

# The Journal of RMLA



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Lougene Baird P. O. Box 385403 Waikoloa, HI 96738 808-747-5023 lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net	Dick Williams P.O. Box 1070 Plains, MT 59859 406-826-2201 bcllama@blackfoot.net	Geri Rutledge 2209 Rd 9 Waco, NE 68460 402-366-9304 buckshollow@wildblue.net	Brent Holt 4047 Bear Canyon Cir. Sedalia, CO 80135 281-250-2000 Brent.Holt@cfbmic.com	Linda Hayes 60 Meadow View Lane Glenwood Spgs, CO 81601 970-379-4576 llamas@skybeam.com

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Readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant or attorney regarding any questions concerning their animals or business operations.

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## -- Committee Chairpersons --

### Bookstore Jan Adamcyk

303-621-2960  
adamcyk@earthlink.com  
Liaison Lougene Baird

### Bylaws Lougene Baird

808-747-5023  
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net  
Liaison Linda Hayes

### Calendar Dick Williams & Pat Bradstreet

406-826-2201  
bcllama@blackfoot.net  
Liaison Lougene Baird

### e-Communications: Facebook, Website & E-mail: Ron Hinds

303-646-1320  
web@rmla.com  
Liaison Lougene Baird

### Education (open)

Liaison Linda Hayes

### Events/Marketing Mary Wickman

719-687-1423  
Cell: 719-651-8871  
mwickman1@gmail.com  
Liaison Dick Williams

### Fiber Cheryl Juntilla & Jill Knuckles

970-640-8028 970-487-0223  
cajwdj@aol.com  
talhtailamas@bigplanet.com  
Liaison Geri Rutledge

### Finance Marilyn Arnold

303-841-5126  
arnold.marilyn@ymail.com.  
Liaison Brent Holt

### Journal

Co-Editors:  
Content-Kathy Stanko  
Layout-Ron Hinds  
rmlaeditor@gmail.com  
Liaison Lougene Baird

### Library

Dick Williams  
406-826-2201  
bcllama@blackfoot.net  
Liaison Dick Williams

### Membership Dick Williams

406-826-2201  
bcllama@blackfoot.net  
Liaison Brent Holt

### Nominations & Elections

Maggie Merrill Brown  
970-667-7227  
designer95@bluelinesite.com  
Liaison Geri Rutledge

### Publication Coordinator - Lougene Baird

808-747-5023  
lougenebaird@hawaiiintel.net

### Rescue Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay

406-586-1155  
llamas@yellowstonesafari.com  
Liaison Linda Hayes

### Youth and 4-H (open)

Liaison Geri Rutledge



## Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
Winter	November 20	December 20

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
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1/3 Page Vert.	2.5" x 10"	\$35	\$48
Half Page	7.5" x 5"	\$48	\$72
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$78	\$117
Back Cover	7.5" x 7.5"	\$60	\$90
Inside Cover Front or Back	7.5" x 10"	\$96	\$144
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• Ads must be submitted via email in MS Word, jpeg, tiff or PDF files to RMLAadvertise@gmail.com.

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You can reach Sonja at 303-257-6733 or the email address below.

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• Payment and ad copy must be received prior to submission deadline. See the chart above for dates.

### Journal Staff:

Content - Kathy Stanko  
Layout and Design - Ron Hinds } Co-Editors

Email - RMLAEditor@gmail.com

Advertising – Sonja Boeff, RMLAadvertise@gmail.com

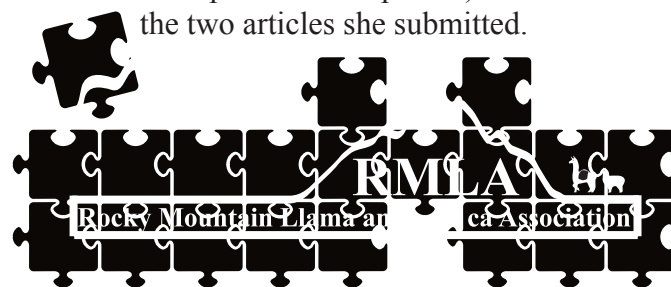
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Ron and I suspect that almost every one of us has worked on a jigsaw puzzle. But how many of us have stopped to consider how a jigsaw puzzle is like a community, a family, or an organization? Each piece is unique. Each piece has just one special place where it fits. When joined, all pieces combine to make a whole.



Within RMLA we have a jigsaw puzzle with any number of unique pieces. Ron & I know this by the articles and photos you send in.

- Jerry Dunn has a very unique gift of teaching about llamas in a variety of settings (maybe she has several pieces in our puzzle) as shown in the two articles she submitted.



- Gary Carlton is courageous in that he takes on two huge RMLA events, year after year, the Fairplay Llama Races and the trek to Hope Pass for the Leadville 100 Run.

- Linda Hayes & Al Ellis are a unique piece in the manner in which they organized and publicized a very unique RMLA event, the Ccara Llama Workshop.

- Our Board Members are five unique pieces that can combine to form a corner of the puzzle which then acts as one piece.

Get the idea? Every one of us has a piece in the RMLA puzzle. That piece is unique and special. So whether you are writing articles for The Journal, putting on a show, setting up the fiber co-op booth, bringing in a new member or two, just out having fun with your llama, or contributing financially to a need or an event, Thank you for contributing in your special unique way.

### Cover Photo Credit:

Left to right: Ginger alpaca, Whitney Pecka, Aunuhea alpaca and Mikayla Pecka. They are participants in the annual Stars N Stripes event. See story on page 18.  
*Photo courtesy of Geri Rutledge.*



# FROM YOUR RMLA BOARD

Last night's Board meeting was full of RMLA business as usual. It is always a pleasure when we meet. We connect well, no time is wasted and we do our best to keep the needs of all members and the Mission Statement at heart. What an awesome group of workers!

The Board congratulates Linda Hayes on being elected to the ILR Board. Linda's focus and desire to achieve the best possible outcome on issues within the lama industry will serve that Board well as it has done for your RMLA Board. Good luck to you, Linda, on this new opportunity.

The Board has set the RMLA Annual meeting for September 19, at the home and ranch of Donna and Brent Holt in Sedalia, CO. A light lunch at noon will be followed by the meeting and the meeting will wind up around 2:30. We are looking for a member

to share their expertise or experiences with those in attendance. If you would like to lead a discussion on a lama-related topic, please let any Board member know.

Willow Kauffman has stepped up to take a temporary position on the Youth Committee. Willow and Dave's three kids are grown and raising their own families now. Levi, Gretchen and Heidi were outstanding RMLA Youth. Thank you, Willow, for helping with the Silent Auction at Estes Park and calculating the points each RMLA Youth is submitting for the Youth Awards Program. Thanks for your enthusiasm.

Lots of wonderful RMLA events are scheduled through the fall. Enjoy an event and make some great memories.

See you at the Annual Meeting,  
*Lougene*



## Advertising Angle

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The RMLA Journal is a regional publication with members in states throughout the West. That's a lot of attention for one ad! Plus you will have fun creating the ad. And if you need help putting an ad together, The Journal has a great team ready to help.

Check out our lower than low rates for members. And if you place the same ad in four consecutive issues, your rate is even lower. Please consider supporting the RMLA by taking out an ad to get you noticed. Ads start at \$10 an issue! See page 4 for all of the details. Need help, please call Sonja at 303-257-6733 or e-mail [RMLAadvertise@gmail.com](mailto:RMLAadvertise@gmail.com).



# An Unexpected Response

..... From the RMLA Board of Directors

It was many months ago, but with your notice to renew your RMLA membership you received an important notice about the Fairplay event. The intent of the notice was to solicit volunteers and llamas to ensure the continuation of the Fairplay races for another 33 years. The notice explained just one of the reasons why continuation of the Fairplay races is important to RMLA: the proceeds go directly to paying the liability insurance. This insurance is available to any member who requests an RMLA Sponsored Event.

Well sometimes you get more than you ask for! A number of members responded to the call for volunteers and joined the team. In addition, life member Betty Robertson made a significant, earmarked donation to the insurance fund. And Dan and Ellen Schreiner donated



their remaining inventory of lama silver belt buckles and hat pins and bumper stickers. (They are retired from their jewelry making business.) Again, the proceeds from all sales are to go into the insurance fund. Contact Board Member Dick Williams, [bellama@blackfoot.net](mailto:bellama@blackfoot.net), for more information on the lama jewelry and bumper stickers.



The RMLA Board of Directors wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who responded. This is just another reminder that each of us contributes in our own special way.






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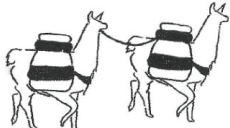
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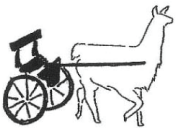
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## RMLA is on Facebook!


By Ron Hinds - RMLA e-Communications Manager

RMLA Facebook page has hundreds of friends, well perhaps closer to one hundred. Much of the information being posted is related to current events, funny stories, informative subjects for llama, alpaca and other camelid owners worldwide.

Viewing access is available to anyone. There is no cost, and no one is going to require a username or password to view the pages. If you are not a member, there will be a box pop up in the upper right corner asking you to either log in or join, but you can ignore it.

The RMLA Facebook web address is: <https://www.facebook.com/rockymountainllamaandalpaca>

Or you can go to the RMLA website and click on the 'Find us on Facebook' link. If you have a Facebook account, you are welcome to 'become a 'friend' (please!), read and 'like' stories. You can suggest postings on interesting subjects, topics, current events or whatever you feel is important for the general public to know about camelids, specifically llamas and alpacas.

For example, the latest stories about the two llamas that got loose in Arizona gathered some top interest. You can click on the photos on the RMLA Facebook page and you will be taken to the source of the story to read more. Many stories and articles you encounter on the web have a series of social media links in the form of small colorful squares. When you see  you can click it and it will ask if you want to share it on your timeline (i.e. your Facebook page) or another one that you manage.

If you find something you feel may be of interest to RMLA and the FB page, send it to me: [facebook@rmla.com](mailto:facebook@rmla.com) or if you are a Facebook member, you can post to the page. See the left column on the RMLA FB page for other posts and questions.

**Rookie Alert:** Now if I have missed something here, or perhaps there is an easier way of doing things than I've stated, just beware you are listening to a FB rookie here. So if you feel you have a better grip on FB, are an RMLA member and a level headed individual with more time than I to work on getting more RMLA FB friends, just whistle at [facebook@rmla.com](mailto:facebook@rmla.com) and let's you, me and perhaps other individuals in this organization have a conversation.





# ABC's of Llamas with Kids.

By Jerry Dunn  
Golden, CO



Frequently we encounter kids in our neighborhood or on the local trails that are curious about llamas but are reluctant to ask too many questions. They just stand back and look with big eyes at these beautiful creatures. During the National Western Stock Show we

visited with several families who were interested in learning more about llamas. We collected a list of names and assured them we would get back to them with an activity they could participate in with llamas. Hence our workshop the ABC'S of Llamas with Kids.

The objective of the workshop, conducted by experienced llama youth associated with Bear Track Farm, was to offer a 'llama experience' for kids 7-14 years of age. We created flyers for the workshop and delivered them to kids in the neighborhood and local 4-H groups. We quickly got responses from 10 kids.

One of my parents got busy and

created laminated name tags that included pictures of the llamas we were going to use as well as a means to record the successes demonstrated by the participants. Each participant drew a name card out of a hat and matched up with the llama pictured on the card. They used the same llama throughout the whole workshop.


Dan Schreiner donated llama stick pins for the workshop. The llama pins with little packs on them were given to our instructors and the participants wore pins showing a kushed llama.

We started the day with an introduction that included a brief history of llamas and basic llama facts with the help of "Leonard, the llama puppet". Each of the youth instructors, Dalyn Tetamore, Michaela Vander Hamm, Luke Bakken, Lexi McEwen, Josh deYoanna, and Caleb Vander Hamm shared one llama fact with the group.



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*ABC's of Llamas with Kids, continued*

The program was set up as a round robin event and participants rotated every 10 minutes working their way through all of the stations which included: A) catching and haltering, B) grooming, C) quick release knot, D) hands to the body, E) walking with a llama, F) negotiating trails, G) trailer loading, and H) identifying llama parts found on a chart. The emphasis was on safety, basic instruction and keeping everyone's feet moving.

At the completion of the round robin we all enjoyed our sack lunches and the llamas took a short break as well. Following the break the participants were encouraged to try the exploration activity demonstrating what they had learned. Each station offered three descriptive choices. They were to choose one and demonstrate to an instructor what they had learned with their llama. Following the demonstration each participant received a colored sticker to attach to their name card. Gold was most difficult, green easier, and blue the easiest. Nearly everyone felt confident enough to choose the most difficult at each station. There were lots of smiles!



When they all finished the exploration, participants were asked to teach their parent or another adult at least one skill using their llama. What a hoot!

Reflection on the day: Were our instructors enthusiastic and supportive? Yes. Did the llamas have a good time? Maybe. Did the participants have a good time? Yes. Would I try this again? You bet.





# SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LLAMA COSTUMES & ALPACA<sup>^</sup>

By Vicky Southwick

As a llama owner and enthusiast, I particularly enjoy performance classes including the costume competitions. This is a popular class for participants of all ages and hugely popular with audience members as well. As a matter of fact, watching how patient the llamas are with all the hubbub and how much fun their owners and handlers were experiencing was a significant influence on my desire to own and train llamas of my own. Now I have not only taken the plunge into ownership, but for the past several years I have helped people create costumes for local and regional shows, as well as for parades, etc.



As I view pictures of various costume competitions, however, I have become increasingly concerned in regards to some of the things I see. Competitors are encouraged to extremes which I feel could jeopardize the safety of both the handlers and the animals themselves.

I would like to inspire a conversation on safety guidelines during costume contests because it is my feeling that unlike “regular” performance classes, over time the focus on safety has eroded in respect to the costume competitions.

Before an animal or a handler is unnecessarily injured, we need to resume the necessary focus to ensure that the guidelines for all performance classes are the same when it comes to safety. Some of my concerns involve the following:

**Full body coverage:** People are asking me to make full body costumes in order to accumulate the most points in the costume class. I don't make them because I think it is a safety issue for both the handler and the llama. We have animals who



rely on their ability to hear and see what's around them, yet we routinely shroud their ears and all but cover up their eyes. To what end? To prove they will tolerate it, I suppose, and thus create a differentiation between competitors, but surely there are other ways to do that rather than handicap the animal and compound an already stressful situation?

On the subject of full body costumes, it bothers me to see fecal matter and wet urine stains on a costume that does not have an opening for elimination. A proud clean animal such as a camelid cannot be happy nor comfortable standing around



in a soiled costume and it is likely not pleasant for the handler either.

**Covered feet:** Obstacle class competitions do not allow bridges after a water obstacle due to the potential for falls, yet routinely there are numerous competitors with the bottom of their feet covered. How is it a safety issue to avoid water obstacles prior to a bridge but okay to fully cover the animal's foot? Have these people never worn a cast, or a slippery pair of socks? Why would they ask their animal to trust them when they disable the animal's ability to walk? I also suggest keeping costumes off the ground to keep the animal from stepping on it.

*continued on next page*



**“Smothering” Communication:** As a handler we are required to keep an eye on our animal and as such, we should be looking at them to discern behavioral indications that the animal is angry, concerned, and/or upset. We are all more than aware that they use their ears, tail, and eyes to communicate stress, flight, and fear. If you can’t see the pout, the wrinkle under the eye, the ears back, and swishing tail, how will the handler have an early warning of potential issues? The animal is trying to communicate with us and others, but the handler has the animal under restraint. By leaving the ears, face, and tail uncovered, the handler can more easily discern there is a potential problem. “Smothering” their ability to communicate causes undue stress to the animal and could lead to an unfortunate incident which could result in injury to either the llama or the handler. A panicked animal bolting the ring is a recipe for disaster in any scenario!



**General safety:** Attachments that fall off or need frequent adjustments during the show are distracting to both the handler and other competitors. Avoid accessories that are sharp and could injure the animal or handler. Make sure the hats, scarves, and face masks don’t obstruct the animal’s vision. When attaching items to halter rings, think about what will happen if your animal puts its head down. Will the costume attachments poke them in the eye or ear to cause damage?

**Heat Stress:** Please consider the weather, temperature and humidity before asking your animal to wear heavy costumes in hot environments. Heat stress happens quickly and with long staging periods the animal could get overheated.

**Recommendations:** At present, there are only general and relatively vague guidelines currently in place which address judging of the costume competitions. A difficult subject at best but in order to re-align the costume classes with the same guidelines that govern other performance classes, I suggest the following be considered in the judging process.

**Award points for:**

- How well the animal is able to ambulate without distractions while in costume (vs. how much of the animal is covered).
- Matching the handler costume to the llama costume
- Sparkle or noisy costumes
- Complex themes

**Subtract points for:**

- Obstructing vision or covering the bottoms of the animal’s feet
- Costumes requiring corrections or adjustments while in the ring.
- Items that fall off the costume
- Items on the costume which are sharp or otherwise potentially hazardous
- Animals exhibiting significant signs of stress (drooling, wagging tail, ears back, spitting, humming, etc.) while costumed in the ring
- Costumes dragging the ground
- Costumes which do not allow for elimination

Lastly, we need to remember that this competition is not only meant to be enjoyable for those in the ring, but also to show the public just how much fun can be had with camelids in general. As such, rather than (or possibly in addition to) a single award for “best” costume, perhaps recognition ribbons for “most creative,” most beautiful,” “best matching,” etc., should be considered to spur creativity and perhaps even expand the number of participants.

It’s about having fun in a safe and responsible way!

*Reprinted by permission of the author from the SSLA Llama Journal, newsletter of the Southern States Llama Assoc. Summer 2014.*

*Editors’ Note: This information can be associated with Alpacas as well.*

# A "Yarn" 20 Years Old

Cheryl Juntilla - La Chiripada - Mesa, CO

The 2015 Estes Park Wool Market marked the 20th anniversary of the RMLA Fiber Booth. The booth was one of the first llama fiber co-ops in the United States and continues to be an integral part of RMLA's educational mission, but chances are you don't know how it came into existence.

In 1994 llama owner Karen Kinyon attended a class at the Estes Park Wool Market titled "Spinning Llama and Alpaca" taught by Chris Switzer. After the class Karen went to the vendor area to find some llama roving ready to spin. To her dismay there was no llama fiber to be found in the entire vendor area. That is when the idea for the RMLA Fiber Booth was born.


Karen contacted Sharon Beacham, the Chairperson of the RMLA Fiber Committee, with the idea for a booth at the Estes Park Wool Market to feature llama and alpaca fiber. Sharon took the idea to the RMLA Board of Directors who agreed to provide funds to purchase basic display equipment and pay entry fees for the 1995 Estes Park Wool Market and the Taos Wool Festival. RMLA would charge consignors a small commission to help cover the entry fees and other expenses. Karen and Sharon recruited other RMLA members to help provide inventory and assist with operating the booth.

In its first year the booth had seven consignors and total sales were about \$1,100. The fiber products and display equipment were transported in either Karen's horse trailer or Sharon's van. By 1999 there were 30 consignors and the Fiber Co-op had its own secure trailer for equipment and inventory. That year the booth traveled to eight different events all over the country.

It is hard to say exactly how many RMLA members have participated as consignors and volunteers over the years. However, you can get an idea by the fact that each consignor is given their own number and in 2014 we were up to consignor number 146.

Over the years it became apparent that some events did not work as well as others in terms of covering operating expenses, so some were dropped and others added. Last year the RMLA Fiber Co-op participated in six fiber events.

As you read this article we have already participated in the Black Hills Fiber Art Festival and the Estes Park Wool Market. On July 25 & 26 the booth will travel to the Burro Days Craft Fair in Fairplay where Sandy Lockwood will be Manager. The Fall schedule for the booth is quite busy with the Salida Fiber Festival on September 12 & 13, the Sneffles Fiber Festival on September 26 & 27, the Taos Wool Market on October 3 & 4, and the Palisade Quilt and Fiber Festival on October 10 & 11. Jill and Cheryl will serve as Co-Managers for those four events.

Participation in the Fiber Booth is open to both RMLA members and non-members. If you are interested in becoming a consignor, you can find the information and forms you will need at [www.rmla.com](http://www.rmla.com). If you have additional questions, or ideas or suggestions for other events where the booth can help educate people about llamas, alpacas and their fiber, please contact Jill Knuckles at [talltaillamas@bigplanet.com](mailto:talltaillamas@bigplanet.com) or Cheryl Juntilla at [cajwdj@aol.com](mailto:cajwdj@aol.com). And the next time you see Karen Kinyon, tell her "Thank you for a wonderful idea." 

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# Ask The CSU VET Team — Parasites in Camelids - Part 2

## Treatment and Control Strategies

By Stacey Byers, DVM, MS, DiplACVIM, Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital  
- Compiled by Kathy Stanko

In Part 1, an overview of common gastrointestinal (GI) parasites was provided. In this article, treatment and control strategies will be discussed.

Before we treat for GI parasites, we really need to know what the camelid is infected with and how severely. This is most easily determined using a fecal flotation test. A sample of fecal pellets is mashed up and mixed with a solution that helps the eggs (e.g. nematodes) or oocysts (e.g. coccidia) to float to the surface. There are several types of fecal flotation methods available. I think one of the best flotation methods is a double centrifugation method with a salt or sugar solution. The sample is spun at a high rate which helps pull the eggs to the surface of the fluid and attach to a glass coverslip for examination under the microscope. There are other fecal flotation methods available; the main differences are the types of solutions used, processing methods, and how well they float the heavier eggs/oocysts.

Fecal flotations can be performed “on farm” by owners/managers, veterinary clinics, private laboratories, and university diagnostic laboratories. It is recommended to find out what method is being used since some labs will report “few/moderate/large” amounts of eggs/oocysts seen and other times you will get an egg/oocyst count per gram of feces. This latter information is helpful for evaluating response to treatment or if there is a potential for treatment resistance. If you are performing your own farms’ fecal flotations, I recommend checking in with your veterinarian or a diagnostic laboratory every so often to make sure your evaluations are correct. Some plant pollen and seeds and air bubbles can look similar to coccidia. Also microscopes can start having issues and lead to misleading results.

As a note: Dr. Lora Ballweber (Parasitologist, CSU, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology) and Katy Brandes (2016 DVM student) are conducting research to determine if there is a useful relationship between individual and dung pile fecal egg counts (FECs) in alpacas. If a reliable

relationship between individual and dung pile FECs is found, it may be possible to develop cost-effective herd fecal sampling methods in camelids.

In the meantime you can check individual animals if concerned and do periodic fecal flotation testing of your entire herd or a sampling of the herd. It is good to test some of the high risk animals such as crias, sick or poor growing/weight loss animals, in addition to a few healthy animals. One recommendation for herd evaluations is to test 10% of a pen or a minimum of 6 animals per pen.



**“80% of the worm burden in animals is concentrated in only ~20% of the animals”**

When you get your lab results back it is important to remember that there will always be the potential to see eggs/oocysts in a fecal sample. It is impossible to “sterilize” the GI tract of parasites and tolerating a small number also helps keep the immune system

stimulated to help keep the infection in check. This number varies with many factors such as regional environmental differences, herd stocking density, closed versus open herd, juveniles versus adults, etc. Therefore I strongly recommend talking with your veterinarian to determine the best deworming strategy for your animals.

In the past, veterinarians, owners, and drug companies recommended or used a more blanket approach to deworming. These conventional strategies of regular deworming is one of the contributing factors to the development of widespread resistance to deworming medication (anthelmintic) in many parts of the world. The GI parasites tend to retain drug resistance genes more tenaciously than most bacteria do for antibiotic resistance genes. In fact, drug resistance is thought to be a permanent characteristic of a given resistant worm “line.” As with antibiotics, deworming medications should be considered a resource to be preserved, because they do create selection pressure on the worms!

*continued on next page*



Recent data also indicate that, for most livestock populations, **80% of the worm burden in animals is concentrated in only ~20% of the animals.**

The use of regular fecal egg counts, body condition scoring, and production parameters such as weight gain/loss can be used to help determine this high risk 20% population. In an ideal situation, this high risk group would be removed from the group; however that is not always acceptable to owners. These animals should be dewormed as needed while limiting deworming to the remainder of the pen mates.

Unfortunately there is no a single anthelmintic (deworming) product that can treat all the various parasites so in some cases an animal or group of animals may be provided a couple of different medications. Some of these are over the counter and can be bought in feed stores and online without a veterinary prescription, whereas others do require veterinary prescriptions.

---

Common deworming products are listed in the table on page 15.

### **Coccidia (Eimeria species)**

Treating an animal for coccidia will not immediately resolve the loose feces or diarrhea. The intestinal tract requires time to heal due to the damage the coccidia organisms cause. Diarrhea may persist for a couple of weeks so provide good nutritional support, keep quarantined with a companion, and provide additional supportive care as recommended by your veterinarian.

Medications aimed at prevention and reducing shedding of coccidia organisms are useful additions for farms that have persistent coccidia problems. Continued problems are usually due to high stocking densities, favorable coccidia weather, lots of juveniles, animals coming/going from the premises.

### **Nematodes [e.g. Strongyles (Haemonchus), Nematodirus, Trichuris, etc.]**

Try to use only ORAL treatment to decrease GI parasite resistance. Following the use of an injectable product, the medication is secreted into the gastrointestinal tract over an extended period of time unlike when an oral medication is used. This longer persistence of the medication in the intestinal tract exposes the GI parasites to a longer subtherapeutic level of medication and aids in developing resistance.

Injectable and topical products can still be used for other medical conditions but these routes should not be used for GI parasite control. Also absorption of topical products is not known and it also can gunk up the fiber if not applied directly to the skin.

In addition to treatment strategies, management methods should be implemented as these can greatly reduce exposure and risk of disease due to GI parasites and reduce or eliminate the need for deworming treatments.

- Dung pile management – clean up the feces before the parasites have a chance to hatch out. Juveniles with diarrhea are not always fastidious about the dung pile and can defecate in other areas. Also contaminated feet (animals and people) can lead to pen contamination.
- Move to dry lot management methods or increase dispersal of animals.
- Do not feed on the ground and keep spilled feed cleaned up around feed bins, troughs, etc. Ensure good nutrition and trace mineral status for a healthy immune system.
- Reduce stocking density and stress from overcrowding or peer pressure.
- Quarantine animals showing signs of diarrhea.
- Increase farm diversity and alternate species on pasture. If using cattle or small ruminants, this isn't as effective due to sharing similar nematodes but equine, turkeys, chickens, or guinea fowl will reduce contamination outside of the dung pile area. Note: The coccidia found in domesticated fowl are not the same species that infection camelids.

An increasing number of owners want to use more organic treatment and prevention methods. There is a lot of web based discussions on products such as diatomaceous earth and copper oxide wires. Research has found that these products are not effective in treatment or preventing parasite infections. There is research occurring in the use of plants high in condensed tannins, however the plants are not that palatable and are considered invasive species in some areas of the country so I do not recommend their use until we learn more. Organic methods that can help include using the management strategies discussed above and routine fecals to determine if there is a need to treat with the traditional medications.

*continued on next page*

# Common Deworming Products

Trade Name	Generic Name	Purpose	Duration
<b>Coccidia (Eimeria species)</b>			
Albon (and generics available)	Sulfadimethoxine	Treatment	5-14 days; longer duration for <i>E. macusaniensis</i>
Corid	Amprolium (1)	Treatment, prevention/reduction in shedding	5 days, 6-14 days for <i>E. macusaniensis</i> . See note below.
Marquis	Ponazuril (2)	Treatment	One time
Baycox	Toltrazuril (3)	DO NOT USE	
Deccox	Decoquinate	Prevention/reduction in shedding	Daily during high risk times (prepartum, juveniles). Can be top dressed or formulated into pelleted feeds with a veterinarian's prescription
Salinopharm,	Salinomycin, lasalocid, monensin (4)	Prevention/reduction in shedding	Not recommended.
Bovatec, Rumensin, and others			
<b>Nematodes [e.g. Strongyles (Haemonchus), Nematodirus, Trichuris, etc.]</b>			
Prohibit, Levacide, and others	Levamisole	Similar modes of action so parasite resistance to one of these is likely with the other products	Once
Rumatel, and others	Morantel tartrate, pyrantel pamoate		Once
Ivomec, Dectomax, and others	Ivermectin, doramectin, (5)	Treatment	Once
Panacur, Safeguard, Valbazen, and others	Fenbendazole albendazole, (6,7)	Treatment	Various protocols depending on infection load. Usually once or once daily for 3 days are common.

- (1) This medication has been associated with polioencephalomalacia in some livestock species. It is safe at the intended dosage and if used as directed. For longer duration treatments (>5 days), some veterinarians will prescribe thiamine supplementation. Need to treat individuals rather than the water since camelids, especially crias, often don't consume enough water to ensure adequate intake.
- (2) Only ponazuril is efficacious against all coccidia life stages. The medication is effective in treating clinical coccidia infections with one dose.
- (3) Baycox is being imported by owners and unfortunately prescribed by some veterinarians. This product is not legal for use in the US. It is commonly used in other countries for treatment of coccidia in a variety of species. In the US the equivalent drug is Marquis (ponazuril). It was originally used to treat a protozoal infection in horses.
- (4) There are reports of adverse reactions and deaths, however it is unknown if the deaths were due to overdose or actual adverse reactions. Reports are generally anecdotal while some farms have been using some of these products without problems. Please consult with your veterinarian before using.
- (5) There is considerable GI parasite resistance to avermectins in camelids due to use in *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* prevention in eastern US. *Trichuris* is resistant to avermectins so need to use benzimidazoles.
- (6) *Nematodirus* appears to be relatively resistant to treatment so higher dosages are typically needed.
- (7) Albendazole should not to be administered during first third of gestation as it is potentially teratogenic.



# Know Your PREDATORS!

By Ron Hinds - el Zorro Colorado Alpacas



**H**eaded some rustling outside last night and the critters were restless? In the morning let's see if we can find out what was moving around. Find some fresh tracks? Here are some things you might want to know:

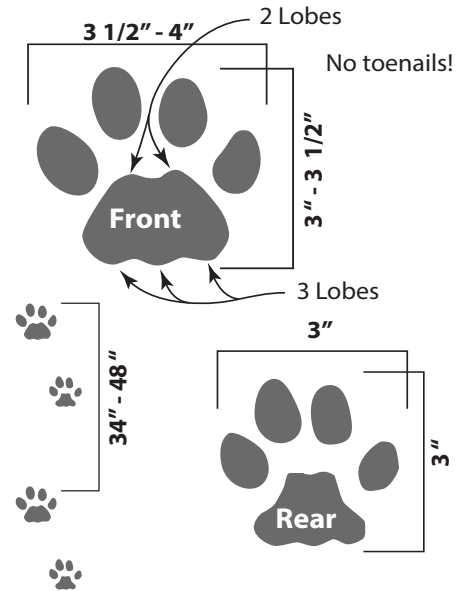
Canines (Dogs, Coyotes, Foxes, Wolf) will show toenails in their tracks.

Felines such as Mountain Lions, (aka Bobcat, Puma, Cougar, etc.) and even house cats will not typically show toenails.

However, if you have soft ground or mud you may see toenails in all of the tracks, Feline and Canine. Hard, silty soil you may not see toenails on Canine tracks. So other track features may be needed to distinguish between predators.

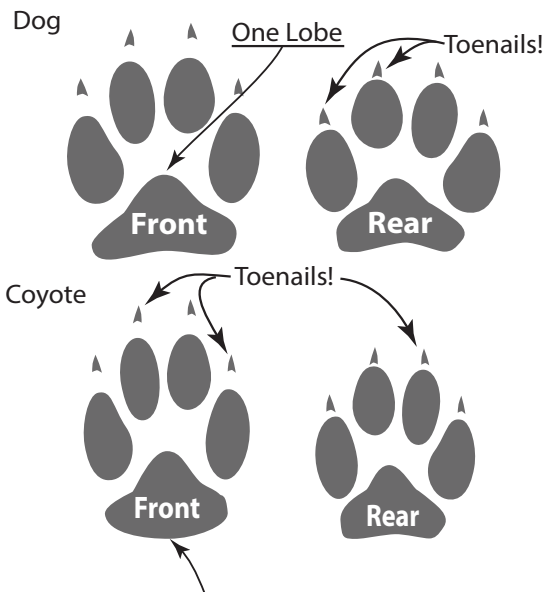
The shape of the foot pads differ as well. The large pad at the rear of the track can be used to tell Canines and Felines apart, and can even distinguish between Dogs and Coyotes.

## The Mountain Lion, Bobcat & Cougar



Keep in mind the overall size of the track varies with the size of the animal.

## The Coyote and Domestic Dog



With Coyotes, the rear of the front pad is rounded and the width of the entire pad is narrower than the dog.  
Keep in mind the overall size of the track varies with the size of the animal.  
Other family species include the Grey Wolf and Red Fox.

This is the typical track pattern of the small quadruped predator like Coyotes to Cougars. The prints at first appear to be the same as a 'two-legged'. The key is these animals, when walking normally, place the rear paw in the front paw track. Watch your dog walking and see for yourself.

Now watch your camelids when they walk. Normally, you can see all 4 foot prints on larger quadruped (equine, llama, alpaca, etc.).

You might think it difficult to distinguish between the Coyote and Dog using only the front pads. But remember these animals don't always walk straight and slow. Follow the tracks a short distance and there's a good chance you'll see all four prints when they speed up, slow down, pause or turn.

**Be Safe!**



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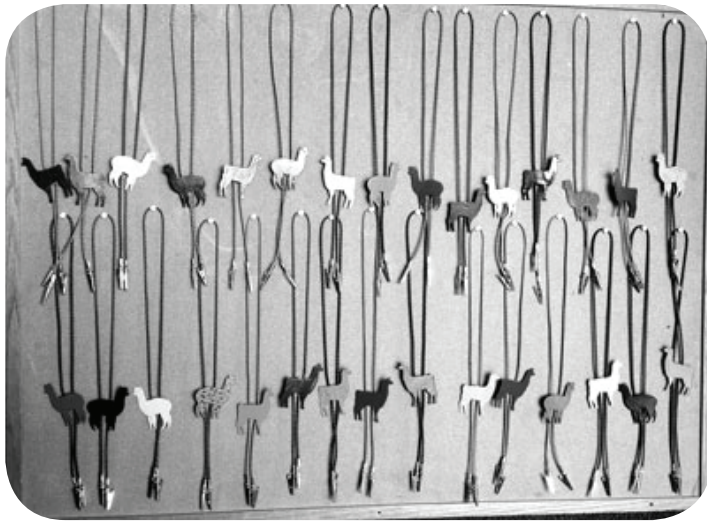
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# Stars N Stripes 2015 Show

By Geri Rutledge  
Waco, NE



Spring is here and the show season is underway. Once again the Stars N Stripes Show was held at Buckshollow Ranch in Waco, NE. As the pre-show flyer said, “be prepared for sun, rain, and snow”. Similar to Estes Park, where you can experience three different weather patterns during the day, we just got one: RAIN. We held the halter classes inside the shed and then, with the mist subsiding, we were able to be outside for the remainder of the show.



Every show is a learning experience in one way or another. The exhibitors ran into new and unconventional elements, but, of course, the animals did fine. The juvenile llamas were out, jumping, pulling, and acting like juveniles, always fun to watch these new animals develop over the year.

- Here is what the kids learned: be prepared. Don't try to show in a poncho; rain coats work much better and muck boots were invented for a reason!
- Here's what the parents learned: make sure the muck boots and rain coats are in the trailer.

At the end of the day, everyone was wiped out, mud coated, and it looked like a troop of army people

had been through here. But there were winners, animals who had never tried pack actually placed very well, and most importantly, everyone had fun. Twenty-one Youth showed and 68 animals got their first show under their belt.

The kids are always excited to see what they win. We have been able to make sure each Youth who enters walks away from here feeling like a winner no matter how they placed. All the Youth were awarded a show bolo for their great efforts. It is so cool to see their faces when they all get the same reward.

The volunteers make the show; they were great; our fellow NLA, RMLA, GPLA friends were all here to make the show a success. Thanks to everyone and a special high-five to Granni for running the kitchen.



.....and see the photo on the cover!



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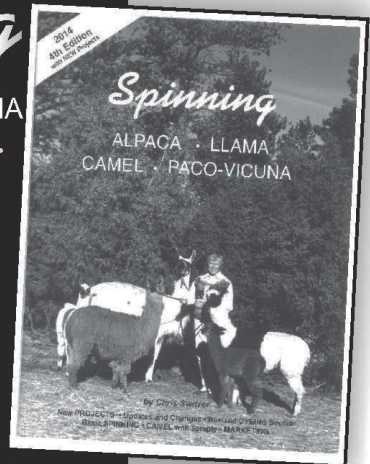


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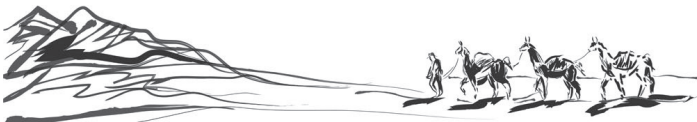


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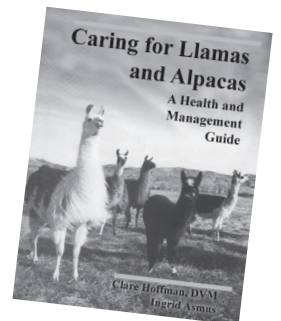
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# Toenails.... Practically Speaking!

By Marty  
McGee Bennett

It would be lovely if we could spend the time to properly prepare all of our animals to accept toenail trimming with complete cooperation. We would also have perfectly clean houses, file our taxes on time and remember everyone's birthday. In a perfect world that is way it would be. But we and our llamas and alpacas live in the real world.

I have the reputation of being a pretty good handler but some times I run out of options too. I just sedated one of my llamas to give him a pedicure and it was so nice to get it done so easily that I want to encourage everyone to keep that option open if you need it. There is no shame in it. Everyone runs into to situations wherein the animal cannot do, reasonably, what you need him to do.

When you are faced with a medical situation most people don't hesitate to use a sedative. I would submit to you that from the animal's point of view anything scary or uncomfortable is the same. The bottom line for me is using a sedative is safer for both the animal and the handler.

I often joke that when it comes to trimming toenails you better have not only a Plan B but a C, D, E, F, G, H and maybe then some! Here is my list of toenail plans for you to pick and choose from.

A) Start babies with systematic desensitization on each weigh-in day and by the time it is time to trim toes for many of them it will be no problem. Begin with stroking from the top line down the leg to the knee in the front, hock in the back, progress to stopping your hand just behind the knee in the front and in front of the hock in the back. Progress



Working with a young alpaca without restraint teaches self control, safety & makes toenail trimming much easier when it is time.

to picking the foot up from these spots. Pick the leg up and put it back down a number of times without holding the leg up for more than a second or two. We call this--up down up down.

B) Work in a small catch pen no larger than 9' x 9' and pack the pen to 80% full. What I mean by this is that if you look at the pen there is about 20% free space. Trim toes with a helper that can balance\* for you—NOT hold. The panel is your friend. Before you



Balancing an animal and trimming toenails without picking up the foot.

begin, get the animal right next to the panel; there is no sense in starting the process without the support of the panel.

If your animal will not stay in balance, ask your helper to support the front end by wrapping one arm around the neck, allowing the animal to rest the head on the forearm and the other hand firmly on the midline of the neck or wrapped around the neck without pulling the animal on to their body.

Use the animal's head to help keep the animal's weight distributed evenly on the right and left front legs. Alpacas and llamas carry 67% of the weight on the front legs so keeping the animal in balance in the front does most of the job. If you do not use the corner-grab-hold approach for routine catching, this technique will be supportive not threatening. Skip feet or animals that you can't do reasonably.

C) When you are doing a toenail trimming day—keep your ego out of it and satisfy yourself with a bunch of 'up-down, up down' on animals that allow you to touch their legs but cannot tolerate holding the leg up for long enough to trim. If you want to be a bit

*continued on next page*



*Toenails.... Practically Speaking! continued*

more persistent you can hold on to the foot but let the animal put it back on the ground. Don't squeeze or fight, just keep your hand attached to the foot. Pick the foot up again when you can. Resort to force and you



Work in a pen with several animals and the old adage safety in numbers works to your benefit.

will be making it harder next time and there will be a next time! Settle for 'up-down, up-down' and you will be setting the stage for better trimming next time.

D) Trim the toenails on the ground. Make sure to nibble small bits off the nail instead of taking bigger pieces. Put your non-trimming hand on the top line **WITHOUT PUTTING ANY DOWNWARD PRESSURE ON THE BACK** so that you can move the weight onto the toenail you are trimming.

E) Trim toes in the morning after a heavy dew, after a rain or when the ground has been moist. The animals are **MUCH** more cooperative when the nails are moist. Trimming really hard toenails is uncomfortable for the animals causing the nail to twist and trimming moist nails is also easier for the trimmer.

F) Always take the time to trim toenails on shearing day if you are stretching animals out.

G) Trim toes in a space just big enough for you, the animal and a second person to balance. For me this is about 9 feet long by about 3.5 feet wide.

H) Keep the foot under the body and work with your helper to keep the animal lined out along a panel so the body doesn't twist. This means keeping the body in balance like you were at a show. Head lined up with the neck, neck lined up the body, body over the feet. Once the spine is twisted, the animal is going to rear, lie down or jump to get away.

I) **MY FAVORITE.** Load a bunch of animals in a trailer and trim toenails in the trailer!

J) Use a sedative. Be sure to check with your veterinarian first.



Work in an area that is just big enough for you and the animal and includes a rear barrier so that you do not have to tie the animal by the head.

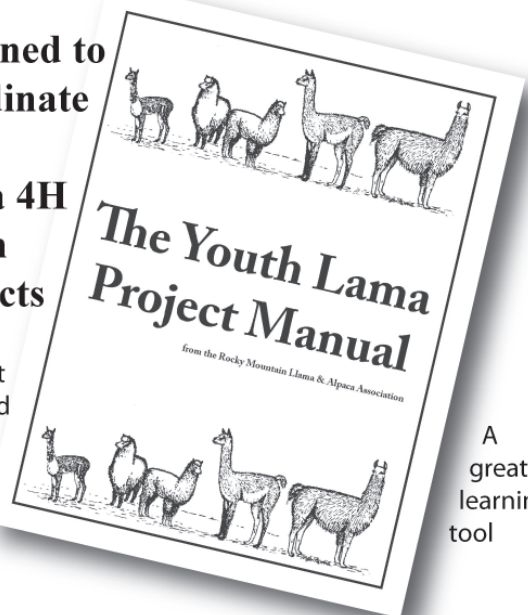
\* See the Spring 2015 issue of *The Journal* for a description of how to balance an animal. Watch for future articles in *The Journal* from Marty McGee Bennett. Or contact her at [www.camelidynamics.com](http://www.camelidynamics.com)



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# Join the Excitement at The Saturday July 25, 2015

**T**he 33rd Annual RMLA Fairplay Llama Race/Walk is Saturday July 25, 2015. Help is still needed. This is a golden opportunity to help promote llamas in a huge way. More than 6,000 folks attend this annual event to see all that a llama can do and have some major fun. I think you might just want to be there!

Race day registration begins at 9:00 AM on Front Street and the races begin at 11:00 AM. You can pre-register by going to RMLA.com, click on the events page, then print the registration form under the Fairplay Llama Race. We run three different events on race day: Pack Llama Race, Llama Rama, and Public Walk. Additionally, the Llama Lunacy Course is for children of all ages, is free and opens around noon.

**Volunteers Still Needed** Below is the when, where and what the volunteer needs are. Contact Gary at llama@jmhfarm.com or 303-503-1324 to let him know how you can help.

**Prior to July 23, 2015** Need help generating new sources of prizes from outside of Fairplay between now and July. Perhaps one or two RMLA members could help out with that.

**Thursday, July 23, 2015** Two volunteers needed to sort T-shirts and to get prizes from the local merchants. About 4 hours time in a fantastic environment.

## Friday, July, 24, 2015

1. Friday Gopher for Gary. Noon to 4:00 PM. Just be by his side to help tie up loose ends on Friday, so Gary does not have to be in 3 places at once.
2. 4 volunteers to setup the 3 race courses. Begin about 11:00 AM. End: when done. The components of the courses are designed and all the obstacles will be at Fairplay. Talk to Gary for more information and maybe even add some new ideas.
3. 2 volunteers for the afternoon to gather items from Fairplay merchants needed for race day. These items are all available in Fairplay. Will take about 3 hours beginning about 1:00 PM. Gary will provide you a list of where to go.
4. Find Dale Fitting, local business owner, to get ice cream coupons for the Llama Lunacy.
5. Move 6 tables and chairs from the basement of the Hand Hotel to the Llama Camp for dinner. Additionally, snag a table and a few chairs for registration on race day.
6. MORE FOOD! An additional 2 or 3 volunteers to help set up the pot luck, prepare food, get tables and chairs in place. The potluck dinner is held at 6:00 PM. All the tables and chairs will be up at the camp.
7. 1 or 2 volunteers (full and happy!) to get participants registered for the races on Saturday, 5:00 and 7:30 PM. We generally have about 35 to 40 participants register in camp on Friday evening. You will need to collect money and give out numbers/tickets.
8. Llamas needed. 30 – 40 for the Llama Pack Race HELP Please 70 llamas for the Llama Walk. More HELP Please!

**Volunteers  
Still Needed!**  
COME JOIN THE FUN!

# Fairplay Llama Race/Walk

By Gary Carlton



## Saturday, July 25, 2015 Race Day:

9. Saturday Gopher for Gary. Just be by his side to help do whatever is needed. Times: 9:30 to Noon.
10. Race Day Registration Table: Need 1 more volunteer to help at the registration table from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.
11. Need 1 more volunteer to watch the gates on one side of the ghost town. Times 11 AM to about 1:30 PM. The race goes right through the middle of it and we do not want spectators who have not paid to enter the ghost town during the race
12. 6 volunteers needed to work all three river crossings, two or more volunteers per crossing. You will stay at your designated crossing for the races. Times: 11:00 AM to about 1:30 PM. Duties include helping participants who are entering the river; helping participants and llamas who are in the river; making sure no one takes a short cut or gets off course; make sure everyone has a big smile as they leave the river. The river crossings are where the biggest laughs and best action on the course occur.
13. 2 or 3 volunteers needed to move around the course and watch participants at key points along the course and make sure everyone is doing ok and keep them on the right path. Times 11:00 AM to about 1:30 PM
14. Timing crew: Two or three people needed to do race timing. This involves writing the runners' times down as they cross the finish line and then adding everything up for ribbon placement and handing out prizes. Times: 11 AM – 1:30 PM. Gary has the stop watch.

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# Lama Rama Fun

By Gary Carlton  
Strasburg, CO



2015 marks the 17th year of the Fairplay Lama Rama. The Lama Rama is the name of the second race of the Fairplay Llama Race/Walk on Saturday, July 25th. The race was founded by Dr. Kathleen Fitting and is now organized and sponsored by Rocky Mountain Rural Health. Dr. Fitting's vision behind this event was to generate awareness for the need for organ and tissue donation.

In this event, teams of medical professionals in crazy costumes race with llamas. Teams are competing just for the fun of it and for unique prizes. Presently, the event attracts approximately 120 to 140 medical professionals from across the United States.

When I had my last surgery, the surgeon walked in to meet me, looked at me and said, 'you are the llama guy. I ran in the Lama Rama 2 years ago'. It is indeed a small world. But as the Fairplay Races and Burro Days Event continues to grow, so does Dr. Fitting's vision.



# The RMLA Fiber Booth

## Fairplay Llama Races and Burro Days

By Sandra Lockwood  
Conifer, CO



I volunteered to manage the RMLA fiber booth at the Fairplay Burro days craft show in July 2014. This is just another of the great attractions the same weekend as the Llama Races!

I was able to secure a space on the west side of the park on the grass. Patti Morgan brought her canopy for us to use. Sandy Nolan, Patti and I managed to set it up and stock it in a couple of hours. Sandy and I camped that night at the llama camp. It poured rain almost all night. When we arrived back at the tent in the morning, water had dripped through the tent and a few items got wet. Luckily, it was warm and dry on Saturday so things dried out. We had quite a lot of visitors and made quite a few sales both Saturday and Sunday.

Sandy and I are going to manage the booth again at Fairplay in July 2015. We have two spaces this year and will be able to use part of the tent for educational purposes. Stop by to say hi if you attend Burro Days on July 25th and 26th.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### MOBILE SHEARING

Tired of doing your own shearing? Or know someone that needs help with it? Contact Kurt and Judy Glaser at 303-646-6311

Dates are filling fast. Will consider a drive out of state. Llamas must be halter and lead trained. Call for more details.

### BLADE SHARPENING SERVICES

We sharpen clipper blades, hand shears, scissors, & toenail nippers. For details, e-mail or call Paul or Karen Schwartz, ChanTar Llamas at chantar@fiberpipe.net or 307-672-5144. We appreciate your business.

### CUSTOM KNITTING

Let me knit you a hat, scarf or handwarmers from your llama yarn or mine. Great gifts. Reasonable prices and satisfaction guaranteed!

Also, I can custom blend your fiber with silk, cashmere, Angelina, or something else. Contact Kathy Stanko at turkeytrots2@gmail.com so we can talk about your options.

*Your Ad Here!*  
*Just \$10 for 50 words.*



# Hope Pass Aid Station

## On the Leadville 100 Mile Run

August 15th 2015

By Gary Carlton



When the heat of summer has reached its peak, a high altitude get-away can be a relaxing experience. The alpine setting of Mt. Hope, near Leadville, will leave you smiling while taking in the panoramic views. While the walk up this trail may end up being a hard-earned smile, the results might just leave you feeling quite relaxed for the rest of the summer. Hope Pass is a collection of feelings that affect everyone on the mountain in a unique way but one thing is certain, you will come back down a different person. AND, you can have all of this while becoming a member of our super unique team known as the Hopeless Crew.

### What Is Hope Pass and why are we there?

Hope Pass is the highest and most remote aid station, sitting at around 12,000 feet, along the trail of this Leadville 100 Mile Race. Every piece of gear must be hauled up to the top of the mountain on the backs of our pack llamas.

Our duties on the mountain include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ hauling all supplies,
- ◆ building the aid station once we arrive,
- ◆ filtering and purifying over 700 gallons of water that is also hauled 1/4 mile from the creek to the aid station for the runners,
- ◆ helping rescue runners who are having a bad day,
- ◆ helping with the medical needs of the participants, and
- ◆ cooking and serving food for 800 runners as they pass through on their journey during the race day.

A good amount of the energy on the mountain over the last several years has come to us by way of our youth.

The future of everything we do today eventually becomes the responsibility of our youth tomorrow. And with over 30 young people between the ages of 12 and 18 on the mountain in 2014, it was a sign that the future is looking pretty bright. The energy level and enthusiasm that this younger generation brings to the mountain leaves us all somewhat at a loss for words and proud to play a



small role in showing the next generation one positive path to adulthood.

Why not make 2015 the year to take a step in a new direction. Make Hope Pass your summer destination for a recharge. For more information or to volunteer, contact Gary Carlton 303-503-1324 or [llama@jmhfarm.com](mailto:llama@jmhfarm.com) or Vicky Foster 303- 591-6199 or [vlfoster@aol.com](mailto:vlfoster@aol.com)



# Llama Owners Come Together

Linda Hayes - Glenwood Springs, CO

It came as a shock to the llama community to learn that the National Parks in Alaska were planning to ban llamas. The ruling was based on a misconception that llamas would spread disease to the native wildlife.

Phil Nuechterlein had been packing in the state for over 30 years and was alarmed when he heard that he might lose the right to enjoy the parks. He had to do something. There weren't enough packers in his area to make a strong statement for keeping the parks open. In desperation, he sent out an email to llama owners in the lower 48 asking for help.

His email went viral. Llama owners from all over wrote to the agency explaining with documented facts that the llamas would not be a threat to other animals. Because there have been problems in the past in Utah and Colorado, where parks came close to keeping llamas out, llama owners were concerned that the ruling would set a new precedence for the lower 48.



**NPS Wilderness areas in Alaska**

With just a few weeks to respond, the outpouring was enough to save the day. Llamas are still allowed in the Alaskan wilderness and the Nuechterlein's can enjoy their hikes. An example of what llama lovers can accomplish when they see the need.

## Letter to RMLA Members

“Our sincere thanks to all of you who commented and assisted us to overcome the proposed llama ban in Alaska. This could not have been accomplished without all your support from the lower 48. Very few comments came in from Alaska because there are so few of us up here that pack with llamas. The National Park Service was quite surprised by the quantity and quality of the comments that they received from the lower 48.”

Phil and Linda Nuechterlein, Eagle River, Alaska

**Zander Farms**  
*Arvada, Colorado*

303.257.6733      czandera@yahoo.com

*"Specializing in Argentine Llamas"*

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**NEW RMLA  
 Member(s)**

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

**Michele Chang, Louviers, CO**

Additional information, farm name, phone, address, etc. can be found on the website under

**MEMBERS.**

NOTE: Before youth members under the age of 18 are listed, they require a signed release from parent or legal guardian. You can find a link for further instructions and that form at the top of the members page on the website.  
*Thank you*

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- Log in to your Amazon account. A 'pick your charity' screen is displayed. At the bottom, type in **Southwest Llama Rescue**, then click on search. **Southwest Llama Rescue** will appear on the next screen, click on select. Now, each time you purchase through **smile.amazon.com**, SWLR will benefit!



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*F.E. Baxter, SW Llama Rescue, Inc.*

**Camelid Community Jamboree Targets New Owners**

The Camelid Community Jamboree will be held Sept. 19-20, 2015, at the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth, Wisconsin. Complete registration information on September's Camelid Jamboree is now on the website at [www.camelidcommunity.us](http://www.camelidcommunity.us). You can register as a vendor, exhibitor and for a campsite. A list of presenters and topics will be up soon.

Young families and newly retired couples living on small acreages are the primary target for an educational camelid jamboree. Folks who are looking for family friendly, easy to care for animals that can generate an income flow are the main focus for such an event.





# ENGAGING THE FUGITIVE LAMA

## Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Control Training Workshop

**L**loyd Wamsley and I were asked by Carla Zinanti, the head animal control officer for Jefferson County Animal Control, Lakewood, CO, to present a workshop for 30 advanced officers on how to work with lamas in different situations. We were allotted 90 minutes to accomplish a long list of activities.

The workshop was located in a large barn where the lamas were released into a round pen without halters. The participants moved in to the pen with the animals and were encouraged to move around and ask questions about what they observed.

After a few minutes we introduced how to conduct a welfare check and how to identify kinds of physical problems that might affect an animal's behavior or function. We identified the observable characteristics of the lama in a calm situation moving to the lama under stress as a result of being displaced from their safe environment.

**Characteristics of a stressed animal** can be seen in droopy wrinkles under the eyes, spitting, screaming, striking, uncontrollable urinating, charging, and fleeing from the location/object posing a threat.

**How do you contain or catch a llama under threatening situations?** Emphasis was placed on staying calm, developing a plan to stop the animal from running and then moving the animal to a safe place where they could be contained and transported.

### Developing a Plan

What was the cause of their displacement? Was it as the result of an open gate, handler error on a trail, or being chased by dogs or a predator?

It was at this point we demonstrated the use of different tools that can be used. We emphasized that the tools were not to be used to chase the lama but to stop it from running so that it could be contained in a safe area. We had long stake lines, ropes, PVC

By Jerry Dunn,  
Bear Track Farm,  
Golden, CO



pipes, training wands, scarves and surveyors tape to hang on the ropes or wands. We showed the safe way to use humans to help herd and corral a lama. We had the officers practice haltering the lamas but we didn't spend much time on this as it is rare that they would have the need to halter a loose lama in the field. Emphasis was on herding or moving the animal to a safe location using the tools.

The emphasis was to help each animal control officer called to a scene create a plan, take charge of the situation by assessing the resources available and employ the kind of help needed.

The afternoon was wrapped up by offering three different scenarios. A different volunteer was asked to come forward in each scenario and develop a plan for a rescue. Each volunteer officer was encouraged to use a variety of tools including people to help solve the problem. We used the following scenarios.

- 1) Two llamas were running through a neighborhood in and out of yards.
- 2) Two llamas were at a school picnic and got loose when two dogs came running through the park.
- 3) A llama owner calls in and needs help rounding up his small herd of llamas that are running loose along a county dirt road after they got out through an open gate.

We put the lamas (Harley, Jurni, Karizzma, Jambalaya, and Pace, the alpaca) to work in these scenarios. They weren't much interested in running away but did offer up some interesting herding situations for the officers to work through successfully. Following the completion of each scenario the officer explained to the group how they solved the problem and the tools they used.

Jim Flannery produced a CD for the workshop but it needs more editing before we make it available for interested parties.



# Ccara Llama Screening Seminar



by Linda Hayes - Glenwood Springs, CO

The NACA (North American Ccara Association) seminar held in April was an outstanding educational event. There were lots of chances for hands on and many different topics were covered.

The NACA organization was set up in 2008 to identify and preserve the working llama in North America. To enter the Ccara registry the llama must meet certain physical criteria. Thus screening became a necessary event. The first public screening was held in Boise, Idaho in 2014. With so many pack llamas in

There was an enlightening talk on young llama weights by Bob Schimpf, MD. Bob is a pediatrician from Washington. He knew the importance of weight gain from working with human babies.

There were demonstrations on toe nail trimming and the correct way to show at halter. Al Ellis explained the latest thinking on worming and vaccinations, as well as the newest advancements on using supplements.

Participants learned how to screen llamas to be included in the Ccara registry. Several llamas passed and will be double registered as Ccara and ILR llamas. Linda Hayes, Russ Felton, Josh Gundersen, and Larry Lewellyn were all approved as NACA Screeners.

The event was held at the adjoining ranches of Larry Lewellyn and Darold Thunder. Both allowed participants to scrutinize their llamas so that attendees could learn to identify positive and negative traits. Thank you to Larry and Darold for opening your ranches to this fantastic event.



Colorado, NACA decided to hold another in Sedalia. To encourage attendance they turned the screening into a full fledged seminar with topics of interest to all llama owners. It worked!

There were close to 50 attendees, many coming from hundreds of miles away (Wisconsin, Arizona, Washington, California, Idaho and points in between.)

Tim Holt DVM gave an informative presentation that included magic tricks and humor. He explained how non-traditional medicine, such as acupuncture and massage work. His focus was on helping the older llama lead a comfortable life.



One of the things that made the event so special was the updating of timely information having to do with llama health. Another was the abundance of people who are interested in packing. To this observer, it looks like the llama world is growing and there is renewed interest in the working llama.





# Llamas Color Your World

Patti Morgan  
Arkansas City, KS



The annual Golden Plains Llama Association Conference was held in McPherson, KS on February 14, 2015. A fun day was had by all. The conference got started with coffee and doughnuts then proceeded to the fiber project. Jane Queal and Lauren Sill led the activities, providing hedge roots for the forms and members bringing llama fiber, costume jewelry and other craft items. The characters created were amazing!!

A people's choice was awarded to the best creations with Nathan Abel winning! There were 8 youth and 14 adult entries.

After the great start, Patti Morgan and Geri Rutledge gave a presentation on fleece: preparing for the mill and preparing to show. A lot of enthusiasm was gained for



entry into the ALSA Grand National this October! Patti and Geri will be very active at this show and will be promoting it all year!

Lunch was chili and pulled chicken with potluck sides. All was delicious!! The youth worked on some projects (bookmarks and fiber hearts also during this time).

After lunch, Larry Lewellyn from Sedalia, CO did a presentation on llama training. He was assisted by several of the youth in attendance with llamas brought by Patti Morgan. The presentation began with



basics and then Larry answered any questions. There was some time left to go outside and practice!



After the llamas were returned to the trailer, the youth began their poster presentations. There were 7 posters with participants from ages 4-16. All were well done and received appreciation from the audience!

The silent auction and raffle were concluded before the annual general meeting that began at 4 pm. Many good comments were received from the participants. Six vendors were in attendance also.





To have a full understanding of camelid fibers and to be able to compare, one must spin camel too. I always include camel fiber when I teach spinning. Camel is a soft short fiber (1 - 3 in.).

Raw camel hair or down is not readily available and I don't recommend it. Once, I was given a bag of it (dirty and mostly guard hairs) and I struggled to separate out the "down." Not worth the time, I realized too late. I recommend spinning from a commercially carded roving or top. Top is higher quality, more expensive, and goes through more processing. I split the roving or top lengthwise, several times, depending on the thickness of yarn I want to create. I also consider the project I have in mind. I tend to use a short draw for spinning camel.

There are 2 types of camels: Bactrian (2 humps) and Dromedary (1 hump). Bactrian are from northeast Asia (Mongolia especially) and Dromedary from Africa and the Middle East. It's mainly the Bactrian camel that gives us fiber to spin. There are some camels in the U.S. too -- on farms and in petting zoos. Both types are much larger than llamas.

The original "lama" ancestor was from North America (yes, really). This is back millions of years

ago. Fossilized footprints plus bones are found in Kansas, Colorado, Nevada, and California and more recently in Montana. A trip to LaBrea Tar Pits and Page Museum in Los Angeles, CA is really interesting -- many different species are represented.

\* Excerpted from *Spinning Alpaca, Llama, Camel, & Paco-Vicuña*, 4th Edition, by Chris Switzer. See her ad in this issue of *The Journal*. (Page 13)



Bactrian Camel



Illumina and Kiki the Clown

First Place, Adult Costume 2015 Kokopelli Llama Classic

## A Postscript from The Journal Staff

*"Do more than belong: participate. ...."*

*This message from William Arthur Ward, author, educator, and motivational speaker is a wonderful reminder to us all. A huge Thank You to all of our members for the fantastic articles and advertisements!*

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association  
P O Box 1070  
Plains, MT 59859-1070



## EVENTS CALENDAR BY MARY WICKMAN (EVENTS CHAIR)

For more details and live links, direct your browser to the RMLA website event calendar and hover your cursor on the event.

- **July 24, 25 & 26, 2015 Fairplay Llama Race, Fairplay, CO** – Three great events: Pack Llama Race, Lama Rama & the Public Walk. And of course, the Llama Lunacy Course for children. General public can borrow a llama for the race. Camp with the llamas in the national forest before and after the race. Start time is approximately 9 AM. Contact Gary Carlton at llama@jhmfarm.com or 303.503.1324
- **July 25 & 26, 2015 Burro Days Craft Fair, Fairplay, CO** - Contact the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com - 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltaillamas@bigplanet.com - 970-487-0223
- **August 15, 2015 Hope Pass Aid Station Support Crew** for participants in the Leadville 100 mile race. A great deal of preparation goes into getting the aid station and supplies up the mountain and operational prior to race day. Contact Gary Carlton llama@jmhfarm.com or 303.503.1324 for more information.
- **September 12 & 13, 2015 Salida Fiber Festival, Salida, CO** - Contact the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com - 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltaillamas@bigplanet.com - 970-487-0223
- **September 26 & 27, 2015 Sneffels Fiber Festival, Ridgeway, CO** - Contact the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com - 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltaillamas@bigplanet.com - 970-487-0223
- **October 3 & 4, 2015 Taos Wool Festival, Taos, NM** - Contact the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com - 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltaillamas@bigplanet.com - 970-487-0223
- **October 10 & 11, 2015 Palisade Quilt & Fiber Festival, Palisade, CO** - Contact the RMLA Fiber Co-op. Cheryl Juntilla cajwdj@aol.com - 402-366-9304 or Jill Knuckles talltaillamas@bigplanet.com - 970-487-0223