sure they are well hydrated as it can affect the kidneys, and secondly, make sure they are eating and not having stomach issues. I believe we've been over cautioned about giving banamine in fear of stomach ulcers. Not that ulcers are not a concern, but if they are eating, etc, it's probably not as big of a concern. Plus, if pain not controlled, they won't eat. For hydration, make sure they are urinating.

Banamine works well as a pain reliever and as an antiinflammatory. So especially following the initial injury when there might be swelling, joint pain, it is the drug I would go to for pain control.

A second medicine for pain control is meloxicam. I think of meloxicam as a good drug for ongoing/chronic pain relief. Not as much antiinflammatory as Banamine, but very good for bone pain. It is given orally. Start with a loading dose of 2mg/kg, then go to every other day at 1mg/kg. Small pill you can crush if needed. It is very inexpensive. It's used safely in humans long term and you can get it eg-Walmart for a couple dollars. Not as big of concern about stomach ulcers and kidney problems, but something to still watch.

You can start them on meloxicam and continue the Banamine and then wean them off the Banamine.

Number 2 on the list is to make sure they are eating and chewing and hydrating. Crias with neck injuries will more than likely not be able to nurse. So you might have to supplement them.

If not eating give Vitamin B complex 1-2cc SQ once daily for 3-4 days for young crias to stimulate the gut. You can also start on Protonix 1mg/kg SQ one daily for 3 - 5 days. Protonix is the drug of choice to protect and treat stomach ulcers. So it will provide you some protection when you use Banamine. Probiotics, yeast, etc

If continued problems for weeks, add in Vitamin D injectable. Consider BoSe injectable. Both will be depleted if ongoing problems with nutrition.

Long term, neck injured alpacas can end up with a fused neck. Not so big of an issue if fully grown at time of injury, but in young, it could be an issue as they grow. Also long term, if there is concern about joint issues, can always add in cosequin (glucosamine/chondroitin) orally to their diet.