

The Journal of RMLA



RMLA 
 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

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Youth Happenings!

By Marshal Rutledge, Chair
RMLA Youth Committee

For the second year, the RMLA Youth and Fiber Committees joined up at the Estes Park Wool Market for a very successful Silent Auction. Thank you to all the members who donated such wonderful items: pack systems, journals, books, jewelry, items from Peru, embroidered shirts, llama mask, sweaters, yarn, all kinds of interesting items not necessarily llama related. It was a great selection.

The youth were offered triple points in the RMLA Youth Awards Program (YAP) for items with a \$15 or more value. This generated more items than normal

and resulted in \$601 to be used to fund the awards at the end of the year.

Another year in the books thanks to everyone. I wish I could name everyone who donated and helped, but I fear I would leave someone out. Thank you to the volunteers who helped set up, supervise, bring items from others along the trail, and wrap it up. A special thanks to everyone who participated and brought and/or bid on the items. And to my parents, Jim and Geri: THANK YOU for all of your help.



YAP participants are crankin'. The following photos show just some of their activities. (Sorry but there just is not space to present all the photos from all the activities!) Double points were given in August & September for participating in county fairs, parades, town festivals, and visits to nursing homes. Keep it going! Lots of events, activities and time until December 31st.



Kira Leland



Alexandra Leland



Because of the Economy Black & Blue Show, Alexandra Leland



Malachi & Christian Able, Showmanship training



The TBC Block Party



Polk County Fair

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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 26

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horiz.	7.5" x 2"	\$24	\$36
1/4 Page Vert.	3.5" x 4.5"	\$24	\$36
1/3 Page Horiz.	7.5" x 3"	\$35	\$48
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
Two Page Spread	15" x 10"	\$200	\$300

- **Classified Ads**—Member \$10 for up to 50 words
Non-Member \$25 for up to 50 words. Ads must be related to the Camelid industry.

- 25 cents for each word over 50 for both Member and Non-Member.

• Ad rates are quoted per issue. Lock in the current rate by purchasing the same ad for four consecutive issues and receive a bonus of a 10% discount.

• For ads that require scanning: Mail ad copy to RMLA-Ron Hinds-5704 Canyon Trail, Elizabeth, CO 80107-7814 include a check payable to AlpacaGraphics for \$5.00 for each scan.

• For ad design, contact Ron Hinds at ad-design@rmla.com or 303-646-1320.

• We suggest ads be submitted in black and white/grayscale at 300dpi.

• Ads must be submitted via email in MS Word, jpeg, tiff or PDF files to RMLAadvertise@gmail.com.

• INSTRUCTIONS FOR Payment: Send your check payable to RMLA along with a copy of the ad (for clarity) to:

RMLA Journal Advertising Manager – Sonja Boeff
12920 W. 84th Avenue.
Arvada, CO 80005

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

• Email text and/or graphics content to: RMLAadvertise@gmail.com

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

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Fall 2016! Already? We have a great Journal for you this issue. In this issue we have three great articles about caring for lamas during the winter; perhaps a refresher for us 'old timers' and good information for our new members. Also, the RMLA Youth have been at it again: this group just doesn't stop! We love it. See Page 2 for just some of their incredible lama activities.



Throughout this issue you can read about the many and varied RMLA events that have occurred. Our members have been quite busy! Plus, we have several articles about on-going activities either underway or planned. Finally, we hope to see many of you at the Annual RMLA Meeting on October 8th. Please see Page 5 for more details on the fun adventure that is planned.

On a more serious note: we, the membership, are at a crossroads regarding our future. Please see the article by Linda Hayes on Page 7 with a side article by Marilyn Arnold, Chair of the RMLA Finance Committee. Please, put down your cell phones, tablets and I-phones to really think about the thoughts from two long time RMLA members. Can you join those who are already working on a plan to keep the Fairplay Llama Event going? For more information, send a note to rmlaeditor@gmail.com and Ron & I can get you 'plugged' into the planning process.

"Thank you" to everyone who has sent articles and photos to the Journal. We are very appreciative of those of you who are able to send them well before the 'deadline'. Ron and I begin working on the Journal about a month before the submission 'deadline'. A great deal of cooperation and coordination goes into each and every article for each issue. With articles arriving well in advance, there is time to work out any issues, inconsistencies, or missing information with an author. Sometimes it may take a couple of days to resolve an issue. So if you know you are going to send an article and/or photos to us, drop us a note. It really helps us plan.

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RMLA ANNUAL MEETING

October 8th, 2016

This is going to be fun! Don't miss this opportunity!

RSVP by September 22nd to Geri Rutledge Buckshollow@wildblue.net

Each year the RMLA Board selects a date and time for the Annual Meeting. To match our Mission Statement, we find Educational/Informational training for our members. This year we have Damon Carson of the Denver recycling plant willing to open his doors on a Saturday morning especially for the members of RMLA. Damon will give us a guided tour and 90 minutes of education about the many ways to reuse/repurpose items that could end up in the landfills.

Tour of Repurposed Materials Plant, arrive at 9:30 AM for 10 AM start

10220 Brighton Rd, Unit 7 Henderson, CO
80640
(in NE Denver, I-76 Exit 11 Brighton Rd
north)

Website: www.RepurposedMaterialsInc.com

Lunch: Ramada Plaza Northglenn after the tour, RSVP by September 22nd

**Annual Meeting: Ramada Plaza
Northglenn, approximately 1PM**

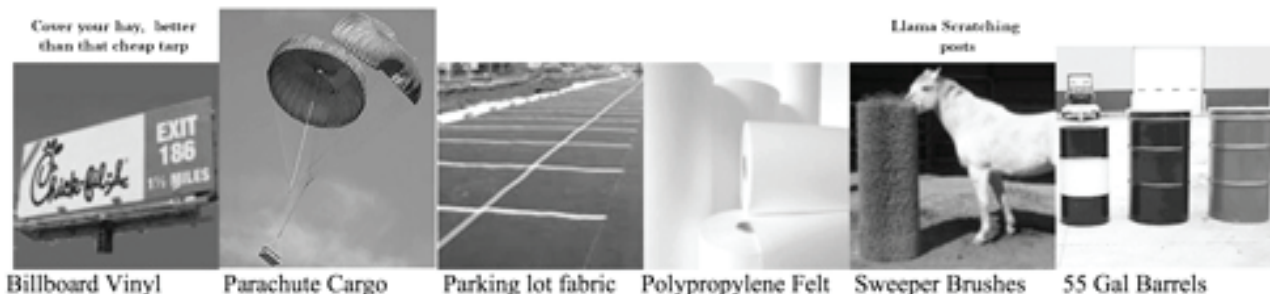
10 E 120th Ave., Northglenn, CO 80233

See the RMLA website (link at top of main page) for more details, addresses, links and maps.

The plant is not open on Saturdays, so this is a special offer for RMLA members: if you find items that day, Damon will have staff on hand with a forklift and cashier available. You may also search on-line and order, having it ready to load out on that day. Or if you find that treasure on the day of our tour, you will be able to take it home. Think Performance Obstacles and bring the truck!!!

Some of our members are familiar with this location and have made purchases. Damon thanks us for our support and always welcomes ideas for products he receives that can be repurposed on the farm and used by our animals.

Climbing Rope, burlap bags, grain tarps, PVC liner, interlocking pads, stain and sealer, all kinds of pipes and poles, rolled rubber, chain link fence, railroad ties and rails, carpet, insulated pavers, fire hose, street lights, marble tile, BBQ grill grates, SS tubing, synthetic turf, foundation I-Beams, large timbers, flagstone... AND MORE at ... www.RepurposedMaterialsInc.com



From your RMLA Board of Directors: Thank you for joining us for a great day!



THANK YOU for your support...

We never quite know what the future will hold or how it might unfold....but sometimes when it becomes the past, it leaves us in a place within ourselves that we could never have predicted in our wildest dreams.

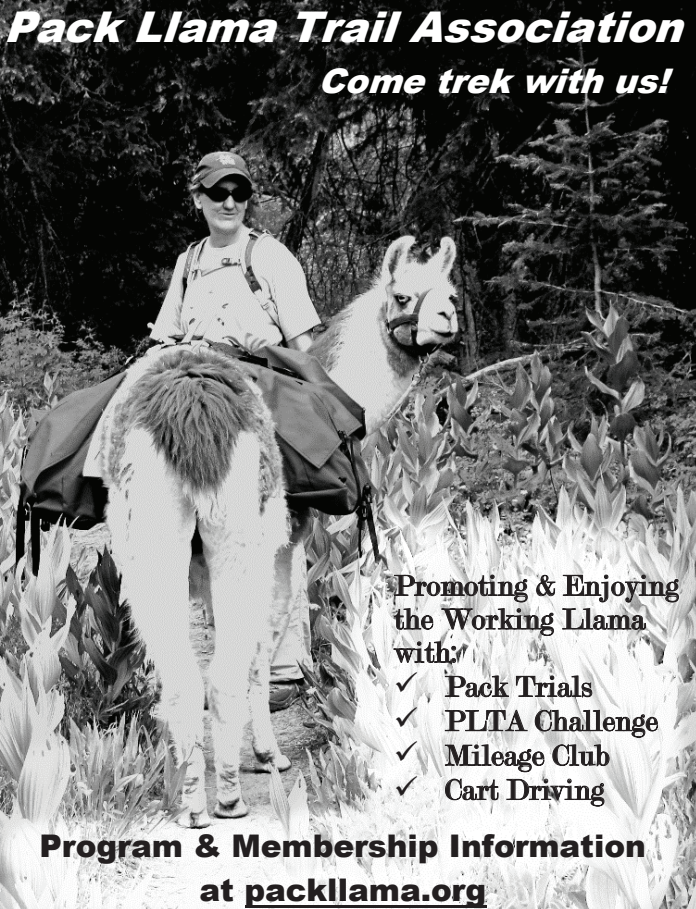
The Fairplay Llama Event has taken me on a journey that is about people, the human spirit, and what it means to give something back. I feel that a volunteer is an amazing breed of individual who gives endlessly of themselves for all the right reasons. The gift a volunteer receives in return, is measured in part, on how it changes one's perception about the world around them.

It has been a pleasure to share this experience with the RMLA, our members, ranches and volunteers, the town of Fairplay, the Burro committee and all of the people who have participated over the years and been given the chance to see just what it is that makes us all so fond of these wonderful animals who share our pastures and enrich our daily lives.

Thank you for all the years of the Fairplay Llama Event, *Gary Carlton*



Pack Llama Trail Association
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the Working Llama
with:

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- ✓ PLTA Challenge
- ✓ Mileage Club
- ✓ Cart Driving

Program & Membership Information
at packllama.org

Editor's Corner...continued

I am just amazed at how many pieces of information are contained in every issue. Once an article has been formatted on the page, it's easy to move them around for the final placement. But, I have come to understand that when Ron 'disappears' for a couple of days it is because he is concentrating on getting all the pieces in place; it truly is a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle.

There are five volunteers who work on the Journal in various capacities. Like you, we have very busy lives with families, jobs, vacations, ranches and always the unexpected. Life happens and it seems to be happening very fast these days. As a team we work cooperatively around our schedules, computer crashes, vacations, and just life. And we extend that spirit of cooperation to each of you, the RMLA members who submit your articles and photos.

We thank each of YOU for your cooperation!

Ron and Kathy



Cover Photo:

A photo from Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay from one of her fabulous pack trips in Yellowstone National Park.

THE END IS IN SIGHT

by Linda Hayes



I served as a RMLA Director from 2012 through 2015 and I am going to tell you my thoughts on the future.

If you are reading this, you probably have taken part in one of the RMLA sponsored events. These activities only happen because dedicated individuals spend their time, energy and in some cases their own money to make it happen. Most of these volunteers are reaching the age when they no longer have the energy or health to continue. Unless someone younger steps up, these events will no longer take place. In fact, it is already happening. We are seeing many events being cut down to one day (Grand Junction show) or phased out. (Fairplay Performance show).

Most venues that allow llama events require insurance. The cost of this can be prohibitive to get on a one-time basis. However, as an RMLA sponsored event, it is covered by the RMLA Commercial General Liability policy. This is a major savings. Without this, many activities would have to be dropped.

The llama community is in danger of losing one of its biggest events and the money maker that pays the bill for the RMLA Insurance Policy available for all RMLA sponsored events: The Fairplay Llama Event. The folks who have been doing the work to put this on are tired. They are stepping down to let others take over. Many on the committee are either in their 70's or are fast approaching Senior Citizen status. They can't be expected to continue doing the work.

Fairplay is one of the biggest events in all "llamadom". It has national notoriety. The town of Fairplay goes all out. Streets are closed, campgrounds are set up and hundreds of people come looking for a llama to lead. It is a money maker for the town, for various charities (notably organ and tissue donation),

as well as for RMLA. After all expenses are paid on the event, the balance of the income is earmarked for RMLA Liability Insurance – for all events to use.

The person who has made this happen is Gary Carlton. He has worked his heart out on the Fairplay Llama Event for years. He personally sees to the planning, setting up and making sure the event runs safely and without a hitch. I've seen the list of things that must be done to pull this off. It is daunting.

Gary has retired. If another person or persons doesn't take over, the event will end. Gone, no longer a fund raiser, no longer a fun event that spotlights the desirability of the llama. Gone ...the enjoyment of the hundreds who take part, gone the camaraderie of the camp with the potluck dinners and shared breakfasts. Gone... a part of llama life that so many have enjoyed for 34 years. But even worse - the ability to purchase the insurance policy may also be gone.

That's right, without the Fairplay Llama Event, the money to pay for the insurance that all events use will not be there. This means that without another major fundraiser many other llama activities will shut down. Oh, sure, perhaps another event could come along that would bring in the same revenue that Fairplay produces. But if it does it will require volunteers and just as much work as Fairplay. Why reinvent the wheel? Do you want to pay higher fees at events just so RMLA can afford the insurance? Wouldn't it be better to keep Fairplay going? It won't happen without new people taking over.

The same people have been keeping RMLA strong for years. It is always a handful of the same people. It's time the rest of you step up and do your part. If not...THE END IS IN SIGHT.



RMLA Commercial General Liability Insurance is Covered by the Net Proceeds from Fairplay Event

By Marilyn Arnold, Chair - RMLA Finance Committee

Linda Hayes has written an article on the Fairplay Event which is attended by people from all over the country. It has become one of the largest llama events in the country.

RMLA receives entry fees from each participant who registers to participate in the run/walk races. RMLA also receives a check from entry fees for the portion called Llama Rama sponsored by Rocky Mountain Rural Health.

The net income from these two events covers the liability insurance for RMLA for a year. Without this insurance coverage, many events would no longer take place, as most venues require a certificate of insurance.



FAIRPLAY WRAP-UP

By Gary Carlton and the Fairplay Gang



It is wonderful to report that the Fairplay Event continues to grow with a great percentage of new participants this year. The Event is one of the largest gatherings in the region where so many folks who are not familiar with llamas and alpacas can actually have a hands-on experience with these magnificent animals and all that they are capable of doing.

Approximately 150 people took part in the races. A large percentage of the runners & walkers were from Colorado but some came from as far away as Minnesota and Pennsylvania. What a treat they had.

The Lama Lunacy Couse is a free event for children to take a lama through an obstacle course. Between 30 and 40 children participated. What fun.

And what you have all been waiting for: the top 3 winners in each race! Please notice just how close the men's race was only 17 seconds between 1st and 3rd!

Men's Pack Race

1. Chris Halcombe time 32.07
2. Jared Cooper time 32.08
3. Jack Eardle time 32.24

Women's Pack Race

1. Noel Quinn time 37.55
2. Amy Nordhagen time 38.30
3. Lydia Govinden time 40.50



Team Pack by team leader

1. David Cleidon time 38.30
2. Jeff Hower time 40.39
3. Devin Brunke time 42.32

Congratulations to everyone who participated. And thank you to all RMLA members who helped make this event happen. What a great opportunity to get out, have fun and share the love for llamas. See you all in 2017.



Welcome New Board Member

The RMLA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Beau J. Baty as our newest board member. Beau will begin serving a 3-year term in October following the close of the annual meeting. Beau and his wife, Kirstin, live in Idaho Falls, Idaho where they run a packing business.

Beau considers himself fortunate to have grown up on a cattle ranch working with 3 generations of his family. His thoughts often turn to the next generations of the Baty family. "I continually wonder how they will grow up. Will there be wild places for them to explore and stretch their wings? How will they find their way in the cloud of technologically advanced, fast paced, and innovative world of the 21st century? Will they understand and uphold their responsibility as stewards of the land? I wonder if they will appreciate mother earth and all her goodness and bounty?"

Being a part of the llama community is extremely important to Beau and his wife. The bond they have formed with their animals is one



they know many people have also forged with their animals. Beau hopes to be able to share his experiences and learn as much as he can from others so we can all continue to enjoy and protect the llama legacy in North America.

The Board wishes to thank Brent Holt for his 3 years of service on the Board. And the Board wishes to thank all RMLA members who supported RMLA by voting in this election.



Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award

From the RMLA Board of Directors

The Bobra Goldsmith Leadership Award was originated to honor Bobra by recognizing an RMLA person, or persons, who have demonstrated a similar passion and a love for educating the community about llamas and alpaca.

Nominations are to be submitted to Jerry Dunn at beartrak@q.com by December 10, 2016. The nominee's level of commitment and involvement in activities centered on educating llama and alpaca owners, writing articles, hosting workshops, speaking at conferences, and participating in organized llama/alpaca events will act as the guidelines for the award.

Past recipients include Charlie Hackbarth, Wes and Mary Mauz, Karen Kinyon, Jerry Dunn, Gayle Woodsum, and Al Ellis.

The award will be presented at the NWSS Llama Show in January, 2017. Bobra, along with other RMLA members were instrumental in getting the first NWSS Llama Show off the ground in the early 1980's.



Ask The CSU VET Team

By Robert J. Callan DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM

Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Dr. Callan has provided us with great nutritional for the winter months. He offers additional information for pregnant and nursing dams and crias.

What are the special concerns or needs for crias born in winter?

Winter can be a formidable time for the birth of any livestock and there is good reason why most wild mammals do not routinely give birth in the winter. The risk of inclement weather including cold and wetness is one of the obvious risks. However, there are many compounding factors between weather and nutrition for the dam and cria that present special challenges during winter.

General Considerations at Parturition:

Cold and inclement weather definitely complicate birthing during winter. Wind and wetness greatly increase heat loss from an object, particularly for living animals. The best way to help mitigate these factors is to provide environmental protection from the elements. Both natural and manmade windbreaks and shelters can provide effective protection. Full enclosures such as barns or sheds provide even more protection. You can also provide coats for the at risk animals.

At the time of parturition, close observation and rapid assistance or intervention can make the difference in a live or dead cria. Make sure you provide a dry, well sheltered area for birthing. At the time of birth, the fetal fluids coat the cria and make it more susceptible to rapid heat loss. If the cria is born outdoors, it is good to provide some assistance in drying the cria with towels to minimize the heat loss. It is also very important to recognize the signs of parturition as early as possible. In the winter, the dam is under greater nutritional stress. Dystocia can result in tremendous energy demands and a dam in poor or marginal nutritional status can rapidly become too weak to deliver the fetus on its own. Monitor the dam closely during parturition and if steady continuous progress in

delivery is not seen, further evaluation and assistance should be provided.

Nutrition for the Dam:

During the winter, the key to nutrition is sufficient energy. This is even more important for a pregnant dam due to give birth in the winter when the nutritional demands of late gestation and early lactation are the greatest. The challenge is that unless you have performed a feed analysis of your hay, you have no way of knowing if the hay you are feeding has sufficient energy to support your animals during the winter.

Comprehensive feed analysis can be performed for around \$50 per sample and is one of the best nutritional investments that you can make each year for your animals. General energy and protein requirements are provided in Table 1. During the winter, you should shoot for the upper end of the TDN (Total Daily Nutrition) range for each production group of animals. If your hay sources do not have sufficient energy to meet these demands, you can provide additional energy with grain mix (COB or corn/oats/barley) or pelleted rations. High quality hay with directed grain supplementation during periods of cold weather is a very effective and economical method of providing sufficient energy to your animals during the winter.

Dams that do not receive sufficient energy and protein during late gestation are at risk of several metabolic disorders that can put the dam and the cria at risk. Monitor the body condition score of your pregnant dams closely during winter. If a dam is losing body condition, then provide additional energy in the diet. Dams that lose body condition can develop hypertriglyceridemia, hyperlipemia, or hepatic lipidosis, all of which can be fatal to the dam

continued on next page



Table 1: Camelid TDN and Protein requirements in Camelids for different stages of production based on 1.5-2.0% Body Weight (BW) dry matter intake per day.

Feeding Plan	Physiologic States	TDN	Crude Protein
Sub-Maintenance	Obese Animals	40-50%	8-9%
Maintenance	Males > 1year Breeding Females Pregnant Females 1-8 months	50-60%	8-10%
Moderate	Pregnant Females 9-11 months	55-70%	10-12%
High	Weanlings up to 1 ½ years Lactation up to 4 months	55-60% 60-70%	14-16% 12-14%

Adapted From: Van Saun RJ. Nutritional requirements and assessing nutritional status in camelids. *Veterinary Clinics of North America, Food Animal Practice.* 25 (2009) 265-279.

during the highly stressful time of parturition. Animals that are losing body condition prior to parturition also tend to tire more easily during parturition and may result in dystocia or weak crias at birth.

Extra nutrition for the cria:

Supplemental nutrition in the form of a creep feeder can be very helpful for crias born during the winter in cold climates. This is particularly important for crias born to dams with marginal or inadequate milk production. Milk production in the dam can be decreased due to many factors including genetics, previous mastitis, nutritional status, or hormonal factors. Rather than allowing the cria to fall behind before supplemental feed is provided, it is better to be proactive.

Creep feeders are simply small structures that allow the cria to have access to supplemental feed that the adult animals cannot access. They can be homemade structures or purchased structures (camelid, sheep, or goat creep feeders). Supplemental feed used in a creep feeder can include high quality alfalfa hay, grain starter feeds, camelid pellets, or pelleted starter feeds made for lambs or goat kids. Providing this creep feed allows extra energy nutrition to the cria to support them through the cold weather and not be as dependent on the milk and nutrition of the dam.

Vitamin Supplementation:

Both the dam and newborn crias are at risk of vitamin A, D, or E deficiency during the winter and early spring time in the Rocky Mountain

region. Vitamin A and E rapidly deplete from both non-irrigated fresh forage starting in the late fall and lasting until spring. Dry hay forages also tend to become depleted in vitamin A and E content as they age.

Vitamin D is synthesized by the animal but requires sufficient ultraviolet irradiation from sunlight to activate vitamin D in the skin. During the late fall and winter months, the southerly position of the sun results in decreased UV irradiation, particularly in the northern latitudes. In addition, the fiber coat is thicker resulting in a greater barrier for the sunlight to reach the surface of the skin. Thus, vitamin D deficiency can occur during the winter months in camelids, just as it does in humans.

Vitamin A, D, and E can be supplemented across the herd with a high quality vitamin mineral supplement. Recommended levels of these vitamins in supplements for the Rocky Mountain region should approach 250,000 IU/lb vitamin A, 30,000 IU/lb vitamin D, and 5,000-10,000 IU/lb vitamin E.

Many vitamin mineral supplements have poor palatability. If you find your animals are not evenly consuming your supplement, you can sometimes improve consistency of consumption by mixing 50:50 with raw wheat germ. Even if you have a quality free choice vitamin supplement, dams giving birth in the winter and their crias may benefit from directed injectable vitamin supplementation. Injectable vitamin A, D, and E supplementation may be given to the dam 2 to 4 weeks prior to parturition and to the cria after birth.



Because of the Economy, Black and Blue Show

By Judy Glaser - Rockwood Llamas - Kiowa, CO

Anyone who shows knows that if they can make a "local" show, we go. Even though this show is one day, you eventually spend two days or the weekend. Being that this is a "camping" show, there is no better way to spend it than there! It also makes attending easy. It was a pleasant surprise to see the increased numbers of entries this year. As a Superintendent myself, I know how important support is in bodies and in monetary!

All performance obstacles were items already there in nature or supplied by the host, i.e. trailer,

chairs...from Marcie and Bob. It was a natural setting! Then the halter show took place. Thanks go to all the help - judges and participants.



We wrapped up the show with a feast made available on Saturday night. With lots of hungry kids there, I voted that the adults go first! This is a great time to sit down, take a load off, tell stories about the day and just be with others who love llamas and all that they do for us.

There were two seminars that were given as a bonus for attendees of the show. Jens Rudibaugh

gave instruction for showing your llamas in halter and some handling tips (always valuable) and Judy Glaser discussed getting ready for the Walking Fiber class.

Saturday night was spent under the stars. If you can get a chance to go in 2017, it's a great memory!

hw



Because of the Economy Black & Blue Show, Kira Leland

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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.

An advertisement for Zander Farms. At the top, the name "Zander Farms" is written in a large, stylized font, with "Arvada, Colorado" underneath. Below the name is a photograph of a llama standing in a circular frame. To the left of the llama is the phone number "303.257.6733" and to the right is the email address "czandera@yahoo.com". At the bottom, the text reads "Specializing in Argentine Llamas" in a cursive font, with the website "www.zanderfarms.com" below it. A small logo is in the bottom right corner.

LLAMA ALPACA CAMP 2016

By Geri Rutledge - Waco, NE



The 2016 Llama Alpaca Camp was held June 24th and 25th. Thanks to the Camelidkids group and Rocky Mountain Llama & Alpaca Association for sponsoring the event. Over 65 people attended camp this year. The youth and families enjoyed crafts, great meals and learned a lot.

On to the next station where Shannan Fisher spent two weeks before camp cutting fabrics so all the youth could make stall signs. For those who did not own an animal they still made a sign related to the animal they were borrowing at camp. Hot glue guns are always a challenge and



The projects began with Eco Dyeing led by Kay McCoy and assisted by Sally Brandon of Shepherds Mill. The campers learned guidelines to "mordanting" the fabric and then took a nature walk to identify plants and what colors or patterns can be made in their bandanas. Everyone was able to experiment with plants and colors and now that we understand the process we are ready for the advanced class.

THANK YOU
Marshal
Rutledge
Youth Committee
Chairperson RMLA
Signatures

the older kids were great with helping the younger members in their group.

On Saturday the campers did public relations when 22 residents from the Legacy Estates Retirement Living came out for a couple hours to learn and enjoy camp. Good thing all those kids were ready, because that group split out

every direction to see craft stations and then get their hands on some animals. The campers did a great job being a buddy and letting them pet the

animals. Then we got a load on the wagon with residents and campers and off we went on a wagon ride. This was so cool, those kids and the "old people" were in full chatter the whole ride. There were so many questions and stories from way back when. This will be a lasting memory.

And then over to Shawn Leland where they learned to felt felt with hot water and soap. The campers each made four

continued on next page



Christmas ornaments by wrapping carded llama fiber around the ornament, then covering with a nylon stocking and spraying the hot water soap



mixture and using their hands to felt the ball. They were able to felt over 200 Christmas llama ornaments that will be donated to the Children's Hospital in November once they are bagged and tagged with a gift card.

Onward to the station with Geri Rutledge as the leader where they pulled raw fiber from a



bag, washed, rinsed, laid it out to dry. With the previous group they had fiber ready to card. So now they learned how to use the carder and have some wool ready for next year. This station often turned into a water war. It was hot so spraying each other was welcomed.

And the last station was Gordon Gulbrandson with his draft horses Belle and Babe taking groups on a horse drawn wagon ride. Gordon was very popular and the campers always had good conversations on the rides.

In between all of these stations the campers worked with the animals covering the basic 101 learning, safety, tips, tricks, and by the first afternoon they knew the mandatories. They had pack demonstrations, showmanship training and some one on one.

The group camped with all their electronic devices. They had s'mores by the ring of fire and yet another water fight. One has "super power" if you hold your phone up.... they all understand, you don't get the phones wet.

To wrap up the second day the 4 Colorado kids were made leaders to pick their team and present a skit to all the adults. Each group picked a topic and presented three mandatory topics they learned. This was a highlight. By now all the campers were comfortable with each other and the group had bonded. The skits were hilarious. And the adults were impressed with the words used during these skits. Amazing what they gained in just 2 days of having fun at camp.

RMLA Youth Chair Marshal Rutledge came out to spend time with the kids and cheer them on with events for rest of the year. The kids presented him with a poster for his work with them.

Families from Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado all made this year's camp a great success. Thanks to everyone involved, my cooks Jim Fisher and Mike Morgan, all the leaders and families who took the time out to invest in 2016 Llama Alpaca Camp. You are the best!



26th Annual Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show

By Jill Knuckles



Education, excitement and fun filled the 26th annual Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show with Alpaca Performance. A number of new llama and alpaca owners were welcomed by many long time attendees. What more could we ask... A beautiful setting in the Rocky Mountains and incredible weather made it even better to spend time with friends and the animals we love.

Many thanks to our judges who kept the show on track and encouraged the best of all participants. Karen Kinyon was our fiber judge; Bill Feick and Mike Swanson judged both halter and performance and Mary Wickman also judged the performance.



The fiber show was once again a big success; Karen enjoyed judging many entries. There were 33 gorgeous walking fiber entries and 20 incredible shorn fleece entries. We had over 21 beautiful entries in the finished product class. Finished Product entries include 3 divisions: youth, novice and advanced and 5 classes: felted, knit, handspun yarn, woven and other. In addition, we had 8 entries in the handspinner's choice class.

74 llamas and alpacas were entered in a variety of classes from halter to performance and 7 youth were entered in all youth divisions. Even though the halter classes may be smaller in recent years, the quality gets better and the competition tougher every year. The judges had their work cut out for them with 28 entries in the

novice performance. We also had both an advanced and master's performance division. Highlights of the weekend included the Sharon Beacham award which was presented to the Barba family. ChanTar's Copperfield owned by Paul and Karen Schwartz was awarded the Best of Show; Alexandra Leland was awarded the Youth Versatility Champion for the 2nd year in a row and 2-Bit-2 Guffy owned by Marcie Saska-Agnew won Versatility Champion.



Special thank you's go to all of our wonderful volunteers who help with the wool market year after year: Rhonda Livengood and Nancy Jamnick for all of the support and dedication as our wonderful clerks and announcer, Wally Juntilla and Ben Herr as the best performance course crew, Ann Bruhn, our awesome ring steward and the many more hats that she wears. Thank you to Karen Schwartz, Jim Rutledge and Mary Wickman for jumping in and helping throughout the weekend. A very special "thank you" to all our sponsors. We would not have a llama show without our volunteers and sponsors!!!!

The Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show sponsored the silent auctions again this year, supporting the RMLA Fiber Booth and the RMLA Youth. The silent auctions were enjoyed by spectators and participants alike.

The wool market was swarming with many visitors who really enjoyed learning about the many qualities of llamas and alpacas. The llama show continues to be a special attraction enjoyed by all.



RMLA Education News

By Mary Vavrina, Chair
Education Committee

Remember when you got your first llamas? Was there someone you could call or email with questions, or did you go it alone? Maybe you were on one of those email lists where you're never sure if the answers you get are legit, because people spend an awful lot of time arguing about non-llama stuff.

If you had a llama mentor, or really wished that you had one, how about paying it forward and helping someone else out with questions? We are in the process of putting together informational brochures to make available in places like feed and farm stores where people can learn about RMLA and thus find help with their llama questions. We're compiling the list but we still need a few more experienced llama/alpaca folks willing to help out new owners with their questions, via phone or email. If you're already mentoring, we'd love to hear about that, too.

For those members who are new to llamas, welcome! What topics are of interest to you, and what resources would you like to see available in your area?

Also in the works: Llama Information Days. There are several alpaca info days every year in the Denver area, which is great, but what about those llamas? It would be cool to have a day geared toward people who are new to llamas or who are interested in llamas, but haven't really been around them, and maybe don't know all the awesome things that llamas can do. The more you know before you buy or adopt, the better it is for all concerned, especially the llamas.

We need more ideas for things that RMLA members are interested in. What educational events or programs or information would you like to see happen? Are you interested in helping in any way? Even if you just have suggestions and ideas and don't really want to get super involved right away, that's OK. Let us hear from you! llamas@rockymtllamas.com or 303-530-5575



Rocky Mountain Jupiter helps out on weed duty, just one of his many jobs around the farm.

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Cooper's Walk

by Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay,
Chair, Pack Committee

Cooper was there from the beginning. He rode in the back of my Isuzu Trooper when I picked him up in 1994. I remember turning around during the drive home to verify that I really had a llama riding with me. I recall his big dark eyes looking back calmly at me and his cute banana ears sticking up. He was 10 months old, a vital participant in my new life as a modern frontierswoman in the mountains of Southwestern Montana.



Cooper being there from the beginning was lucky for me. He helped me learn and understand when I was just starting out with llamas. He was there when I learned to catch him and his buddies in our first corral, when I put the first pack saddles on them and when we ventured out on the trail for the first time, bright-eyed and excited. He was there as we slept under the stars in our first pack llama camp. We learned so much together in those days, the llamas and I. What a journey we all went on! How much joy we discovered and how many adventures we shared in Yellowstone and beyond! And Cooper was a part of it, always there, steady, calm, patient, sweet. Everything went so well for all those years. We packed every summer, explored trails, crossed streams, climbed hills, got rained on, gazed at distances and the wonder of it all,

dreamed under the stars. We were a team. The llamas became seasoned packers and I relied on both their and my good senses.

Twelve years later, I started our commercial llama treks after we had purchased Yellowstone Llamas and their concessions' contract in Yellowstone National Park. Cooper was part of the crew, of course. We took on this new venture, full of confidence in our expertise. The llamas were experienced and knew how to behave in camp when tethered to a long line, which in turn was fastened to a stake in the ground, a method I used in those days. I practice with novice llamas at home until they learn how to not get tangled in the line. Until the morning of July 25, 2008, I assumed that I had covered all bases, took all precautions, learned from past experiences. I was a pro and so were my llamas.

Nothing prepared me for what I obviously still had to learn and for the sight I had to see on that morning when I checked on the llamas. The guests on this trek were late getting up and I was waiting with breakfast. When I finally got away to check on the llamas, my eyes searched for Cooper, now 14 years old. Since I did not see him up grazing, I expected his familiar dark form kushed on the ground chewing his cud, near where I had tethered him the evening before. What I saw instead made my heart freeze and my brain work in slow motion trying to make sense of the scene before me, a sight I would never ever forget.

My friend Cooper was lying on his side, his body twisted, his chin in the dirt, mouth open in a grimace of agony. He groaned in pain. His right front leg was positioned very close to his nose. Why? How? From the leg – impossibly, unfathomably – jutted the ragged, blood smeared edge of a bone! My brain continued to delay the

continued on next page



explanation to this unbelievable scenario, but my eyes saw the rope tightly wrapped around the coarse limbs of the sagebrush – saw Cooper's leg wrapped in it! I don't remember what came first: the scream, the panicked tearing at the rope, the frantic fumble for the knife? Then one of my clients was beside me, helping. The images stand out sharply in my memory: the bone, ragged and ugly in the morning sun. The blood. Cooper on the ground, as if he were dead.

Then the urgent question: what to do? I carry emergency supplies and medications. We cut the rope. My stomach knotted in fear at the thought of wound infection but I could not pay attention to that now. Disinfectant on the wound, bandage, sticks on either side of the leg and more bandage. Pain killers. Years ago, I attended an emergency llama first aid workshop but never expected to use those skills. Now I had to save my friend's life. After dressing the wound as best I could, my brain resumed work at normal speed and commanded: get help! The initial try to radio for help only produced stubborn static noise. I had to run out.

Now a little trick I had played on my guests paid off: we were not that far from the nearest road and after a few short instructions to my guests, I took off at a run. I had about 2.5 miles to go, jumping creeks, racing up the trail and stopping here and there on high points to employ my radio in a plea for help. It was useless. While I ran, my mind saw Cooper circling the brush that had caught the line, wandering around and around following the tug. The rope gets shorter and shorter until his chin almost touches the ground. He must have stepped over the brush at some point and

wrapped his own leg in the line. He was caught with no way out, standing for a long time, chin to foot, until he was exhausted and could not stand any longer. He falls and the bone snaps.

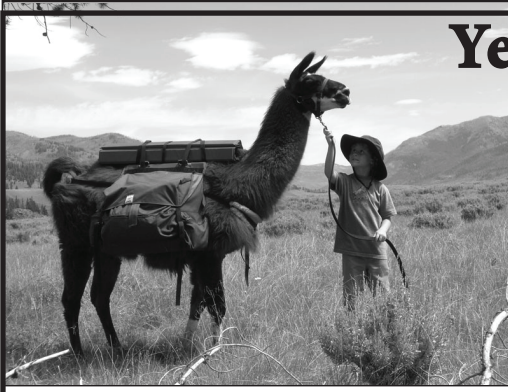
The hikers looked alarmed when I raced up to them but agreed to return to their car and drive me to the nearest location with cell phone reception: The Covered Wagon Ranch, just outside Yellowstone. To my disbelief, Yellowstone's backcountry office was unable to help me. "We only help to remove a dead animal." And: "We recommend euthanizing your animal." I hung up. Cooper was alive and I would not kill my friend because he broke his leg! Time was running out. I called nearby vets. Nobody was willing to save my friend. Finally, my faithful vet, Dr. Bruce Sorensen, in Bozeman, two hours from my location, promised to come as soon as he could. The Covered Wagon Ranch staff agreed to have horses ready to take Bruce, his helper, and my husband, Ken, to our camp. Then I took off again, with ropes and planks



wrapped to my backpack that I would use to better stabilize Cooper's leg.

Upon arrival, I found Cooper under a shady tent roof that the clients had erected. The two were lying on top of the animal to keep him down. Cooper had tried to get up and stand on his leg. I stabilized his leg with the planks,

continued on next page



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Cooper's Walk..., continued

covered his face with a towel and talked to him, trying to comfort him and myself. He gnashed his teeth. Now we had to wait.

After what seemed a very long time, horses approached. It was afternoon by now. Help had finally arrived. Bruce worked fast and determined. Off with my bandages, renewed cleaning of the wound, new bandages, antibiotics, pain killers, a plaster cast. As he finally stood up, Bruce looked at me straight. "The odds are not good," he said, "but try it. It is up to Cooper now." Cooper had to walk 2.5 miles to the road. Tomorrow. Then Bruce handed me a syringe. "In case he can't make it. Good luck."

Cooper spent the night on three legs, dazed by the medication, unable to sit down with the stiff cast. In the morning, we prepared for our departure. During the night, Ken had devised a plan and now stripped twigs from two thin, dead lodgepole pines. Holding a pole on either side of Cooper's body, we ran ropes under his belly, thus constructing a litter. Cooper was alert, his ears up. He knew what was at stake. We had to manage a few creek crossings, boggy areas as well as climb hills. With the help of the litter we could support Cooper by lifting him when necessary. Two people were in the front, one person in the back of Cooper, his cast leg in a plastic bag.

The other llamas were tied together in a string ahead of Cooper so he always had them in sight. Off we went! A few steps, then a break, a few steps. The creek was close by and the men heaved Cooper through and up the bank. Cooper cooperated, three-legged. Up the hill and down. A few steps, stop, wait, a few steps.

Cooper leaned on Ken when he took a break. I went ahead keeping the llamas just in sight. Cooper followed. A few steps. Stop. A few steps. Throughout this painstaking ordeal, Cooper held his head high, his ears forward. I could tell he was in pain. But Cooper kept going. His will to live made him endure and he never gave up. After a while, we met two rangers who had heard of our situation. They helped to lift the litter. A few steps. Stop. Recover. A few steps. Through another creek, up another bank, up and down another hill.

And Cooper walked. On three legs, dragging the cast leg, Cooper walked out of the backcountry to the road. After two hours we reached the trailer and with a last burst of energy, Cooper jumped in. I tied him to the side of the trailer, so that he was hanging in the ropes, not putting any weight on the injured leg. We looked at each other. The first crucial part was accomplished.

Look for the conclusion of Susi and Cooper's adventure in the Winter Issue of the Journal.



A small taste of what's to come.



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ESTES PARK WOOL MARKET HIGHLIGHTS YOUTH AND FIBER

By Cheryl Juntilla, Co-chair RMLA Fiber Committee

Two of the most important educational areas in which RMLA members are involved are Youth and Fiber. RMLA youth members come from all over Colorado and neighboring states to compete in the Estes Park Llama Show and there is always a strong llama and alpaca fiber presence during the Wool Market. It is the perfect event for introducing the public to llamas and alpacas, demonstrating their intelligence as pack and performance animals, and showing off their beautiful and versatile fiber. During the Wool Market you will find RMLA members all over the Estes Park Fairgrounds – in the show arena, in the alpaca and paco vicuna tent, giving demonstrations and manning the RMLA Fiber Booth in the vendor area. You could also find them and their creations at the Wooly Wonder Fashion Show held at the Rocky Mountain Park Inn. This was the second year for the fashion show and llama and alpaca items were once again a big hit.

This year it was especially exciting to see Youth and Fiber come together with some very impressive youth entries in the Llama Show Finished Products classes. It was also great to see so many members supporting RMLA's youth and fiber activities with generous donations to the two silent auctions.

This year was a great success with the Youth Silent Auction earning \$601 and the Fiber Booth Auction earning \$635.50. A great big thank you to all the members who donated such wonderful items. The youth

were offered triple points in the RMLA Youth Awards program for items with a value of \$15 or more.

This generated more items than normal. We wish we could name everyone who donated items, but fear we would leave someone out. A wonderful selection of items was donated including pack systems, journals, books, jewelry, items from Peru, embroidered shirts, sweaters, yarn, and all kinds of interesting items and not all llama related. The Youth Committee will apply the funds to awards at the end of the calendar year. The Fiber Committee will apply the funds towards trailer or booth expenses to keep the RMLA booth on the road. Thank you to the volunteers who helped set up, supervise, bring items from others along the trail, and wrap it up. A special thanks to everyone who participated and brought and/or bid on the items. The last 15 minutes of the auction is always fun to watch.

We also want to thank all of the RMLA members who helped with the Fiber Booth. Some helped with set up, some with tearing down and several took turns manning the Booth. In addition to assisting customers and answering questions about llamas and alpaca, volunteers in the Booth demonstrated the use of drop spindles and continuous strand weaving. A great big thank you to Chris Switzer, Sue Grimm, Mary Vavrina, Sonja Boeff, Carolyn Ownby, Sandy Lockwood, Patti Morgan, Karen and Paul Schwartz, Rob and Jill Knuckles and Wally Juntilla for all their help.



SNOW DYEING

Every year at the end of January, I attend a Spinners and Weavers Retreat in southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Several years ago one of the activities we did was Snow Dyeing. It is great to do when you are confined to the house during the winter—especially if you are snowed in. This year isn't a good year for snow dyeing so far, but I thought I'd share this with you since it seems they are calling for the second half of the winter to be more like winter. If we don't get snow, there is a way around the snow part!! I'll talk about that later.



You Will Need:

- Snow!! Very fine is best - and a bowl to gather it
- Disposable aluminum pan - the bigger and deeper the better
- White vinegar and a container to soak yarn
- Dyes (I use acid dyes - usually Dharma Trading Post brand, Cushings or Gaywool)
- Latex gloves and dust mask

What To Do:

Decide how many ounces of yarn you want to dye. Keep in mind, if you are doing this for a special project, make sure you dye enough as you most likely will not be able to duplicate it.

I use plastic bowls, or if doing a lot of yarn, a plastic bucket. Fill with water and add white vinegar to soak the yarn prior to dyeing. I don't have a certain amount of vinegar – just start to pour, say

glug, glug, glug and I'm done!! It has never failed me! I soak the yarn for about 30 minutes. This gets the air pockets out of the yarn and will allow the yarn to better accept the dye. Remove from the vinegar water and arrange in the aluminum pan.

Now gather your snow. You want about 2 inches on top of the yarn. Make sure you have room in the pan for the snow after it melts—so the deeper the better on the pan. Arrange the snow over the yarn making sure it is all covered. If you do not have snow, you can use shaved ice or just use water—just use enough to barely cover the yarn. You want the dye to stay where you put it, so do not completely cover the yarn with a lot of water.

Don the gloves and dust mask. I have dedicated measuring spoons for my dyeing, but you could

use a plastic spoon as well. Gently sprinkle the dye over the snow—do it randomly, in a grid, stripes—whatever your fancy. Less is best to start. Especially with the Dharma dyes and

Cushings—a little goes a LONG way with them. After the dye is applied you can remove the gloves and dust mask. Put the pan on a heat source or in the oven to melt the snow. As it melts, it will deposit the dye on the yarn under it. You can also let the pan sit at room temperature to melt the snow.

When the dye is exhausted, let the pan cool. Rinse your yarn when cool and hang to dry. Have fun and good luck!!



hw

BARN TIPS!

About 25 people attended the 2015 Conference Barn Tips session. As the organizer, I brought in a few items for show and tell and to get people to discuss their innovations. These are notes from that session. If anyone who was there notices an error, please let me know and we will do an update next newsletter. These are not endorsements from GALA but our members' suggestions to consider.

Pests:

- ❖ For flies, many said to use a large plastic bag of water with pennies and hang them around. It is supposedly confusing to the flies and they go away from that area. *RMLA Editor's note: Google these 4 words "flies pennies water bags"* Hang your traps around your manure piles; that is where flies breed.



- ❖ Cover your manure compost piles to reduce flies.
- ❖ Spalding Labs has fly parasites that reduce flies; doesn't work for deer flies, horse flies, or bees that I know of. *RMLA Editors' Note: doesn't work well in windy areas.*
- ❖ Deer Flies: Shoo Fly Insect Spray—non-toxic.



Helpful items:

- ❖ Harbor Freight has portable LED work light/flashlight for those little emergencies.
- ❖ Harbor Freight also has inexpensive headlamps for hands-free work.
- ❖ Glasses with lights attached (found in many pharmacies) are great when needing light for those extra details: checking toenails or teeth.



Ideas from the 2015 GALA Conference compiled by Carol Millard

Editor's Note: with a few of our own

- ❖ Alligator clips, Velcro clips, or Rubber Reusable Twist ties were mentioned as being very handy.
- ❖ Wire snips a must to have around.
- ❖ Tractor Supply has a variety of automatic gate latches; some that allow a gate to swing in both directions or those that close and lock behind you. If you have an old barn or a lot of movement from frost heaves where your latches are, it is helpful to have long bars to allow the latch to move up and down in the bar or latch area.



Hose hints:

- ❖ Use your old hose to cover any old barbed wire fence to protect your animals from injury. Thread it or slice it lengthwise and place over barbed wire.
- ❖ If you want to use those new pocket hoses that are very easy to handle and that automatically shorten, try to get heavier duty ones with metal ends. Be sure to drain and bring it in during freezes as they will freeze and crack.
- ❖ If you have hand hydrants for your water source, be sure to replace the valves occasionally. If they leak, that will cause freezing.

Safety:

On the electrical side, several suggestions revolved around safety. Have GFCI installed around water areas, have some kind of emergency lights and fire extinguishers handy.



continued on page 24

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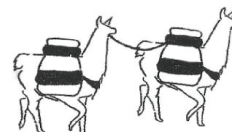
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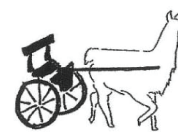
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A Long Time Ago

In August 1997, RMLA sponsored the first 'stand-alone' ALSA youth show. The Summer Classic was held in Castle Rock, CO and 45 youth and their families attended. Marie Hoover and Lougene Baird, both RMLA Life Members, were superintendents. Marie continues to volunteer for RMLA as an active participant in the Finance committee. Lougene is serving as the current President.



NEW RMLA Members

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

Welcome!

**Amber & Jeremy Stueven, -
Ft. Collins, 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, a signed release is required from a 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*

Grooming aids:

Tractor Supply and Quality Llama Products have Tangler Wrangler Detangling brush that some said worked great on llamas. Toilet brushes work well to clean off the surface too, especially legs.



- ❖ Clean fans with toilet brush.
- ❖ Use soaker hose that llamas can lay on.
- ❖ Mistlers attached low to the fence.
- ❖ Low spray sprayers.

Weed control around fences:

Check out the Weed Dragon Torch (can be used for many other purposes).



No electricity to get water:

Have the volunteer fire department fill a large tank of water and cover it with shear curtain to keep it clean. Acts as a solar heater too. Of course, this doesn't work as well in

the winter. *RMLA Editors' Note: You can now use 2-55gal drums to store runoff water in Colorado. Use Google.com to search for 'deep well hand pump' to keep well water flowing when there is no electricity!*



Footwear:

Consider Bog Boots.

Helping neighbors:

- ❖ Leave a map of your property and what animals are supposed to be where just in case they get out when you are not home.
- ❖ Leave a picture book or poster with photos of animals.

Editors' Note: Members send us, RMLAeditor@gmail.com, your barn tips. We will publish in an upcoming Journal.

Reprinted from THE GALA NEWSLETTER, MAY 2016

Clean buckets:

Use an ice fisherman's ladle or strainer to scoop out leaves and debris. Also can use a fish net or kitchen hand strainer.

Keeping cool:

- ❖ To keep llamas from stepping in large water troughs (one of mine loves to bath her legs), put logs or blocks in front of it so they can't stand close enough to step into it.



- ❖ Barn fans: only time to buy that extended coverage warranty is for your fans, so I am told.

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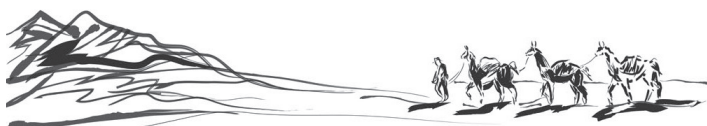


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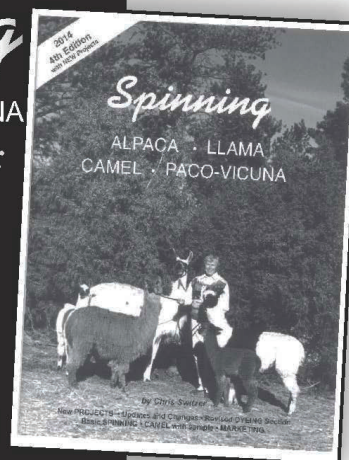
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by Chris Switzer

4th Edition • 52 pages

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Cold Weather Management Tips for Camelids

By Stephen Hull, MS, PhD, and Tom Cameron, DVM
Photos by Katrina Petteys Capasso, Dakota Ridge Llama Farm

Winter will soon be upon us. Here are some tips for handling the cold and some measures to prevent cold weather losses. Few of these tips cost any money. Above all, watch your weather forecasts for sudden drops in temperatures - especially those associated with wind. It is the change that is hardest.

First, watch out for any animal shivering. This is danger, danger, danger. Cold affects the rumen protozoa and they stop digesting forages. Consequently, the rumen shuts down, the alpaca or llama cannot generate heat, and death can be only hours away. Dominant (alpha) animals will find the warmest areas and will push out younger or other less dominant animals. The alpha animals also hog the hay, will prevent other animals eating. Be especially careful of newly weaned yearlings as they are having troubles finding their way in the group. Each year I often have to put yearling males in a stall in my girl's barn with heaters. Older animals also get pushed aside.

As we know, camelids can deal with cold, as long as there is little wind. So get some shelter (tarps, hay bales, etc.) up to protect them from the wind. Suris are especially susceptible to wind chill. But check all your animals' body scores as the fleece will hide a thin body frame. Those thin animals are especially vulnerable to the cold.

Another tip is to bring them hot water to drink. I fill two five-gallon plastic pails half way up with steaming hot tap water and carry them (one in each hand) to the barn where I mix with some cold water resulting in about 100-degree F water. Even though I have other electrically "heated" water buckets, the water in those is maybe 45 degrees F. I also put in 1/4 cup of dry Gatorade (mine love the lemon lime flavor) in a full five-gallon pail. The electrolytes in Gatorade assist with digestion, protozoa and rumen function. The animals line up to drink deep, long draughts. I do this

several times a day in bitterly cold weather. The smiles they give you are one reward for your work.

To keep bucket water warm for a longer time, I wrap the outside of the plastic five gallon buckets with aluminized bubble foil (aka "TecFoil") available at Home Depot/Lowes/etc. Secure it in place with metal



foil tape (in hardware). The bottom gets insulated with two layers. Hot water stays warm for hours longer.

Males especially need extra warm water to flush out their urinary tract. In cold weather, camelids will not drink enough water and consequently do not have a full vigorous stream of expelled urine. The weaker stream allows urinary crystals (uroliths) to accumulate along the "S" shaped urinary urethra and they often get winter urinary tract blockages. More warm water allows them to flush out deposits that normally are swept away with urine flow.

Forget cleaning out the barn! Allow waste hay and droppings to accumulate. Spread out more hay on top as this provides a warm "bed" for them to lie on. Straw is actually a far better insulator compared to hay as it has more trapped air volume, but you may not have time to get it. Many farms in Switzerland allow the accumulating composting heat from floor manure/bedding hay throughout the winter to keep their livestock warm. And they keep livestock in the lower levels of their houses! Quite a clean out in the spring!

continued on next page



A word of caution from Dr. Callan, CSU Veterinarian Teaching Hospital: Allowing waste and hay to accumulate will increase heat. But, it also increases ammonia gases and that can have a negative impact on respiratory health if the barn is not well ventilated. It is a balance. Trying to keep a clean dry straw bedding pack of 6 inches to insulate from the ground is what we do for dairy calves in outdoor hutches and this will work for camelids.

Another more high-tech approach is to use those red electric heat lamps above bedding spots. Just be careful to put on the wire shield so an animal can't accidentally hit/touch it and get burned. Electric dog "whelping mats" (PetCo, PetsMart) provide a very toasty bedding place for cold animals. As with all electricity issues, take care with water, electricity, extension cords and the cold (brittle) wires. Remember urine has salts and this is a superb conductor of electricity.

Put lots of jackets on young and older animals. The females that had crias this fall are especially vulnerable. They are lactating and that puts a huge energy demand on them. This cold adds yet another demand. Many are also rebred. One result of a sudden severe cold snap is abortion. Don't lose your pregnancies due to cold weather shock.

You don't need expensive jackets to keep your animals warm. Old wool sweaters, large ski jackets, etc. all work. Cut the sleeves off at the elbows and slip them on. Zippers go along their backbone. Recall leg warmers from the 80's? They fit on necks to keep them warm and are given away free at Goodwill. My

females like the pink ones funny looking, but WHO cares. I often get the jacket/sweater rejects (frayed sleeves) at the local Goodwill store for nothing.

Don't double the daily pellet/grain ration. Increase it maybe 25-30%, but NOT more. Rather, POUR on the hay. Don't scrimp now. This would also be a great time to throw out some alfalfa hay (not pellets).

Normally, alfalfa is too "hot" a forage with excess protein for the average camelid. But this sudden cold is not normal. The rumen heat of digesting rumen forage, especially from alfalfa, helps ruminants keep warm. Grains do not provide this digestive heat. (Note: horses, without a rumen, do need more grain in the cold.) About 2 -3 lbs. of daily extra alfalfa forage per animal can be a life saver. And they love it. Two 70



lb. alfalfa bales (about \$8 each) for ten animals should last you about a week.

Vet schools will be deluged with cold weather cases this year. Hypothermic stress causes ulcers, abortions - and a lot of deaths. I am not trying to cut off their revenue source, but rather helping you save some dollars and your animal's health! Vets would far prefer to not deal with cold stress as it is preventable. Keep warm and PREVENT hypothermia as it is much less expensive (compared to treatment).

Reprinted from the Humming Herald, Winter 2015



Assessing an Animal Prior to Calling Your Veterinarian

From International Camelid Institute

It is very important to call your veterinarian any time there is a medical problem with one of your animals. When you call your veterinarian, being able to report some basic information about the animal and its environment can greatly improve the veterinarian's ability to assess the situation and determine the steps required to resolve the problem.

The following guide can help you report the information that will be most beneficial to your veterinarian. More in-depth explanations can be found by watching the ICI video "Examining Your Animal before Calling Your Veterinarian."

1) Check Respiration

- For the most accurate results, check/observe respiration before handling the animal.
- Watch the chest movement: does it appear to be even and regular or rapid and shallow?
- Look at the nostrils: is there excessive flaring of the nostrils?
- Assess respiratory rate by counting the number of breaths taken in a 15-second period and multiplying by four to get "breaths per minute".

2) Heart Rate

- If you have a stethoscope, place the bell against the chest wall, behind the elbow (either side); count the number of beats in a 15-second period, then multiply by four to get "beats per minute". You can hear what a "normal" heart sounds like on the video.
- If you do not have stethoscope, place your hand over the same area and feel the beats for a 15-second period, multiply by four.

3) Temperature

- Restrain the animal so that you are able to lift its tail to insert the thermometer into the rectum; a quick-reading digital thermometer is recommended for accuracy and to lessen discomfort to the animal.

4) Mucous Membranes

- Check the color of the third eyelid by pulling lower lid down; it should be pink - make note

if it is bright red or very pale. Check the gums by pressing on them, waiting 2-3 seconds to make sure color returns.

5) Listen for C1 contractions

- This is done by placing the stethoscope over the C-1 compartment of the stomach, on the left side of the animal, behind the last rib and listening for 2-3 minutes. Normal gut sounds will sound like soft, rolling thunder.

6) Palpation of the Abdomen

- Place your hands on each side of the animal's abdomen. Is it larger than usual? Does it feel tight? Is the animal resistant to being touched?

7) Feces

- Note if the animal has passed feces (manure), the consistency (diarrhea, dry, clumped, etc.) and color of the feces.

8) Environmental Assessment

- Note whether the animal has access to feed and water. Also note if the animal is eating and drinking normally.
- Note the temperature outside. Is the ambient temperature extreme (hot or cold)?

"The above article is one of a series in the ICI's "Barn Book" articles that accompany several of the ICI Video Series for camelid owners. We encourage owners to visit the site (www.icinfo.org) view the videos, download the "Barn Book" articles for use when working with your animals and get familiar with all the additional resources that are available. All information that the ICI offers is FREE and most may be downloaded and kept for reference."

Editors' Note

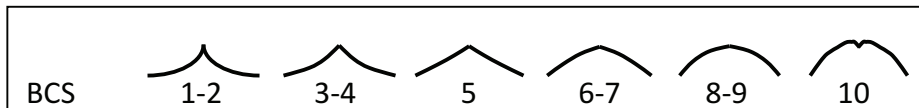
We asked Dr. Callan at CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital to review this article to assure its appropriateness for the Rocky Mountain Region. He responded that it is and in fact he had taught this same subject in seminars. He then graciously offered the physical exam sheet on the following page for use by our members.

Download and print these two pages at RMLA website. See the "Vet articles-PDF" link on the front page.

CAMELID PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Vital Signs

Temperature: _____ °F Heart Rate: _____ /min Resp. Rate: _____ /min
 Body Weight: _____ pounds Body Condition Score: _____ out of 10 (normal 5-7)



Mucous Membranes (Gums and Oral Cavity)

Color: Pink (normal) Pale Red Blue Grey Yellow
 Moisture: Wet/Damp (normal) Dry
 Capillary Refill Time: _____ seconds (normal <3 seconds, >3 sec means dehydration or shock)

Eyes

Sclera: Slight Pink (normal) Pale/White Small Blood Vessels Large Blood Vessels
 Conjunctiva: Pink (normal) Red Swollen
 Globe Recession (medial canthus): _____ millimeters (normal <2mm, >2 means dehydration)

Extremities (ears, limbs) Warm (normal) Cold (shock)

Respiratory System

Nostrils: No or Minimal Flaring Notable Flaring
 Nasal Discharge: Moist Clear Fluid (normal) Cloudy/Snotty Blood
 Larynx and Trachea Auscultation: Clear Breath Sounds Stertor or Stridor
 Thoracic Auscultation: Quiet (normal) Loud Crackles Wheezes
 Respiratory Character: Normal Rapid and Shallow Slow and Deep

Abdomen and GI System

Appetite: Normal (1.5-2% BW/day) Decreased (How long? _____ days)
 Feces Amount: Normal Decreased
 Fecal Character: Normal Pellets Soft Watery Blood
 Evidence of Colic: None Laying with legs to side Kicking or Stamping
 Abdominal Palpation: Normal Tight or Distended Empty or Thin
 Compartment 1 Contractions (left side): _____ /min (normal 2-6/min)
 Intestinal Motility (right side): Some Gurgling (normal) No Gurgling Lots of Gurgling

Urinary System

Urine: Clear or Pale Yellow Dark Yellow Red
 Urination: Normal Straining No Urine Observed
 If Straining or No Urine, check for urethral pulsations by digital rectal exam in males.

Update on the Heska Element POC™ Rapid Blood Analyzer

By Stacey Byers, CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Editors' Note: Dr. Byers first reported on this analyzer in the Winter 2014 issue of the Journal. The following is an update on their research.

Dr. Stacey Byers and (newly graduated) Dr. Katlin Horning evaluated the Heska Element POC™ Rapid Blood Analyzer as a project funded by the CSU Center for Companion Animal Studies. The project compared results from blood tested on the analyzer against a “benchtop” analyzer at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

The purpose of the analyzer is to assist veterinarians in rapidly obtaining some basic blood work on the farm. The results can be obtained in less than a minute and evaluate red blood cell values (hematocrit, hemoglobin), glucose, kidney function (creatinine), electrolytes (sodium, chloride, potassium, calcium), bicarbonate, lactate, pH, and blood gas concentrations. Currently there is only one other portable instrument in addition to the point of care glucometers commonly used. Therefore, veterinarians need to take blood samples back to the clinic or submit to a testing laboratory where it can take 24-48 hours to obtain results. We thought this device could help a veterinarian in determining appropriate medical therapies while on site with the patient and evaluated its use in camelids and goats.

To use the analyzer, a veterinarian collects a small amount of blood (less than 0.25 ml). The test card (shown on the left in the photo) is

placed in the analyzer and when ready, the user injects the blood sample into an opening on the card. The analyzer then processes the sample and in less than a minute lists the results. The results can be evaluated on the screen or downloaded to a computer.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s analyzer was used as the “gold standard” to compare to the results from the portable analyzer. Sample collection is completed and the interpretation of the statistical analyses is underway. The machine shows promise for use in camelids however some minor adjustments to reference ranges for the various measure parameters will likely be needed. We expect to submit the results for publication in the spring of 2017. The analyzer is currently marketed by Heska for use in dogs, cats, and horses.



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2016 Sharon Beacham Fiber Award

This year's Sharon Beacham Fiber Award went to John, Sarah, and Moran Barba. They were exhibiting at the Estes Park Wool Market for the first time. Quite a beginning!

Photo by Wally Juntilla



Recent Additions to the RMLA Library

By Dick Williams, Chair, Library Committee

We have received two recent donations to the RMLA Library:

- Life, Love, Llamas and Laughs Arthur Kennel M.D. (this book is about his life, Kennel llamas and related topics) - donated by Linda Hayes
- Love a Llama (VHS only) A 6 tape set of presentations by many prominent folks in the early llama industry at a 1988 symposium.) - donated by Chris Switzer.



Thank you, Linda and Chris, for your generous donations. Below is a review from Linda Hayes of the book by Dr. Kennel.

Life, Love, Llamas and Laughs: My Story by Art Kennel, MD

Art Kennel was one of the early movers and shakers in the llama world. A noted heart doctor at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, he was also a breeder of some of the best llamas in the US. While the book is his life story, it also chronicles the history of llamas in this country and the personalities involved.

He was an exceptional person to whom llama owners owe a debt of gratitude. As a member of the Morris Animal Foundation and the early llama organizations, he helped get llamas recognized as a domestic animal instead of an exotic.

An interesting read, he tells of growing up on a Mennonite farm, being a doctor in Nairobi, Africa, showing llamas and much more. I'd recommend this book even if it didn't have anything in it about llamas. If you are at all interested in the history of llamas, borrow the book from the RMLA library. The book is 449 pages.

The library is free to members. It contains a variety of information for adults and children on topics such as grooming, fiber and fiber processing, housing, packing, health, training, driving, stories and more. There are more than 300 titles.

To see a complete listing of library materials, go to www.RMLA.com and click on the Library tab. Follow the link to request your item(s). Or, scroll down to see the list of items available, then request your item.

Questions: please contact me, Dick Williams at bellama@blackfoot.net. Thank you and enjoy the library.



Postscript from the Journal Volunteers

Be grateful for all that you have. We are! Thank you everyone for your contributions to this issue of the Journal.

IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER. —JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

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EVENTS CALENDAR BY MARY WICKMAN (EVENTS CHAIR)

For more details and live links, go to www.RMLA.com, select EVENTS, and hover over title.

- ◆ September 24 & 25, 2016 Higher Ground Fair, Laramie, WY Llama and alpaca Performance & Fleece Shows. A full llama and alpaca performance show paired with a fleece show. The show is in conjunction with a regional fair celebrating rural living in the Rocky Mountains. Everything from music and art to agriculture and animals - drawing on tradition to build strong, self-sustainable communities. Contact Gayle Woodsum at gmwrites@icloud.com or 1-307-399-3815.
- ◆ October 1-2, 2016, Taos Fiber Festival, Taos, NM. The Fiber Coop booth will again be at the Taos Fiber Festival. Contact Jill Knuckles at talltaillamas@gmail.com or 970-487-0223 or Cheryl Juntilla at cajwdj@aol.com or 970-640-8028 to volunteer and to become a consigner in the booth.
- ◆ October 8, 2016, RMLA Annual Meeting, Henderson & Northglenn, CO. An RMLA members-only tour of the recycle facility in Henderson begins at 10 AM. Lunch and annual meeting follows after the tour. See the RMLA website rmla.com/html/annual_meeting.html. Contact Geri Rutledge at buckshollow@wildblue.net before Sept. 20th for RSVP lunch reservations.