

The Journal

RMLA



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

Our 20th Year

February, 2002

...Educating our members and the public ...



Trout Creek Llamas

Bolivian, Chilean, Canadian
and domestic bloodlines

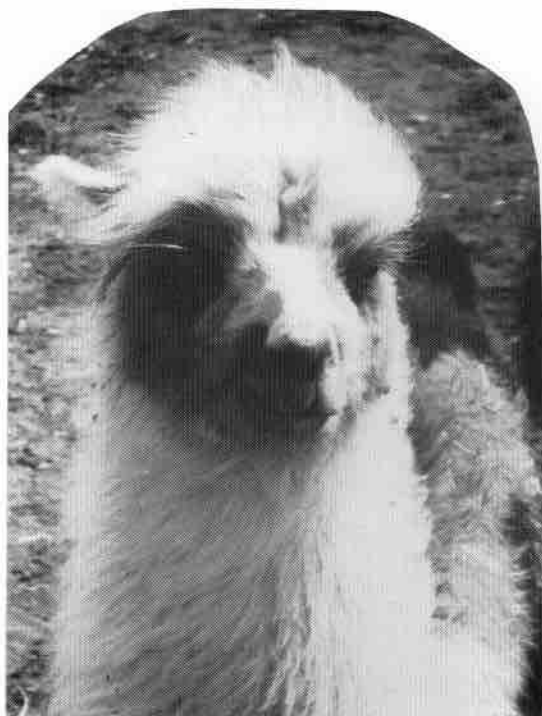
Your type of animal –
from pet to show quality

Guard animals

Manageable and gentle
dispositions

Correct conformations

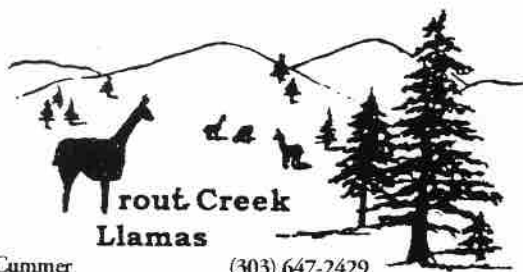
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN LLAMA AND ALPACA ASSOCIATION

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RMLA JOURNAL

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Letters to the Editor:

Dear RMLA members:

I just wanted to write a letter commending a couple of our great volunteers for their work on the Rocky Mountain Regionals. Barb Harris was the co-superintendent and Bob was head gopher. Barb did all of the data entry, the show book, volunteer coordinating, stalling, the Friday night feed. As a result of her hard work everything went off without a hitch. She also does the volunteer coordinating for the LOCC shows and we never worry about a thing once we delegate a job to her. Bob and Barb also planned and coordinated the lovely opening ceremony. Bob was a ring steward, gate keeper, poop scooper, etc. all weekend long. Volunteers like them are far and few between and I just wanted to write and thank them on all of our behalf.

Yours, Sally Rucker, Stage Stop Llamas

To the Membership of the Rocky Mountain Region:

I want to take this opportunity to say a **Huge Thank You**, once again, to all the volunteers who supported the 2000 and 2001 Rocky Mountain Regionals! The Rocky Mountain Region is unique, from my perspective, by having a large, enthusiastic, body of "Llama Lovers" who will volunteer, at the drop of a hat, to support their local and regional shows. During the two years I was privileged to serve as superintendent, not only did the regional show grow in size beyond all other years, we had more volunteers than ever before.

The volunteers were responsible for more fun, food, and frolics than you think the law would allow! And even in my absence during the 2000 show, the volunteers did a stupendous job of putting on a slick, professional, show. Our premiums were up, public attendance improved, and we all worked together for the good of the regional show. The 2002 Rocky Mountain Regional will top the last two regionals, as the rock-solid core of faithful volunteers again will support our two new superintendents! Thanks to each and every one of you for your support and participation in the successes!

Joe and I are looking forward to the Rocky Mountain show season, and would like to invite y'all to show in the Central Region also, where I'll be superintending the central Regional show on October 19th and 20th, in Lawton, OK. Y'all come!

Sandra Payne

☛ A free business card ad to the earliest postmarked correct answer as to the person on the front cover! Photo by Judy Wolff-Mills.

President's Message....

Robert Tompkins



I hope that this message finds you and yours in good health. This year promises to be both challenging and fun. I look forward to working with the

Executive Committee and the membership of RMLA in providing several quality educational opportunities. The hallmark of our organization is educating the public and the membership in the care of alpacas and llamas. To that end, I issued a challenge to the membership at the annual business meeting on October 27, 2001. I referred to it as my "vision" for RMLA during my tenure as President. It goes like this:

Ask not what RMLA can do for you. Instead, ask what you can do for the betterment of RMLA.

All of us have directly benefited in one way or another from our membership in RMLA. Now, in our 20th year, I say it is time to give something back. Many RMLA members have already come forward to offer their services. At the October meeting, Charles Quigley mentioned to Larry Lewellyn and myself the idea of coordinating a picture calendar for RMLA with sales proceeds to benefit RMLA. The idea was discussed and refined at an Executive Committee meeting on December 8, 2001. The goal is to create a calendar for 2003. Charles will head up a committee that will explore production costs, formatting, design, etc. We need another committee that is willing to review submitted photographs of alpacas and llamas for possible inclusion in the calendar. The Executive Committee wants an even distribution of alpaca and llama pictures in the calendar. In addition, the calendar will have space for advertisements and it will include helpful alpaca and llama care tips throughout. Please consider submitting your pictures, helpful tips, and advertisement dollars to support this project. For more information please see the advertisement in this issue of the RMLA Journal.

Charles was not alone in his willingness to give to RMLA. At that same October meeting Stan Wolff-Mills volunteered his time to assist with a "festival" type event. Such an event has been on my wish list for a year. The concept is to have a fun, yet educational, event for the membership and the general public. Stan does marketing for a living and he offered his skills to assist with the event. A bit later, Carolann Evans and Terry Lynch stepped forward and offered to coordinate this event. The

Executive Committee was so taken with this idea at its December 8th meeting that we decided it should be two days and encompass a festival, conference and the annual business meeting. Mark it down, October 26 and 27, 2002. This event will be in the Longmont, Colorado area. This is going to be a great time! And, there is room on the planning committee for volunteers and for advertising support.

Continuing in reverse order, I want to bring to your attention another fun event. Plans are in the works for an open RMLA Executive Committee Meeting in July. Where is the fun in that you ask? It is in the fact that the board meeting will be somewhere in the Colorado Rockies in a camp next to our pack llamas and great scenery. Mark it down, July 12 - 14, 2002. More details will follow in the May issue of the RMLA Journal.

Coming very soon to our organization roots in Monument, Colorado will a birthday party for RMLA. That's right, a celebration of twenty years of RMLA educating its members and the public in the care of alpacas and llamas. Terri Baird and Mary Wickman are coordinating events and a pot luck meal. RMLA is providing the cake. It will be on Saturday, April 6, 2002. Look for the ad in this issue of the RMLA Journal. This day will have something for all, RMLA history, RMLA today and RMLA tomorrow.

Folks, this is just the start. These volunteers and the Executive Committee want to hear from you! As I have said before RMLA is comprised of diverse and talented people with a wide array of skill sets. Will this be the year that you share some of your time and skills with RMLA? I hope so.

Yours for the betterment of RMLA,

Rob

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Minutes of the RMLA Board of Directors' Meeting

RMLA BOARD MEETING
 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2001
 9:00am Sedelia, Colorado

New President's Report: Want to accomplish three things. 1) Llama and Alpaca Festival 2) Spring Mini Conference 3) Fall Conference / Business Meeting

Secretary Report: No Report. All previous minutes approved and noted in the Journal.

Treasurer's Report:
 General Operations \$ 2,539
 Research 3,046
 Liquid Assets 27,040
 CFL & A Production 18,557
 Life Member 7,170
 Bookstore General Ops 15,433
 Total Cash On Hand \$73,785
 All bills / invoices are paid.

Agenda:
 Budget Plan for 2002 Lougene is sending us information by quarter and we will continue with topic at the next meeting.

Motion: Treasurer may transfer in increments of \$500 from Liquid Asset Account to General Operations to cover ordinary expenses through the first quarter of 2002.
Motion: Larry, 2nd: Jerry, Motion Carried.

2003 Calendar: Charles Quigley volunteered to help RMLA put together a 2003 calendar. We suggest that he establish a committee to choose 12 photos, 6 llamas and 6 alpacas. This could be a fund raiser for RMLA. The committee should plan to sell ads for the calendar to the membership. A block type ad for the Journal also to be submitted calling for photos and committee volunteers. The copy for the calendar should be complete to print by August 1, 2002. It should contain event dates and tips on llama care. Robert Tompkins will act as Board Liaison.
Motion: A Calendar Committee will be formed to create a llama oriented 2003 calendar. **Motion:** Robert, 2nd Larry, Motion Carried.

Spring Mini Conference: The deadline for planning, location and budget should be complete by December 15. Advertising by e-mail news line and Journal. The board appreciates Mary Wickman and Teri Baird for volunteering. Board Liaison will be Jerry Dunn.
Motion: Plan Spring 2002 Conference chaired by Teri Baird and Mary Wickman for March 30, 2002 with preferred site in Monument, Colorado or elsewhere along the front range. **Motion:** Lougene, 2nd Jerry, Motion Carried.

Annual Business Meeting and Conference: **Motion:** Accept the offer of Carolann Evens and Terry Lynch to chair the Fall Festival Conference and Annual Meeting with the date being October 26 and 27, 2002. **Motion:** Robert, 2nd Jerry, Motion Carried.

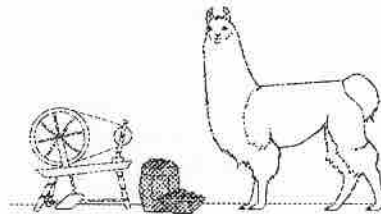
Events Packet Review: Jerry wanted to review the events packet, as she is ready to start sending it out for 2002 events. Jerry also attaches an inventory list when she sends out the packet.

Motion: Event Chairpersons which do not return the signed liability forms within 14 days, do not return borrowed RMLA Equipment and / or do not write an article for the following edition of the RMLA Journal may not be considered for continued RMLA Sponsorship. **Motion:** Lougene, 2nd: Jill Motion Carried.

Events: As new events are submitted to Jerry, she will notify the Board via email. Discussed the Maricopa County Fair Copper Classic for April 13 - 14, 2002.

Motion: To approve the Maricopa County Fair Copper Classic on April 13 - 14, 2002 as a new RMLA Sponsored

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAMA FIBER POOL



Spring Fiber Clinics

Saturday, May 11, Boulder
 Sunday, May 26, Wellington

Please contact us for details and a reservation form.

The Fiber Pool is a private business owned and operated by:

Sharon Beacham	Karen Kinyon
2380 - 95 th Street	16423 N. County Road 9
Boulder, CO 80301	Wellington, CO 80549
303/ 666-9437	970/ 568-3747

ALSA Certified Llama Fiber Judges

RMLA Committee Reports

FIBER COMMITTEE REPORT

by Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham, Co-Chairs

As we begin 2002, we are looking ahead to our seventh season with the RMLA Fiber Co-op booth. The RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth was started to promote North American llama and alpaca fiber. We do this by encouraging fiber artists (all members of RMLA) in their work with their llama and alpaca fleeces. The booth travels to such prestigious events as the National Western Stock Show in Denver, the Estes Park Wool Market in Estes Park, the Laramie County Fair in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the Taos Wool Festival in Taos, New Mexico and the Grand National in Columbia, Missouri.

We feature many items for sale. These include handspinner's roving, llama and alpaca yarn, handmade finished items of unique design that are knitted, felted, crocheted, and hand-woven. We are very pleased to have such excellent response from over 30 talented artisans.

The RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth is staffed completely by volunteers. Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham as the Fiber Committee Chairs are responsible for setting up booth guidelines and implementing booth events. They are always looking for additional volunteers to help. It takes about five hours to set the booth up and of course, many hands make less work. A commission is charged by RMLA to maintain the booth entry fees, etc. Consignors can reduce their commission by working at events. The RMLA booth has been instrumental in educating the public about the benefits of llama and alpaca fiber and finished garments.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who helped with the RMLA Fiber Co-op Booth in 2001 and to invite them and many more to help in the coming year. If you would like to help or have llama and alpaca items to sell, contact Karen Kinyon, at (970) 568-3747 or Sharon Beacham at (303) 666-9437. See you at the next llama or alpaca event!!

The **Membership Committee** report is located on the front page of the "New Members" insert, located in the centerfold of this issue.



Petra (who is blind) doing a water obstacle during Fairplay Race with Mocha. Photo courtesy of Mary Wickham

(Continued from page 6)

Event. Motion: Jerry, 2nd: Lougene, Motion Carried.

Final copy of bylaws: putting into administration manuals. Robert will get with Diane and get a final copy to the board. Jill will save the final version and mail a final copy to all board members with instruction to put into Administration Manual. Jill will send a copy to the Hances to put into the Membership Directory. Jill will also recommend to put the bylaws on the Website.

4H Youth Manual: Wholesale test case. The bookstore was contact by Carol Ann and Kim Evans, because they wanted to carry the 4H manual. We will sell them at the same cost as we sell to the counties. Any future order will require the board's approval.

Jerry was at the Stockyard Supply and asked if they would sell the Llama Liability Sign. Jerry will talk with them about us selling them to Stockyards wholesale for \$30. Also provide them with Caring for Llamas at wholesale for \$14.95.

Meeting Schedule:

- Saturday, February 16, 2002 at 9:00 am tentatively at Carolann Evans Bed and Breakfast. Secondary date is February 2.
- Saturday, April 6, 2002 at 9:00am Larry and Deanna's House.
- Friday to Sunday, July 12, July 13 and 14, 2002 Back Country Pack Trip Board Meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 3:49 am. Motion: Jill, 2nd: Jerry, Motion Carried.

*

2002 RMLA Sponsored Schedule of Events

MARCH

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Colorado Springs, CO, Contact: Roger Miller 719.307.9332.

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Denver, CO, Contact: Jim Haas 303.670.3373.

Four States Agricultural Expo, Montezuma Fairgrounds, Cortez, CO, March 14-16, Contact: Pete Peterson 970.565.0785.

Llamas/Alpacas and Kids in the Park, Wheat Ridge, CO, March 23, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

Llamas Drive the Waterton Canyon, Morrison, CO, March 30, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

APRIL

Bear Track Farm Driving Clinic, Golden, CO, April 13-14, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

Maricopa County Fair Copper Classic, Phoenix, AZ, April 13-14, Contact: Pamela Tait 480.585.1688.

Banana Belt Llama Classic, Grand Junction, CO, April, Contact: Keith/Dottie LaRue 970.527.3181.

Western Slope Classic, Grand Junction, CO, April, Contact: Keith/Dottie LaRue 970.527.3181.

Drivers' Fun Day, Arvada, CO, April 29, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

MAY

Pack Performance Field Trial, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, May, Contact: Jim Osmun 303.457.2787.

Jelly Bean Classic-Llama Fun Day, Arvada, CO, May 1, Contact: Mary Mauz 303.526.0092.

Spring Sneakers-Performance Show, Arvada, CO May 18, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

JUNE

LOCC Spring Show, Colorado Springs, CO, June, Contact: Jeff Rucker 719.689.9010.

Estes Park Wool Market, Estes Park, CO, June 15-16, Contact: Linda Hinze 970.586.6104.

Douglas County Summer Classic, Castle Rock, CO, June 29, Contact: Lougene Baird 303.688.5445.

JULY

Board of Directors Hike/Retreat, all RMLA members invited! July 12-14, Contact: any Board member.

El Paso County Open Youth Show, Calhan, CO, July, Contact: Mike Shealy 719.495.3757.

Fairplay Llama Pack Race, Fairplay, CO, July 27, Contact: Roger Miller 719.749.0119.

Fairplay Llama Camp Performance Show, Fairplay, CO July 28, Contact: Mary Wickman

719.687.1423.

Big Horn Rendezvous Llama Show, Story, WY, July, Contact: Barbara Coffman-Flinn 307.683.2548.

AUGUST

Laramie County Fair Llama Show, Cheyenne, WY, August, Contact: Robert Tompkins, 307.635.2168.

Boulder County Youth Show, Longmont, CO, August, Contact: Mary Beth Hartsough 970.785.2463.

Wyoming State Fair Llama Show, Douglas, WY, August, Contact: Gayle Woodsum or Julie Heggie 307.742.0042.

Kiowa Youth Show, Kiowa, CO, August, Contact: Dani Varela, 303.621.9021.

SEPTEMBER

LOCC Fall Classic Llama Show, Colorado Springs, CO, September, Contact: Mike Shealy 719.495.3757.

Drive in the Park, Golden, CO, September 7, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

Sangre de Cristo Llama Youth Show, Westcliffe, CO, September, Contact: Rhonda Livengood, 719.783.9238.

Tri-State Llama/Alpaca Show, Amarillo, TX, September, Contact: Beverly Johnson 970.264.4667.

Golden Gate Escape-Llama Packers Weekender, September 21-22, Contact: Jerry Dunn 303.277.1129.

New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque, NM, September, Contact: Mary Summers 505.867.1105.

OCTOBER

ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Llama Show, Denver, CO, October 13-14, Contact: Larry Lewellyn 720.733.2775 or Lougene Baird 303.688.5445.

Fall Festival, Longmont, CO, October 26-27, Contact: Carolann Evans 303.682.8221 or Terry Lynch 303.651.3022.

INTERESTED IN
VOLUNTEERING OR
ORGANIZING AN EVENT?
CONTACT: JERRY DUNN
303.277.1129 E-mail: beartrak@gte.net *

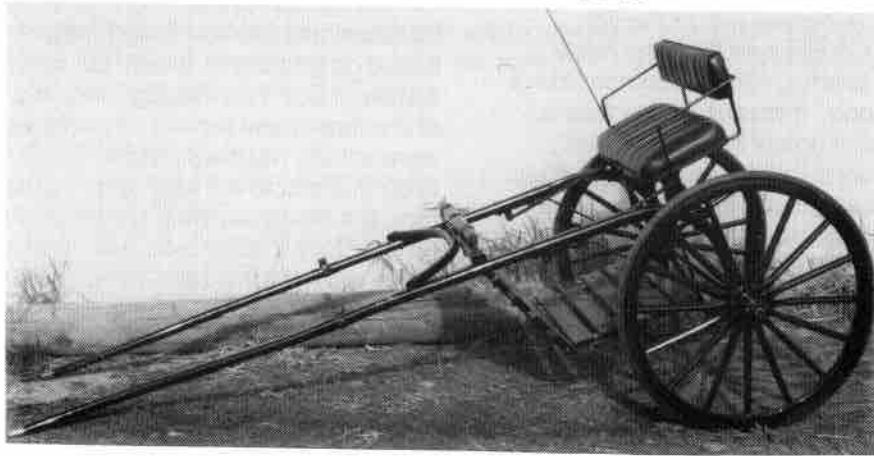
SPRING FIBER CLINICS OFFERED
by Karen Kinyon and Sharon Beacham

Every year, in May, we offer clinics to help breeders with their Spring shearing. We specifically direct this information to llama shearing as that is from whence we speak as Llama Fleece judges. It is information that translates well to alpaca shearing. These clinics are offered at Pheasant Hill Farm in Boulder, Colorado on Saturday, May 11 and at Double K Diamond Llamas in Wellington, Colorado on Sunday, May 26th. They are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with snacks, beverages and

lunch included. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Both clinics are identical and are hands-on opportunities for participants. They will learn the basics of shearing for show or processing, skirting, grading, and fiber preparation. We discuss how to select a show fleece and how to prepare it. Both of us are at each location, so select the one closest to you. We provide llamas and fiber for hands-on practice. If you are a llama or alpaca breeder that would like more information about your fleeces and fleece production, these clinics are for you. Registration in advance is important so we can order lunch. Vegetarian selections are available. Call Sharon at (303) 666-9437 or Karen at (970) 568-3747 to place your reservation.

✱

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LLAMA/PONY ANTIQUE CART WITH SHAFTS & POLE \$1800



JERRY DUNN 303-277-1129 beatrak@gte.net

Male Bladder Problems

By: **Melanie McMurry, MD**

Kokopelli Llamas, Edgewood, NM

Straining at the poop pile means constipation or impaction, at least that is what the book said. Michael and I watched six-month old Grayson repeatedly return to the pile. We caught him and I did a rectal exam (luckily, as a physician, rectals are no big deal for me). His rectum was empty, but I gave him an enema anyway: the blockage could have been out of my reach. That was Tuesday. By Wednesday morning, we had decided to take him to the vet, but then he pooped out a dozen or so pellets. We decided to wait and see. I did notice him grinding his teeth, but thought he was just chewing his cud. Thursday, he showed no sign of improvement, and spent the day alternating between being kushed and straining at the pile. We called the vet, and made a plan to take him to the clinic first thing in the morning. Friday morning, he did not even try to get up when we approached. We hurried him to the vet.

When Dr. Linda Contos saw him, she knew immediately that he was uremic. Uremia comes from a build up of urea in the blood. It means kidney failure. She had seen this before in one of her own llamas. Grayson had a bladder stone that had become stuck in his urethra (the tube that empties the bladder). Male llamas, like sheep and goats, have a long, curved urethra that ends in a narrow urethral process extending from the end of the penis. To further complicate matters, the male llama has a penile-preputial attachment that holds the penis inside the prepuce when they are young (while only 8% of 12-month old llamas have detachment of this membrane, all are detached by the age of three)⁽⁴⁾. This preputial attachment makes it virtually impossible to pass a urinary catheter via the penis in young llamas. Our option for Grayson was, therefore, surgery. Dr. Contos obtained lab work first. She wanted to know what we were up against: how bad was the kidney failure? The lab results were disheartening. Both the BUN and creatinine, the major indicators of how well the kidneys are functioning, were four times the normal level. I called a urologist colleague, and asked him about this condition in humans. He told me that the BUN and creatinine can be extremely high, but if the condition is acute, the prognosis can still be good. I know that llamas are not humans, but it gave me hope. We took Grayson home that night to be with his mother.

Saturday morning, Grayson was back at the clinic for surgery. The plan was relatively simple. Grayson would be placed under general anesthesia. An incision would then be made behind the penis, through which a catheter would be threaded into the bladder. If the bladder was already ruptured it would be hopeless, and Grayson would be euthanized. If the bladder was not

ruptured, there was hope. I was allowed to observe the surgery. I had assisted with another llama's procedure in the past, and could assist here if necessary.

The surgery started well. A stone was immediately retrieved. With some difficulty, a catheter was threaded into the bladder. Urine came pouring out. The bladder was not ruptured! Suddenly, Grayson stopped breathing. The two veterinarians and I tried to resuscitate him, but to no avail. His little body was just too weak. I said goodbye to him, and we stopped.

The autopsy showed a very distended bladder, amazingly unruptured. There was a large amount of fluid in the abdomen with severe peritonitis. Both kidneys had hydronephrosis, fluid collecting in and around the kidneys. He could not have survived this.

The fact that Grayson had been walking through the clinic, curiously observing all around him, just an hour before was a testament to the stoic nature of these animals. I berated myself for not picking up on the serious nature of his problem earlier. I immediately decided to write this article.

What follows I have gleaned from an extensive literature and Internet search. Much of what is written is based on goats and sheep, but seems to hold true for llamas. I find it interesting (and, in a way, reassuring) that of the three case reports of bladder obstruction in llamas, all were initially misdiagnosed as gastrointestinal problems. I hope this article will lead to an increased understanding of a rare, but life-threatening condition, that can be treated successfully if diagnosed early enough. Maybe Grayson's death will not have been in vain if this article can save the lives of other llamas.

RISK FACTORS

The major risk factors for bladder obstruction are primarily related to sex and diet. Although females will get bladder stones, it is males who are at risk for bladder obstruction. This is because of their long urethra with the thin urethral process at the terminal end of the penis⁽³⁾. The urethra is especially narrow when the llama is young⁽¹⁰⁾. Early castration removes the hormonal influence for full development of the urethral diameter, so the urethra stays narrow⁽⁶⁾. A diet high in concentrates (grain) and low in roughage increases the risk, as do diets high in magnesium or with a low calcium to phosphorus ratio⁽²⁾. Grazing in semiarid ranges has been associated with increased risk of silica stones (probably due to increased intake of silica)⁽⁴⁾. Low water intake or increased water loss is a major risk factor^(4,10). Alkaline urine is also associated with the formation of bladder stones⁽²⁾.

DIETARY FACTORS IN RUMINANTS

Ruminants have special dietary considerations that simple-stomached animals (such as horses, pigs and

(Continued on page 12)

LARAMIE COUNTY FAIR

Wyoming's Oldest & Largest Fair

Thank You!

To the Laramie County Fair Board, exhibitors, sponsors and volunteers who made the 2001 Laramie County Fair Llama Show a success, thank you for your support. In 2001 the show expanded from 29 classes in a one-day format to 42 classes in a two-day format. We moved the show from the last weekend of the fair to the first weekend for greater public exposure. This move also avoided date conflicts with other llama shows in Wyoming. The 2001 show featured 92 llamas from five states in performance and halter classes and a fiber show with 26 shorn llama fleeces and 7 handspinner's choice entries. In addition, two alpacas were exhibited in a public education context. We offered a full youth show and we had a delightful picnic in Cheyenne's Lions Park after the first day of the show.

I hope that those of you who have attended the shows in 2000 and 2001 will again "Consider Cheyenne in 2002" as part of your show circuit. The 2002 show is scheduled for August 3 and 4, 2002. Additional show details will be advertised in the May 2002 issue of the *RMLA Journal*. I am motivated to take this show to a higher level year after year. Here are some of my goals for the 2002 show:

- 125 llama entries
- 10 alpacas and 10 alpaca fiber samples for a public education booth.
- 20 youth exhibitors
- 55 llama fiber entries (40 shorn llama fleeces and 15 handspinner's choice entries)
- 10 new show sponsors
- Excellence in obstacles meaning I pledge to provide you some of the most realistic and challenging courses for performance classes found anywhere.
- Free Picnic: The free sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers picnic returns. Remember, y'all gotta eat somewhere on Saturday night, August 3rd, so it might as well be on me in Cheyenne.

If you have ideas or questions concerning the show please drop me a line, give me a call or send me a transmission.

Be well,



Robert Tompkins, Show Superintendent
Laramie County Fair Llama Show
8216 Stagecoach Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009-9509

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... Paid for by the Laramie County Fair Llama Show Committee ...

(Continued from page 9)

humans) do not have. Phosphorus is normally recycled through saliva (chewing of cud) and excreted in the feces. High calcium diets reduce the absorption of phosphorus in the gastrointestinal tract. The problem arises when the wrong diet is fed. High grain, low roughage diets decrease saliva formation and increase the amount of phosphorus excreted in the urine. High phosphorus diets overwhelm the salivary excretion mechanism, also increasing phosphorus excretion in the urine. High magnesium diets contribute to the formation of struvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate). The most common bladder stones are struvite and apatite (calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate). Increased urine output and decreased urine pH may prevent stones by diluting solutes, decreasing urinary retention time, and increasing solubility of solutes⁽²⁾.

SYMPTOMS OF BLADDER OBSTRUCTION

Bladder obstruction in llamas may initially be misdiagnosed as constipation or fecal impaction^(4,5,8,10). Straining to urinate or defecate is initially noticed. Failure to defecate for >24 hours is suggestive of intestinal obstruction. However, failure to urinate for >6-8 hours is suggestive of bladder obstruction⁽¹⁾. Other early symptoms are tail flagging (holding the tail straight out or up)^(2,6), teeth grinding^(5,6), anorexia⁽²⁾ and a tense abdomen⁽²⁾. Lethargy, which is secondary to uremia, is a late sign^(2,5). Advanced neurological symptoms (including staggering, seizure and coma) indicate severe uremia⁽²⁾. Symptoms that suddenly improve may indicate bladder rupture (usually within 24-48 hours of the obstruction⁽¹⁰⁾), and will most likely result in death secondary to peritonitis. If left untreated, the result will ultimately be cardiovascular collapse and death⁽²⁾.

TREATMENT

Surgery should not be left as a "last ditch" effort. Surgery performed in a deteriorating llama is more likely to result in complications or death⁽¹⁾. Medical treatments are of little use in an acute obstruction, but can be of use in preventing further problems. These include urine acidifiers^(3,10), antispasmodics⁽³⁾ and diuresis⁽³⁾. Although commonly performed in sheep and goats, urethral process amputation offers only a temporary correction, and recurrences are likely^(2,3). The most common surgery is perineal urethrostomy (what was performed on Grayson), but complications and recurrences are relatively high^(2,3). Tube cystostomy involves surgically placing a bladder catheter via the abdominal wall. This allows for drainage of the bladder and thorough irrigation of the bladder. It can be combined with perineal urethrostomy. It has proven to be very successful in goats and sheep, and may be the new first line treatment of choice^(2,3,9). Finally, there is

marsupialization of the bladder. The end result of this surgery is the bladder emptying directly to the outside, making a urethra unnecessary. Although considered as a last resort surgery for llamas⁽²⁾, it has met with some success in goats⁽⁷⁾.

PREVENTION

Preventing bladder stones is significantly easier than treating them. These recommendations are for all ruminants. Avoid early castration. **Avoid horse feeds, which are not balanced for ruminants.** Feed a low-concentrate, high roughage diet (such as grass hay) with at least a 2:1 calcium to phosphorus ratio. Supplement any high-concentrate feed (grain) with 2-10% salt^(2,3,6,10). Consider a urinary acidifier (ammonium chloride added to feed) for animals at significant risk.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PACK LLAMAS

Prevention is the most important aspect. When packing in areas without adequate grazing, or other situations where supplemental food is necessary, use pelleted food specifically formulated for llamas or goats. If grain (such as cob or sweet feed) is used, supplement with salt. Consider urinary acidifiers in high-risk animals. Keep in mind, water is very alkaline in western states and desert climates, and this could be a contributing factor. Adequate water intake is of utmost importance. Always make sure your animals are well hydrated. **Finally, keep a low tolerance for the unusual.** Straining can mean constipation or bladder obstruction. Remember that failing to urinate for >6-8 hours may indicate bladder obstruction. Heavy packing can lead to increased water loss and inadequate water intake. Always remember that llamas are very stoic animals. They will continue to work despite pain and illness, and will not show signs of serious illness until severely ill. Then it may be too late.

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Linda Contos, DVM and John Heidrick, DVM PhD, for all their effort in this case; Larry Gibel, MD, for all the information he was able to provide; and Daphne Dahms, DO DVM, for providing technical advice and proofreading.

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Back Country Recipe

Hot or Cinnamon Curly Bread Sticks (Submitted by Larry Lewellyn)


These bread sticks go with everything you cook. My retired friend, who is a welder, made me some stainless steel skewers with wooden handles about sixteen inches long. Well, I purchase bread sticks in the dairy section of the local grocery store and carry them on pack trips. Yes! You can buy already made bread sticks!

We break open the bread stick containers and spray Pam on the skewers. Slide one end of the bread stick dough down the skewer and start wrapping it around the skewer and then slide the top over the end. Place it over the fire, turning it back and forth 'til done. Patience is very important here. Hm...Hot Bread!

A special treat is to have a container of cinnamon and sugar with you — sprinkle the mixture on the bread stick before you start roasting it — this is a nice touch.

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VOLUNTEERS: THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

By Jerry Dunn, RMLA Vice-President
Beartrack Farm, Golden, CO



Have you ever been to an event where everything ran like clock work; people were smiling; and the activities were fun and flowed one to the other? Chances are the organizer of the event had a fine core of volunteers helping

with all aspects of the event. Very few events are entirely successful without the great volunteers who come forward and give of their time and expertise.

People who volunteer do it because they enjoy helping and being an integral part of a successful happening. An event organizer's job is to make sure the volunteers are well educated about their tasks and the needs of the event in order to do their jobs successfully.

The best way to ensure an event has effective and happy volunteers is to identify a good volunteer coordinator. A good volunteer coordinator can organize and coordinate people and the jobs that need to be done. Before the event, the organizer and the volunteer coordinator should make a list of all of the jobs that need to be filled. The coordinator then identifies individuals who have strengths and skills in those areas. Every event has its own special needs. The goal is to identify all of the needs and find volunteers for those positions.

Next, the volunteer coordinator should develop volunteer guidelines. These should include the length of time of each job, including start and end times; tasks required for the specific job; and expectations, such as special skills and the need to support other positions. Important expectations for all volunteers are that they be alert and focused on the task at hand.

Volunteer coordinators also support the work of the volunteers and other staff involved with an event.

- Post a list of volunteers and their jobs with the times, location and where they are working. Having the list available helps the event staff track of everyone and allows for quickly replacing someone if necessary.
- Identify volunteers with special hats, pins or scarves so that event participants know where to go for help or information.

- Volunteers need breaks too! Identify another support group to relieve volunteers for bathroom breaks and food breaks.

At the end of the event, thank every volunteer personally, either with hand written thank you notes or a special activity celebrating their dedication and hard work.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEER!

*

The Monument RMLA BIRTHDAY PARTY: A sure cure for cabin fever blues!!

Join us as we celebrate RMLA's 20th birthday where it was founded — in Monument, Colorado — on Saturday, April 6, 2002. Members Terri Baird and Mary Wickman are coordinating this event. This issue of the *RMLA Journal* has RSVP information. Come to learn and reminisce. New, and not so new, RMLA members alike will enjoy this party. So, mark it down and join all your friends. See you in Monument!!!



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Accepting the Saddle

**By: Charlie Hackbarth,
 Past President, RMLA
 Mt. Sopris Llamas Unltd., LaVeta, CO**



I will begin by assuming that your llama has been trained to halter and lead and that his body has been somewhat desensitized to your touch. Brushing him will help desensitize, and should be done before saddling to clear the wool of sticks and burrs that could irritate or sore his back or belly. If he

is not used to you putting your hands on his upper legs, belly and sternum area, you will need to work on that a little before bringing out the saddle. I do this by patting the llama with my hand until he is accustomed to my hand being in a certain area. Start high on his sides and pat in the same place until he accepts your hand, then slowly work around his barrel until you have covered his entire underside where the cinches might make contact. Work from both sides of your llama.

Once you have desensitized you llama so that he will stand comfortably, bring out the saddle along with the

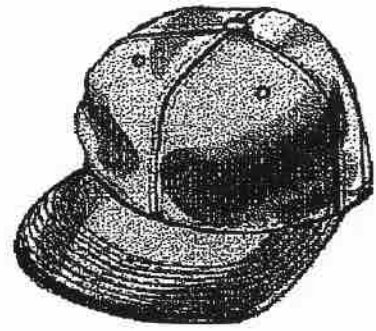
instructions on its specific use. Disregard the following instructions where you feel that yours are clearer or more appropriate for the saddle you are using. Continue to work in a confined area throughout the saddle-training period, and avoid obstacles and other challenges until your llama gets used to the pack outfit.

Establish the front and rear of the saddle, disconnect the chest strap and breeching, and make sure that your cinches are set up to accommodate saddling from the llama's left side. If you are a non-conformist, you may saddle from the right side, or even from the rear if you want to make things really difficult. It's just easier to keep the rigging organized for the next person if you saddle from the "universal" left side. Pre-adjust the cinches to the size of your llama. You will probably guess wrong but it's a good drill, and if you're right, you've saved yourself some time and your llama some agitation at this stage of the training. Flip the cinches upside down across the top of the saddle, so that they are out of the way. Set the saddle with pad on his back. If the saddle and pad are separate, use the pad at first. Go on and off with it several times, then move it around on his back a little and rub it to make a little noise. Hold on to the saddle or pad during this process in case he tries to get rid of it. When he is standing comfortably, position the saddle for saddling. When in place, the front cinch will come across the sternum (the callused area between and slightly behind the front legs). The cinch strap going to the saddle will be 1" to 1 1/2" behind the llama's elbow. Carefully lower the cinches over the opposite side.

(Continued on page 16)



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(Continued from page 15)

If his lower legs haven't been desensitized, he will probably get a little excited if the cinches make contact with his legs. Keep a hold on the saddle in case he jumps around, and remove it if necessary. When your llama is calm, continue holding onto the saddle with your left hand in case of movement. Reach under and take the front cinch with your right hand and connect the buckle. As you draw the cinch tight, push the wool away from the cinch buckle. Tighten the front cinch enough to keep the saddle from slipping around your llama.

Follow the same procedure with the rear cinch, which will angle as far back as possible, bringing it directly in front of the penile sheath. Adjust the strap that connects the two cinches to keep the rear cinch from moving any farther back. (You may want to estimate the adjustment at this point and make the physical adjustment when the saddle is off the llama.) The cinching process gets much easier with practice. Keep your head out of reach of the back feet in case your llama tries to strike forward. After he gets used to the cinching process, you can tighten the cinches as required. A common mistake for the beginner is not getting the front cinch tight enough. A front cinch needs to be tight when your llama is fully loaded. If it is tightened properly, it should be difficult to get your hand between the cinch strap and the llama. The rear cinch should fit snugly.

Test your saddle by pulling down on the side, and back and forth from front to rear. It should be difficult to move the saddle in any direction. When you have saddled, walk your llama around and let him get used to it. There is usually little reaction to the saddle once it is in place. Practice saddling a few times until you both get the hang of it. Make any adjustments while the saddle is off.

Chest Strap and Breeching

The chest strap and breeching are used to insure that the loaded saddle does not move forward or rearward on steep inclines. They also help to stabilize the side-to-side motion of the load. Although these straps may seem complicated, once you and your llama become familiar with them it will be easier to use them than not to. The chest strap and breeching are particularly useful to the novice who doesn't always get the cinches tightened properly, or doesn't pack up the ideal load. Their use will cut your frustration level and increase your llama's comfort.

Start with the chest strap. Simply clip it into the saddle at the appropriate places and center it across the llama's chest between the windpipe and the shoulder joint. Be careful if you duck under the lead rope to get to the other side of your llama. If he isn't used to this he may panic and rear, injuring you both in the process. Tighten the chest strap snugly.

Don't use the excuse, "my llama doesn't like the breeching so I'm not going to make him wear it." He will like your fully loaded saddle riding on his shoulders far

less, and he will quickly get used to wearing the breeching. Begin by standing at your llama's left side with the breeching completely disconnected from the saddle. Once you and your llama get used to the process, you may choose to leave the chest strap and breeching connected to the left side of the saddle throughout the entire cinching process, but for now, the fewer things that you have in the way, the better. Connect the breeching per your instructions. Adjust the breeching so that it is plenty long – you don't want to end up short on the other side when you get there. Holding the end of the breeching, walk around the rear of your llama and attach the strap to the other side. Be sure to give him plenty of room, just in case he decides to kick. He may swing his rear toward you around with the strap, which just makes it easier. Adjust the breeching straps on his rump and connect the diagonal breeching straps if you have them. The perfect placement for the breeching is where the testicles used to be on gelded males and below the genitalia on intact males and females. Tighten the straps which connect the breeching to the saddle and walk your llama around to get him used to the breeching. He will dance and possibly kick a bit at first.

Repeat the entire process until you are both comfortable with it.

The Panniers

Begin with empty panniers and go easy at first. If your llama appears to be nervous, hold a pannier against the saddle and make a little noise until he gets used to it. Attach the panniers and secure them so that if he jumps or bucks, the panniers will not flop or fall off to upset him further. Walk around for a bit and when he feels comfortable, add a couple of pillows to each pannier. Rub the panniers with your hands to get him used to the foreign object on his back and protruding from his sides. If you have a rain cover, carefully lay it across the top of the panniers and rub it to make some noise. When you feel comfortable, take him through some obstacles such as a series of small jumps and a smooth post/tree slalom course where the panniers can rub without getting hung up. Avoid taking your llama through narrow gate openings or obstacles where the panniers could get hung up. This could cause your llama to panic, creating a potentially dangerous situation, not to mention the destruction of your pack outfit.

Next, begin adding bulk and weight to the panniers and take him for a short hike. Hike on the trail or in a large pasture or fenced area where there are some water crossings to go through and some brush to rub up against. Jump a log or two and go for a short run. Allow saddle straps to touch his legs. Try anything to prepare him for what lies ahead. When taking the pack outfit off, just go in reverse order. You are set to go packing now, and the more you go, the easier it gets for both you and your llama.

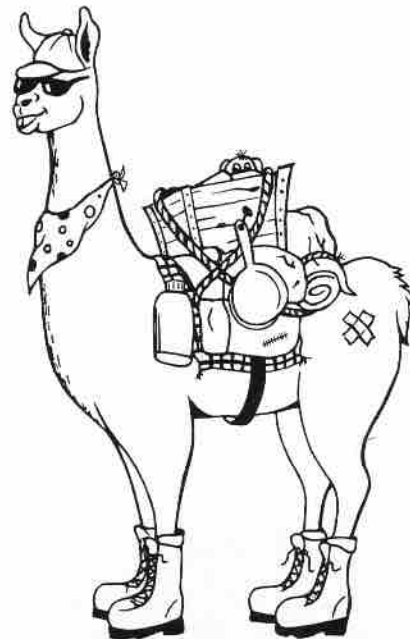
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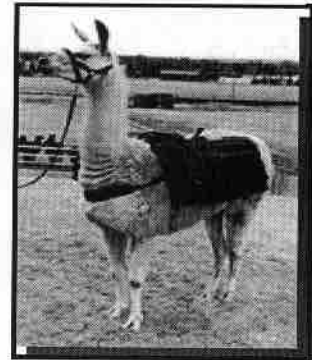
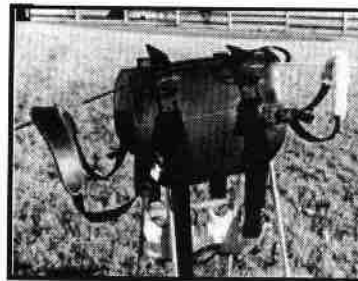


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EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL

The RMLA Service Directory Advertising Offer
 The "YELLOW PAGES": March 1, 2002 to February 28, 2003

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
 AS OF
 DECEMBER 30, 2001**

RMLA is ending the year with:
 34 Junior Members, 8 were new members this year.
 5 Youth Members. This category was new this year, intended for our young members who have graduated from High School and are now attending College/University.
 18 Life Memberships – representing 28 members.
 296 Regular Memberships – representing 514 members. This includes 59 New Memberships.
 RMLA has members in 24 States, in Italy and in England.

We encourage each of you to take advantage of the very inexpensive advertising offered by RMLA – in each "Journal" – in the "Service Directory" (THE YELLOW PAGES of LAMAS) – and on our web site. How better to reach those folks who would like to own an alpaca or llama and be active in all of the wonderful fun things we do?

**Take your pen in hand NOW! And fill out the Membership Renewal and the Service Directory advertising offer forms in this Journal.
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**It is with deep regret that
RMLA
notes the passing of one
of its founders,**

Erma Hast,

in early December, 2001.

**Members with photos or remembrances of
Erma are requested to forward copies of
them to Larry Lewellyn for inclusion in a
album.**



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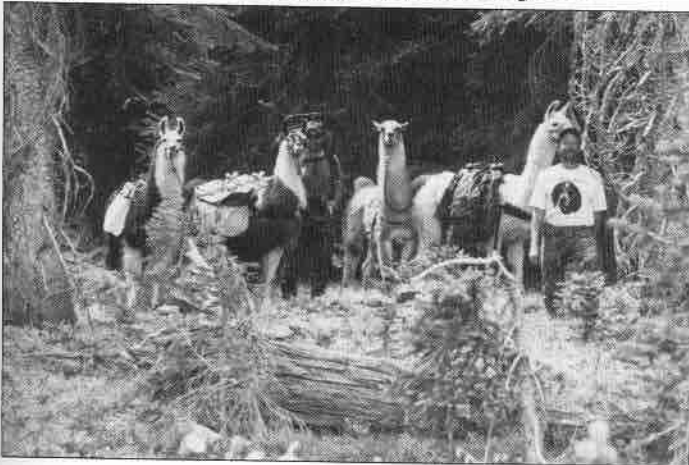
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Our Four Wheelers Are Soft-Footed: Archery Elk Hunting in the Medicine Bow National Forest of Southern Wyoming

**By: Kevin Anderson, Cactus Ranch
Llamas and Rob Tompkins, Prairie
Wind Llamas, both of Cheyenne, WY**

This is a saga of two archery hunters who hunt on foot far from highways and logging roads. While we enjoy the rigors of our hunts, we also enjoy certain "creature comforts" in our elk camp. We use our llamas to pack in and pack out our camp. They are also available to pack out game.



For the past two years we have hunted elk area 110 during Wyoming's month long archery season in September. Our area is on public land in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Both years, we allocated nine days for our hunts. Our hunt area is approximately a thirty-minute drive on highway 130 southwest of Centennial, Wyoming. The area is densely wooded with interspersed chain meadows and mountain streams. The topography varies greatly. The highest elevation point in the area is Medicine Bow Peak at 12,013 feet above sea level. We typically hunt in an elevation range of 9000 – 10,000 feet.

Wildlife is abundant in the area. We have seen moose, elk, deer and blue grouse during our hunts. We have also spotted black bear and mountain lion tracks. The streams are clear and full of trout. At some waterfall areas, we have enjoyed a break from hunting by watching the trout jump in their quest to swim upstream.

Our hunting trips are punctuated by encounters with nature found only in a wild and free land.

At times, those encounters involve rapid weather changes. Like in 2000 when we left Cheyenne in record heat; seven days into our hunt we found ourselves digging out of a foot of snow the morning of September

22nd. Feed for the llamas went from lush meadow grass to pawing at the snow. For the welfare of our llamas, we transported them back to Cheyenne. We did not repeat this error in 2001. We transported hay for packing to camp in the event of inclement weather. And, of course, in 2001 we got heat for nine days with no snow. But, better to be prepared!

We enjoy the quiet that accompanies archery hunting. Packing with llamas is consistent with quiet camps and hunting. Llamas leave tracks similar to the quarry we seek. And, they move through the timber with ease and agility. So much so, that during our 2001 hunt we had a close encounter with a grazing buck mule deer with llamas in tow. We were transporting camp gear at the time and the deer peacefully meandered away.

Many regard high country elk hunting as among the most rigorous hunts going. It doesn't get any easier as time passes. Our frame packs in our forties don't feel quite as light as they did when we were in our twenties. So we rely upon our llamas for carrying capacity. Our four llamas each pack approximately 60 – 70 pounds providing us a comfortable camp. Credit where credit is due. Llamas Joe and Richie belong to Kevin and Wyoming Fancy Pants and Sorpreso belong to Rob. In 2002, we will both add another llama to our pack strings.

To condition our animals and ourselves, we do summer hikes near our homes and in our hunt area.



Summer hikes in the hunt area are intended for multiple purposes: high altitude training, teamwork within our pack strings, orienteering, map reading, scouting for elk wallows, etc. Knowing of the rigors that each September brings helps to motivate us throughout the year to keep ourselves, and our animals, in shape!

For us, hunting is about the fair chase. Ethics and conservation of the land is paramount. And while we had success in 2000, we don't measure the success of our hunts by tags filled. Rather, we measure success by how well we prepared for our hunts and by how well we carried out our plans. Our llamas are integral to our archery

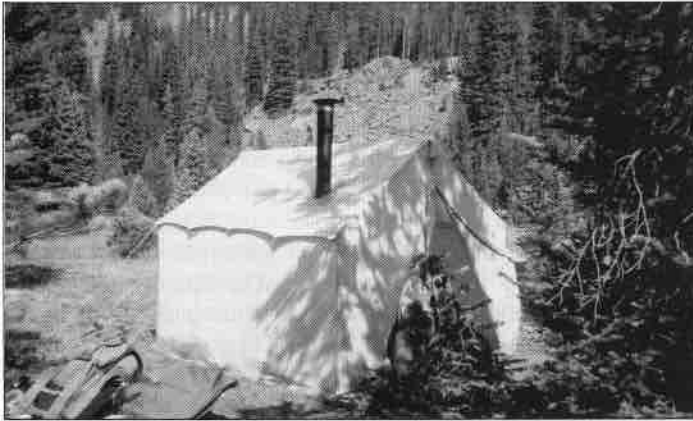
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hunting plans. As a result of good health and conditioning it has been our privilege to enjoy this wild and free land the past two Septembers. We look forward to more of the same this coming September accompanied by our soft-footed four wheelers.

Postscript

Here are a few tips from our camp to yours. Our llamas pack the essentials of a comfortable camp, such



as a sturdy wall tent, wood stove, etc. And, they pack clothing and gear that will handle any weather conditions we may encounter. We also recommend the use of head

strap flashlights. Moving to or from hunt areas involves hiking in the dark. Since the archer is already carrying bow and quiver it is easier to hike in the dark with a head strap flashlight than a hand carried flashlight.

We pack a minimal amount of water. This primarily is because water is heavy, but also, because it isn't necessary if you pick a campsite near a stream and purify your water. We also discourage taking bread on pack trips. As an alternative we prefer tortilla wraps with peanut butter and jelly or with meat and cheese. We find the tortilla wraps are easier to pack and they withstand a trip better than bread.

Lastly, make time to take time to be with those who matter most. On the eighth day of our 2001 hunt, we took a break from hunting to meet our wives at our trailhead. We took llamas to the trailhead and packed to camp the makings of a spaghetti dinner* with hors d'oeuvres and wine. A favorite board game was also slipped into the panniers of one of our llamas. Our wives, Cathy Anderson and Diane Walker-Tompkins, were welcome sights and great company. They understand our need to explore wild and free land. We understand their need for the same.

* Cathy cooked the spaghetti in Cheyenne and we re-heated it in a zip lock bag in a pan of heated water at camp. Similarly, we heated the spaghetti sauce in its container in a pan of heated water at camp.



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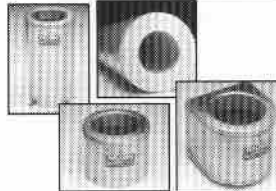
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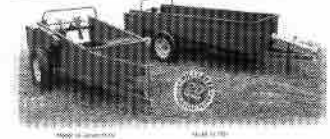
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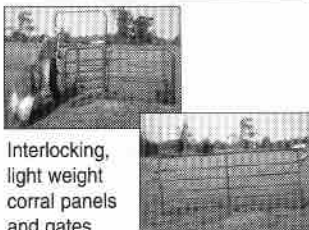
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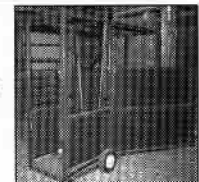
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LLAMA ROOKIE

**By: Tony Gross,
Orion Hunting, Littleton, CO**



This is a story of how the Grosses, Tony, Mary (doubting wife) and Rachel (partially obedient, 10 year old daughter) came to own llamas and what we learned. The purchase of the llamas followed a lot of research, soul searching, and work to convince my wife, Mary, that we needed llamas. We live in Littleton, Colorado

on 4 acres. We are an outdoorsy family that likes camping, fishing, hunting and hiking. I settled on llamas after extensive evaluation of horses, burros, and mules to support our outdoor family fun. This conclusion was based on safety, packing ability, ease of care, and cost. All pack animals had their plusses and minuses and I would not mind having several of each, but time and space are limited.

Research

I love digging around in literature and talking to folks to find things out. I read several books about pack animals. I studied more than a half dozen llama books and articles, but the following are the ones that left definite impressions on me.

Packing with Llamas. Stanlynn Daugherty, 1999, fourth edition. Lots of information from a credible llama packer. This book contains many anecdotes from her experience as a commercial llama packer and makes supporting points. When combined with the next reference, this book is probably all you need to know about selection, transporting, equipment, training, and packing.

Caring for Llamas and Alpacas, Hoffman and Asmus, 1998, fourth edition. Llamas are still "exotic" animals with a unique physiology and some unique needs. This book gives the lay person plenty of no nonsense help on the care and feeding of llamas. This book was important to me in the selection of llamas as pack animals because it showed me that keeping llamas was not difficult and most problems are easily surmounted. A comparable book about caring for horses' hooves alone can be much more complicated!

Introduction to Llama Packing, and The Working Llama, Wes Holmquist, 2000. Wes certainly looks differently and strongly at the world and

llamas. Wes gives his opinions from the standpoint of a westerner and a country dweller. Wes made me think deeply about the goals and purpose of what I wanted in llamas. *There are a lot of folks selling llamas for the purpose of packing who do not pack themselves.* Most of these folks take very good care of their llamas and are well intended, but you should reach your own informed conclusions on how a packing llama should look and perform. I am intrigued about the llama pack trials and will try one this summer. Wes's Introduction to Llama Packing is a great quick reference for those who want to spend their time packing and not reading.

Looking for llamas

Well, after reading and hitting the web sites (RMLA.com is the best!), it was time to see some llamas and visit some llama owners. My wife and I had some experience 10 years ago when we enlisted some of Peter Nichols' llamas in Clark, Colorado on the Elk River to drop pack us eight miles into the Encampment River country.

Now it was time to visit the "Evening with Llamas" at the National Western Stock Show. This turned out to be a great experience and won my 9 year old daughter over to llamas. My wife turned out to be a tougher sale. We met Kim Murphy, Larry Lewellyn, Rob Knuckles and Roger Miller and their llamas. It was amazing to us the number and variety of llamas that were exhibited.

I was very impressed with Rob Knuckles' Sock and asked him if Sock was for sale. Rob looked at me like I was crazy and said "No". I later found out that Sock was a National Champion and there was no way Rob and Jill would ever be separated from Sock. This animal became my standard when I looked at pack animals. I was impressed at the friendliness of the people exhibiting and how much they loved their animals. I would like to see any other exhibitors of domesticated animals shown at the Stock Show attempt such an intimate setting with the animals. This event and the Llama Lunacy in Fairplay showcase the advantages of the llama species and hospitality of the

(Continued on page 24)



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(Continued from page 21)

owners that is absent from any other animal class I have witnessed.

Llama farms

I got a copy of the RMLA service directory and scoured it front to back. I visited a few farms. I really got into the llama network by calling Lougene Baird who referred me to Larry Lewellyn. In Lougene's wisdom, she knew that not only did I need good llamas, but also I needed an excellent mentor. She could have not been more right for success with our llamas.

Larry had some excellent llamas and I purchased three (Bulls? Toro's? Males? Llamas have a sexual identity crisis!). This was a long process of the Lewellyns and the Grosses getting to know each other. I think Deanna found out more about us and our place than her own son's dates. I went to their place several times to look at the animals and they brought Marvin, Abu (we call him BooBoo), Elway, and Hightops to our place for a hike. I think the hike is what convinced my wife, Mary. We worked out a deal and sealed it with a beer and a toast!

Trailers and Fences

Now the real work and expense started. I had to fence off an area for a pen and pasture. I decided on a 47" woven field fence arrangement with a smooth top wire 6" above. This was a good choice for the pasture area, but will not be durable enough for the pen. The llamas scrub on it in spite of the cylindrical road broom I installed for them to scratch on. The llamas also want to rear up and rest their forelegs on the fence and snort! I will eventually have to install a solid top rail to keep them from hurting themselves and the fence. I now understand that fencing is a continual effort of repair and improvement.

Recently, Marvin cleared this 53" fence. Fortunately, Marvin jumped into the enclosed pasture area. I will never underestimate the power and athleticism llamas possess based on this and other experiences I have now had with the llamas.

I purchased a used 22 foot stock trailer. The trailer looked huge for three llamas, but it has been worth it to haul hay or additional llamas and gear. The trailer has a tack room at the front that has proven very useful for storing packs, feed, halters, leads, and other gear. The electric brakes are an absolute requirement for hauling anything across Colorado's many passes and ridges and through torturous Denver traffic. My Ford F250 diesel Powerstroke pulls this trailer and carries our camper effortlessly. I don't know how the Chevys do it. The trailer has afforded us a lot of flexibility and savings to get hay.

Llama food

I am amazed at the variety of llama delicacies. Every walk is a smorgasbord. Pine tree bark; dead pine

needles; dead oak leaves; spruce needles; grass and alfalfa like; and all variety of forbs will be sniffed, crunched and munched with enthusiasm. Don't worry Dee, they get good, clean grass and alfalfa at home.

Protecting our haystacks became a challenge during Colorado's severe wind storms. After seeing the wind shred several small plastic tarps, Larry, my llama mentor, advised getting a huge 32'x45' tarp and folding it in half so that the tarp extends from top to bottom of the haystack. This keeps the wind from getting under the tarp and slapping it all over. This arrangement can be held down with a long rope placed belt-like around the entire stack, connected end to end with a bungee. Not much else is needed to hold it in place. Wes Mauz advised me that a fence post staple hammered into the wood pallets under the hay provides a good anchor using hay bale twine to tie to the tarp. These huge silver plastic tarps are available at Harbor Freight in Aurora or Stockman's Supply in Commerce City, Colorado.

Knots for llama handling

I love knots from my experience as a fly fisherman and firefighter. The following knots work for us. The

The Alpacas and Llamas of

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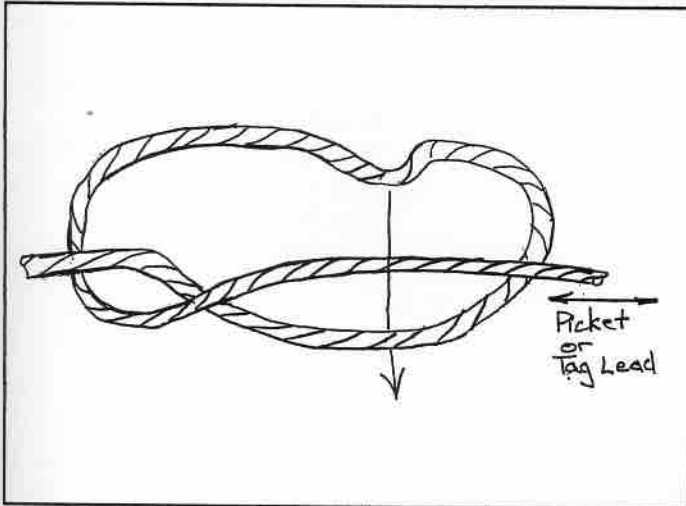
THE 2003 CALENDAR

We know that RMLA members have some of the finest alpacas and llamas in the world! And, we know that our members love to take photos of their camelids. We need a committee to judge alpaca and llama photos. If you would like to be on this committee please contact any member of the Executive Committee of RMLA.

The calendar will also feature helpful hints. The idea is for members to send in their helpful care hints to the Executive Committee. We will review them for use in the calendar. We want the calendar to blend inspirational photos with informative hints.

standards: quick release and Bowline knots are the most important to know best. Instructions for these knots are in *Caring for Llamas and Alpacas*. Larry Lewellyn and Lougene Baird tie the best and tightest quick release knots I have seen. I learned the bowline knot at the firefighter academy and trust my life with it. I learned to complete it in the dark, wearing gloves and bunker gear.

The Harness knot is a very good knot I learned for attaching lead ropes along a long tag line. This knot is very quick and easy to tie, untie, and can be tied in the middle of a long line without having to thread the end through. The following figure shows how the Harness knot is completed.



Attaching a halter to a lead rope seems simple. I got all the hardware and rope from South 85 Feed and made my own. I thought I would save money and weight by using two 75-pound test zip ties. They worked really well until we were clipping Booboo's nails. He reared up, got underneath his halter, and snapped a combined 150 lbs of zip tie resistance. Another experience of underestimating the llama's great strength! I now use the brass butterfly-like folding closure with success.

FMD

Part of the deal with my wife to get llamas was that we would continue our plans go to England for a vacation. At first, this seemed OK, but I began to worry about the reports of 3 million plus animals killed in the UK because of FMD. We nearly cancelled the trip. I read all the information on the RMLA.com site – very scary. The USDA protocol seemed very weak for travelers. The British had very good daily web information locating FMD occurrences. We decided to go ahead, with some restrictions such as staying away from rural areas, especially areas with large outbreaks like the Lake District, Western Wales and Cornwall; spend most of our time in London; follow a disinfection protocol; and keep away from susceptible animals in the US for 45 days and 5 days from our own. The decision to go was based on

the fact that llamas are highly resistant to FMD and there was only **60+/- confirmed cases of FMD in Britain**. Sixty out of 3 million, what a shame! The trip was very enjoyable and we will go back, adding Ireland and Scotland to the itinerary. I last heard that scientists suspected a dust cloud from the African Sahara as the vector contaminating England.

4H and ALSA Performance Events

When we first got our llamas, I had no desire to participate in any shows. My goal was to do a lot of packing. Larry Lewellyn convinced me that performance courses were fun and a valuable training tool for llamas. It also gave me a chance to learn how to handle my llamas better by observing the aces who won or placed in the events. My daughter was fascinated by all the ribbons that Larry and Dee had collected and wanted to win some herself. She had a difficult time competing in the adult events. We finally got her in the Douglas County Youth Classic put on by the Lofty Llama 4H club. Rachel won 3rd in youth pack and took 2 other ribbons. I cannot begin to describe the range of emotions I felt that day. Rachel went on to compete in the ALSA Regionals in Denver. We have (Rachel has) joined the Lofty Llamas 4H club. Working and competing with llamas has really helped Rachel's self-confidence.

Our first pack trips

Now this is what it is all about thanks to the little Siberian or Easter Island immigrant that thought "Gee, it would be a lot nicer if this guanaco would carry my stuff." Once we received the llamas, we led them on walks on the 70 acre open space area behind our home. We took them on afternoon hikes down the Indian/Bear Creek trail out of Jarr Canyon. First, they had Sopris and Mauz packs loaded with wine, cheese and snacks. Then, sleeping bags, tent, stove, and food for an overnight. Stream crossings were challenges. Rewards were warm evening vigils over a gurgling brook with llamas bedded, chewing their cud, and ringing their halter mounted bells. (The bells got old around midnight and Mary got up to take them off.)

The summit of last year's packing was a three-day

(Continued on page 27)



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(Continued from page 25)

archery hunt up West Chicago Creek, in Hells Hole basin adjacent to Mount Evans. Marvin and Boo were my only companions. We had frequent one way conversations with the occasional succinct hum from Marvin. I slept in a bivisack with the stars over me. Two sunsets and two sunrises with bright crisp nights and days made me forget sometimes I was supposed to be hunting. I think the llamas enjoyed the hike and munching grass in the meadow more than I enjoyed the trip myself. All the work, training, and expense was now worth it.

2002 pack trips are planned adjacent to Trappers Lake, Mt. Evans, and elsewhere. There is talk of a 20-year anniversary RMLA pack trip above Heeney that we will attend.

Lows

Realizing that we can only have 4 llamas, limited by space and time. Boo and Marvin running though a

fence and cutting themselves. Seeing Boo tangled in his long grazing lead, looking dead. Not many, really.

Highs

Turning the llamas loose in their new pen and pasture. Watching them frolic at feeding time like youngsters. Getting BooBoo to finally let me touch his neck and check his foot. Seeing Mary and Rachel develop a special bond with BooBoo and Hightops. Watching Marvin make overtures to a doe deer in a meadow at 12,000 feet on the side of Mount Evans. BooBoo waiting patiently for me to untangle him from his long grazing lead. Watching them run in a line in the evening, like silly pronging doe deer. Watching Rachel win ribbons at the Douglas County Classic. Running with Marvin in the Fairplay llama race. Small farms rules in Missouri! Hiking down that long trail with our three-llama pack string. Llamas are great!

*

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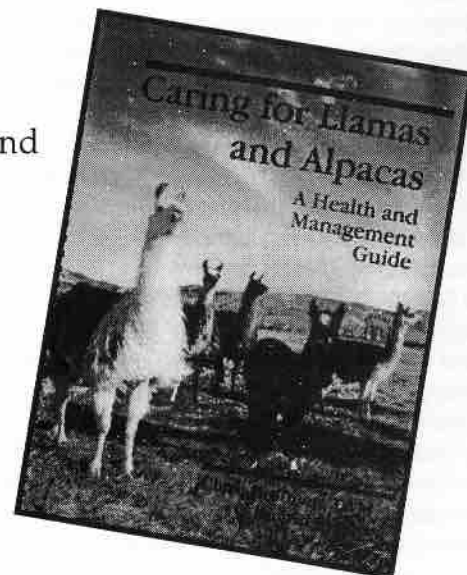
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Hypothermia: Are you ready for the winter?

By: David E Anderson, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, Associate Professor, International Camelid Institute, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

As we enter the autumn months in North America, my thoughts drift to concerns for care and management of livestock during the often-harsh environmental conditions of winter. In general, llamas and alpacas are well suited to cooler temperatures. After all, winter in the Andes can be trying on the soul if one is not prepared for it. However, camelids are susceptible to extremes of environment, hot (hyperthermia) or cold (hypothermia). The highest risk animals on the farm are very young, very old, very thin, or diseased camelids.

Perhaps the biggest concern we have for hypothermia are newborn crias. Crias are born without the stores of fat needed from which to draw energy to maintain body temperature. Newborns are dependent on the dam's colostrum and milk to provide glucose, fat, and protein. Early and frequent access to these nutrients are critical for the cria to survive the first few days of life. Without the milk fat, crias have a limited ability to maintain body temperature and blood glucose, both of which are necessary to survival. When crias are exposed to extremes of temperature, they must burn energy at a much higher rate to maintain body temperature and the remainder of the body systems may become starved. At some point, the cria is unable to ingest adequate milk to survive and hypothermia begins.

These crias are often found down in the pasture in a kushed position with the head and neck extended in front of them on the ground. This posture is designed to close off all areas where heat is lost: around the tail (perineum), between the legs (axilla and groin), the underside of the belly (ventral abdomen), and the base of the neck (sternum and thoracic inlet). At this point and if body heat and energy are not restored quickly, the cria will die from hypothermia and hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) within a few hours.

The veterinary community has spent considerable time and energy evaluating risk factors and developing prevention strategies for heat stress. This is time well spent, but we must consider both sides of the coin. Several years ago, a new farm lost several alpacas to heat stress. The farm did not have adequate shade and had not sheared the alpacas. When the peak daytime temperatures rose above 90 F and humidity climbed to

80%, the alpacas could no longer tolerate the extremes and several died before intervention could be instituted. The most significant factor seemed to be that the night time temperature did not fall below around 80 F. Thus, the alpacas could not exhaust the heat build up from the day before. This is bad when you are wearing an alpaca sweater!

The next year, the farm manager was determined not to succumb to the same problem and the alpacas were shorn in April of the next year. Unfortunately, a bitter cold spell including freezing temperatures and snowfall hit that area late in April. Eight alpacas were hospitalized for hypothermia and, fortunately, all were saved. I enjoyed watching them walk around with Ohio State sweatshirts on!

These lessons are simple: management and husbandry practices greatly influence an animal's ability to thrive. Consider your farm in light of the following tips for prevention of hypothermia:

◀ 1. Shelter: Camelids must be provided with a shelter from which they can seek protection from environmental extremes. These facilities should have sufficient width, length, and height to allow protection from wind. If three-sided shelters are used, a portion of the open side may be enclosed to provide a more effective windbreak. The orientation of the shelter should be such that the open side is not presented to prevailing winds (e.g. in Ohio, shelters face southeast to brace against northwesterly winds).

Our research has shown that llamas and alpacas will "loaf" (referring to relaxed cushioning rather than seeking shelter for protection) in shelters that provide approximately 36 square feet per animal. During environmental extremes (e.g. cold below 20 F, high wind, hard rain, sleet/ice, heavy snow) llamas and alpacas will utilize shelters at a rate of 18 to 24 square feet per animal. Inadequate shelter space will cause animals to be "left out" without protection from the environment.

◀ 2. Bedding: Bedding should be sufficient to help camelids close off their natural thermal windows. Remember, in summer we are trying to increase the thermal window. In winter, our goal is to decrease this thermal window. I prefer straw for this purpose. Straw is inexpensive, clean enough to use for birthing areas, has adequate insulating features, and can be easily cleaned from the floor and fiber coat.

◀ 3. Water: Water is a critical nutrient in all seasons. Ingestion of water fluctuates with the temperature of the water. When water is near freezing or frozen, water intake is decreased. Insufficient water intake causes decreased feed intake and the ability to regulate body temperature becomes impaired. In lactating females, milk production suffers and crias will fail to gain weight or will lose weight. If passive waterers are used (e.g. buckets, troughs), the water should be refreshed daily or several times a day as needed. I prefer heated automatic waterers to optimize access and decrease labor.

◀ 4. Foodstuffs: During extremes of cold, camelids

have a vital need for energy. I am often asked to consult on farms during winter months because females are losing weight, crias are not gaining weight, or hypothermia cases have been seen. Many of these problems can be tied to inadequate winter nutrition. Grain feeding may be increased to provide rapidly metabolizable energy sources, but this must be done cautiously. Overfeeding of any grain source can cause acidosis in the fermentation chamber (C1) of the stomachs and this will exacerbate the problem. Corn is the "hottest" grain in that it provides the most readily fermentable carbohydrates of the cereal grains, but this also makes corn the most risky for causing acidosis. I prefer to add oats to a winter ration because this feed provides more fiber than corn and is less prone to acidosis. Example: if a herd is feeding a commercial camelid pellet ration at 0.5 lbs per head per day, oats may be added at 0.5 lbs per head per day to increase energy intake. The addition of the oats should occur slowly over two weeks to allow the flora of C1 to adapt to the change in diet. Hay should be analyzed before winter months. I prefer to test each new shipment of hay and make acceptance of the hay contingent upon this analysis. Total digestible nutrient content of the hay should exceed 55% and is most desirable to exceed 60% for winter forage. I recommend that every animal in every herd have a BCS (body condition score) done every month. Loss of body condition score should be addressed quickly unless it can be explained (e.g. females are expected to loose 1 to 1.5 BCS during the first 2 months of lactation).

☛ 5. Feeding Management: Providing adequate quality of feed is only one-half of the story. Providing adequate access to feed is the other. In regions where heavy snowfall occurs and in areas where ice storms are common, camelids must be able to gain access to feed. In these situations, I prefer to offer feed inside of the shelter so that animals are not required to walk to a different location to get feed. Camelids will opt for protection against environmental extremes rather than eat or may eat for fewer hours each day. For farms that have barns this is rarely an issue. Farms using three-sided shelters may have a more difficult time providing sheltered feed.

☛ 6. Ventilation: During summer months, high ventilation is desired. During winter months, ventilation remains important. When shelters are "battened down" for the winter, we must be careful not to over-insulate the interior. Camelids tend to urinate and defecate inside of shelters. Who can blame them nobody likes a draft in the bathroom! If ventilation is too restricted in winter housing, ammonia and other gases from the dung pile buildup and can contribute to winter pneumonia and poor thriving crias. As always, hygiene is the key to success.

☛ 7. Shearing: Talking about shearing for winter seems strange at first, but what I am referring to here is 'when did you shear and how is your fiber growing'. Last year, I worked with a herd that had not been able to shear

until late in July. Although nutrition was adequate, there was not much room to spare. The fiber coats had not grown well enough before winter to provide adequate protection from the wind. Examination of the herd revealed a suboptimal herd BCS (average 4 out of 10) and approximately 25% of the herd had subnormal rectal temperatures (average of hypothermic alpacas 98 F).



Judy Wolff-Mills and Caly, Photo by Stan Wolff-Mills

Although this temperature was not acutely critical, the chronic environmental stress decreased immunity, decreased lactation, and caused weight loss. Nutrition and sheltering had to be addressed quickly and within a few weeks the problem had stabilized. Unfortunately, the affected alpacas required over 1 year to fully recover.

☛ 8. Maternity: Two important concerns for newborns are cleanliness and warmth. Females have been known to give birth in open fields in the snow when they do not have access to a clean shelter in which to birth. These crias are at high risk for hypothermia if shelter is not provided. In our research, females that had access to a 14 x 16 foot shelter rarely gave birth inside of that shelter in either winter or summer. We assume that the reason for this was the presence of a dung pile in the shelter and a perception by the female that the environmental stress was too great. When females had access to a 25 x 60 foot shelter, the females always gave birth inside of the shelter despite the presence of two dunging areas within the shelter. We assume that the surface area of the shelter was large enough to allow criation and overcome the females concern for the presence of dung piles.

☛ 9. Stocking densities: Stocking density refers to the number of animals per unit area. I recommend that farm stocking density be no more than 5 llamas or 7 alpacas per acre of land for grazing to maximize forage utilization and minimize parasite burdens on pastures. In winter, grazing is not an issue for most farms because the animals will voluntarily congregate around hay feeders and shelters. Hygiene becomes a vital concern. Our research

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has shown that a minimum of 12 inches is required for bunker feeders to allow simultaneous feedings. However, this results in failure to feed by many of the submissive animals. Bunker space of 24 inches per head resulted in fewer submissive animals being excluded. Hay feeder space is equally important. Camelids may spend 8 hours or more feeding on hay each day. If limited feeder space is available, submissive animals will not be able to ingest enough hay to maintain weight and will be more prone to hypothermia.

☛ 10. Parasites: Often, winter is thought to provide a "reprieve" from parasites that can not survive the harsh cold and failure of eggs to hatch into infective larvae. This is true for most intestinal parasites. However, winter is fertile ground for transmission of some parasites (e.g. coccidia, whipworms, lice, mange, skin fungus) because of close animal-to-animal contact and diminished hygiene. Heavy parasite burdens cause stress to the animal and may decrease their ability to tolerate environmental extremes. Treatment of hypothermia involves warmth, nutrition, and correction of underlying problems (e.g. milk supplements for crias whose dam is not lactating).

Critical hypothermia occurs when core body temperature drops below 90 F. Consider the following treatments:

☛ 1. Protection. Get the animal into a well-insulated, preferably heated area.

☛ 2. Warmth. Wrap the animal in heated blankets. Using a heat lamp in a cold stall can be detrimental because the direct heat causes dilation of the surface blood vessels, which can exacerbate heat loss. By incubating the animal in a warm blanket, heat loss is prevented.

☛ 3. Time. Avoid too rapid heating. Warming a critically cold animal up too quickly can cause as much harm as the hypothermia because of altered blood flow and liberation of potassium and organic acids that built up during the period of poor blood flow caused by hypothermia. These can cause the heart to stop!

☛ 4. Energy. Intravenous administration of electrolytes and glucose are most useful. If an IV line is not available, glucose or other carbohydrate syrups (e.g. honey, fructose, and maple syrup) may be fed orally or may be inserted into the rectum. Yes, that's right! Camelids can absorb glucose from the rectum if there is adequate blood flow. All liquid supplements should be warmed to approximately 95 to 100 F.

☛ 5. Oxygen. Always a useful supplement to debilitated animals, but particularly useful to critically hypothermic animals.

☛ 6. Steroids. This is controversial because of camelids sensitivity to glucocorticoids. Our research suggests that dexamethasone should not be used in camelids. Prednisone type steroids may be safely used for short periods at modest dosages (e.g. not exceeding 1

mg/kg twice daily for 2 days).

☛ 7. Ulcers. I recommend prophylactic use of antiulcer medications for high-risk camelids. I prefer omeprazole (2 to 4 mg/kg, orally, once or twice daily).

☛ 8. Nutrition. Encourage the camelid to eat themselves back to health.

☛ 9. Stress. Companion animals are always welcome! Treat any underlying disease, parasites, etc.

☛ 10. Recovery. The effects of damage from hypothermia

may not be fully realized for a day or two. These animals must be kept under constant vigil for 3 to 5 days to be sure other complications will not be suffered (e.g. diarrhea, depression, etc.). Although heat stress is of great concern to camelids residing in North America, cold stress is equally important. Forethought and preparation will help you keep your llamas and alpacas from being caught with their fur coat down!

This continuing education article was provided by the International Camelid Institute. Consider making a donation today by contacting Karen Longbrake at 614-688-8160, fax 614-292-7185, e-mail longbrake.1@osu.edu

*



Llama love from Wyoming U Mistaspot, owned by Diane and Rob Tompkins of Cheyenne, WY, sends you Valentine's Day greetings!

What Do You Do With a Llama?

By: Carolann Evans,
Lladyhawk Llamas, Berthoud, CO

As most of you know, we get asked this question often. Here are a few more examples of what we do!

VISIT THE REGENT

And ... have the Regent visit US!
The Regent is a retirement community in



The activities director didn't like the idea of the llamas coming inside, so she had all the interested residents outside under the carport. The llamas found the bus parked there rather entertaining...lots of windows to look in. They were gracious and charming and we answered lots and lots of questions about the animals. Most folks had never seen a llama before, it wasn't too long before we were drawing a rather large crowd.

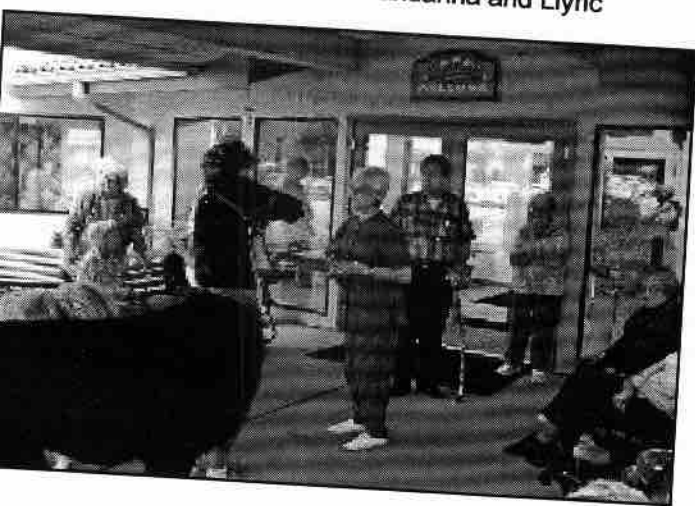
The girls got lots of pets, and even sampled some flowers out of the flower pots, and displayed rather poor manners when they spit them out onto the sidewalk.

The residents found the llamas so charming that they asked if they could come out to the ranch to see crias!

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Longmont, CO. Our first experience with them was a trip my friend Ulla Kaufman and I made out to see them! We groomed up our two girls, Finesse, and Llyric, and headed out.....Finesse wearing a red bandanna and Llyric



wearing a lovely floral scarf for the occasion. Ulla and I were in jeans...we didn't want to seem overdressed, since the llamas insisted upon getting a bit fancy.

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Cheyanne West, C-Hom., is a homeopathic consultant and educator and has written 6 books on homeopathy and alternative medicine for animals. Spiral bound, 5 x 7, over 150 pages.

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(Continued from page 31)

The next time we saw everyone was in that bus, arriving one evening for a visit with the babies! We had a crowd of about 15 folks, and they visited with 5 crias and a large assortment of patient Mama Llamas. All had a wonderful time and left with platters of llama cookies to take back to their friends at the center.



We're looking forward to spring and better weather, so we can host more of the elderly groups in our community.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AT THE GUNBARREL GUEST OUSE

A South American Reindeer? A South American Reindeer? A Llama-deer? HUH? At an INN?! In Boulder?!? Do llama have ANTLERS? And lights?! Hmmmmm..... Yes,,believe it or not, Jett, the llama-deer got dressed up for the occasion...a holiday open house and art show at our Country Inn in Boulder. On the first weekend in December, we hosted 10 local artists, provided refreshments, and opened the Inn to the public. Jett was in charge of candy canes and general entertainment.

The best part of this event was that Sharon Beacham and her Rocky Mountain Fiber Pool booth was a participant in this event! She spent hours setting up the booth, and manning it, chatting with guests, and selling llama fiber and llama fiber products! And Christy Herr was gracious enough to bring her wheel and spin! Folks got to



purchase everything from hats and gloves to felted ornaments for their tree!

It was a wonderfully successful event, and will hopefully become an annual one! Maybe next year we will find a llama with a red "rudolph" nose to be the host!

The USAHA and FMD

**By: Teri Nilson Baird,
Broken Windmill Ranch, Elizabeth, CO**

In mid-July, 2001, I received an invitation to attend an event called Llama Community 2001 to be held in Kansas City, MO, the first weekend in August. Groups represented were the International Camelid Institute, the Camelid Health Foundation, the International Llama Association, the Llama Medical Research Group, AOBA, and ALSA. Bob Frost, the ILA delegate to the USAHA, was also there representing that organization. Marsharee, Karen Conyngham, and I were there specifically to talk about the FMD issue and the need for the research to be publicized. Sally German-Rucker was there to represent the interests of the ILR.

Following this meeting, I petitioned the RMLA board to set up a Governmental Relations Committee within RMLA and to help pay my expenses to the USAHA conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in November.

The two days I was in Hershey offered a fascinating glimpse into the inner workings of the USAHA. I had been corresponding with a woman in Pennsylvania, who although not a llama owner, was intimately involved with the USAHA committee on foreign animal diseases and the US response.

One thing that really impressed me during these two days of non-stop meetings (and I mean that, there were no food breaks scheduled from 8 am to 6 pm each day) was how different the USDA reaction to a possible FMD outbreak is from we had been led to expect by either those on the committees or by the USDA website and emergency plan publications, and certainly different than what we heard on the USDA hotline.

The delegates from the USDA were mostly from the Plum Island facility or from Washington headquarters. A group in the Agricultural Research Service has been investigating and is particularly pleased with preliminary results from a field test which measures virus presence from saliva samples. While the USDA has not yet approved the product, it is really pleased with what has been seen. The product would eliminate the need to kill animals that do not have the FMD virus but reside within close range of an infected herd. Health could be monitored in this case, thereby eliminating much of the killing that happened in the UK. The USDA was hoping to be able to approve this test product within a matter of months.

We are hoping to see something positive from the USDA soon as far as a revision of the published emergency plan, but as of January 4, 2002, nothing has been published. I will update everyone as information is released.

WHO'S WATCHING THE FARM?

BY Jerry Dunn, RMLA Vice-President
 Beartrack Farm, Golden, CO



How often have you wanted to get away for a day or two to go hiking or travel to a llama event, but couldn't because there was no one to care for your animals? This is a common problem that leaves us with three options: ask a friend, hire

a professional farm sitter or stay home. Even if you *never* plan to leave, it is a good idea to have a plan for someone to care for your animals in case of an emergency where you do have to leave home.

Start by asking your vet or other llama owners for references. If you are gone frequently, or for long periods, it may better to hire a professional farm sitter rather than enlist a friend. The professional sitter will likely have a better idea of the time and commitment required to care for your animals and farm. Friends are great and have good intentions, but if something goes wrong, it can put a strain on the friendship. It is also better to not use youngsters unless they have spent many hours working at your farm and have proven to be reliable and able to handle emergencies. If you do hire youngsters, make absolutely certain that you have the parents' permission and commitment that they are willing to step in and help the youngsters if necessary.

Farm sitting requires more than throwing hay at the llamas and keeping the water tanks full. The person needs to be aware that farm sitting is a 24-hour job. Caring for someone else's llamas is a lot different than caring for your own. Consider the following questions.

- Does the farm sitter have reliable transportation?
- Do you want the person to stay in your house while you are gone?
- Does the farm sitter go to school or have a job?
- Will the sitter's job or school work conflict with your feeding schedule?
- Can the person leave work or school to care for an emergency?
- How much are you going to pay the sitter? Decide on a method of payment based on daily work or a block of time.

Before hiring a sitter, have the person visit your farm and go through your daily routine of feeding the llamas and cleaning paddocks and the barn area. If you have other animals, make sure to include them in the routine. Listen carefully to the kinds of questions the sitter asks as you go through the routine. Can the person easily halter a llama? Does he or she seem timid or heavy handed? Next, have the person handle a llama and lead the llama out of the pasture through a gate. Did he or she have the llama exit through the gate cleanly and then secure the gate?

Organize information and supplies for your sitter. Prepare note cards and maps that include instructions and the location of power shut offs, pump house, grain, hay, and first aid kit. Place a copy of **CARING FOR LLAMAS AND ALPACAS** next to your first aid kit. You may want to include more notes, based on the questions asked by the person you hire.

Organize your barn. Have available one-size-fits-all halters with lead ropes attached. Make a list of all the animals and which animals are in which pasture. Photographs of the animals in their groups along with their names will be helpful. Also include any behaviors that the sitter should be aware of. For example, who meets the wheel barrel full of hay at the gate, who is shy about eating, who gets additions supplements, and what are the antics of young llama boys. Survey your property and fix any broken fences or gates. Leave a few tools available in case of an emergency. If you live in Colorado, post your liability statute sign in a visible area for anyone entering your property.

Make sure you have plenty of hay and supplements. Tape a feeding chart on the wall in the barn with the amount each animal is to have and where it is fed. The more information you have written down for the sitter, the better.

Make a list of emergency numbers and names of individuals the sitter may call for help. Have a copy of your Fire and Flood Evacuation Plan posted in the barn. (See *Alpacas Magazine*, Spring 2001, p.71) If you have boarding llamas, list their names and their owners with phone numbers. And of course, leave your cell phone number or a number where you may be reached.

Before you leave, notify your vet and neighbors. Leave the same list of emergency numbers, your destination, and arrival and return dates with your neighbors and your farm sitter.

Having llamas doesn't mean you can't travel. Just plan ahead and be organized. By leaving precise written instructions, and finding a reliable farm sitter, you can enjoy your travel, knowing that your animals are well cared for.

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scarf. Loom rental \$5; supplies \$12. Saturday, May 11 – Machine Knitting with Cheri Paxson. Bring your own machine or rent a machine for the day \$10; yarn for the day \$10. Time: 9AM – 4PM; cost \$35. Bring your own sack lunch – beverages supplies. ½ deposit on registration by 1st of the month to Cheri Paxson, paxknits@yahoo.com or 303.777.4370.

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Journal of the RMLA—Advertising Information—effective August 2001

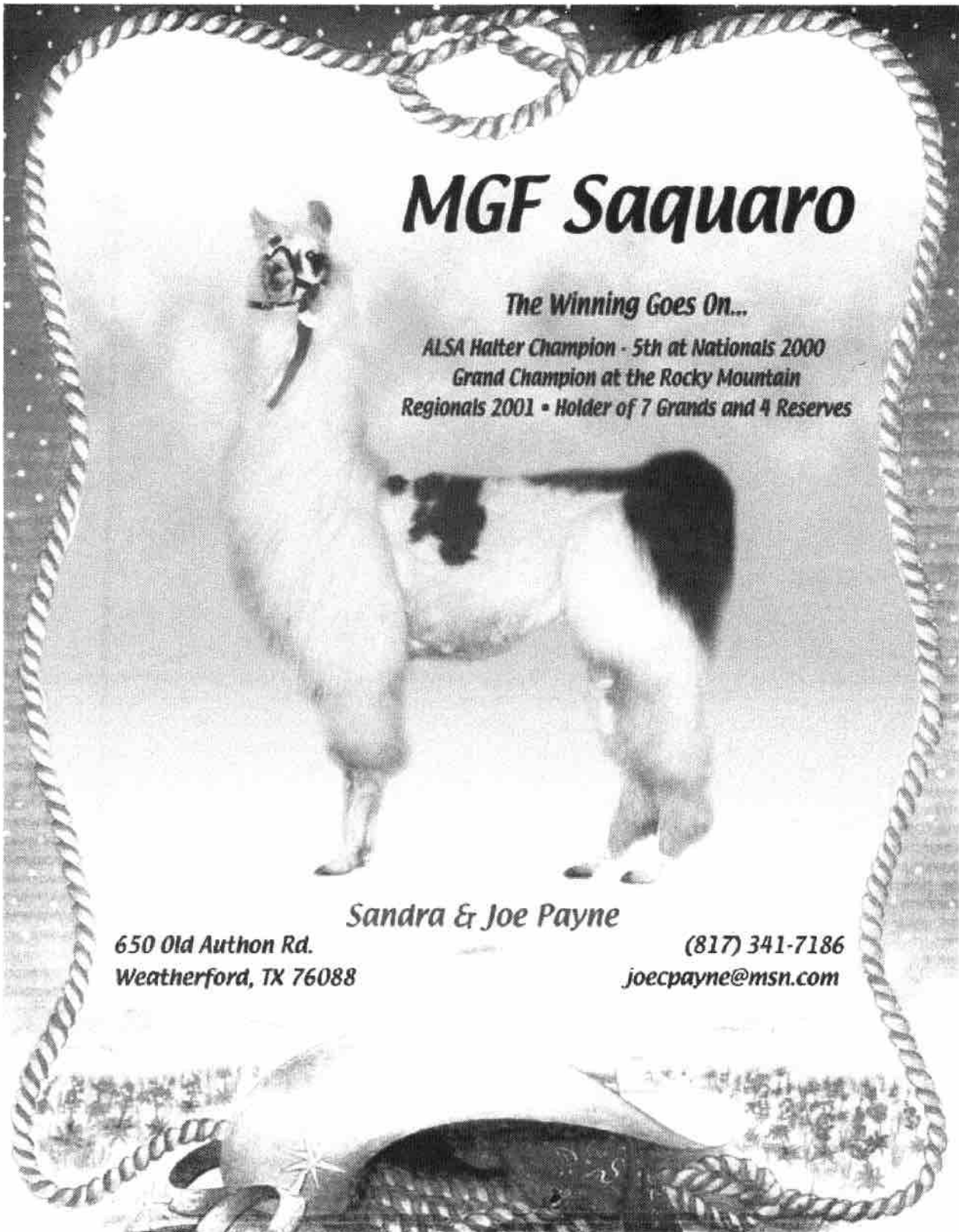
- **All art must be camera-ready.** Ad design cost is \$30 per hour, 1 hour minimum. Contact Marilyn Arnold at 303.841.5126 for more information.
- Color photographs are preferred. Electronic images should be on disk.
- This publication is printed in black and white. Line screen is 115 lines per inch.
- Each May, a promotional issue is published. The outside covers and centerfold advertisement are printed with a base color determined by the RMLA Board of Directors. Additional copies of this edition are printed for distribution to the public at llama and alpaca events.
- Mail all advertising materials to Marilyn Arnold, 11483 E. Ponderosa Lane, Franktown, CO 80116-9319. Include check payable to RMLA for the amount of the ad plus estimated design costs for art that is not camera-ready. **Full payment must accompany all advertising submitted.**

Advertising Deadlines:
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