

The Journal of RMLA



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All RMLA Youth Invited

Join the Fun & Excitement



Any youth can join the RMLA Youth Awards Program (YAP). The program begins on January 1 and ends on December 31.

Annual cost is \$25 which includes a Youth Membership in RMLA, enrollment in the YAP and a copy of the quarterly RMLA Journal.

And, here is more good news: Youth do not need to be a member of a show organization or 4H extension to join. Youth do not have to own an animal; borrowing and being a guest or family member with others is fine.

The table below shows all the ways you can earn points while having fun with your llama or alpaca, with your friends, and on the internet! Yes, your activities are recorded online with RMLA. As you go to events, complete projects and continue to be mentors for others, you will earn points. At the end of the year, your points are totaled from the submissions you have made. Remember, we can only total what you enter.

Go to <http://www.rmla.com/youth/> for all of the details. If you have questions, contact Marshal Rutledge, mrut11@hotmail.com.

Value 5 Pts	Value 10 Pts	Value 15 Pts	Value 20 Pts
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Monthly 4H Meeting (1/month) (registered with extension)	<input type="checkbox"/> Show ALSA or AOA Youth Class entry only Alpaca or Llama	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend and participate in State Conference L or A	<input type="checkbox"/> Vet School Open House Local Vet or University
<input type="checkbox"/> 200 Word Essay on Camelids (1/ mo)	<input type="checkbox"/> County Fair Show Registered to Show L or A	<input type="checkbox"/> Exposition Day Farm Store Advertised Public Event	<input type="checkbox"/> RMLA Youth Fundraiser Donations to RMLA YOUTH
<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer 2 hours List organization benefited	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Home Visit Planned 2 hr event	<input type="checkbox"/> Showmanship Clinic Sponsored Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Parade Event Community Organized
<input type="checkbox"/> Meet N Greet Event with animals (2 hr minimum)	<input type="checkbox"/> Media Interview Radio, TV, Newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Camp Llama or Alpaca Per Day Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Visit School/ Daycare with advertised/ planned event
<input type="checkbox"/> Bring a friend to event Conference Camp Should not be L/ A Owner, new to this	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer at Information booth for L/ A Organization 2 hour minimum	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign up a NEW RMLA Member, cannot be member in previous years	<input type="checkbox"/> Education Clinic/ Training or Showing related to Llama and Alpaca
<input type="checkbox"/> Get new friend to join your local 4H group	<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibition Show Only Public Event advertised	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend 4 H Day Camp Any subject matter	<input type="checkbox"/> Donate item to silent auction at EPWM
<input type="checkbox"/> Write report on Shearing Day and how you are using the wool this year	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for another owner Farm Open House *Not for personal gain	<input type="checkbox"/> Make a 15 dollar donation to the RMLA Youth Award Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Make a 20 dollar donation to the RMLA Youth Award Program

ALSO:

The top youth of 2018 for RMLA Awards Program are Morgan Barba, Christain Abel, and Malachi Abel. All have received this years' award: personalized belt buckles. A total of 11 youth participated in the 2018 program.

Morgan Barba shows off her belt buckle in the photo. As luck would have it, she received it just before heading out for her prom!

Will your photo be here next year?



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The information in The Journal is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. 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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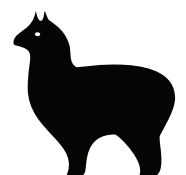
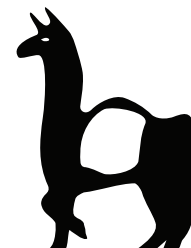
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Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

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 Horz.	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
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 10% discount.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ARTICLE AND AD SUBMISSION:** Email all text and/or graphics content to: RMLAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM. 'Camera ready' ads and articles should be submitted via email in .PDF, or any text readable by MS Word. Images alone should be submitted in .jpeg(.jpg) or .tiff. Quality photos start at 1-2MB.
- We suggest ads and article graphics be submitted in color at 300dpi. Both will be converted to grayscale for printing.
- For ad design or graphics that require scanning: Use address: RMLA/Ron Hinds -5704 Canyon Trail, Elizabeth, CO 80107-7814 or email to AD-DESIGN@RMLA.COM. Phone: 303-646-1320.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT:** Send your check, payable to RMLA, along with a copy of the ad to:
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- Payment and ad copy must be received prior to submission deadline. See the table above for dates.

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EDITORS' CORNER

RMLA educational conference: a huge success! Dr. Callan from CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital was scheduled to give 2 talks: 9:30 - 10:30 Fundamental health evaluation and medical care for llamas and alpacas and 11:00-11:45 Biosecurity and Biocontainment for the Llama Herd. Both talks needed to be 'cut off' in spite of the remaining questions and hands in the air. Many folks at the conference needed a break!

But Dr. Callan continued to answer questions during the break, during lunch and for an hour after the conference ended at 3. He did get to sit and listen to the 2 presentations on pasture management given by staff of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). At the end of the day Dr. Callan said to me "Why don't these people write to Ask the Vet? Their questions are great."

So I ask each of you to send your camelid questions to Ask the Vet at rmlaeditor@gmail.com. Dr. Callan loves to answer questions and help people learn. And when you send your question to Ask the Vet, we all get to learn. Such a deal.

The Together We Are Better Conference held in April was a huge success. Read more on pages 16 and 17. Llama and alpaca showing in Peru is indeed different; see the article by Linda Hayes on page 21. A llama death from a poisonous plant inspired us to do a little research on this topic. We have provided you with a list of resources on page 20.

All in all, the Summer issue is another one jam packed with information provided and inspired by YOU. For that, we thank you.

Kathy & Ron



Cover Photo: Shows handlers in Peru holding the animals with a rope around the neck, despite the normal halter as described in the Linda Hayes' article 'Judging Carra Llamas in Peru' on page 21. Photo taken at the 2000 Alpaca Fiesta in Arequipa, Peru by Ron Hinds. The Fiesta also included an equal number of quality Llamas.

2019 Fairplay Llama & Alpaca Event

Exciting Changes This Year

The Fairplay Llama Event is held in conjunction with the Town of Fairplay's Burro Days, held the last full weekend of July. This year's llama and alpaca event will be on Saturday, July 27th followed by the burro race on Sunday.

New this year! Due to popular, public demand, we are expanding what has previously been named "Public Walk" and will now be known as "Walk with a Llama or Alpaca". The public will be able to enjoy a stroll with a llama or alpaca and experience the feel for the wonderful world of llamas and alpacas at a slower pace.

And, you can walk with your animal to have fun, ensure a safe walk, talk about your ranch, and your life with llamas and/or alpacas.

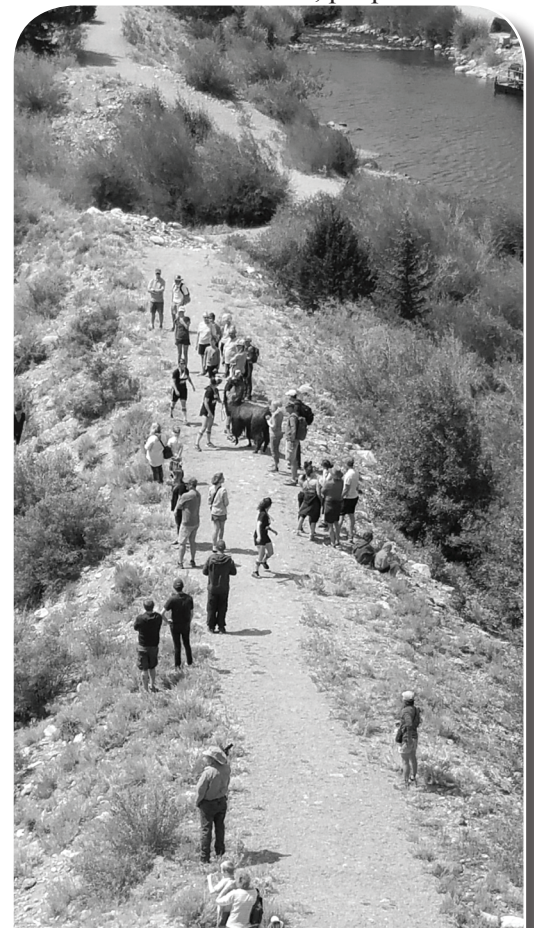
Please Help!!! Each year more and more people register for this event. We run short of animals; people have to team up, etc. So please bring every llama and/or alpaca that you can possibly bring to share with the many interested people who want to learn about these animals.

With an increasing number of contestants and attendees, there is a huge demand for us to pull together and host the most exciting, action packed, and family orientated llama event in the nation. This is our golden opportunity to exhibit what we can do as an association, educate the community on llamas and alpacas, and inspire the youth of tomorrow!

First event The Pack Llama Race has been reorganized as well. Each person who enters is required to bring their own or find a llama to use that is well conditioned and has endurance for the race. This is the oldest Pack Llama Race in existence. Llamas must have saddle, panniers, and 30 pounds of gear. The object of this heat is to make it through the course and to the finish line as quickly as possible.

Returning as usual! The Llama Lunacy Course for the children is free and opens around noon. Each child who walks our gentle PR llama through the small obstacle course receives a ribbon and a coupon for an ice cream cone at the Silver Scoop Creamery.

Love those medical people! The Llama Rama is sponsored by Rocky Mountain Rural Health (www.RMRH.org). This wacky race is run by medical professionals who dress up in costumes. Each team of four participants, dressed in costumes, runs with a single llama. The main goal of this event is to generate awareness of the need for organ and tissue donation



Details: the RMLA Home Page (www.rmla.com) has links to the event details including the registration pages and maps.

If you can help us prepare for the event or on the day of the event, contact Lougene Baird, lougenebaird@outlook.com.

If you are able to bring llamas and alpacas to be used on the Walk, please contact Geri Rutledge, buckshollow@wildblue.net.

If you have a question or can help with the Pack Race, contact Toby Stensland, toby@stensland.com



The Education and Outreach Project

===== Bringing knowledge, fun and ideas to others =====

By Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay – Chair, Education & Outreach Committee

Think about what you can do with your llamas and alpacas to show them off to the public, spread the word about them and do some good at the same time.

Featured Idea: Charity Events Find out about charity organizations, YMCA programs, special-needs kid programs, teen empowering organizations etc. in your area and offer a llama / alpaca walk or meet-and-greet event. Nothing feels as good as showing off your camelids AND feeling GREAT about making somebody's day extra special.

Tip: Make sure to call the local newspaper and encourage them to cover your event.

And look for Susi's article about a Llama Day Trek with Eagle Mount's Big Sky Kids Program in the Fall issue of the Journal. Our llama day trek will take 13 young adults who have reached remission after cancer treatment on a gentle llama day hike in Yellowstone National Park.

Finally check out the RMLA website under the Education and Outreach Tab. Here you will find information and resources to assist you. Questions? Ideas? Contact Susi at education-outreach@rmla.com



h w

www.HowToCatchALlama.com

Animal rescue site for people who need to catch llamas and alpacas.

Designed for people who know absolutely nothing about llamas and alpacas.

This site gives those who need to catch llamas the tools to do so. It has links to locals who can help.

A joint effort of the International Llama Foundation and the International Lama Registry



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Munge Ado About Nothing?

An Overview of Skin Diseases in New World Camelids

South American (new world) camelids, particularly the alpaca, continue to increase in popularity across the USA and are accordingly presented for veterinary care more and more frequently. As such, veterinarians know more about a wide variety of skin conditions and disease in new world camelids than ever before. And there is still much to learn.

In a postal survey conducted in the UK by D'Alterio and others (2006), 51.1% of respondents indicated that skin diseases were seen in their herds at one time or another. Known skin conditions include: parasites, infections, allergy, cancer, zinc-responsive dermatosis, auto-immune skin disease and the mysterious 'munge'. This article provides a brief overview of 'munge' in new world camelids and its management.

'Munge' is the affectionate term given to a disease affecting the skin around the nose, mouth, eyes, ears, sometimes the nasal bridge and rarely other areas such as the limbs, abdomen and perineum. This condition, otherwise known as 'idiopathic nasal/perioral hyperkeratotic dermatosis', often is first noted in young individuals (less than 2 years of age) and is characterized by thick crusts that can occasionally progress in size to obstruct the nostrils. Affected animals are generally otherwise well.

If one were to peel off the crusts, the underlying skin is often inflamed. To the present day, no one treatment is reliably effective in curing all suspected cases of this disease. Veterinary dermatologists theorize that munge is not a specific disease, but rather can be a 'reaction pattern' to a number of underlying skin diseases, and in some cases, may represent an inflammatory condition of unknown cause. In fact, the term "idiopathic" means that the

specific cause is unknown. In a proportion of cases the disease may wax and wane over time and, rarely, has spontaneous resolution been documented.

Most instances of 'munge' require a diagnostic work-up to identify and treat an underlying trigger, although the trigger is not always found.



- After a thorough physical examination, surface samples are obtained from the skin using acetate (Scotch) tape, stained, and examined under a microscope to assess for evidence of bacterial infection. This infection can be a result of the accumulation of crust on the skin, making the condition worse.
- Skin scrapings are performed and microscopically examined to assess for parasites. Many such critters have been found to cause skin disease in camelids such as mites (Sarcoptes, Chorioptes, Psoroptes, Demodex) and lice (Pediculus species).

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- Hair plucks are obtained to assess for fungal infections (ex. dermatophytosis or 'ringworm') by examination of hairs under the microscope and fungal culture tests.
- If no infections or mites are found, a skin biopsy can be performed to diagnose zinc-responsive dermatosis, autoimmune disease, or inflammatory changes seen with 'munge' with no other identifiable disease present.

Treatment is directed by the results of diagnostic testing.

- Bacterial skin infections are managed with topical antiseptics (Betadine scrub) or injectable antibiotics if the infection is generalized across much of the body.
- Parasite infestations are treated based upon the specific parasite, most often involving the use of ivermectin (Sarcoptes), 2-3% lime sulfur dips or doramectin (Chorioptes) as well as permethrin dusts/sprays (louse infestations).
- Treatment of fungal infections such as dermatophytosis involves the use of topical antiseptics such as 2-3% lime sulfur dips.
- Zinc-responsive dermatosis, as the name suggests, warrants supplementation of the feed with zinc methionine for life.

- Finally, true, idiopathic 'munge' is an inflammatory condition that may respond to steroid therapy applied directly onto the affected skin, injected into the skin lesions, or as an oral medication.

There remains no means of preventing the development of this syndrome although we recommend routine parasite prevention practices and the provision of a high-quality diet to optimize the coat of camelids.

Although 'munge' has become a household term among some owners, this syndrome, based upon the limited data available, appears to be relatively uncommon in camelids in both the USA and UK. Zinc-responsive dermatoses, parasite infestations, bacterial infections and cancers are more common.

Unfortunately, our understanding of the causes and appropriate therapies for many of the above described skin diseases, including the syndrome 'munge', remains incomplete. However, our knowledge and understanding of this condition continues to expand and we recommend seeking veterinary care for your animals if they display any of the above mentioned signs.

The CSU Livestock and Dermatology Services hope that this article was fun and informative, and if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us by calling 970-297-5000.



Additional Resources on Munge

By Ron Hinds – el Zorro Colorado Alpacas – Elizabeth, CO

It seems solutions for the 'problematic' Munge have been around for quite a while. I found interesting information in **Veterinary Clinics of North America: Update on Llama Medicine - ISSN 0749-0720**.

A side note: this book, originally written in 1994, was out of print until recently when someone discovered its value again! Now it has been reprinted and is available online.

The following suggestions are from CSU-VTH veterinarian, Dr. Rod AW Rosychuk's article, pages 228-239.

1. Using 10% povidone iodine scrubs with the application of 7% tincture of iodine to affected areas. May be combined with systemic antibiotic such as: penicillin 400,000 U/kg SubQ every 24 hours for 7-10 days and other antibiotics (See source).

2. The use of triamcinolone acetonide has also shown improvement both in topical form for milder lesions and injection into the base of the lesions in more severe cases. Dramatic results have occurred with prolonged remission when given in one to three treatments.

Note: triamcinolone acetonide is a steroid and should not be used on pregnant females, even in the smallest amount.

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What Can You Create with Cat Hair?

By Kathy Stanko, Chair – Fiber Committee

It was the final afternoon of the Sneffels Fiber Festival. We were all tired. One of the festival volunteers came up to me and introduced me to Wayne, a gentleman who spends his summers in Ouray, CO and the winters in Florida. He travels with his cat, Charlie.

Wayne presented me with a bag of hair from his cat. We are talking grams of fiber, not ounces. The question was: can I make him something from Charlie's hair. I said 'of course' but I would need to figure it out and probably get a spinner involved. I also said I would need a deposit and his contact information. The deposit was to make sure he was serious.

The cat hair was very short, maybe $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, with no crimp. It would need to be blended with a spinnable fiber. The color of the cat hair was mostly off-white with a bit of orange/apricot. I had some white llama that would match and I managed to snag some apricot alpaca from a friend.

First I blended the cat hair on my drum carder to get the blended color. Then I carded the white llama and began adding the apricot alpaca until I had the same color. Wow, now the huge leap of faith; no turning back: I began carding the llama/alpaca blend into the cat fiber. A little at a time so as to not lose the 'cat', but to create a carded blend that could be spun. The resulting batt was about 40% llama/alpaca blend and 60% cat hair. Strong enough to be spun. Now I had just about an ounce of fiber.

I sent the blended fiber off to my hand-spinner and asked her to spin it about a fingering weight to

ensure that I had enough yarn to knit something. While the spinning was happening Wayne and I traded ideas on what he would like me to make. We agreed on bookmarks

The yarn came back; it was a 2-ply Fingering #1 (19-22 wpi) spun worsted. I began knitting. As you can see, I was able to get two bookmarks which I embellished with a couple of charms. Also a small coaster and a little yarn left over just in case something needed to be fixed.

In the end, I sent the package off to Wayne, including his entire deposit. Everyone involved in this project did it out of love. Wayne was overwhelmed with the gifts. He questioned the return of his deposit and I suggested that he donate it to the local animal shelter, which he did.



Additional Resources on Munge continued ...

Second Side Note: Triamcinolone acetonide is the active ingredient in Nasacort®, an allergy nose spray available over-the-counter at your local pharmacy.

3. Zinc supplementation may also benefit with the use of 2g of zinc sulfate/day or 4g zinc methionine (Zinpro)/day given for multiple months with everyday minerals.

Mike Safley, Northwest Alpacas, posted a munge remedy that has been used over the last 30+ years. It is called 'Witches Brew' and you can find it on-line. Here is the recipe:

- ...2/3 pint mineral oil
- ...1/5 pint DMSO
- ...8 ml Ivermectin
- ...5 cc Gentamycin (50 mg per ml)

If you purchase the over-the-counter items, most veterinarians can provide the Gentamycin. Put the mixture in a spray bottle. Avoid any eye contact.



STAND STILL, PLEASE

By Marty McGee Bennett
CameliDynamics

How is the best way to teach a young llama to stand still, especially during a showmanship class?

First this a central question that is intertwined with almost everything we do with our animals.-

The real question is “Why won’t my alpaca or llama stand?” Llamas and alpacas know how to stand still, they do it all the time. So you really don’t have to teach the animal how to do ‘stand’, you need to make it safe for the animal to stand still instead of doing what he thinks is the safer thing under the circumstances—and that is to run away.

If the animal is going to stand in a show ring that means teaching your animal that it is safe to have a human approach him and perhaps touch him. This is a huge leap of faith for an animal that basically runs for a living. It is like running INTO a burning building.

Changing the way you do things at home on a regular basis is the best way to create a sense of safety when you head to the show ring. IF you are in the habit of using the corner-grab-hold approach to catching, getting your llama to stand still in the show ring is going to be extremely difficult. Think about it...if you, the person with whom your llama or alpaca has the most familiarity, has to resort to trapping him in a corner to catch him at home when there are no strange lights, people, and noises, it will be exponentially harder at a show. How you catch your animals at home is the place for you to begin to make changes. If you are one of the llama or alpaca folks that use a catch pen for catching your animals, then good for you! If you are not using a catch pen consistently, that is the first thing to change.

To get more bang for your buck in the catch pen, approach your llama from behind his eye and allow him to move around the pen until he comes to a stop. Catching a llama or alpaca using a corner means that the animal learns

that when a human approaches the thing you do is evade until you **can’t** and then you must accept being caught.

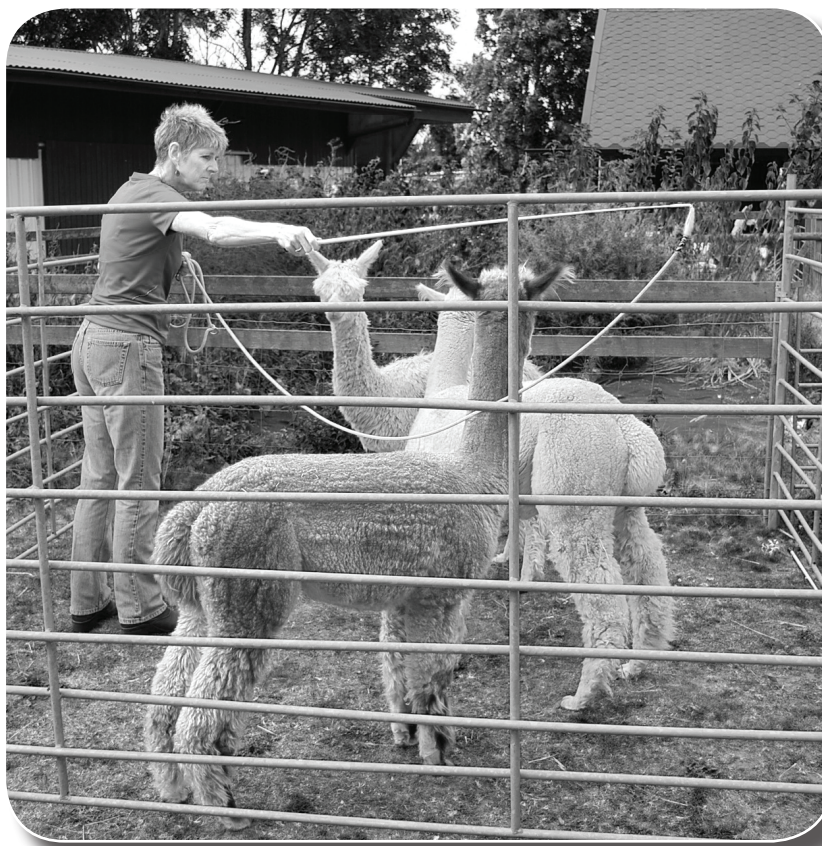
We typically corner and hold or tie our llamas or alpacas still for most of the interactions we have with them. This provides very little opportunity for them to develop self-control. There are no corners in the show ring. When the ring steward and judge approach your animal his conditioned response to move away kicks in. The animal will try to move away and when you hold him still, he will get frightened and try even harder to get away and this is the reason he won’t stand.

Allowing your animal to move away from you in the confines of the catch pen until he stops on his own teaches your animal that it is possible to for him to override his instinctive flight response and remain standing, which sets the stage for improved behavior in the show ring. You cannot get good at something unless you have an opportunity to try it and practice it. Teaching your llama to stop and stand on his own each time you catch him is a great investment for future success.

Once your llama student has come to a stop, approach a bit closer and if he remains standing, approach a bit more. If he indicates he is going to move, then back up. If he remains standing move a bit closer. Repeat this dance until you are standing next to the animal.

This can require a lot of patience especially if your animal student is very frightened. I use a wand and a rope (photo attached) to help speed this process up and to avoid frustration for both animal and handler, but some version of teaching your animal to stand without being cornered as you approach is crucial to your success in the show ring.

Once you have mastered standing still in the catch pen, you can stage some exercises that mimic what goes on in a



continued on next page

show. Enlist the aid of some friends to approach and retreat as you stand with your llama on a halter and lead in a very small area; a catch pen is not too small, next in a slightly larger area. Always add new challenges incrementally and back up to what is easier if your animal student is having trouble accepting the new step.

Don't move on to the next step unless your llama or alpaca is comfortable with the previous step.

IT IS NEVER THE ANIMAL'S FAULT IF HE CANNOT DO WHAT YOU ASK. It is your job to set the animal up for success by carefully adding small challenges, one at a time. It is fine to use food as a training aid for teaching your animal to stand as other people walk up to him. You can use it

as a distraction and incentive to stand and help him relax and breathe. Make sure that you communicate with your helpers so they understand that they only get closer when you give the signal that it is OK with the animal.

Teach your llama that when someone walks up to him in a field, in a catch pen or in the barn that there is nothing to worry about, that at least 95% of the time good things

will happen: a treat will be offered, he might have a walk or a fun game with a clicker.

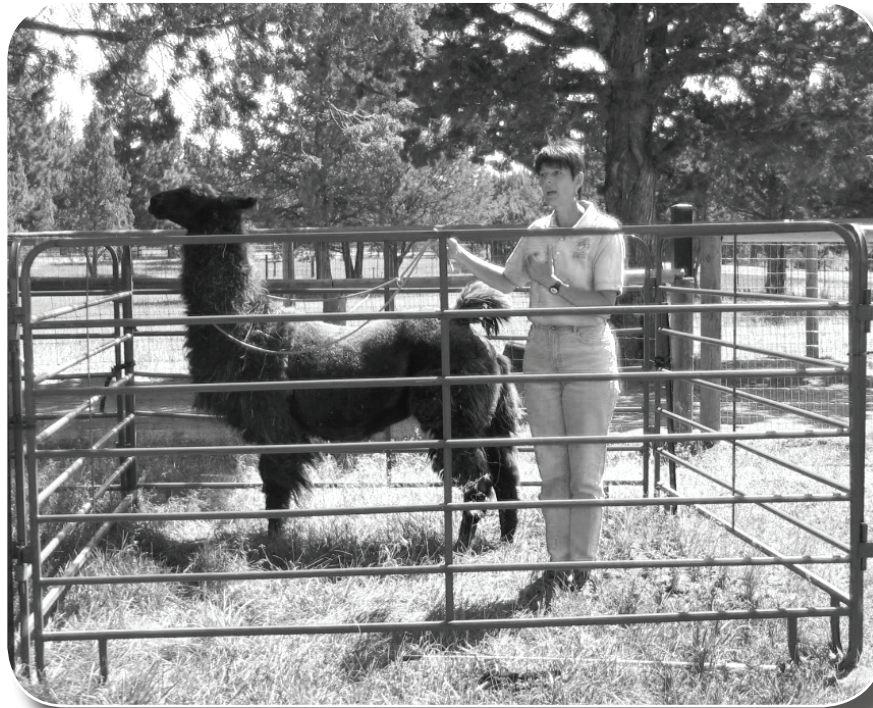
Standing still is very helpful for many situations on your ranch: assessing the animal's health and condition, taking a perfect photo, vet checks, examining eyes, ears,

body condition and shearing. Typically the llama or alpaca is tied or restrained in these situations. Wouldn't it be nice if, in these situations, the alpaca or llama could practice learning self-control and stand in balance? Relying on force for routine handling can seem quicker but it makes teaching your animal to stand in other circumstances much harder!

This short article outlines the very basics but

skipping the foundation means that you may not be able to get your animal to stand or that the learning process will take a LOT longer.

For more information about understanding what motivates a camelid I recommend my book *The Camelid Companion* and my online courses. You can find out more about both at www.camelidynamics.com



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Stars N Stripes Show with the Mid-Plains Fiber Fair

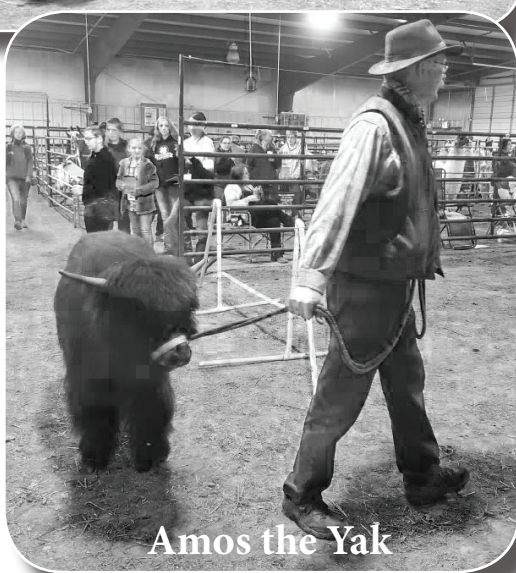


By Geri Rutledge

This 'dual-purpose' event was held on April 27th at the county fairgrounds in York, NE. The event was well attended this year. The event is a mixture of fiber classes, demonstrations, exhibits, fleece competition, animals on hand and the ASLA Show. Everyone gets to learn about fiber and show their animals all on the same day.



Classes filled as expected and we always have more people wanting to attend. The ALSA show had a guest exhibitor. Amos the Yak was stalled in our barn and just had to see what all those llamas and alpacas were doing. So



Amos the Yak

out he came to run a performance course. That drew quite

a crowd. He even wanted in the Halter class, but came up SHORT!

Everyone enjoys this show even though you never know about the weather this time of year. We ended up in the barn to complete the show, the wind was unreal that day. The other species in our barn were fiber goats, sheep and the Yak family.

As many readers may know, Nebraska experienced severe weather in March with dams breaking, flooding, loss of farms, livestock loss and so many stories. Our 4H group, Camelid Kids, has been part of the efforts to send donations and supplies up north to these families. Huge ice chunks larger than a railroad car were moving downstream and taking out bridges. Entire buildings were swept away. Many of our exhibitors have been affected in a variety of ways. But this was a day when we all came together to share our love of camelids, enjoy the show and share our stories. It was a great day and good to see everyone.



Pasture Use & Rotation Grazing Systems

By Dan Nosal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
Rangeland Management Specialist – Franktown, CO

Spring green-up is underway in our pastures. However, many pastures have been overgrazed in the past and have become degraded as a result. Carrying capacity, plant recovery, and a rotational grazing system should be considered to prevent further degradation.

Carrying capacity is defined as the number of animals that a parcel of land can support without overgrazing. A good rule of thumb for a Front Range dryland pasture is that it takes about 35 acres to carry one animal unit (a 1,000 lb. animal) for one year without additional supplementation.

Grass plants need a recovery period after grazing to stay healthy. Once grazed, a growing plant draws energy (carbohydrates) from the roots to grow new leaves. Mobilizing this energy required for growing leaves also kills plant roots. Continuously grazing new grass growth causes the plant to kill its roots to support further regrowth. The result is a plant with reduced root volume, reduced vigor, and one that is not as productive as a healthy plant. The grass plant will replace the lost roots (and again store food energy in the roots) once there has been sufficient new leaf growth to trap more sunlight energy than is needed for plant maintenance and growth.

Animals are more likely to graze on new leaf growth because the plants with new leaf blades contain more energy than plants that are not grazed. Overgrazing is not necessarily caused by stock density or the percentage of plants grazed, but rather on how often plants are regrazed without a recovery period. It is possible to overgraze some plants in a pasture while other plants are left untouched.

In addition to weakening a grass plant, continuous grazing can shift the species composition



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to predominantly plant species with lower palatability. If a pasture is exposed to continuous grazing (no rest or recovery period), the most palatable plants will be repeatedly grazed (overgrazed), resulting in unhealthy, less vigorous plants. The less palatable species will not be grazed, resulting in these plants being healthy and vigorous. As a result,

the unpalatable plants may end up dominating the pasture.

Historically on the Great Plains, bison were migratory animals that grazed in large herds while continually moving to new areas. Since bison herds continually moved, grazed plants had a sufficient recovery period to renew their leaf volumes, grow new roots, and stay healthy and vigorous. As a

result they were able to compete better with the less desirable vegetation. Although grazing reduces root carbohydrate reserves, the reduction is short-lived as long as defoliation is not a continuous occurrence. Rotational grazing can provide a recovery period much like the one provided by migrating animals.

Cross fencing is a tool for managing and manipulating vegetation. With numerous pastures, livestock can be rotated as one herd through the system, allowing plants a chance to recover after being defoliated. During the slow plant growth period (generally July–October) it is best to graze a pasture a maximum of 10 days followed by at least 90 days recovery before returning to that pasture for more grazing. During the fast plant growth period (generally May–June) grazing a pasture for a maximum of 5 days followed by at least 45 days

continued on next page



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Pasture Use & Rotation Grazing Systems continued ...

recovery is best. Although duration of grazing has an effect, the rest period is most important. The slower the grass growth, the longer the rest period should be.

The greater the number of pastures, the easier it is to develop a system with a sufficient rest period, and the more quickly the rangeland improvement will occur. To implement a high-intensity, short-duration grazing system with the grazing and recovery periods described above, a minimum of 10 pastures (fairly equal in available forage) would be required.

Occasionally, a pasture should be rested for the entire growing season.

We have just touched on grass productivity and grazing strategies. Remember that good grass is an investment in your future. Your healthy grass stand will remain more productive than a poor stand, resulting in higher productivity and less weeds. For additional information on implementing a rotation grazing system contact your local NRCS office www.nrcs.usda.gov

We are pleased to let you know that the folks from NRCS will be regular contributors to the RMLA Journal. Interest in the information provided by two speakers at the 2019 Conference was extremely positive. NRCS can provide technical and in some cases, financial assistance. Check out the large volume of information on small acreage management, protecting your herds with fencing, water protection and use, and many more topics on their website: www.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on Contact Us then select the link for the Local Service Center Directory to find an office near you.



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2019 Conference a Huge Success

From your RMLA Board

The RMLA We Are Better Together Conference that was held in Castle Rock, CO on April 20 was a beautiful thing. There were 65 folks from 6 states (AZ, CO, MT, NE, NM & WY) in attendance who enjoyed this educational event. The coming together of longtime and new members for a day of sharing and learning was an incredible experience.

Our volunteers made this day happen. We would like to mention and thank these folks involved.

Publicity to Members was managed by the e-blast committee: Ron Hinds, Kathy Stanko and Marilyn Arnold.

Program and Schedule: Kathy Stanko designed the schedule and invited outstanding speakers that covered very interesting topics. Kathy kept the day organized and moving along.

Friday setup: Ron Hinds and Elizabeth Cline, Ron Baird and Gary and Patti Jones set up tables and chairs and Gary got the PA system working.



Baird welcomed members as they came in and made sure they all signed up for the door prizes.

Breakdown: The team began as Molly and Toby Stensland, John Barba and Gary and Patti Jones and ended up with many other attendees pitching in to stack chairs and tables so all could leave on time to enjoy the remainder of the Easter weekend.

We want to acknowledge those that set up a demonstration table to further the education and information about RMLA, llamas and alpacas.

continued 



Food: Jane Levene orchestrated the coffee and donuts for the social and set up time before the conference began and laid out an amazing buffet lunch enjoyed by all present. She also brought a large RMLA sheet cake and bags for left overs to go home with the attendees.

Registration: Mary Wickman, Ann Bruhn and Ron



- Gayle Woodsum represented The Higher Ground Fair Llama and Alpaca Fleece Show (an RMLA event September 21 and 22 in Laramie WY).

- Elizabeth Cline demonstrated the proper way of grading fiber of all kinds.



- Lynda Liptak had historical material of the camelid industry and Southwest Llama Rescue

- Alexa Metrick's booth was all about packing, including the Pack Animal magazine and website www.PackAnimalMagazine.com.

- Linda Hayes promoted her new website www.HowToCatchALlama.com



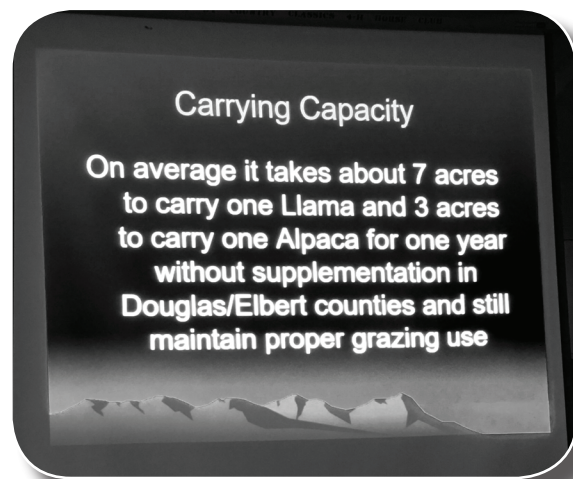
- Kathy Stanko, Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay and Ellen Schreiner demonstrated the diverse world of fiber.

- Dr. Callan's two presentations were quite lively and many questions were asked and answered.

- Deric Clemons, Jennifer Cook and Dan Nosal from Natural Resource Conservation Services had an educational booth and also gave two presentations on ways to better care for and protect our animals and our land.

The Youth Silent Auction was one of the best yet. Thank you to all who brought donations that filled ten tables of treasures. And 'thank you' Geri Rutledge and Linda Hayes for getting the auction set up. The proceeds from the sale will allow the youth to fund their Youth Awards Program. The

Conference T-Shirt proceeds also benefit the youth.



At the end of the day we all agreed that as camelid owners of Llamas, Alpacas, Paco-Vicuñas, we are without a doubt "Better Together". When asked when RMLA would be doing this next year we answered all we need are volunteers to make it happen. Thanks to all who helped, every minute, hour and day of volunteer time made for a wonderful day.



Meet Dan & Ellen Schreiner

As interviewed by Lougene Baird

Yes, Dan has volunteered to be the Chair of the RMLA Membership Committee; for this we are grateful. But llamas and RMLA have been a part of his and Ellen's life since 1981! Here is their story.

When did you begin life with llamas?

Ellen had been reading about llamas in Smithsonian Magazine. We bought our first llamas in 1981 after a tour to Dick and Kay Patterson's ranch. It was Love at first sight for us.

Our records show you joined RMLA in 1991, is that correct in your mind?

No-We are charter members of RMLA and were at the first planning meetings in Monument, CO in 1982.

Do you have other camelids, such as Alpacas?

No, we have not owned other camelids.

Did you show or pack?

Yes, we raised pack llamas and sold trained pack llamas that we had trained on the mountain near us. We packed some but did not have time in our schedules for extensive packing.

Yes, we did show llamas as did our daughters. We have a substantial collection of ribbons for our efforts. Perhaps the grand champion male at the NWSS sticks out as one of our favorite wins.

Ellen also started the Wyoming Llama Owners Association in the early 90's which was active for about 10 years. Through this organization, she ran the first few llama shows at the Wyoming State Fair.

How many animals do you and Ellen have now?

We are down to 11 llamas and all but a few are geriatric llamas. We haven't done any breeding for about the last 6 years

Ellen shears and works the fiber each year. Our pastures are not all irrigated so it's still a significant task.

I know you retired and no longer make your lovely belt buckles, etc., What are your 'other' interests now.

Ellen retired from her position as State Director of Unemployment and is on several state volunteer boards. She is active in Master Gardeners and our local Artist guild where she shows her watercolors. She also works as a volunteer tax preparer in the spring for the IRS VITA program.

I was a chain store drug manager/pharmacist for 20 some years then we purchased our own store in a nearby



town and ran it for 23 years. Ellen did the books and accounting for the store. We sold the store 6 years ago.

Ellen continues with her volunteer work and I spend my time on our small 100-acre ranch. Our goal is to leave our ranch land in much better shape than we found it. We battle invasive weeds yearly and have had floods after our mountain fires that created many challenges. We've installed a K-line irrigation system for our meadows replacing ditches that were inefficient.

As the industry was evolving, we had our custom llama buckles, pins and memorabilia made for us to sell at ILA and RMLA conventions throughout the country to allow us to better get to know breeders and offset expenses.

Tell me anything else you would like to share.

Being in the llama business early afforded us a rural lifestyle because the prices were exceptionally good. Llamas being such easy keepers allowed us to maintain our full-time professional positions and only rely on occasional part-time help.

Like many llama owners, when we started we were not large animal owners although I had some vet helper experience. We feel our two daughters' involvement with llamas in the early years allowed them to blossom and gain self-confidence because they were constantly asked to answer the questions about a breed that was foreign to most people. Later in interviews the questions to them still revolved about their experiences with llamas.

Both of our daughters were active in 4-H and had successful llama projects before llamas were an officially

continued on next page

Truly Amazing

is what the volunteers & contributors of Southwest Llama Rescue can accomplish. Help Is Always Needed: your time and money go a long way. *Contact: www.SouthwestLlamaRescue.org



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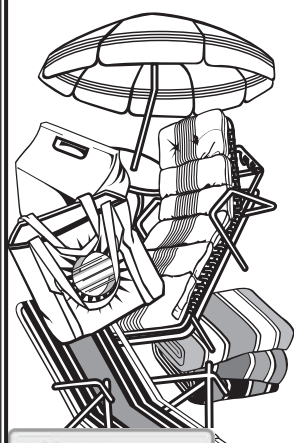
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Meet Dan & Ellen Schreiner continued ...

sanctioned animal activity in the state and before RMLA published the 4-H Guides.

Were you or Ellen ever on any of the RMLA Boards or Committees?

RMLA was closely associated with the International Llama Association and I was on Bobra Goldsmith's committee for the Boulder convention in 1983 and later worked on the ILA brochure for guard llamas.

I was president of RMLA for one term in the mid-1980s. During the tenure of our RMLA board that year we accepted Dr Clare Hoffman and Ingrid Asmus' proposal to publish the RMLA Caring for Llamas and Alpacas Management Guide.

The authors already had consulted many knowledgeable breeders but as a board we reviewed each version of the manuscript and suggested changes. It was an extremely labor-intensive effort for all of us and we often joked "never publish by committee." Our critiques were often nitpicky as we debated things like which part of the llama nail to trim first.

To fund the initial publication we solicited loans from 20 key llama owners whose names are still in the book and many of whom were on the board as the book evolved. Originally we specified a specific amount of the profits from the book to be donated to llama research. The totals over those years were substantial.

We're all proud of the success which Caring for Llamas and Alpacas has enjoyed in its many printings.

I know you and Ellen have been members for as long as Ron and I have been. We have seen so many changes in the industry. Anything you wish to say about that?

The llama industry fragmented as most expected, but there has been room for each segment. Llama packers are still active and busy, many are still placing llamas as guard animals, the fiber artists still thrill with their craft, and those that have primarily companion animals enjoy the breed for its many attributes and ease of care. 4H and youth activities are great character builders for our youth. It's important that we not lose sight of these diversified uses for llamas and alpacas and continue to incorporate them in our programs.



Is This Plant Poisonous to My Animals?

Kathy & Ron – Co-Editors, RMLA Journal

We recently received the following information from Baxter at SWLR. “A long-time llama owner recently lost a llama due to eating Hall’s of Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica* ‘Halliana’) - an ornamental bush species. This plant is highly poisonous when leaves or berries are eaten in large quantity in the winter.”

There is a great deal of information available about poisonous plants. We have provided you with a starting place. Your local CSU Extension Office, www.extension.colostate.edu/ is a great place to begin. They have the resources to identify a specific plant growing on your property; be sure to take a sample. And if the plant is poisonous, they can tell you under what conditions, i.e., time of year, root, leaves, etc.

Here are some additional links:

This link discusses honeysuckle bushes in particular

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/honeysuckle-poisonous-pets-64900.html>

This is the link to the CSU Guide to Poisonous Plants. It is a good resource if you know the plant for which you are looking. Be sure to check out the information under the LINKS tab.

https://csuvth.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/Plants/Details/65

This link takes you to the information we have provided below.

https://csuvth.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/Home/Landscaping



Cultivated Trees and Plants Potentially Poisonous to Animals from CSU:

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The following commonly available trees, shrubs and plants are often sold through plant nurseries, and pose a potential hazard to animals if they are planted in or around animal enclosures. If these plants are found to be desirable for landscaping purposes, it is important to position the plants well away from where animals can reach them. Furthermore, it is essential to always provide a balanced nutritious diet to animals at all times so that they are not driven through hunger to eating unusual plant material. It is also important to remember that the careless disposal of tree and plant prunings into an animal enclosure is a frequent cause of poisoning.

Trees

Black walnut, *Juglans nigra*
Red Maple and its hybrids, *Acer rubrum*
Oak, *Quercus* spp.
Black locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*
Golden chain tree, *Laburnum anagyroides*
Horse chestnut, buckeye, *Aesculus* spp.
Chokecherry, *Prunus* spp.
Kentucky coffee tree, *Gymnocladus dioica*
Russian Olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*
Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*
Chinese tallow tree, *Sapium sebiferum* (mildly toxic)

Shrubs

Yew, *Taxus* spp.
Oleander, *Nerium oleander*
Yellow oleander, *Thevetia* spp.
Privet, *Ligustrum* spp.
Hydrangea, *Hydrangea* spp.
Rhododendron (azalea), *Rhododendron* spp.

Japanese Pieris, *Pieris japonica*
Laurel, *Kalmia* spp.
Black laurel, *Leucothoe davisiae*
Boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*
Burning bush, *Euonymus atropurpurens*
Lantana, *Lantana camara*
Angels Trumpet, *Brugmansia* spp.
Mesquite, *Prosopis velutina*
Day or night blooming Jasmine, *Cestrum diurnum*, *C. nocturnum*

Vines

Carolina jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*
Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Perennial Plants

Fox glove, *Digitalis purpurea*
Larkspur, *Delphinium* spp.
Monkshood, *Aconitum* spp.
Hairy vetch, *Vicia villosa*
Crown vetch, *Coronilla* spp.
Castor bean, *Ricinus communis*



JUDGING CARRA LLAMAS IN PERU

by Linda Hayes

In 1997 I took part in a tour of Peru which focused on llamas and alpacas. We attended the large llama & alpaca festival in Arequipa. I was given the chance to help judge one class. I chose the short wool males or “carras”. There were 3 judges: Dr. Julio Franco, the head judge, another Peruvian and myself.

Dr. Franco, speaking through an interpreter gave me a quick rundown on the class. The carra he said was the original ‘ship’ of the Andes. It is a large meat producing animal used to carry weight over long distances at elevations from 16,000 feet to sea level. They should be big, strong boned with long legs to enable them to cover ground quickly. A long neck adds balance while a broad chest with wide set legs are important for meat production. Other things to look for included a completely smooth head and legs, molting of short body wool and the pronounced presence of a mane made up of guard hair. A strong pleasing head with long curved ears was considered important. A slight roman nose shows strength said Dr. Franco. “Better than a refined head with a straight profile.” He did not like to see a concave face. Overall balance and a straight back were considered as well. Nothing was said about straight legs or the way they moved. In fact, once the llamas were in the ring they were never walked.

Twenty some llamas entered the ring along with their Peruvian handlers, both men and women. They all wore white coveralls and caps which had been supplied by the festival. Most animals had handmade halters of woven llama wool but the llamas were actually led by a rope wrapped around the lower part of the neck. None were trained to lead so pushing from behind and pulling from the front was common. They were not groomed but an effort was made to clean off excess hay and dirt.

As judging began, I was told to select the ten biggest llamas for the finalists. Since many of the larger llamas were splay footed and knock kneed, I asked if I should consider this. The judge said that if the fault was extreme, he would count off but that these were okay. My conception of “extreme” and his differed considerably. I asked why the

llamas weren’t walked as they are in North America. At first he said that the show was too large and that it would take too long. Then he went on to explain that the terrain in Peru is so varied and has so many rocks and pitfalls that tracking straight wasn’t important. I did find much of Peru covered with rocks and cactus. This made it difficult even for people to walk smoothly so perhaps he had a good point.

After selecting the largest llamas, he asked me which I liked best from groupings of two or three. The ones with wooly faces or ears were excluded. The judges paid a lot of attention to head shape and ears. Banana shaped ears were desired. These are quite rare in the Andes. At this point we went on to consider width of chest, overall vigor and balance.

The judges never walked around an individual animal nor did they seem to focus on any one llama. Instead Dr. Franco seemed to glance at them as a whole, looking down the line and asking that certain animals be put next to others. This took considerable effort as they were squeezed in between llamas that were already packed close together. There was much pushing and shoving with extra people coming into the ring to help.

When we walked to the back of the row of finalists, Dr. Franco pointed out that our favorite llama had a problem. And that he did. No testicles. The llama was moved to the bottom of the class as were a few others that had only one testicle or were of varied size. One above the other was okay he said but preferred them side by side and of normal dimension.

We discussed tail set and backs. These he said were minor traits but he did want a llama to be well proportioned with long neck and high set tail. Slight concavity of the back was acceptable in older animals and bred females but a roach back (convex or with a hump) was a negative. He said there were two major faults with tails that would keep a llama from winning; a crooked tail or a short tail.

With all this in mind the class was placed. First place received a red rosette ribbon with other colors going to 2nd

continued on next page



through 5th. The last 5 received a "special mention" award which was a purple ribbon. I had the honor of placing the ribbons on the head shy winners, a considerable task in itself. The prize money was \$8,000 American, a virtual fortune to most Peruvians so there was much commotion and excitement surrounding the winner. Llamas and alpacas that won Championships were deemed National Treasures so could not be sold for export. They had to remain in Peru.

After the class Dr. Franco gave me tips on judging females. Those two years old and over must be bred and nursing to be shown. The udder was checked and much emphasis is put on the size of the teats. Extra or supernumerary teats were not considered a problem as long as the llama had at least four. Udders are usually checked outside of the ring by a special committee set up for the purpose. The findings are then relayed to the judges in the ring.

I found Dr. Franco open and accommodating. He certainly knows his business and gave me a new understanding and appreciation of the short wool llama. Are our North American shows better than this Peruvian one? No, they are just different. We have refined the art of showmanship to a detailed performance. The Peruvians on the other hand, are practical, hard-working people who are not obsessed with "pretty". They focus on productivity and usefulness. Since shows are few, most showmen had never seen a judging so they presented the animals in the same way they would if a buyer came to look at the llamas in their village. In doing so, Dr. Franco was able to make his

decisions quickly and the show moved along smoothly.

As a whole, the show was a delight. Much colorful pageantry, a beautiful setting and a diversity of activities. Lectures, demonstrations, vendors booths, etc. added to the enjoyment. Getting to be in the ring with the 2 other judges was an experience of a lifetime.

Linda's impressions:

I found it interesting that people walked for miles to bring their best llamas to the festival but overlooked the fact that some of the males had no testicles. Did the Indians not understand their importance? Or were they confused about which attributes would be judged?

Not considering leg conformation shocked me as did the fast way they picked winners. With so much prize money it was almost like winning the lottery for the lucky family that won first.

The idea of checking udders is something we might consider for our shows. Shouldn't we acknowledge that females are producers? We check testicles in the males and the vulva of females. Why not the teats? Moving unbred females to the non-breeder class is intriguing. Is production important or are we just judging "pretty"?

While I didn't agree with everything I saw in Peru, I do feel that we have a lot to learn from this country that has raised llamas for close to 6,000 years.



Great Plains Llama & Alpaca Fiber Street Fair

By Geri Rutledge

The Great Plains Llama & Alpaca Fiber Street Fair in Phillipsburg, KS was the place to be on March 2nd if you wanted to learn about all things fiber. This event was hosted by the Golden Plains Llama Association.

Sally Brandon led the event and scheduled all the classes and demonstrations for the day. A huge thank you to Sally. Friday night was a meet and greet and explanation of what would happen the next day. Guest teachers came from all over. Karen Kinyon taught Weaving, Cindy Ruckman came to speak about the variety of uses of our fiber from all animals. Vendors were set up to show their talents.

Shepherds Mill did a lot of the ground work and with the publicity via social media. Again, thank you. We had brand new people, new to the animals and new to the fiber taking classes and now interested in starting with their own livestock.

We see a trend with all the llama and alpaca items you now see in stores. There is renewed interest with these animals and the use of the fiber. We will be sending out a survey to see how we can improve and hope to have another event next year. The Golden Plains Llama Association continues to network with Kansas State Vet School and they keep us informed!



THE RESCUE OF LEWIS

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay – Yellowstone Llamas

He was sitting on the far end of the inlet, his white neck momentarily illuminated by a brilliant shaft of light breaking through the grey clouds. I had taken the binoculars from Sally's hands when she had said, surprised, "I think that's him!" Could we be that lucky, so soon? Pointing the binoculars in the direction she indicated, there was no mistaking the bright white figure resting in the grass about a mile away. There he was indeed, looking relaxed and like he belonged here in the wilds of Yellowstone National Park. Now the adventure began.

Only a few days earlier, a flurry of messages from llama folks, some as far as Texas, alerted me to the fact that there was a llama running loose in Yellowstone National Park and inquiring what I intended to do about it. It was late October, things were winding down in expectation of the winter season that was soon to arrive. If no one intervened, a llama on the loose now would surely mean death by wolf, mountain lion or starvation later.

Piecing the story together, I remembered hearing of llamas that had gotten away that summer from newly licensed outfitters running their first llama packing season in the park. Yellowstone Llamas, our llama packing company, had received numerous calls announcing that

"our" llamas were seen here and there in the park and we sorted things out by contacting the responsible parties. Things had seemed to quiet down and I lost interest in the stories, assuming



everything was sorted out. Except it wasn't. Except one was left behind: his name was Ike.

On October 24, my crew and I set out on our rescue mission. In less than a week, Yellowstone's roads would close for 7 months of winter. Many feet of snow would soon obscure roads and cover the landscape, driving all wild animals to brace for the harsh conditions that often leave many close to starvation and some dead. In fact, snow was in the forecast as we hatched our plan. We had to move fast indeed! Abandoning my pre-winter preparations, I found myself hitching the llama trailer again, fueled in equal parts by concern and outrage.

A domestic animal, a llama no less, was left in the wild, abandoned to fend for himself through a winter in Yellowstone. I imagined a hungry bear in the spring emerging from his den to find, to his surprise, a frozen llama carcass! Another scenario playing in my head involved a wolf pack closing in on an emaciated llama shaking on his weak legs. Well, our team of four fearless women and three equally fearless llamas would do our best to prevent that!

Our tow vehicle was packed to the hilt with camping gear, warm clothes, radios, binoculars, food, water and grain, with a large quantity of hastily baked cookies and a box of wine squeezed in for good measure. Nahani, Picasso and Diego were settled down in the trailer



continued on next page

between metal corral panels tied to the sides. The day was ominously overcast as we rolled towards Yellowstone. Our destination was Lewis Lake, the third largest lake inside the park some 150 miles to the south, which is where Ike, the llama, had been sighted recently by tourists and park

to rescue Ike. Apparently, during a pack trip in July at Heart Lake, located 10 miles East of Lewis Lake, Ike had removed himself from an unhealthy situation caused by a painful halter pressing on an open sore. During the following weeks, attempts to capture him were thwarted

by Ike's intelligence as well as his would-be capturers' inexperience and general lack of knowledge of llama psychology. After several tries over weeks to jump, grope, lasso and corner the animal without success, further attempts were simply aborted and the llama left to his own devices and dire fate.



rangers. Though hoping to find the llama near the lake, we were well prepared for a longer search and to rough it for a few nights of camping if necessary. Failure to find Ike never entered our minds.

Lewis Lake lay serene and quiet under a gravel-colored sky as we approached. The lake sees a lot of fishermen during the summer, but now it was quiet and the parking lot empty as we arrived at the gravel pit where we had permission to camp and set up a corral. The air was chilly at the lake's 7782 feet elevation and an eerie feeling of expectation shrouded the area this afternoon. The corral was set up quickly. I vaguely envisioned the possibility of luring the llama with hay and grain into the enclosure.

On the drive down, I had recounted the story of the "runaway llama" related to me by park ranger Curtis whom I had contacted with my plans



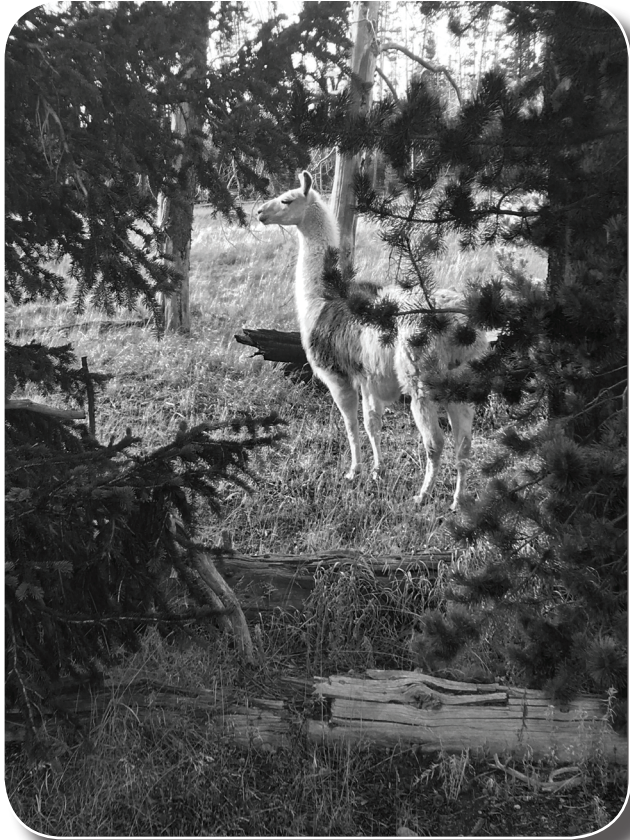
Seeing Ike in the distance, about a mile away, so soon after we arrived gave us an incredible boost. However, our first attempts to cross the swampy bog that stretched from the gravel pit to the shoreline proved disappointingly unsuccessful. We retreated to the gravel pit and consulting the map we decided to drive a short distance to the North to a trailhead, unload the llamas and try to reach Ike's location via the Lewis Channel Trail. This trail parallels the lakeshore but has no view of it. Hopefully, Ike would stay put. We set out eager and in good spirits bouncing a number of scenarios off each other as we went down the trail.

Among our crew was my neighbor Karen, an animal communicator who had contacted Ike ahead of time. I hoped that he had received her message of our peaceful intentions. I prepared my crew for our encounter with the runaway llama and impressed on them not to crowd him or even advance on him without my signal. I expected that Ike would be suspicious but I also counted on him being happy to see the three llamas. I had chosen the llama crew carefully: Nahani is a seasoned, solid packer; Picasso is incredibly alert and sensitive; Diego hums as he hikes along, a sound I hoped would carry to Ike.

We had hoped to eventually see the lake from that trail, but the view was obscured by dense trees and soon we didn't know how far we had come in relation to Ike's position. A few attempts to cut through to the lake shore to catch a glimpse of Ike were made impossible by the obstacle of fallen trees. We got out the radios and split up in two groups with Lorna and Sally scrambling through the deadfall to the shore and advancing from there and Karen and me with the llamas – and a bucket with grain! – continuing on the trail.

continued on next page

As we marched, I considered what Ike's last 3 months in the wild might have been like. Happy to be free at first, I am sure. An abundance of nutritious vegetation to browse on. No fences, no pecking order disputes. Days in the sun, nights under the stars. But then, pretty soon, the loneliness without llama companions probably set in and fear and avoidance of predators must have been on the daily menu. I believe that the many photos of tourists showing Ike



walking along the road were proof that he sought the protection of people, cars and noise. The same things that would keep predators away. I wondered how many close encounters he had.

The crackling of the radio brings me back to the present. "I see him!" Lorna announces. "He is still in the same spot". "Please stay covered," I say into the radio as my team of 2 humans and 3 llamas hurries down the trail. The llamas have picked up on the urgency. They are alert, ears forward and tails arched. The trail winds and winds through the woods. We must be in the right area but need an opening to cut to the left. "He's got up!" the

radio crackles. My nerves vibrate, my heart rate accelerates. There! An opening to the left! We turn and make our way through tall vegetation and over fallen trees, carefully moving around boggy holes.

And then it happens. He comes running. Ike! A flash of white and tan. All llamas squeal a high-pitched greeting. My heart goes into higher gear but my mind is calm. This is it! This is where it will be decided. Ike is cautious, looks at us humans, comes over to the llamas, everybody sniffs under tails, turns in circles, hums. Then Ike hesitates. I talk to him but I barely move. Karen is in the back; I have momentarily forgotten about her. I use my body language, open, non-threatening, standing sideways, my hands at my side. Karen has the radio now; I hear her talk in a low voice: "Stay put!". The llama halter hangs on the side of Nahani's saddle, I am holding an extra lead but I don't make use of either.

I talk to Ike in a low voice, he is close, maybe 2 feet from me. I don't reach out to touch him. I know I could screw this up. How many times have hands reached for him, arms locked around his neck trying to hold him, lines flung at him to capture him? He looks me in the eye, then turns back to a nearby clearing and begins to graze. We are on! I turn the llamas and slowly walk away a short distance, then tell Karen who is in the back to rattle the bucket. Ike's head comes up and he approaches, follows. Karen puts the bucket down. He eats a little, then retreats again. We turn back to him, rattle the bucket, let him eat and leave again. We do this dance a few times. Then, Karen does not put the bucket down for him but keeps it and walks away with us. And, like it is the most natural thing in the world, Ike follows, falling into step behind us and back to the main trail.

As we walked back the mile or so to the trailhead, I repeatedly turned to behold the four llama heads held up



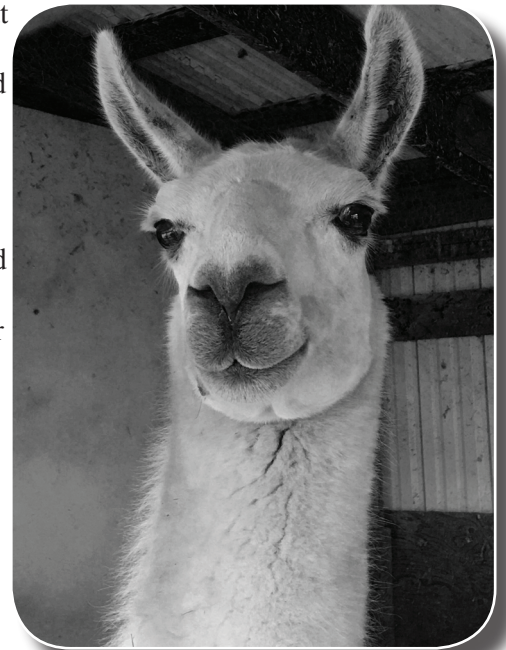
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proudly as they marched in line behind me, with Karen between Diego and Ike and Ike snacking now and then from the bucket. I marveled at the intelligence of this animal and how he made the decision to follow us, to trust us. And once he made his decision, he fell right back into his packer mode. This is what he knew, this was safe. We were safe. He trusted us. And I trusted him. There was a communication going on that went beyond words. The universe aligned. But for a part of the hike back I barely breathed, it seemed, holding my breath in anticipation of something going wrong. Then I relaxed, trying not to think at all, just marching. Karen ran out of grain but it didn't matter to Ike. "Ike?", I thought. "Really?"

At the trailhead, we briefly dealt with gawking tourists without us losing our cohesive stride. Arriving back at the trailer, I opened the gate wide and the three llamas jumped in with one fluid motion. Ike stopped. My heart stopped, almost. He walked to the side of the trailer, investigating. Karen had a few morsels still in her bucket. "Jump in", I hissed. She did, rattling the bucket for all she was worth. In a flash, he jumped in behind her and the gate fell closed. Sally and Lorna emerged from the trees and we fell into each other's arms. Ike peeked through the slats of the trailer at us silly humans. He batted his white lashes. I put my face close to his. "Ike?" I said.

It was closing in on 6 o'clock. We unanimously decided to hightail it back home the same day, quickly loaded the panels at the gravel pit and drove home in extremely high spirits. Half-way through Yellowstone it started to rain and sleet. We munched on cookies and recounted the story of our adventure as it grew dark. We gave the thumbs-up at the entrance gate in West Yellowstone and drove home through the darkness, four llamas in tow. My eyes soon blurred and the last miles were tough but our combined elation buoyed me. At home, a stall was quickly made comfortable for the rescued llama with soft hay, water and more grain, and a number of curious llama heads tried to reach the new resident through the slats.



He stood in his stall, a little disoriented and maybe overwhelmed by the day's events, but he seemed satisfied with the outcome. It was time for me to sit down and have a glass of wine in celebration with my wonderful human crew but I was slow to part with him. Something still needed to be said. He looked at me, calmly, expectantly. "Ike?" I thought. My mind went back to Lewis Lake and our meeting for the first time. How fate brought us together and how we decided to make things work.

I turn to him, his face close to mine. He bats his white eyelashes. "Welcome home," I say and blow a kiss, "Lewis!"



Yellowstone Llamas

Yellowstone Llamas, the original llama outfitter in Yellowstone National Park, has been operating in the park for over 25 years. Treks are customized and will fit almost anybody's priorities. Our llamas are gentle and easy to handle, our guides experienced outdoor enthusiasts. *Join us for a trek of a lifetime!*

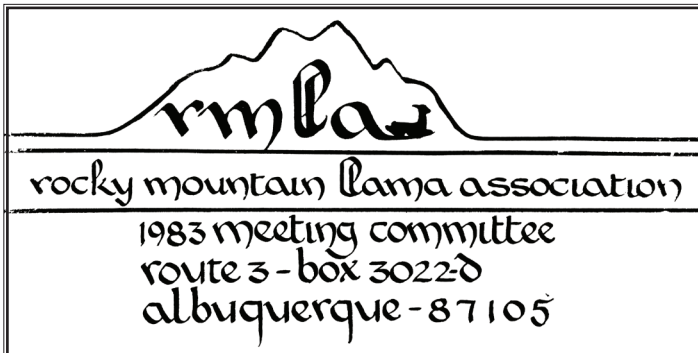
www.YellowstoneLlamas.com - llamas@yellowstonesafari.com
406-586-1155



THE BEGINNING OF A LOGO

By Lynda Liptak


Does this logo look familiar? It was designed and created by the late Betsy Bell. Charlie Hackbarth then designed the RMLA logo we use today.



Betsy left me with a lot of her things as she knew she was short for this life - although she never told me that. I also interviewed her and recorded our conversation which I may transcribe into an article. She was a wealth of knowledge and very artistic. She did a lot of calligraphy for her llama ads and signs.

From her obit: Elizabeth Rose "Betsy" Bell died on May 16, 2017 from complications related to her long battle with cancer. She was born in Albuquerque to Saul and Olive Bell, on July 26, 1938. Betsy's passion for dance was formative in her life path. As a very young woman, her talent took her to San Francisco and then on tour across much of the United States. Betsy's diverse interests also included calligraphy, genealogy, and her beloved herd of llamas, most of whom were bestowed with names from various classical operas.



She would be so very happy to know that her logo would be published at this time - thank you! 



Welcome! **NEW RMLA Members** *and* **RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING** *Thank You*

Janet Kelly Loma CO
Scott & Kathy Manko Florissant CO
Lynette Kilpatrick & Adele Cooley .. LaSalle CO
Bernadette & Phillip Ellway Nampa ID
April Oestman Holyoke CO
Alan & Linda Dewey Sedalia CO
Sandy & Tony Bunch Panhandle TX

NOTE: Before members that are under the age of 18, or unverified to be over the age of 18, are not listed on the website, Membership Directory or above. 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 BY NAME** page on the website.
Thank you

Bringing Fiber Arts into the Classroom

Nancy Wilson

Camp Verde Llamas

Camp Verde, AZ

I became involved in the Artist in the Classroom (AIC) program after I retired. The program is sponsored by the City of Sedona to provide art education to Sedona students. There are 26 participating artists from a wide variety of genres. My genre as you might guess is fiber arts.

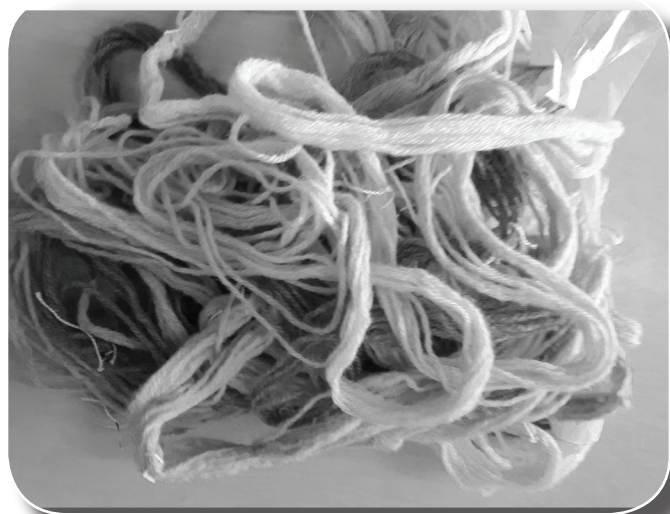
Teachers are provided information about the program at the start of the school year and then they contact the city's program coordinator when they are interested in having an artist come to their classroom. Assignments can last a few weeks or a semester. And in this particular program, artists are paid for their time and materials.

I was asked to provide a six week program (one day a week) for seventh and eighth grade students at the charter school. Part of the process is a planning meeting: an informal discussion with the teacher about what he or she would like included. In my case, the teacher was pretty informal, interested in having her students get an overview of fiber arts. This worked well for me since I didn't have a set curriculum yet, and that changed a couple of times through the process.

Here's a rundown of the classes I put together:

1. Kool-Aid dyeing in the microwave on wool yarn. This went over well. Next time I will use food coloring or cake dye because the Kool-Aid colors weren't as bright as I was hoping.

2. Tapestry weaving on cardboard looms to recycle the cardboard. The students made simple looms with leftover cardboard and could either use the yarn from the first class or yarn I brought from my stash. They enjoyed the weaving, and it was fun to see their creativity come forth.



3. Natural dyes on wool yarn. We used alum and cream of tartar for mordants and onion skins, black beans, and mustard grass (since I had an abundance of it growing as weeds). Onion went great. The black beans didn't work like the internet said they would (guess you can't believe everything out there), but we added food coloring to get a



nice purple. This was a good learning experience for the kids in improvisation. The mustard turned a pretty green, though I'm not sure whether it will be colorfast.

4. Felt vessels using a grapefruit as a base around which they wrapped fiber before placing it in a knee-high nylon to complete the felting process. After the initial felting is completed, the grapefruit is removed. Most were unsuitable for eating after the vigorous rubbing. The kids enjoyed creating games to do the felting. For example, three kids sat in a circle, each holding the plastic bag with their wool-covered grapefruit, counted to five, then threw the bowl to the next person, and continued on until the 10 minutes of felting were up. They got some good and not-so-good results. Next time I'll be more particular about how to do this and likely will create one along with the kids

5. Spinning and needle felting. Spinning was a bust; no interest. So my idea of always having more than they could do in the two hours paid off. They loved the needle felting; one student created a Sponge Bob piece and another created Patrick Starfish. Another student did a likeness of

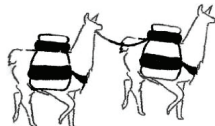
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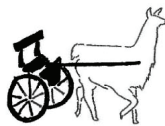
Jerry Dunn
Bear Track Farm
Llama Training Center
303-277-1129 BTllamas@outlook.com



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STACK'EM



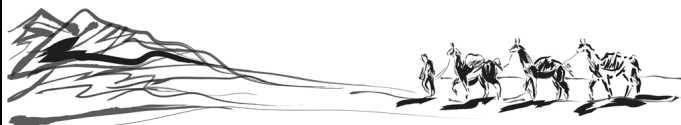
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Bringing Fiber Arts into the Classroom ...continued ...

her cat. I brought along short skewers for them to use to hold pieces in place to avoid poking fingers.

6. Indigo dyeing on wool yarn and t-shirts the students brought in. Indigo is magic! Kids loved it. I used an indigo dye kit from Dharma Trading which was super easy. We dyed wool yarn first to familiarize them with the dye process before doing their shirts. I was also able to show them about moving items slowly so as not to create bubbles and introduce air back into the vat.

I wasn't able to attend the class one week due to a friend's shearing day. I explained the shearing process to the students. I also made sure to bring in items from llama fiber that I had created. I have an alpaca felt hat I made that I brought in for the felting day. I also have some handspun llama/wool yarn that I dyed with indigo that I brought in on 'indigo' day. As an enthusiastic camelid owner, I will be sure to bring camelid fiber into the program even more in the future. It was indeed a learning experience for both teacher and students.



I'm happy to talk to anyone interested in proposing something similar in your local school system, and since the coordinator is a former co-worker I can get documents that might be helpful. I really enjoyed participating and hope to get called back to do a program in the fall. I'll feel much more confident and have ideas about how to improve the program.



Assessing an Animal Prior to Calling Your Veterinarian

From International Camelid Institute (www.icinfo.org)

(This article, with the form, was originally published in the Fall 2016 Journal)

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 link to the accompanying **Camelid Physical Examination** form can be found on RMLA.com at the of the **RESOURCES HEALTH** page.

CAMELID PHYSICAL EXAMINATION Colorado State University
VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL

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

BCS 1-2 3-4 5 6-7 8-9 10

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/Smelly 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 2-4/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.

The Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association The Journal Fall 2016 29

"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."



Dear RMLA,
Thank you so much for recognizing me with
such an amazing honor, Outstanding Youth of
the Year. It means so much to me as showing
llamas and promoting the llamas is my
absolute favorite hobby! I hope to continue to
make all of you proud and once again thank
you for this honor.
I love the belt buckle so much!!!
Sincerely, Morgan Barba

Rabies in Colorado

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment keeps track of all rabies cases in the state that are reported. By law, veterinarians and public health and safety officials are required to report any confirmed case of rabies. If livestock had exposure (i.e. in the same pen or premises) to a confirmed rabid animal, then the exposed livestock will most likely be quarantined for a period of 6 months. This is because it can take as long as 6 months before an animal that is bitten and becomes infected shows clinical signs of rabies.

Thus, prevention is key. In Colorado, the main wildlife reservoir other than bats is skunks. Dr. Callan's (CSUVTH) motto is 'if you see or smell a skunk', then vaccinate your livestock for rabies, particularly if you are in an area of Colorado with reported skunk rabies cases.

This is a deadly disease and it can be prevented. Check the data on the web site listed below, then talk to your vet to determine if your animals and YOU are at risk. Visit

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/rabies-data> to see statistics on confirmed rabies cases in Colorado.

Postscript from the Journal Volunteers

We, your Journal volunteers, believe that the most important words in any language are

Please and Thank You

We use these words throughout our days while working together and with you, checking out at the store, making phone calls. The results are amazing. So once again, thank you for your contributions to the Journal and to RMLA.

Kathy, Ron, Marilyn

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
5704 Canyon Trail
Elizabeth, CO 80107-7814



EVENTS CALENDAR

MARY WICKMAN, EVENTS CHAIR

For more details and live links, go to www.RMLA.com, select EVENTS and hover on the boxes.

- **September 21 & 22, 2019 – Higher Ground Fair Llama and Alpaca Performance and Fleece Shows. Albany County Fairgrounds, Laramie, WY, Llama & Alpaca Performance and Fleece Shows, Llama & Alpaca Demonstrations - Contact Gayle Woodsum, gayle@highergroundfair.org or 307-399-3815 or www.HigherGroundFair.org**

SAVE THE DATES

- **July 27, 2019 – Fairplay Llama Event, Fairplay, CO.** Fun for everyone! Llama walk / races, Llama pack races, obstacle course for kids.
- **September 7 & 8, 2019 – PacaBuddies, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO** Alpacas, Llamas!, Fiber, products, seminars and demonstrations. See www.pacabuddies.org
- **October 19 & 20, 2019 – Alpacas on the Rocks, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO.** Llamas, alpacas, seminars, demonstrations and vendors. For complete information, go to www.alpacasontherocks.org. To participate, contact Jane Levene at jlevene@comcast.net