

Voluntary intake and digestibility of forages with different nutritional quality in alpacas (*Lama pacos*)

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There is an increasing interest in the introduction of domestic South American Camelids (SAC) to semi-arid and non-plateau arid lands located at the Central South (35-42°S/71-74°W) and Magallanic (49-55°S/69-75°W) regions of Chile. The climatic conditions of these zones differ from the ones at the Andean plateau (17-21°S/68-70°W), though they have in common, a low availability of poor quality forage, greatest in dry seasons. The objective of this study was to determine the apparent digestibility coefficients and voluntary intake of four forages from a location at the V Region of Chile (33°20' S/71°30' W), with eight adult alpacas in a replicated 4 X 4 Latin Square experiment. The forages (commercial hays, stage of maturity not established) were the following: (1) Clover (mostly Red clover plus Italian ryegrass and Fescue); (2) Ryegrass (mostly Italian ryegrass plus Fescue and weeds); (3) Wheat straw (mostly Wheat straw plus other herbs and weeds) and (4) Fescue (only Fescue). The volunta