



The **RMLA**
Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

Journal

www.rmla.com

Fall 2010



If you've got a better photo, please send it in.

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President's Message

How fast the year has passed by. We are now well into fall with the cooler nights, beautiful warm days. This is my favorite time of the year to get out early and enjoy a full day on the trail. Last weekend we hiked into a forest preserve at about 6,500 feet – it was desert that resembled Nevada.

I would like to thank your Board for a productive year of leadership for this organization. We have spent time concentrating on what each Director covers and how we can work toward making RMLA a more useable organization for its membership.

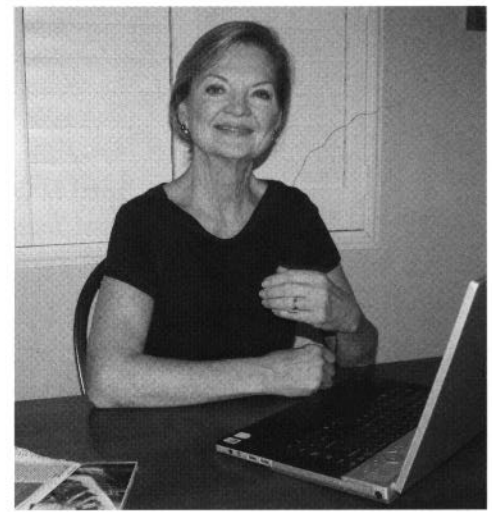
At the last meeting, the Board re-activated the Website Committee. Barb Hance will continue to function as web manager, she is really good at that. For right

now, I will serve as liaison to that committee. We are asking you to look at the RMLA website and help by suggesting ideas for some changes and updates. It was suggested that it might be a good time for a 'tune-up'. Who can do this better than our own members?

With pencil in hand, please take a little time to re-visit RMLA.com. Jot down some things you would like to see 'tuned-up'. Send you ideas to me, or call me. Your time will be appreciated.

Thanks, Cheryl, for another beautiful Journal. Your time and energy are greatly appreciated by the membership. You continue to out-do yourself.

I enjoyed visiting with those of you who called about the donkeys! It was fun chatting.



And, as I write this, another 6,000 acres are burning up on the mountain. And, the volcano has claimed another three homes.

Hug a critter for me, travel safely.

Lougene

From the Editor

We are running a couple of weeks late getting this issue of the Journal into production. We apologize for the delay and really hope that life will be less hectic by the time we start working on the Winter issue. Thanks to everybody for their support and patience.

As always, we want to thank everybody who has contributed articles for publication and our wonderfully loyal advertisers. Never forget that this is your Journal and do not hesitate to submit your photos, articles and ideas for articles. We want to make sure we cover the interests of all RMLA members and keep everybody informed about RMLA events. Don't worry about grammar and spelling, that's my job.

Last month I asked for tips and ideas about fencing, but only got two responses which are included in this issue. Now I know you all have fences and have learned about different techniques and products

that work well or not so well. We should share that information with each other and especially with new lama owners who might not know that barbed wire and cattle guards aren't the best type of containment for llamas and alpacas. If you have some useful ideas, information or opinions about fencing, please send them to me for the Journal, even if it is just a sentence or two.

We understand that it can be difficult for show superintendents and event organizers to find time to write about their events right after they happen, but late is still better than never. So even if your show was months ago, please don't hesitate to send in an article or some photos. In fact, reading about the fun we had at events this summer will give us something to look forward to during the long, cold winter. It might get people thinking about attending next year. . .

Finally, it would be really great if we could feature some articles about our animals' wonderful fiber in the Winter issue.

Suggestions for new owners about how to get started with processing and marketing fiber would be especially appreciated. Instructions for fun and easy fiber projects for both youth and adults are always welcome. If you have a specific question about fiber, let me know and I will see if I can find someone who can answer it. Chances are good that other people may have the same question.

While the majority of Journal material comes directly from RMLA members, we often find useful articles in newsletters from other associations and sometimes material on the internet that is worth repeating. One example found on the internet is "Basic Llama Care. . . Revisited." This copyrighted article was written by Gwen Ingram in 2003, but it is still very relevant today and raises points we should all be aware of. I can't remember who e-mailed Regina Brett's 45 Life Lessons to me, but it made me smile and think. Hope you enjoy it.

Cheryl



April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011 RMLA MEMBERSHIP

JOIN RMLA now! Your dues will assure the continuation of all the good RMLA has accomplished.

JOIN as a **LIFE MEMBER!**

Please consider **making a donation** to the RMLA Foundation Inc., for RMLA Youth scholarships.

Youth Membership: \$10.00 per year (must be 18 years or under **AND have an adult RMLA member sponsor**). Not entitled to vote, but eligible to receive scholarships from the RMLA Foundation Inc.

Young Adult Membership: \$10.00 per year **Former Youth members only**, who have continued education beyond High School. A parent/guardian must be the adult RMLA member sponsor. 1 vote per membership.

Annual Membership: \$40.00 per year (Up to 2 adults per membership: 1 vote per person.)

Life Membership: \$500.00 one time only! Same as Annual, plus: **Special** recognition in Directory; and a one time free 1/4 page ad in the Journal. If there are future special assessments, "Life Members" would pay the same as annual members.

Life memberships may be paid in 4 equal quarterly installments of \$125.00 each.

If you prefer, you may join or renew on the web page at www.rmla.com — click on Membership



Name _____

Name (2 or Jr. sponsor) _____

Ranch _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____ Web _____

of Llamas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

of Alpacas owned: Females _____ Intact Males _____ Geldings _____

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding(B) | <input type="checkbox"/> Training (T) | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving(DR) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales(S) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Products(PR) | <input type="checkbox"/> Boarding(BD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber(F) | <input type="checkbox"/> Research(RE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judging(JD) | <input type="checkbox"/> Packing(PK) | <input type="checkbox"/> Leasing(LE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brokering(BK) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Packing(COM PK) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue(RS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify) | |

Please check if you are interested in working on any of these committees:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber | <input type="checkbox"/> Pack | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations/Elections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-H & Youth | <input type="checkbox"/> By-Laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Gov't. Relations |



_____ Life: \$500.00 _____
 _____ Annual: \$40.00 _____
 _____ Youth: \$10.00 _____
 _____ Young Adult: \$10.00 _____

Donation to
 RMLA Foundation Inc. _____
 Total: \$ _____

Visa/MasterCard
 EXP. Date _____
 Acct. # _____
 Signature _____

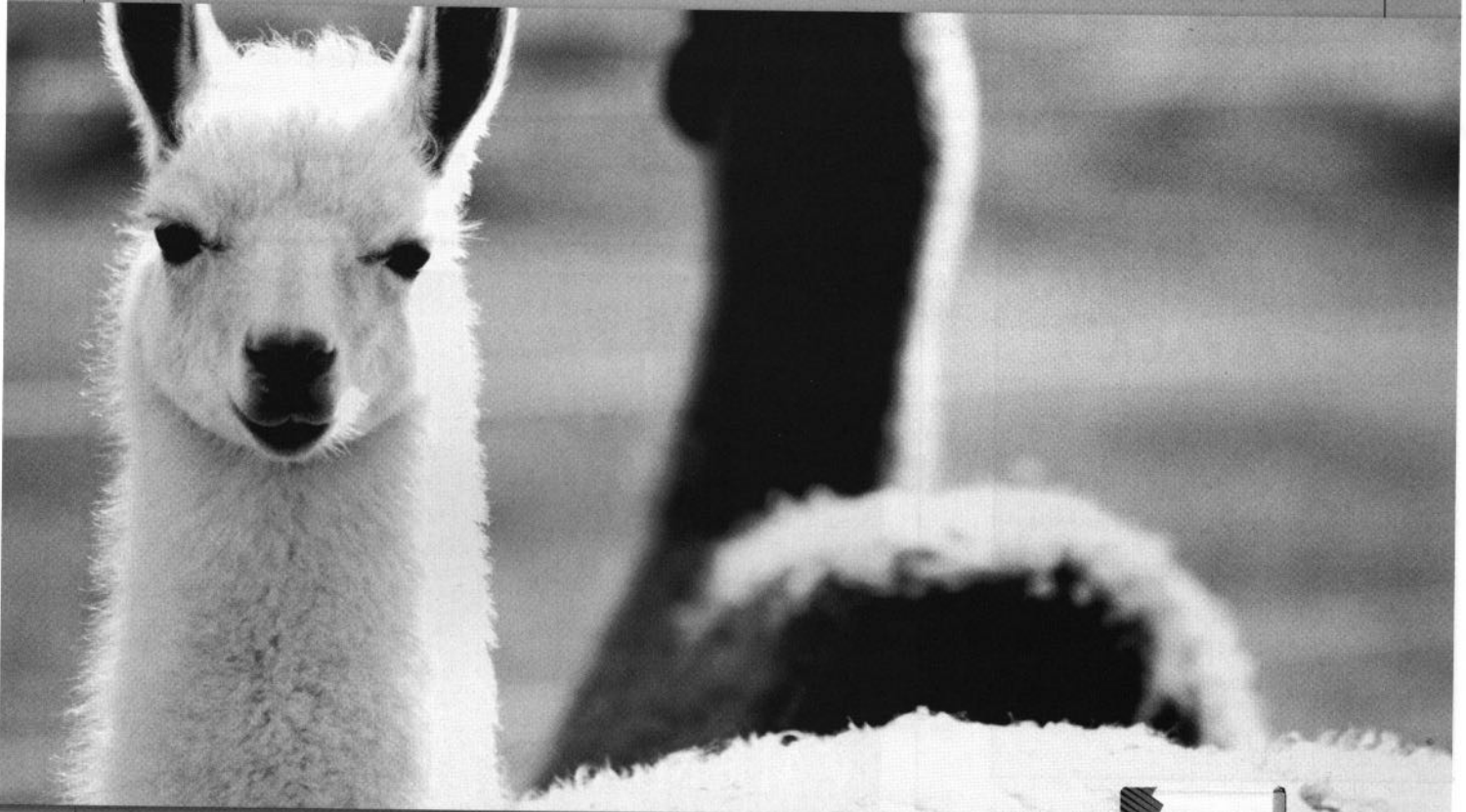
This charge will appear on your bill as:
Rocky Mt. Llama

Mail this form with your check (payable to RMLA) or Credit Card information to:
Bob & Barbara Hance • 11818 West 52nd Avenue • Wheat Ridge CO 80033-2032

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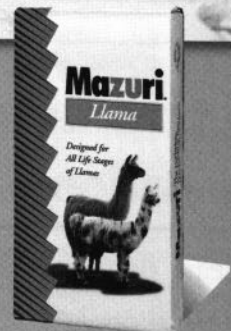


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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

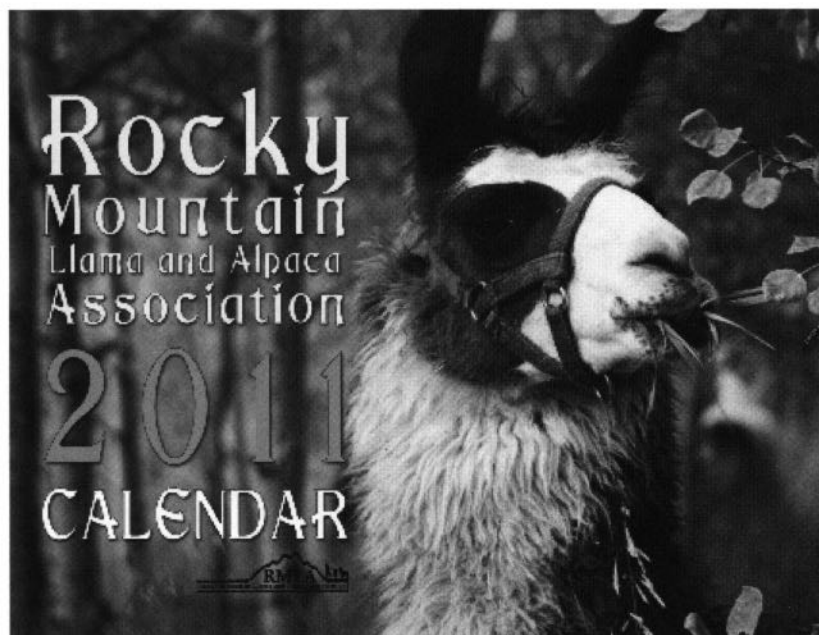
- September 4 & 5 LOCC Fall Classic, Castle Rock, CO, Contact Barb Harris 719.275.9457 or 719.510.0899
- September 4 & 5 ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Championship, Castle Rock, CO, Contact Barb Harris 719.275.9457 or 719.510.0899
- September 18 Training Llamas for Willing Cooperation, Longmont, CO., Contact Bobra Goldsmith, Lillette Vasquez, 303.503.5575, lillette@rockymtllamas.com
- September 25 Looking For The Gold, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

SPINNING LLAMA and ALPACA

the best book since 1994, 3rd edition with 5 fiber/yarn samples and includes projects. \$18 plus \$2.50 shipping (\$20.50 total), to Canada \$3.25 shipping (\$21.25 total in U.S. Funds). Chris Switzer, 1236 Glacier View Lane, Estes Park, CO 80517

Retirement Liquidation Sale

Chilean llamas with Suri wool in gene pool. 3 males, 8 females, 2 females with crias. Contact: Edward Coyne, Black Forest CO (719) 495-1228 edel@pcisys.net



On Sale now!

2011 RMLA Calendar

\$10 each (or buy 9 and get one free)

Visit rmla.com to order and view shipping costs

**Or contact Patti Morgan at
620-441-8830 or pmmorgank@gmail.com**

RMLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 8-11-10

Present: Lougene Baird, Jerry Dunn, Bob Hance, Geri Rutledge, Dick Williams

Meeting called to order 6:34 MST.

Minutes from the June, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Motion: To approve the minutes as presented. Motion by Dick Williams. Second by Jerry Dunn. All approved. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report – Bob Hance Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss and General Ledger were sent to BOD prior to the meeting so all could review. Motion: To accept the treasury report as presented. Motion by Dick Williams. Second by Jerry Dunn. All approved. Motion passed.

Lougene Baird will contact the bank about the information mailed to account holders reference using Discover Card and charges or fees related to the service. All commercial credit card accounts will be charged additional fees as of September. We will be asking to have these additional fees waived.

Committee Reports

BookStore – Bob Hance Current inventory is 576 CFLA books and 90 4H Manuals. We had some orders pending for the 4H manuals but some are not liking the 3 hole punch work book temporary reprint. Dick Williams shared he checked information about getting a read only CD to have the CFLA or 4H manual available on CD so it could be sold through the Bookstore. We cannot protect the copyrights with a CD at this time. Idea disbanded.

Bylaws – Lougene Baird The membership approved the revision of Bylaw changes. These approved changes now need to be updated for publication in the Membership Directory and anywhere the Bylaws are published.

Calendar – Geri Rutledge Patti Morgan and her daughter Lindsey have been working on the 2011 Calendar. Business card advertising was done early. Lots of people submitted pictures this year. The goal is to have the 2011 Calendar ready for fall sales.

Education – Jerry Dunn Jerry and other individuals are working on ideas for 2011 Fall Conference that focus on education, seminars, mini workshops, RMLA, Fiber, Equipment and other presentations. Looking at future events and possible layout of times and places.

Elections – Jerry Dunn RMLA Election Results Jerry Dunn 104, Kim Sawyer 68, Geri Rutledge 79, Bob Hance 94 Two write in votes (2) Mary Wickman (2) Ann Bruhns. Lougene will contact Kim Sawyer with the results. Bob Hance will send an email blast to the membership with results of election, bylaws and amendments.

The results for the election are as follows. Elected to serve on the Board are Jerry Dunn, Geri Rutledge and Bob Hance. Should a Director elect to not complete his/her term, the alternates are in order of Kim Sawyer, Ann Bruhn and Mary Wickman. Lougene will contact Kim Sawyer with results. Bob Hance will send an e-mail blast to the membership with election Results.

In 2011 Election, only one Director will be elected.

Events – Jerry Dunn There are three events remaining in 2010. Fairplay Race – We are waiting for the results of Fairplay as well as the budget. Fairplay had an excellent turn out with lots of donations. NWSS – As of this date, the 2011 NWSS Llama Show is still without a Superintendent. This is an event where thousands of people have contact with Camelids and owners. RMLA is able to do a lot of education during this event. The Fiber Booth will be present. Jerry Dunn will be working with a group to establish a Superintendent and keep this show going.

Fiber – Geri Rutledge The next stop for the RMLA Fiber Coop is the first weekend in October at the TAOS Wool Festival. Jill Knuckles sent an email blast of where to send fiber items, dates for the event and ways to contact if people want to add anything.

Finance – Bob Hance Bob reported that RMLA taxes had not been filed for 2009 and that two extensions which expire in November had been filed. The Board discussed about RMLA taxes and when these should be sent to the accountant. The Board would like them done in January so the accountant has time to file by May when they are due.

Government Relations – Bob Hance Nothing new to report.

Youth – Geri Rutledge Need to send an email blast in the RMLA news about asking RMLA members with 4H groups to list their information on the Website. Discussion about the 4H manual. It does need an update but do we do this as a revised manual, something on the internet and how to protect the copyrights. Table this for another meeting.

Library – Dick Williams Slow business with the bookstore. There is a noticeable decrease in the usage. With so much information on the internet, the use of the Library is considerably down.

Membership – Bob Hance Membership information continues to be published in the Journal. There was a temporary glitch on the website membership enrollment, this has been fixed. There are 29 non-renewals for this year. Two elections ballots were returned, and 5 youth non-renewals.

Pack – Dick Williams There is a big event at the end of July for pack, fiber demos in Kalispell MT.

Publications – Lougene Baird Continue to have great diversity in the Journal. Cheryl is very talented in getting articles on different topics such as education and covering many areas of interest. We must continue to encourage members to submit articles and information about events.

Rescue – Lougene Baird Nothing new to report.

Website – Discussion about returning the Website Committee to active status again. Motion: Re-establish the Website Committee. Seconded by Dick seconds. Motion Passed. An email blast should be sent to members asking for volunteers to become members of this.

Old Business –

Annual Meeting – An e-mail blast has been sent with date and time (September 3rd, Douglas Count Fairgrounds. To attract more RMLA members to the Annual Meeting it will be held during the LOCC Fall Show and the Rocky Mountain Regional Show. A discussion was had about BOD member attendance and conflicts. This is the venue for a good population of members so the BOD is not in favor of changing the date. Geri and Lougene will be working on the Agenda. Committee reports should be gathered and submitted.

New Business

Motion: Make the following motions approved by e-mail since the previous Board meeting a matter of record permanent record. Motion made by Dick 2nd by Jerry. All in favor. Motion passed.

1. Motion: Pay the following bills/invoices: Trailer License \$51.10, Sandra Nolan -Hitch for Trailer \$37.60, CO Sales Tax for EPWM \$49.00, EPWM consignments, Sandra Lockwood \$31.45, Patti Morgan 69.25, Vickie Staley \$124.95, Pat Blackburn \$27.63, Delores Baker \$12.80, Sharon Beacham \$174.25, Sue Grimm \$85.00. Motion made by Bob Hance, 2nd by Geri, all in favor. Motion passed July 6, 2010.

2. Motion: Accept the minutes as amended from the June 23, 2010 Board meeting. Motion by Bob, 2nd by Jerry. All approved. Motion passed July 6, 2010.

3. Motion: Approve reimbursement of expenses to Dick Williams of \$191.59: \$25 for Andrew Darter from 2009 Youth Award (original bond was only \$25, should have been \$50), \$116.59 and \$50.00 for Mary Kate Steele 2010 Youth Award). Motion by Bob Hance, 2nd by Geri, Jerry and Lougene approved. Dick abstained. Motion passed July 10, 2010.

4. Motion: Approve payment of invoices: Jerry Dunn-- \$39.36 (Event Mailings \$21.16, Event Mail Supplies \$18.20); RMLA Foundation \$305.00 monies collected with membership dues.

Continued on page 8...

Motion by Bob Hance, 2nd by Dick, Geri and Lougene approved. Jerry abstained. Motion passed July 10, 2010

5. Motion: Purchase two communication radios for approximately \$75.00 which match radios currently in use at events. Motion by Geri. 2nd by Bob. All in favor. Motion passed 7/16/2010.

6. Motion: Reimburse Jerry Dunn \$75.35 for 2 radios for events. Motion by Bob, 2nd by Geri. Jerry abstained. All in favor. Motion passed 7/18, 2010.

7. Motion: Pay invoice from Steamboat Specialties, Inc. \$242.86 for Fairplay Event ribbons. Motion by Bob. 2nd by Bob, all in favor. Motion passed 7/2010.

8. Motion: Deny request to copy illustrations in CFL&A and 4H Youth Manual for personal project use. Motion by Lougene. 2nd by Dick. All in favor. Motion passed 7/22/10.

FFA Sponsorship Motion: RMLA will we support the FFA convention by a donation of \$150 and hand out materials. Motion by Jerry, second by Geri Rutledge Approved. Motion Passed.

Election of Officers

- President – Lougene Baird
- Vice – Jerry Dunn
- Treasurer – Bob Hance
- Secretary – Geri Rutledge
- BOD – Dick Williams

Next Meeting date – tentative Oct 6, 13

Motion: To Adjourn. Motion by Dick. 2nd by Jerry. All approved Motion Passed.

Web Page Report

By Barb Hance

RMLA has a new “Server” the good news is that the price is reduced. The bad news is we cannot handle “Credit Card” payments as we have in the past. Your unpaid web master needs to find time to go through a couple of tutorials and/or check out other servers to again be able to accept Credit Card payments securely.

I just received a request to add the FIRST 4H club to our recently set up 4H web page - it is:

Leaping Llamas
Boulder County, CO
Leigh DiNatile Leader & RMLA member.
idinatile@comcast.net

Other 4H clubs out there, please check out www.rmla.com/4Hpage.htm

Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc. September 3, 2010

(Note: These Minutes are being published for informational purposes only. They will be presented for official approval by the membership at the 2011 Business Meeting.)

The Annual Business Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc. (RMLA) was held on September 3, 2010, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds indoor arena in Castle Rock, Colorado. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jerry Dunn at 6:54 p.m. All other board members had excused absences due to illnesses or travel constraints. Cheryl Juntilla agreed to take minutes of the meeting.

Members in attendance were all provided with copies of a meeting agenda, the Minutes of the 2009 Annual Business Meeting, a December 31, 2009 Balance Sheet, the 2010 Calendar of Events and written Committee Reports. Since there was not a quorum present, no motion to approve the 2009 Minutes could be entertained. Members were given the opportunity to present questions regarding the Treasury Report or any other reports.

The President’s Message was delivered to the membership and new and younger members were encouraged to volunteer to serve on committees and the board of directors.

Patti Morgan gave reports regarding the Calendar and the RMLA Fiber Booth and reminded everybody about the silent auction that was in progress to help cover Fiber Booth expenses. The next event for the Fiber Booth will be the Taos Wool Market. Glen Stanko volunteered to repack the trailer bearings this winter.

Patti also gave a report about the Leadville 100 Hope Pass Aid Station. This is the 24th year that RMLA members and their llamas have carried food, water and supplies to the aid station for runners at Hope Pass. This year fourteen people and 29 llamas

participated. They were assisted by members of the Golden High School track team. Dwayne Wood organized this group.

Jerry Dunn reported that the Education Committee is working on plans for an educational conference in 2011 and encouraged members to submit ideas to her.


Election results were announced and it was noted that the Bylaw Amendment had been approved to allow holding the Annual Meeting during the same weekend as the LOCC Fall Classic Show and the ALSA Rocky Mountain Regional Championship.

The 2011 National Western Stock Show is going to showcase natural fibers for two weeks this year. RMLA has been involved with the NWSS for 30 years and this is an exciting opportunity to educate the public about camelid fiber. Anyone interested in helping with Fiber Expo should contact Jane Levene.

Cheryl Juntilla reported that the Fall issue of the Journal is running a little behind schedule and thanked everyone for their support and patience. She encouraged members to submit articles and/or ideas for articles and also to take advantage of the low-cost advertising in the Journal, which gets distributed all over the country.

The new updated RMLA brochure is available. It contains the same information but more photos contributed by Carolann Evans, Patti Morgan, Dani Varela, Dick Williams, Jerry Dunn and Wes Mauz. Photos taken by Wes have also been used for the service directory, membership directory and RMLA website.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.



HANCE RANCHA ALPACAS

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11818 W. 52nd Avenue **Fax 303.422.3568**
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
hancelama@att.net **www.alpacas.ws**

RMLA Fiber Booth 2010 Report

By Patti Morgan

The RMLA Fiber Booth has travelled to two events this year (2010). NWSS in January and EPWM in June. The next event is Taos in October. The trailer is at my house in Colorado and will be picked up and taken to Taos (Jill Knuckles is in charge), then will return to Collbran with Jill and then delivered to Jerry Dunn's house before NWSS 2011.

At present we have 20 consignors with items ranging from raw fleece, roving, yarn, woven items, knitted items, crocheted items, felted items, jewelry and note cards. We also continue to carry CFLA and calendars (seasonal).

NWSS: Sales generated were \$1149.75 which is about average. Of that, there were sales of 2 CFLA's and 20 calendars. Taxes were \$74.86 and commissions paid to RMLA were \$157.98. That left \$839.87 profit to consignors. There were expenses of \$72.35 (booth manager) and \$16 (tax license) and credit card expense (unknown). We don't pay vendor fees, so we "made money" at this event.

EPWM: Sales generated were \$642.50 (about half of normal; probably due to

the bad weather). Taxes were \$49.47 and commission to RMLA was \$96.38. That left \$546.13 profit to consignors. The expenses were booth vendor fee (part of the RMLA sponsorship) of \$200 and trailer hitch of \$37.60 and credit card fees (unknown). So we did not make money at this show. Normally we almost break even.

We continue to work toward the RMLA goal of educating the public and doing a service to our members. We continue also to have much interest in our fiber booth. We have added 2 new consignors this year and have 2 more in the interested stage. This generates profit to our membership fees.

In order to come close to "making ends meet", we are hosting a silent auction at the LOCC/ALSA Regional shows. At present we have 14 plus items donated from our consignors and "friends". It will be open from Saturday morning (September 4) until noon on Sunday (September 5). Items include halter/lead rope combos (Sopris Unlimited), garment bag and earrings (Beacham), glassware, wine cozy, signs (Morgan), scarf (Stanko), shirt (Juntilla), items also from Lockwood and Bruhn. We are still accepting items until noon Sunday!!

RMLA Membership Report 8-26-10

By Barb Hance

Even though the economy is in the bottom of the bucket, interest in Llamas and Alpacas still seems to be there. We have had 18 New members join, since the beginning of this year.

Life memberships remain the same at 27. We have 4 Young Adults, 17 Youth members and 141 Adult memberships. We have members in 21 States.

Our members own: 1970 Female Llamas; 780 Male Llamas; 476 Gelding Llamas; 372 Female Alpacas; 299 Male Alpacas; and 29 Alpaca Geldings.

The Membership Directory and the Service Directory should be in your hands by the time you read this. I again apologize for how tardy they are. But sometimes our lives get in the way of good volunteerism!

I have tried a new format for the Membership Directory - it is the same size as the Journal this year. Please let me know if this is good, or if you prefer the former half-size format.

Barb Hance hancelama@att.net.

RMLA Calendar 2011 Report

By Patti Morgan

The RMLA Calendar for 2011 went to the printers the second week of August and was completed and shipped by August 27. There were 16 members contributing pictures and 16 paid business business card ads (plus one complimentary to Lindsay). We had 200 copies printed at a cost of \$981.64 which included shipping. They are for sale at \$10 each plus S&H. They will be available at LOCC/ALSA Regional Labor Day Weekend, through the internet and from me personally.

The 2010 Calendar was a success. I don't have the exact figures, but we covered costs plus. There are about 20 left.

NEW MEMBERS

W. Bruce Hopmeier
Bernice Hopmeier
Ranch Rock Pines
PO Box 5032
Fairview, NM 87533-5032
505.901.7311
wbruceh@gmail.com

Joy Roberts
Kelly Roberts
5257 County Road 16 ¼
Longmont, CO 80504-9466
303.833.2335
jklmr4@msn.com

Renew from 2007

Carolyn Ownby
Ed Hubbs
Happy Critter Farm
591 West County Road 66 E
Fort Collins, CO 80524-9640
970.568.7140
c_ownby@yahoo.com
www.happycritterfarm.net

Email change:

Sharon Beacham
grandmamallama@gmail.com

Camelid Community: The Llama and Alpaca World's Only National Gathering

Camelid Community is the only national forum that offers the opportunity for dialog among representatives of national, regional and local camelid organizations as well as interested individuals and owners. Providing a unique forum in which to assess the "state of the union" of the llama and alpaca world, Camelid Community encourages open and candid discussion of industry issues and goals.

Celebrating Diversity, Sharing Goals

Bringing together concerned llama and alpaca organizations and individuals to discuss issues, suggest solutions and work toward common goals is critical to the existence of our community. Camelid Community offers people the chance to exchange ideas and identify opportunities to help one another and the camelid community at large. Recent gatherings have focused on how much the llama and alpaca industries have in common and how we and our animals benefit when we work together on the issues that affect us all. From government relations to research to camelid welfare concerns, llama and alpaca owners alike reap the benefits when both industries cooperate in developing solutions to common problems.

Background and History

In the 1990s, the International Llama Association (now defunct) sponsored an annual Llama Assembly, the last of which was held in Colorado Springs in 1997. Members of several llama and alpaca organizations got together to host Llama & Alpaca Symposium in Kansas City in 1998, a highly successful and representative event. No one sponsored a similar gathering in 1999. Feeling the need for a national gathering on an annual basis, several members of the Llama Association of North America hosted Lama Community in 2000 in Kansas City. Though numbers were few at first, attendance grew as hosting and facilitating rotated among various groups

and individuals. At the 2004 gathering the group voted to change the name to Camelid Community.

Accomplishments

As a result of coming together at Camelid Community to work on issues affecting both llamas and alpacas, a number of important goals have been accomplished, and others are in the works. The following list highlights some of them:

- Two standards of care documents for llamas and alpacas were written, one a minimum standards of care piece designed for use by animal control authorities, and a second document providing recommended practices for raising and caring for camelids.
- Because we as a community were still missing the largest audience of all, and one from which much of the need for rescue and intervention emanates, a simple, inexpensive, basic camelid care piece was developed that can be used by camelid organizations and individuals nationwide with distribution through sales barns, feed stores, vet clinics and the like. *The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Care* is designed to reach new and prospective owners who have no knowledge of camelid care and no connection to any camelid organization.
- The 2010 gathering decided to continue to produce a series of basic brochures and created *The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Fiber*, an easy to reproduce piece that explains the steps from shearing to having an end product to use or sell. It is designed to help owners start making use of their fiber.
- The National Lama Intervention & Rescue Coordination Council (IRC Council) was created to provide an efficient system of coordinating llama and alpaca rescue efforts nationwide, help promote camelid welfare through education and open up larger dialog on camelid welfare within the llama and alpaca community.
- A Halter Donation Station program was established to give members of the camelid community the opportunity to donate new and gently used halters for use in camelid welfare and re-homing situations. Stations are being set up at llama and alpaca shows and events across the country.
- A camelid press packet was developed to help raise public awareness of camelids without spending a lot of money. The packet contains a llama and alpaca fact sheet, an informational flyer and recommendations for posting, and a sample press release for events such as farm days, shows and fiber workshops. The packet also includes ideas on how to use the various publicity pieces.
- A packet of business ideas was produced to give camelid owners at all levels ideas on how to capitalize on their unique animals. Three major sections focus on different ways to utilize our llamas and alpacas—fiber, agri-tourism and public relations—stressing use of "go green" and "buy local" campaigns.
- As a result of efforts by Camelid Community attendees, qualified representation on the Lama Medical Research Group (LMRG) has been increased and financial support provided for those representatives. LMRG members provide industry input by reviewing proposed camelid research projects for applicability and affordability.
- The llama and alpaca research conducted through the Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) was promoted and publicized in order to generate additional support from the camelid community for these critical studies. More than 50 projects

relating to llamas and alpacas have been funded since the first study in 1990.

Be Part of Camelid Community

Camelid Community tries to have representatives from all geographical regions, local and regional camelid groups, national camelid registries and show associations and, in addition, encourages interested individuals to participate. Besides bringing a variety of issues and perspectives to Camelid Community, participants return to their respective groups with the results of these industry-wide discussions. It is held on a weekend the end of July/first of August in Kansas City, Missouri. If you would like to be on the list to receive a registration packet for the next Camelid Community for you or your organization, contact Sheila Fugina (bsfugina@pressenter.com) or Barb Baker (bebaker@hughes.net). The packets and publications listed above, as well as a report on the latest Camelid Community, are available at www.icinfo.org, the web site for the International Camelid Institute.

2011 National Western Stock Show Fiber Showcase

By Cheryl Juntilla

For many years the National Western Stock Show has provided a unique and exciting opportunity to educate the public about camelids. That opportunity is going to get even better in 2011 as a plan has been put into motion to showcase natural fibers for two full weeks, beginning on the weekend of the llama and alpaca shows. Jerry Dunn and Sandy Nolan represented RMLA at a recent meeting during which plans for the fiber showcase were discussed.

Fiber from alpacas, llamas, sheep, yaks, buffalo and paco vicunas will be on display in the livestock barn in the area in and around where the sheep fleeces have been displayed in the past. It has been proposed that an additional display be set up so

that people can view the different fleeces and watch demonstrations of spinning, weaving and other fiber arts. There will be tables with information about the animals and organizations involved in producing the fleeces and fiber samples. Signs will be posted throughout the facility and banners representing the fiber groups will be on display for the entire two weeks.

Volunteers will be needed for the demonstrations and to share information with the public. Volunteers will receive gate and parking passes for the days they are helping. If you are interested in participating in this exciting event, please contact Jane Levene, who will be coordinating with the NWSS team leader.

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Camelid Community 2010 Report

Pulling Together in Fragile Times

July 30-Aug. 1, 2010, Radisson Hotel, Kansas City, MO
By Sheila Fugina and Barb Baker

Background

Because it is the only national forum that offers the opportunity for dialog among representatives of national, regional and local camelid organizations, as well as interested individuals and owners, Camelid Community provides a unique occasion to assess the "state of the union" of the camelid world. Camelid Community does not have a board of directors, officers or great funds at its disposal. The gathering brings together concerned llama and alpaca enthusiasts to discuss issues, suggest solutions and work toward common goals that are critical to the existence of our industry. The overall focus has been to concentrate on areas where the llama and alpaca communities can cooperate and collaborate. Participants attend because they care about their animals and about the future of our industry. Unlike most conferences, Camelid Community's agenda is set by participants. It is a "move forward and get things accomplished" group and not simply a weekend gathering to wring hands and rehash old problems.

Building on Previous Years

Last year's Camelid Community produced *Customize to Maximize*, a packet of ideas for having a successful llama or alpaca business, and previous gatherings created *The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Care* brochure as well as a press packet that includes a llama and alpaca fact sheet, poster, sample press release and tips on how to use the various publicity pieces. After listing a number of areas of common concern to both llama and alpaca industries, Camelid Community 2010 participants felt that the critical need for basic fiber education in the camelid community at large should be the focus for this year's gathering.

By the end of the weekend, the group had created *The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Fiber*—a simple, easy to reproduce, inexpensive brochure that allows organizations and individual farms or businesses to add their contact information before distribution. Details were finalized via e-mail in the weeks following Camelid Community so the brochure would be ready for its debut distribution at the camelid display at the National FFA Convention October 20-22 in Indianapolis where fiber is an important part of the exhibit. Both the fiber brochure and the basic care brochure will be included in the camelid education packets handed out to advisors and agriculture teachers during the career fair at the convention.

Looking Ahead

Camelid Community 2010 participants decided to continue to produce a series of basic brochures similar to the care and fiber brochures in other areas of common concern—such as youth activities and involvement, client relations and management, therapy work and others. Work already has begun on Camelid Community 2011. For information on how you or your organization can be involved, contact Sheila Fugina (bsfugina@presenter.com) or Barb Baker (bebaker@hughes.net). Input and participation is welcomed from all quarters of the alpaca and llama communities in the U.S. and beyond. All publications and reports presented at or created by Camelid Community are available for downloading at www.icinfo.org, the web site for the International Camelid Institute. Those produced at the 2010 gathering will be posted shortly.

October's Bright Blue Weather

By Helen Hunt Jackson

O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;

When loud the bumble-bee makes haste,
Belated, thriftless vagrant,
And Golden-Rod is dying fast,
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;

When Gentians roll their fringes tight
To save them for the morning,
And chestnuts fall from satin burrs
Without a sound of warning;

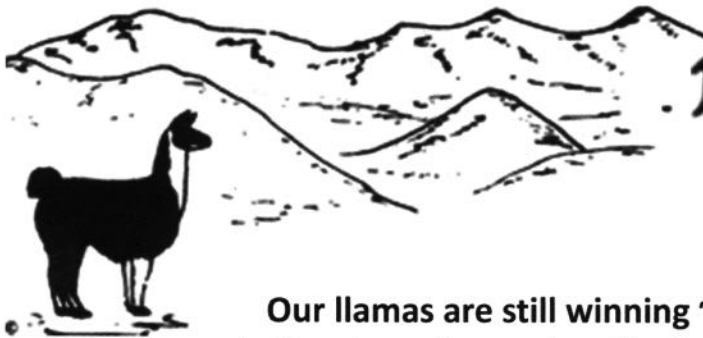
When on the ground red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;

When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,
And in the fields, still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing;

When springs run low, and on the brooks,
In idle golden freighting,
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush
Of woods, for winter waiting;

When comrades seek sweet country haunts,
By twos and twos together,
And count like misers, hour by hour,
October's bright blue weather.

O suns and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.



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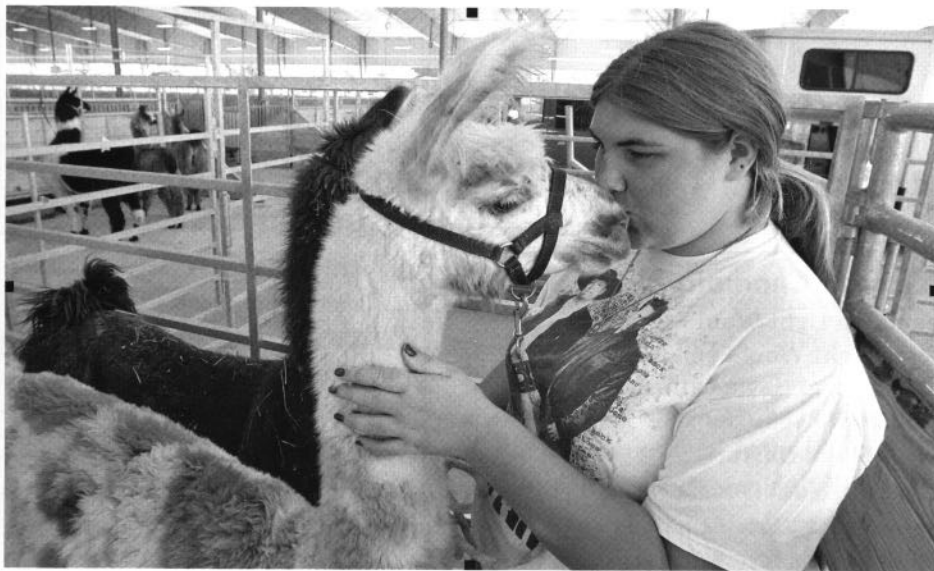
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Gus, The Blind Llama, Will Be Shown At State Fair

By Amy Schweitzer
amy.schweitzer@theindependent.com



(Originally Published: Thursday, August 26, 2010 in the *Grand Island Independent* newspaper. For permission to reprint please contact the author or Jim Faddis, Managing Editor.)

OSCEOLA — Gus the llama doesn't let a little thing like being blind keep him from showing at the Nebraska State Fair.

His owner, Stephanie Steele of Osceola, will be showing the 2 1/2-year-old heavy wool surry llama in several shows, including an obstacle course.

Steele and Gus will be at the State Fair all weekend, showing in the llama show at 3 p.m. Saturday and at 10 a.m. Sunday in the swine barn.

Steele said she and her family suspected there was something wrong with Gus, or King Ferdinand Augustav I, when he was born.

"He wouldn't look at you until you said something," Steele said, adding that when she would talk to him, he would turn toward her voice. The veterinarian later confirmed that the baby llama's retinas were turned completely around.

Steele said she didn't know of any other blind llamas, but it could be because most owners do not try to train such llamas. She said they started working with Gus early, at about 3 months old, partly to help him get used to his world without sight.

"When he has his halter on, he is a lot more confident," Steele said.

The Steele family has five llamas, including Gus' friend, Vulpes. Vulpes is an orphan llama just a few months younger than Gus. He will be shown by Steele's younger sister, Mary Kate. When Vulpes was a baby, the Steeles tied a bell around his neck, and Gus would

follow the younger llama around their pen. "They are inseparable now," Steele said.

Gus was trained using "purely voice command," she said, adding that the other llamas will watch their trainers for cues for what to do next. "In the beginning, it was a little trial and error," Steele said, adding that loading into a trailer is no problem because he can bump his legs against the trailer to determine how high he needs to step up.

"We're still working on jumps," she said. The jumps in an obstacle course are designed to fall if an animal knocks into them, so Steele is working on a way to help Gus know how high he needs to jump.

The 2010 Nebraska State Fair is not Gus' debut. He was at about five shows last year, including the State Fair in Lincoln. Steele said they have been to at least three or four shows this year. Last year's State Fair was his first big show, and Steele was happy with how he performed. "It was a good day all around," she said of last year's fair. "I'm really looking forward to seeing how we've improved."

Besides the obstacle course, Steele will also be showing Gus in a pack class, showmanship and a public relations course. The public relations course is to show how well the animal does in public situations. Steele said their 4-H club takes their animals, including Gus, to a nursing home at least once a year.

She said Gus is a very docile animal who has learned to trust her implicitly. "No pun intended, but he follows me blindly," Steele said, adding that he knows several voice commands, some of which are designed to keep him from running into things.

She explained that, when he gets close to the edge of the llama pen, Steele will say "fence," and Gus will stop and stick his nose out to determine how close he is.

"That way, he will just bump it rather than running full into it," Steele said, adding that he picks up on new things fast. She also sings to Gus. "It lets him know I'm there and calms him," she said.

Steele, 16, is a junior at Osceola High School, the daughter of Robert and Catherine Steele. Besides showing Gus as a part of open class, she has several other projects at the State Fair, including photos, baking, a 4-H presentation and bees that she raises as part of an FFA project. She has been raising llamas since she was 12.

"I first saw (llamas) at the State Fair when I was 8," she said. "I was enthralled with them and kept asking my parents for one."

Horror On The Highway

By Mike Thompson

My best friend was coming to my ranch yesterday. We are both llama packers and have enjoyed being together with our llamas for many years. We were going to hike around my place on Friday and then go to the beach for a long all-day hike Saturday.

About 2:00 p.m. yesterday, I got a call from the fire department about 70 miles south of where I live. The fire captain gave the phone to my friend. He was incredibly distraught. He stated that he was driving on the freeway with his three llamas in the trailer when another car motioned for him to pull over. As he pulled over, he saw that his trailer was on fire. When he ran back to the trailer, all three of his llamas were on fire. I won't go into the terrible details, but fortunately he

had his pistol with him and he was able to immediately put all three llamas down. This is a picture he will have for the rest of his life.

The fire was actually in the shredded paper he used for bedding in his trailer. There was no damage to the trailer itself, just the llamas and the paper. I use straw as bedding, and I could have the same thing happen if some sort of ignition source found its way into the straw. By the way, no source of ignition was discovered in the trailer.

My friend drove up to my place with the burned, dead llamas. With the help of my neighbor, who is a backhoe operator, we were able to bury the llamas in the pasture that they were going to be in for their stay.

Why am I sharing such a tragedy? As I said, it could happen in your or my trailer if you use any type of flammable bedding. I have decided to purchase a remote backup camera and monitor to be placed inside my trailer and truck so that I can monitor the activity and condition of my llamas while I am on the road. I will also not put as much straw in the trailer as I have in the past.

Hopefully, we can all learn from this great loss and prevent it from happening again. Please make any adjustments you may need in the transportation of your llamas. This is something no one ever needs to experience again.

Reprinted from LANA News, Summer 2010.



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Things I Have Learned About Fencing

By Wally Juntilla

When my wife and I purchased our first llamas, we were told that “llamas don’t challenge fences.” At least that is what I remember being told. Over the years I have learned that “fences don’t challenge llamas” is a more accurate statement.

It seems that most llamas recognize fences as marking the boundaries of the area in which they live. As long as they have everything they need and they feel safe within that area, they will stay put with some pretty minimal fencing. However, if they really feel a need to leave, it takes a pretty major fence to stop them. I’ve seen llamas jump over field fencing without a running start, climb corral panels, squeeze through closed gates, and tear down electric fences without flinching when they really wanted to get somewhere else. There have even been a few times when one would get out and neither I nor the other llamas could figure out how she did it. The reasons for wanting to get somewhere else have ranged from an intact male being attracted to an open female (or what he thinks is an open female), to a weanling wanting to get back to its mother (or vice versa), to greener grass in the next pasture.

So I have learned the importance of making sure your llamas are happy where they are. I have also learned that no fence is going to stop a determined male if there are open females directly on the other side of it flirting with him. Your best bet is to keep the males and females separated by as much

space as possible with a pen of geldings or even other livestock in between, as long as the other livestock isn’t something that could be mistaken for an open female.

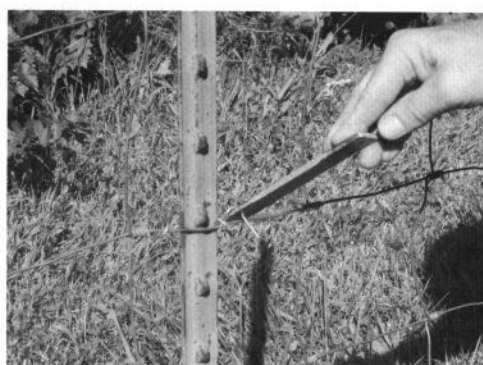
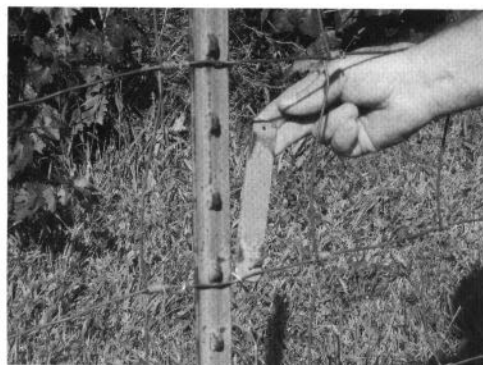
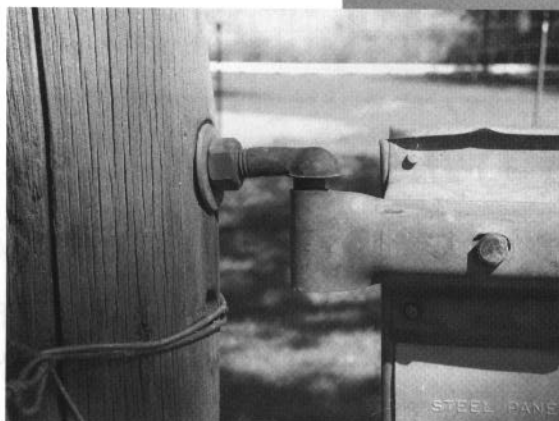
One major truth I have learned is that fencing is a job that is never done. You have to check all of your fence lines on a regular basis to make sure they are still intact. Sometimes you will find places where the field fencing has been pushed all the way to the ground by llamas eating over it. Damage

cattle visiting from the nearby BLM open range. They tear down a section of fence on their way in and tear down another section when we chase them out, even if there is an open gate available to them. On top of all

that — every time I think we’ve got all the catch pens and other configurations that we need, my wife will come up with an idea for a “better” layout. So I have learned to make fences that are easy to repair and easy to change.

Another major truth about fencing is that you can never have too many gates. If you see a good sale on gates, buy as many as you

think you will need and then get two more as spares. Herding llamas is pretty easy if you’ve got enough gates in the right places. Just open the gate to where you want them to go, wait until they decide to wander in and then close the gate behind them. Right now I’m in the process of dividing a five acre pasture into four smaller areas for rotational grazing with a catch pen in the middle made out of four ten-foot gates. In theory this should make it easy to move the llamas from one area to another. If it doesn’t work, it wasn’t my idea — another one of those “better” layouts that somebody keeps coming up with.



A Story For The Heart

By Jerry Dunn

One of the hardest parts of installing gates is getting both of those big screws that go into the fence post lined up right so you can get the gate set on the bottom hinge pin and the top hinge pin facing down in the top hole. It is a lot easier to just have both pins facing upwards and slide the gate down onto them. However, what slides down easily also slides up easily and I learned to avoid this short cut the first time I saw one of our llamas wandering around with a gate hanging on its neck. Fortunately, the llama was not hurt, just a little embarrassed and annoyed by the inconvenience. Unfortunately, she knew whose fault it was and so did my wife.

In closing I've got to tell you about my favorite fencing tool. I like it so much that I've sprayed-painted it bright orange to make it harder to lose in the tall grass. It was made by a friend of mine by drilling 5/32" holes in each end of a thin six-inch by one-inch steel bar and is the best thing I've ever found for securing T-post clips. It is actually easier to use than the tie-wrench I bought. You just get the end of the clip in one of the holes and spin the bar around the wire. Even my wife, who claims to have carpal tunnel syndrome and arthritis in both hands, can easily get a good tight wrap around the wire using this tool. Which is good, because now she can help with the "better" layouts.

Fencing Tips

From Glenn & Kathy Stanko

We have been using solar electric fencing for cross fencing in two pastures and are very pleased! Changing configurations is quite easy. Lots of flexibility here. In the girl's pasture we just use one line of 'tape' and they respect it so no problems. The other pasture is used by the boys and our goats so we use two lines of tape and all is well. (Goats get the idea and don't mess with it, which is saying a lot for goats!)

We use that orange plastic mesh fencing used to block off construction areas to create 'temporary' lanes for moving animals. The llamas know what it means and easily go where we ask.

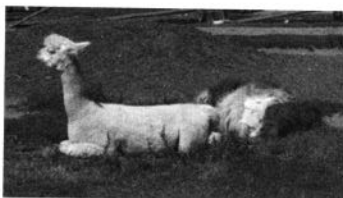


There are two adult male alpacas boarding here from Jefferson Farms, Maxwell and Pepano. We integrated them with my primary gelding herd of llamas and one young male llama. The geldings all had seen alpacas from the other side of the fence or on different occasions such as parades and shows, but never had to actually live with them. It has turned out to be an interesting study in behavior that includes moments that touch my heart.

Maxwell has a look on his face that would make a mother smile. He is gentle but doesn't think twice about defending himself, especially from his herd mate Pepano. Maxwell has taken charge of playing and gently sparring with the young male llama in our herd that up until now has had to suffer the non activity of gelding llamas. The young llama under Maxwell's guidance is learning to play rough and tough without losing his temper. They have become an interesting pair.

Pepano, is a bit of a rascal and has challenged everyone in the herd. He has blasted a couple of the big geldings and put them into heeling confinement. He just gives an animal a look and they cower or turn and run away. I had not been able to develop a good feeling about his cold behavior. However, on hot summer days he would regularly sit in a stall in the barn and listen to music with my old llama of 26 years, Talavi.

Talavi in his younger days was not unlike Pepano. The differences being that



Talavi was a llama who also just happened to be an incredible packer, a nationally acclaimed cart driver and the "go to" man for difficult jobs. The similarities were that he, too, was quite the activist for "let's drive everyone nuts".

Talavi came into the stall on Labor Day morning for the regular his breakfast routine of Equine Senior and a nice selection of hay finds. Every day I would give him a couple of hours to finish his breakfast then turn him out to the pasture to roll and seek out a grassy place to munch. Today, the same routine, except that later in the morning when I went out to move the sprinklers and Talavi did not react to me passing by him



from his dusting hole. He had quietly passed away shortly after breakfast. I was deeply saddened but was not surprised to see him lying there so peacefully. Pepano walked by, sniffed him, then walked out to the sprinkler and soaked himself in the pressurized water for several minutes. Then he walked back to Talavi's dusting hole and rolled and rolled until he was covered with dirt. He moved over next to Talavi and sat for a couple of hours, giving the evil look to anyone who would come close. Then at a moment that seemed right, Pepano stood up and walked away, as if Talavi's spirit had left the place where he had been resting.

The recovery service came to get Talavi late that afternoon. Upon the arrival of the truck all of the llamas lined up along the fence where Talavi was laying. Pepano ran up to the top of the dirt mound and stood stiffly, watching, until the doors closed on the truck, and it was finished. His friend was gone.

A Tale Of Llamas And A Hopeless Crew – 2010

By Mary Jo Blackwood and Patti Morgan
Photos by Tom Blackwood and Patti Morgan



Once upon a time about 24 years ago, Dee Goodman had a vision: an aid station for the Leadville LT-100 ultra-marathon, the “Race Across the Sky”. It would not be just a simple aid station, but one at 11,868 feet just below Hope Pass; a very critical spot in the 100-mile run from Leadville to Winfield. So a few hardy souls made the trip with their llamas to accomplish this goal. The first year it was a simple thing: filter a little water with a hand pump, and cook some Ramen noodles.

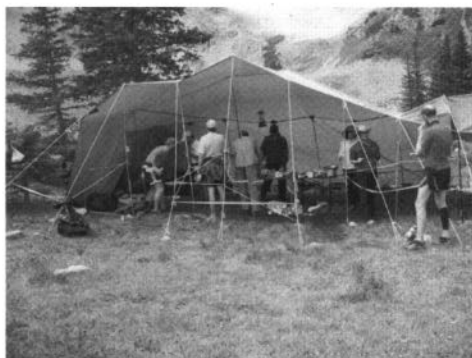
That was then. Welcome to 2010. Although we have no figures for the first race, in 2010 the number of race entries exceeded 800. Can you believe that over 800 runners actually want to try to complete a 100 mile race at this altitude—and pay good money to do it? If they were going to be that crazy, well so could we. The aid station is at the critical area just below Hope Pass at the 45 mile mark and the end of the huge elevation gain on the way out, and at 55 miles on the way back. It’s the only aid station without road access; hence, the llamas.

The few hardy (hopeless) souls now number 14 and still include Vicky Foster, a charter member and head cook and organizer at the camp site. Under the excellent guidance of Lauren Munger, 29 llamas carried not only their owners’ personal gear, but the tents and all supplies for the camp.

Led by Gary Carlton and his string of ten (yes, we said TEN), the trip began on



Thursday, August 19. Following was our group; 5 llamas and 5 people including Tom Blackwood, chief water boy; Dan Uden, friend from Kansas; Ann Bruhn, a veteran of several years; Mary Jo Blackwood, Tom’s wife and super server; and Patti Morgan, llama whisperer. Bringing up the rear on the first day were Vicky Foster, mentioned above; and veteran camp organizer Allison with 3 llamas.



Normally, the hike starts at the Willis Trailhead just west of Twin Lakes. Because the bridge was washed out this summer, we had to start at the Parry Peak Campground, another half-mile west. The first section is on the Willis Trail, then joins the Colorado Trail up to the Pass. It is 4.5 miles in length with an elevation gain of about 2400 feet, and takes anywhere from 4 hours to 8 hours, depending on how often the llamas stop to eat or the crew stops to whine. The veteran llamas know exactly where the meadows are where we break for rest and/or lunch.

Finally at the top, the Thursday crew had a brief rest and started the setup process, which includes getting the water filtering system going. A pump running on batteries is used to triple-filter water from the Small Willis Creek just below the campsite. Filters remove particles and organisms above 1 micron; then the water is chlorinated to about 2 ppm to guard against any residual bacteria. Jim Osmun, the previous organizer after Dee Goodman, set up this system of

filters, chlorination and testing that makes our water the best on the run!

While Tom worked his magic on the water, the rest of the crew went about setting up the medical tent and cook tent. The 2 large three-burner propane stoves were set up and tested. After that, usually it’s time to relax, eat and head to bed. This time the weather had other plans, unleashing winds and torrential rain that kept some people trapped in their tents and others in the cook tent, wondering if they still HAD tents. Luckily, all structures survived.

On Friday (Oh sure, after we did most of the work), the rest of the crew came in. This included Gale, veteran crew organizer, and her friend, Debbie, who was also our unofficial photographer. Curt was another veteran crew member and masseuse to the runners. Charlie Hackbarth, who immortalized the Hopeless Crew in his book “Tails of the Trail”, was there with his rookie friend Ed from La Veta. They were accompanied by 11 llamas. Rod Zeman, another veteran crew member and friend of Patti, also came Friday after missing the Thursday start.



The serving area was set up, starting with the erection of a huge tarp that serves as shelter for the food and the runners. Amazingly, after the three hours spent arguing on the best way to make it stand up to any unexpected wind, we were still

all speaking to each other. Our perennial menu includes the ever popular Ramen noodles, instant mashed potatoes, Coke, Sprite, Powerade, M&M's, Cheetos, saltine crackers, peanut butter, hot chocolate, cookies, bananas, oranges, and sugar cubes.

Water filtering began in earnest with about 90 gallons available by the end of the day. The llamas haul the water up from the creek, thank goodness, since each five-gallon container weighs more than 40 pounds! The check-in shelter was also set up at the entrance of the station to check all runners into the camp coming and going. At the 4:30 pm cutoff time coming up the hill, we had to ask runners to return to the last aid station at Twin Lakes. Patti, Ann and Allison handled that duty.

Friday night was a little more relaxed with everything ready for the runners to arrive the next day. Dinner was by the campfire, with conversations lasting until after dark.

Saturday is Show Time! The race starts in the dark at 4:00 a.m. from Leadville, so the first runner usually arrives at the campsite until about 10:30am. Before that, we get to play. Allison climbed the base of Hope Mountain to get an overview of the camp for a watercolor painting. Mary Jo, Dan and Patti climbed to Hope Pass to see what the runners see when they start down toward Winfield. (They really ARE crazy!) Notwithstanding the steep downhill and return uphill for the runners, the other side does have a magnificent view of Missouri Gulch, Mountains Missouri, Belford and Huron; and a view back towards Leadville including Twin Lakes, Turquoise Lake and the reservoir just southwest of Leadville.

Tom began filtering water again. Vicky got the cook tent in order and ready. Rod, the head pooper, set up our portable potty for the runners. Woody Wood, another Hopeless Crew veteran, showed up with the Golden, CO track team and their coaches about 10:00 a.m. They have come the last two years and are a great help, gathering wood, taking the llamas down to get water, filling water bottles, and general gofer-ing.



More EMT supplies and doctors from the LT-100 organization completed the medical tent. We have oxygen, IV fluids, a defibrillator, and first-aid supplies, as well as several sleeping bags for any runner needing to warm up or stay the night. Lance, the Radio Man, arrived and set up to relay and receive information from the race officials. He relays the racer's numbers and times and any personal information as needed from the runners. He also gets reports from the race officials.

The first runner arrived at about 10:45 a.m. He breezed through without a pause. The next showed up about 30 minutes later and again did not stop. In another hour, runners are coming through in groups and continued until the cutoff time of 4:30pm. 591 runners made it to our site from Leadville. Needless to say we were busy! At about 1pm, the runners begin coming back from Winfield, and it got really crowded. They continued from Winfield until after 10:00 p. m. This year, 489 made the return trip. Since runners are allowed to have a pacer at the halfway mark, the numbers we served increased by about 300 to include the pacers, making our total served about 1400 this year: a RECORD.

Not all the runners took this too seriously. Some were "interesting".

In all, we filtered 395 gallons of water (and about ran out when all three batteries died); served 10 two-liter bottles of cola, 2 huge jars of peanut butter, 3 boxes of saltine crackers, 10+ boxes of cookies, 7 boxes of instant

mashed potatoes, 5 bags of Cheetos, 2 bags of M&M's, 6-7 large bags of powdered Powerade mixed at half strength and 5-6 cases of ramen noodles. Vicki and Deb manned the cook tent, keeping the ramen noodles, mashed potatoes, and hot chocolate coming, while Mary Jo and Gale served it up.

The race was officially over for the Hopeless Crew when the sweeper came off the pass, sometime about 10 pm, escorting the last runner. In all, three runners spent the night in the medical tent before walking down the next day. After tucking them in, the crew collapsed, kicked back, and had a pot-luck dinner and told tall tales around the campfire. Cleanup would have to wait until Sunday morning.

Sunday arrived and we attacked clean-up and tear-down with a vengeance. Generally, we try to get off the mountain by about 10 am because the tents and supplies need to be returned to storage, and we all face a drive. Interestingly, the llamas like going down with their packs more than going up, and are considerably faster.



Postscript

Why do we keep doing this? We all like working together and we all pitch in. Extra help is always appreciated. It is not for the faint of heart, but the experience is priceless. Most of the runners thank us for being there. The funniest comment is from a runner who said "You guys are crazy for hauling all this stuff up here". They think we're crazy? ! In general, we complain all the way up, but by the time we sit down the first evening, we are signing on for the next year. The Forest Service does limit the number of llamas at the campsite, so if you are inclined to sign up, contact Lauren Munger at laurenmunger@msn.com.



Paca Buddies Open House

By Bob Hance



Open House was held June 19-20, 2010, again for the 4th year at the Arapahoe County Fairground Event Center. It takes a lot of volunteer work and time to achieve any event. The plans for 2011 are already started, and meetings are planned about once a month for all who think they would like to participate.

Again this year a few of the group attended and advertised our event at the Elizabeth Stampede, where there seemed to be a great deal of interest in camelids.

The marketing committee did a good job of advertising, but the number of visitors was very low this year.

There were fewer farms participating, due to the economy and possibly conflicting events. Vendor spaces were not quite full but

we had fair to good attendance at the seminars and demonstrations held every hour.

The 4H volunteers took care of an obstacle course where visitors could walk an alpaca and tryout the course. Families love this chance to play with an Alpaca.

Close to \$100 will go to CSU Vet Teaching Hospital from the donations for complimentary hot dogs, brats, snacks, fruit, lemonade and water provided by the participating farms and vendors.

We again thank RMLA for their sponsorship to help us defray the insurance cost.



Basic Llama Care ... Revisited

What you THINK you know can actually harm your llamas!

By Gwen Ingram
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New llama owners get information from a lot of sources. Most new owners and most "information sources" are well-intentioned. However, "facts" about llama care are sometimes things that just get repeated a lot ... until nobody can remember hearing anything different. When you rely on "well-known facts" that are not factual, you and your llamas can get into a heap of trouble!

Your llamas' best defense is YOUR self-education.

Evaluate information before applying it; Evaluate results every time.

What someone else THINKS their vet said is often NOT what the vet actually said.

What someone else's vet prescribed may not be appropriate for your llamas or your situation. Veterinarians are human. They make mistakes! Veterinarians are not all knowledgeable on all subjects just because an animal is involved!

Experience is valuable, but it may not be accurate! "No problems" may be true, but it can also be the result of failing to observe! Different circumstances may mean that one person's valid experience is not valuable in your situation.

Drugs and medications

Before administering any drug, you need to be aware of:

- possible side effects
- drug interactions
- compound actions.

Example: The avermectin class comes in many forms. If you apply Cydectin for lice, deworming at the same time with another avermectin (such as Quest, Ivomec, Dectomax, Zimectrin, Equimectrin, Eqvalan, Ivercare, or Rotecin One), whether oral or injectable, the result can be a neurological reaction. A staggering llama can't pack for you!

External parasites

"My llamas are soooo friendly! They just love to be scratched." If only it were true! This is an extremely common sign of external parasites or skin conditions that need treatment, not just scratching. Lice can virtually NEVER be seen on the llama! I can cite numerous cases of multiple veterinarians pronouncing a llama "free of external parasites" when the animals actually had massive lice infestations!

To find lice, look for nits (lice eggs — li'l white things attached to the hair) on the flank area in front of your COLORED llamas' hind legs (*white eggs on white hair won't show up*).

Dusting for lice is largely ineffective. Long-acting pour-on parasitides, such as Cydectin, tend to work best. Chose those that don't bind the coat (Dectomax binds). **BEWARE: pour-ons may cause temporary neurological problems!** Completely shearing a llama to the skin and spraying with a pyrethrin product will also kill lice as well as eliminating unhatched eggs. This cannot be done in some climates, in some seasons, or *ever* with some llamas.

Reinfestation occurs when treatment is ineffective or when contact occurs with infested animals. Eliminate lice and treat all incoming (or returning and potentially exposed) llamas ... and that's all!

Internal parasites

Deworming needs to be timed by the weather *for that year*. Deworming needs to be repeated in a few weeks (usually 10-21 days) to have any lasting effect. Deworming is completely ineffective unless the parasite species are diagnosed and treatment targets their vulnerabilities and life cycles specifically! Do fecal analyses!!!

There's absolutely no proof that "natural" dewormers have efficacy, and there's a lot of evidence against adequacy! Diatomaceous earth must be dry to be effective; internal application is useless. Extremely low margin

between safety and toxicity for all known natural remedies.

Even in the species they were designed for (cattle), all pour-ons have limited efficacy. Llamas absorb substances through the skin more readily than cattle and it is not uncommon to see neurological reactions to pour-ons on llamas. ***Pour-ons should be limited to necessity and used only for external parasites.***

Bringing in a new llama

Llamas, especially adults, can handle physical separation from other llamas quite well. Visual separation is much more stressful. However, treating all your llamas or even losing some to parasites the new llama brought in is the most stressful to all.

Quarantine all newcomers!

For llamas with no recent preventative care:

Treatment with too many drugs can actually kill llamas! Even a normal dose of a single dewormer can kill a heavily parasitized llama! Inoculations (whether initial or boosters) can be ineffectual in compromised llamas.

Best strategy for neglected llamas:

- Collect a fecal sample for analysis
- Use a pour-on avermectin dewormer for lice and to begin the deworming process
- WAIT at least a week
- Administer a half-dose of a **NON-avermectin** dewormer each day for three days. (fenbendazole is usually the best choice)
- WAIT at least another week
- Do a second fecal; treat remaining parasites
- Give tetanus booster before any other injections; otherwise wait until the

Continued on page 22...

llama is healthy before updating or starting inoculations.

When in doubt, consult people who have extensive experience with neglect and rescue.

Feeding and Weight Control

Fat *does* integrate into llamas' thigh musculing — you cannot determine the amount of fat or muscle visually! Fat *does not* "turn into" muscle with conditioning!

Assessment of the back can be useful, but can also be deceptive — llamas who have been quite underweight in the past will lose back fat and thereafter will always "seem thin" even if they are not. To accurately determine condition, assess the area immediately above the sternum.

Just because the llama isn't distressed does not mean s/he is "fine" at that weight! Obesity shortens life Obesity increases heat-related problems Obesity decreases performance Obesity destroys important tendons and ligaments, notably pasterns.

YOU are 100% responsible for your llamas' intake!

YOU are 100% responsible for obesity!

YOU are 100% responsible for geldings and nonbreeding females being fatter and more broken down than intact males and breeding females!

Use a performance-based weight-for-height chart as a starting point.

Dieting your llamas

- "Fill", accounting for 15-20 pounds of nonbody weight, is lost in the first week or two of dieting. ***This is normal, safe, and desirable!***
- Thereafter, weight loss up to 2% of true body weight is acceptable; a target of 5 pounds per week gives a wide margin of safety.
- Always weigh at the same time of day and under the same conditions.
- Weigh the hay!
- Restrict or temporarily eliminate pasture access

- Feed based on 1.2% of the **target** body weight
 - Hay is a **supplemental** feed for when pasture is unavailable or inadequate
- Unlimited access to hay when llamas are bored produces obese bored llamas!

Non-hay supplements

- Average adult llamas don't need grain and will become fat(ter) if fed grain
- Lactating, gestating, and pre-breeding females, hard-working llamas, and aging llamas, ***IF they have difficulty maintaining appropriate weight on forage alone***, can and should be supplemented with concentrates
- Llamas can choke on grain, hay, and tall pasture as well as pellets
- Pellets are most dangerous if choked on because they swell and delay or prevent esophageal clearance
- Choking is a socially-rooted problem: Nervous, fast-eating llamas are the ones that choke. ***Manage your llamas at feeding time to minimize the risk of choke.***

Copper

- Llamas NEED copper! They are less tolerant of toxicity than horses and cattle, but they still require more copper than sheep.
- Virtually all national, commercially-manufactured lama supplements are not only copper deficient, but also have higher amounts of other minerals (such as zinc) that further limit copper absorption.

- Copper needs are determined by region, not species. (The PNW is copper deficient.)

Probiotics

- Lama (or at least ruminant) probiotics are worth trying for compromised llamas
- Probiotics after deworming has not proven advantageous
- DO NOT feed equine probiotics to llamas! Equines digest in the hindgut; equine probiotics just give llamas gas.

Grooming

Shearing and combing

All **FLEECED** llamas should be shorn, never combed (because they don't shed).

Classic (shedding, coated, nonfleeced) llamas cannot grow back adequate protection before fall packing or winter! NEVER shear Classic llamas unless long neglect makes combing impossible AND you are able to provide substantial weather protection all winter.

Distinguish between coated and fleeced llamas, and treat them accordingly!

Nail trimming

- Toenails grow at individual rates, and wear at individual rates depending on the llama and the season
- Some llamas never need trimming at all; some llamas need trimming every 6-8 weeks; some llamas fall in between.

Teeth

Did you know ... ?

- Llamas have baby teeth and permanent teeth
- Permanent teeth initially look "dirty"
- Llamas' permanent teeth erupt on a very predictable schedule
- Permanent central incisors begin erupting at 25-26 months
- Upper canines erupt at 28 months in intact males

Did you know ... ?

- If males are left intact, their canines will need to be cut and re-cut many times between age 30 months and five years
- If males were not castrated until after their fighting teeth began erupting, their canines will also need to be cut and re-cut many times between age 30 months and five years.

Did you know ... ?

Fighting teeth can cause extreme damage to other llamas, including

- Castration or functional sterilization
- Ear damage or removal
- Disabling leg wounds

- Abscesses
- Fighting teeth can cause serious injury to humans, even if it is unintentional!

Maturity issues

Llamas reach full height between 30 and 42 months Llamas complete their dentition between 36 and 48 months Llamas' last growth plates are closed between 36 and 48 months As with other species, llamas' mental maturity is later than physical maturity.

Packing

Exercise is beneficial for growing llamas Weightbearing is detrimental to growth! Weightbearing is especially detrimental to maturing tendons and ligaments. Immature llamas place security above self-expression — pain and fear will not be noticed until extreme.

Reproduction

Reproduction requires significant energy resources that a growing body can't always spare. Cria from immature females (bred before 4 years) are born stunted and remain stunted. Females bred too young will also be permanently smaller. Females bred extremely young also suffer skeletal damage

Castration

It is true that castration before 12 months carries significant risks for llamas, namely excessive long bone growth (*this is true of several other species as well*). Castration at 12 months or later results in growth plates closing after a normal height is achieved. Castration at 28 months or later cause fighting teeth to erupt completely, necessitating multiple cuttings that eventually invade the deeper tooth structures; castration before 27 months result in minimal fighting tooth eruption, requiring only one shallow cut per tooth.

Castration and pasterns

Despite the number of people who have decided that castration is the sole (or primary) cause of lax pasterns, **NO link has been scientifically established.**

- Pastern laxity is found in intact males and females as well as castrates
- Pastern laxity has a genetic component

- Pastern laxity has a nutritional component
- Pastern laxity is commonly found in obese llamas

Castration and patellar luxation

Despite the number of people who have decided that castration is the sole (or primary) cause of patellar luxations, **NO link has been scientifically established.**

- Patellar luxations occur in neonates, intact male, and females as well as in castrates
- Patellar luxations have a genetic component, but this is not easily traceable
- The environmental component (stress) necessary for patellar weaknesses to be diagnosed does not occur in all llamas.

- Some conformational traits compensate for patellar flaws

Herd management

Did you know ... ?

- Llamas castrated after reaching a particular stage of puberty somehow acquire sexual desire and the drive to fill that desire, even after castration!
 - The age of sexual drive acquisition can be between 8-20 months, but is most often between 15-18 months in the "old pack stock" gene pool
- ### Did you know ... ?
- "Casual sex" in llamas is dangerous to the female.
 - Female llamas are adapted to having intercourse 6-8 times in their entire lives (pregnancy prevents additional

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Llama Weight Chart

Height at withers OR shoulder-to-hip	Optimum working weight	Pre-breeding weight	Term pregnancy weight
40	235 (225-245)	255	305
41	250 (240-260)	270	320
42	265 (255-275)	285	335
43	280 (270-290)	300	350
44	295 (285-305)	315	365
45	310 (300-320)	330	380
46	325 (315-335)	345	395
47	340 (330-350)	360	410
48	355 (345-365)	375	425

Pre-breeding weight is 20lbs over working weight.

Term pregnancy weight target is 70 pounds over working weight.

Llamas with light bone, minimal muscling, or short bodies will be at the low end of the range.

Llamas with heavy bone, heavy muscling, or long bodies will be at the high end of the range.

Because females tend to carry a somewhat higher body fat percentage, male and female llamas of the same size will weigh similar amounts.

Very few llamas have massive bone and massive muscling. These llamas may legitimately weigh more than the high end of the given range.

Llamas bred before physical maturity may be stunted. If the llama's height is less than the llama's length, assume the llama should have been taller and should weigh more.

Llamas castrated before 12 months may be disproportionately tall. If the llama's height exceeds the llama's length, assume the llama should have been shorter and should weigh less.

encounters) ... not 6-8 times every three weeks!

- Females can suffer infections, rectovaginal fistulas, urinary tract infections and damage, reproductive tract scarring, sterility, injury ... **and death!**

Did you know ... ?

- “Casual sex” in llamas can result in dangerous behavior developing in geldings!
- Geldings may resist leaving home and be unable to concentrate on their “job”, whether it be packing, performing at a show, or just behaving well at a publicity outing
- Some geldings may become territorial (just like a normal wild male) and direct aggression (from subtle to blatant) at other gelded pasturemates, uncooperative females, and humans.

Did you know ... ?

- “Casual sex” in llamas goes almost entirely unnoticed unless you know what to look for and work hard at catching them in the act!
- Llamas prefer privacy, too (it’s a survival adaptation). They avoid sex during

daylight and times when they anticipate human interruption.

Signs of sexual activity

- Cyclical behavior changes toward you from the female (attentive, then aloof, and back again).
- Matted fiber on the female’s rump or back.
- When appointment-bred (“hand-bred”), female is not receptive on a normal schedule.
- Gelding makes a point of standing between you and “his” female(s).

If you aren’t sure (or don’t have a lot of time), the safest policy is:

Irreparable harm to females from “casual sex” is a long-term process. Just because you have seen geldings and females kept together on other farms does not mean you have all the information about what is going on and what internal damage has occurred.

Keep geldings and females separate!

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Getting Ready for the Grand National Championship

RMLA members who are planning to attend the 2010 ALSA Grand National Championship Show have a lot to look forward to. The Show will be held at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, Nebraska on October 29 through 31st.

The volunteers in Lincoln have always done an outstanding job and we know they will again this year. We are looking forward to seeing all of the fun ideas that Carol Ann and Malcom Tallmon, Kenny Steward and the rest of the Grand National Committee incorporate into the event. Last year we all had a wonderful time at the barbecue dinner and dancing to the live band. There will a dinner dance again this year, and the band this year is named YIKES! That sounds pretty intriguing.

The theme for 2010 is “Parade of States” and everyone is encouraged to bring and display their state flags. One of the great ideas from last year was the “block parties” where people could request to be stalled near their friends, decorate the area and host a little party for other exhibitors to visit. So even though the entry forms may say that no special stalling requests will be granted, we can still have a “block party” of RMLA members and friends. Please put on your thinking caps and come up with some decorations to represent our great Rocky Mountain Region!

Since the Show is being held on Halloween weekend, there will be “trick or treat” costume classes, with one division for exhibitors under 18 years old and another division for adult exhibitors. There will be no entry fees or premiums paid, but

Target weights for mid to late pregnancy (normal llamas)

Height	7 mo	8 mo	9 mo	10 mo	11 mo
42	285	295	305	320	335
43	300	310	320	335	350
44	315	325	335	350	365
45	330	340	350	365	380
46	345	355	365	380	395

This chart is provided based on our experiences at our own farm. Because each situation is unique and scales may be calibrated differently, users assume all risks when using this information.

45 Life Lessons

By Regina Brett
of The Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio

participants will be able to load up on candy at four stations in the arena. So get creative, dress up yourself and your llama and have some fun!

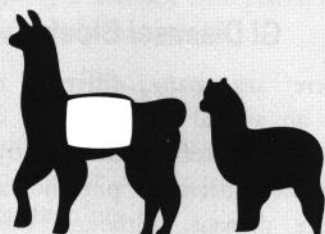
Another class with no entry fees will be a subjunior showmanship class to be held during the lunch break. New classes with entry fees are a special Versatility Llama jackpot class being sponsored by LANA and a non-qualifying walking fiber class. A big innovation this year will be a live webcast of the show, so that people can watch it at home on their computers. Details about that will be available at the ALSA website.

For several years Jerry Dunn has compiled a list of RMLA members travelling to Lincoln via the I-70, I-80 corridor which includes their departure dates and cell phone numbers. This is a great idea because it enables people to call each other to warn about weather and road conditions or to ask for help if they need it. If you would like to be included on this year's caravan list, please contact Jerry at beartrak@q.com.

As always, be make sure your truck and trailer are in tip-top shape before starting out. Check your tires, check your brakes, check your lights, etc., etc., Travel safely and **DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR HEALTH CERTIFICATES.**

"You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do."

— Henry Ford



To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most-requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
22. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
42. The best is yet to come.
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

With cooperation from our friends at the Colorado State University Veterinarian Teaching Hospital, the goal of this column is to answer your basic camelid-care questions in a helpful and practical way. In addition we are taking this opportunity to get to know the people at CSU who take care of our wonderful animals and us. The questions in this issue are answered by Dr. Tim Holt and Dr. Katie Buss.

Dr. Tim Holt received his DVM from CSU in 1988. He worked in a private mixed animal practice in Gunnison for 17 years. Dr. Holt came to CSU in 2003 as a faculty clinician in the Livestock Medicine and Surgery service. Dr. Holt is an international expert on high altitude disease in cattle and also has additional training in veterinary acupuncture. For those who know him, Dr. Holt has one of those uplifting spirits that can make you feel at ease even when your animal is sick.

Dr. Katie Buss received her DVM from CSU in 2009. After graduating, she practiced in a mixed animal practice in New Hampshire. During that time she discovered that she wanted to do more large animal work and was selected as one of our Livestock Interns for this year. We are certainly pleased to have another vet who desires to work with large animals.

And speaking of large animal vets, one of our members asked these questions: **We no longer have a local vet who does large animals. What should we do in an emergency? Is there a basic kit we can put together for wounds, pain, etc?**

Drs. Holt & Buss respond regarding what to do in an emergency: While we do recognize it can be very hard to find a vet in your area that will see llamas we still strongly recommend a veterinarian see or at least be consulted on your animal before treating at home. With that said, we have assembled a list of a few common llama emergencies and how to deal with them. And, finally we have listed a number of items to have on hand for basic emergencies.

Please remember that no two emergencies are the same and ALWAYS examine your animal as a whole and not merely focus on the obvious problem.

Lacerations / Bite Wounds

1. Assess the location first. For example, potential complications are much more serious if the wound involves joints, tendons, or large blood vessels. In these cases, veterinary involvement may be vital.
2. Infuse the wound with sterile lubricant (KY Jelly will work) to help prevent further contamination of the wound.
3. Use clippers or razor to shave the hair around the wound. At least 1 inch margins from edge of wound are ideal if possible.
4. Rinse the wound vigorously with water and soap or water with betadine diluted into it. Lightly scrub with towel. This can be done with a large syringe, hose or bucket, whatever is available. It is very important to remove gross contamination from the wound.
5. If there is severe hemorrhage (uncontrollable bleeding), apply direct pressure using gauze or a towel and hold in place with vet wrap for at least 15-20 minutes then re-assess bleeding. You can also apply an ice pack to help slow the bleeding.
6. To bandage the wound, first coat wound with triple antibiotic ointment (i.e. Neosporin) and then apply gauze or a Telfa pad to the wound. Next apply rolled gauze around the limb or body part to hold the wound dressing in place. Extend this bandage several inches above and below the wound dressing. Be sure not to apply the wrap so tight that circulation is restricted. Next, cover the rolled gauze with vet wrap and finally secure the top and bottom of the bandage with Elasticon.

Possible Fracture

1. CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY to at least alert them to the problem.
2. Assess your animal for shock or other areas of trauma. Evaluating the temperature, heart rate, and respiratory rate can give a lot of clues to the overall health of your animal.
3. If possible (depending on the animal's status and injury location) apply a large cotton bandage to stabilize fracture. Rolled cotton works best for this followed by rolled gauze and vet wrap and prepare for transport. Additional rigid support can be built into the thick bandage to help stabilize the fracture.
4. Flunixin meglumine (Banamine) may be given for pain on a case by case basis as directed by your veterinarian.

Eye Injuries

1. Eye injuries should be considered emergencies so it is always best to contact your veterinarian immediately and alert them of the problem. Eye injuries are often very serious and delay in treatment may result in loss of site or loss of the eye.
2. If the eye is swollen, apply ice while awaiting assistance.
3. Depending on the animal assess if the problem is with the eye ball or just the surrounding tissue.
4. NEVER apply any eye medications without first getting veterinary direction and approval.

GI Disease/ Bloat

1. There are many different reasons for an animal to bloat such as diet change, ulcers, GI obstruction, parasites, bacteria, pneumonia, and nerve damage. Although this may sound repetitive, it is best to contact a veterinarian for advice first.

2. Crias that have bloated typically have a much more serious disease processes than adults. This can often mean a severe bacterial infection such as clostridial enteritis, so treatment should be sought immediately.
3. If you are comfortable with the procedure, try passing a well lubricated stomach tube to try to deflate some of the air from the stomach if there is free gas.
4. Next give Kaopectate orally (0.5 to 1 ml/lb two to three times daily). This can help with mild ulcers and may make the animal comfortable enough to start eating. Please give SLOWLY to prevent accidental aspiration into the lungs.
4. You can also apply a silver nitrate stick to the area of bleeding. Repeat as needed until the bleeding stops.

A Basic Emergency Kit

Here are a few items to keep on hand for basic emergencies.

- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Sterile lubricant
- Razor/clippers
- Betadine/soap
- Clean towels
- Clean bucket
- Water
- Large syringe for flushing
- Ice packs
- Bandage material
- Silver Nitrate Sticks
- Stomach tube
- Kaopectate
- Banamine Paste (use as directed by veterinarian)

Well, I certainly learned a great deal from this column. First, I need to go shopping! Second, since I tend to 'misplace' things on a regular basis, I need to keep make several copies of this article to keep in several locations.

Now, what would you like to know more about? I already have a question for next time. Submit your questions to Kathy at turkeytrot2@aol.com. Just a reminder, if a timely response is needed please call your own vet

I am continued to be amazed at the wealth of resources available to us from the entire staff at CSU VTH. To contribute financially to the great work these folks are doing, please go to the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences Online Donations (<https://advancing.colostate.edu/csu.asp?VETMEDMASTER>) and click on Camelid Research. Budget cuts are everywhere and our colleges and universities are being especially hit hard. Give what you can and thank you.

Choke

1. 'Choke' refers to the lodging of feed stuff in the esophagus. It is not in the trachea therefore the animal should have no trouble breathing so the first step is to RELAX.
2. The most common sign of choke is feed stuff coming out of the nose and mouth. Some animals may get slightly panicked if they don't know what is happening.
3. Most chokes can resolve themselves in 15 to 20 minutes by calming the animal and walking them up and down hills to try to dislodge the food. Also covering the head with a towel to help them relax may work.
4. DO NOT try to give mineral oil or any other food or water to help it pass. This can cause the animal to aspirate and result in a severe and potentially life threatening pneumonia.
5. If the choke is not resolving on its own please seek veterinary attention because some cases will need sedation and possibly a stomach tube placed to help pass the obstruction.

Quicked Nail

1. Quicked nail is when a foot trim is done and is done a little too short causing some bleeding.
2. Don't panic.
3. Blot off and hold firm pressure on the foot for one to two minutes.

Fall Hiking

This is a great time of year to get out and do some day hikes in the high country. There is nothing more glorious than the gold of aspen leaves accented by a bright blue autumn sky. The cooler temperatures and absence of biting insects make hiking a pleasure. It really does bring to mind Helen Hunt Jackson's classic poem "October's Bright Blue Weather."

However, there are a few precautions to take before setting out on an autumn hike. First, be sure to check the weather forecast and remember how quickly conditions can change in the mountains, especially this time of year. Encountering a surprise rain shower in the summer is one thing, running into an early snowfall can be a nastier surprise. Be sure to dress in layers and bring some extra clothes, just in case.

Just because the temperatures are cooler doesn't mean that you don't need to take along sun screen and plenty of drinking water. The sun can be just as intense as it was in the summer and it is still easy to become dehydrated at higher altitudes. Many of the streams and ponds that you saw on your favorite trail during the spring and summer were fed by last winter's snow melt and so may be entirely dry by now. Don't assume they will be there as a water supply for you or your llamas.

Finally, remember that the days are getting shorter and the sun may set more quickly if it goes down behind a mountain. Allow yourself plenty of time to get to your campsite or back to the trailhead before dark and bring headlamps or flashlights in case you are not able to do so.

"All the flowers of all the
tomorrows are in the
seeds of today."

— Native American
Proverb

The L.L.A.M.A. 4-H Club

Hank Crenshaw
L.L.A.M.A. 4-H Club President

The L.L.A.M.A. 4-H Club has had a successful first official year! All 10 of our members had a fun time at the NWMT Fair in August and are looking forward to next year. Fair this year was especially fun since our competition had been expanded in 4-H and open class division to offer much more time in the ring. Costume contest again proved to be a blast. Spectators enjoyed seeing all of our animals parading about in unique matching outfits. We had “Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum”, “Going to the Beach”, “Doctor and Patient”, “Queen of Hearts and the White Rabbit”, and the most original pair were a “Camel and Sheikh”, yes hump included (can you believe the hump was actually made from the llama’s own shorn fiber?!) Our members worked hard preparing for show and I think we all learned a lot.

We are hosting our 1st Annual Appreciation and Awards Ceremony October 1st in honor of our local llama ranchers and others who have continued to support our club. These people have made our experiences possible and we are happy to live here in the Flathead Valley.



Evacuation Plan For Fire And Flood

Developed by Fran Etkorn, retired fire chief for High Country Volunteer Fire Department in Gilpin County and Jerry Dunn, former High Country fire captain.

Editor's Note: It's been a couple of years since we last published this evacuation plan in the Journal, and the recent outbreak of fires makes it seem like a good time to print it again in case anybody hasn't seen it. It is also available at www.rmla.com.

Do you have a plan that you have shared with your family and neighbors to evacuate your loved ones and animals in case of a disaster? Following are guidelines for such a plan. (These guidelines are available at www.rmla.com, and have been mailed to RMLA members. However, they are so important at this time of year that we feel it appropriate to publish them again here.)

Beginnings:

- Decide which animals are to be evacuated first. You may only get one chance! Remember the family house pets.
- Make arrangements for housing for your animals before a disaster.
- Family pets need I.D. collars and should be transported in travel crates with leashes. Crate them before the confusion starts.
- Always back your vehicle into your driveway facing the exit, in front of your trailer if possible.
- Practice hitching your trailer. Check brakes and air in tires on a regular basis.
- Determine a safe staging area with extra stall panels.
- Practice backing your trailer into the loading area.
- Train all of your animals to lead and load into a trailer.
- Provide barnyard lighting with a back up in case the power goes off.
- Mark driving lanes for the rescuers with construction cones.
- Mark pick up point and/or the driveway with long streamers of surveyors tape.

- Provide orange vests with ANIMAL RESCUE printed on them with black magic marker. This reduces confusion if the fire company is there at the same time.
- Organize halters and lead ropes on a peg board in barn hallway.
- Print up a list of all of your animals and make copies. Photograph your herd and keep it with your master list. Organize your herd into groups (geldings, studs, moms and babies). Who should go first?
- Make plans for your animals if it is too late to transport them to a safe area.
- Get to know your volunteer fire department. Attend work parties and give them a copy of your evacuation plan. Ask for suggestions.
- Involve another reliable person, neighbor or close friend, in your plan. With one phone call that person can set your plan into action.
- Develop a phone tree of people who hopefully will not be involved in their own rescue. Provide a highlighted map to your place with the entry and exit plan. Make copies for all rescuers. Keep it simple and safe.
- Make a list of how many animals each rescuer can transport and safely house.
- Give each rescuer your vets name and telephone number.
- Keep a copy of all of the information on a clip board with extra pens and pencils, tape, orange vests, and a flash light in a place where your number one helper can find it. This list is to document "who went where" for later verification. You might not be home. One person needs to be in charge of the list on the clip board as the rescue begins.
- Carefully review your plan with all of the helpers.

Rescue People

The volunteers need to be clear about their responsibilities. Encourage them to practice backing their vehicle and trailer. Suggest that they have a special back pack in their vehicle which includes the following:

- Drinking water
- Emergency food and snacks.
- Flashlights and/or head lamps.
- Sturdy foot wear.
- Hat leather gloves, warm coat, rain gear, bandanna.
- Shovel
- Extra lead ropes, stake lines, halters
- Surveyors tape.
- First aid kit

Plan In Action

- All markers in place
- Take a deep breath and stay calm!
- Begin catching and sorting animals.
- Clip board person puts on vest and begins the list with the first rescuer.
- When the last of the animals are loaded—get out of there!

When Should You Evacuate? Before It Is Too Late!

You also need to plan what will be taken or moved from your home:

Driver's Licenses / Birth Certificates / Passports / Insurance Papers / Bank Documents / Tax records / Special Medications / spare glasses / hearing aids / Computer / CDs and or floppies / Family pictures / Keepsakes / Jewelry / other Valuables

It might be wise to keep all of these things in one or two locations so they can be easily collected and stowed in your vehicle, quickly.

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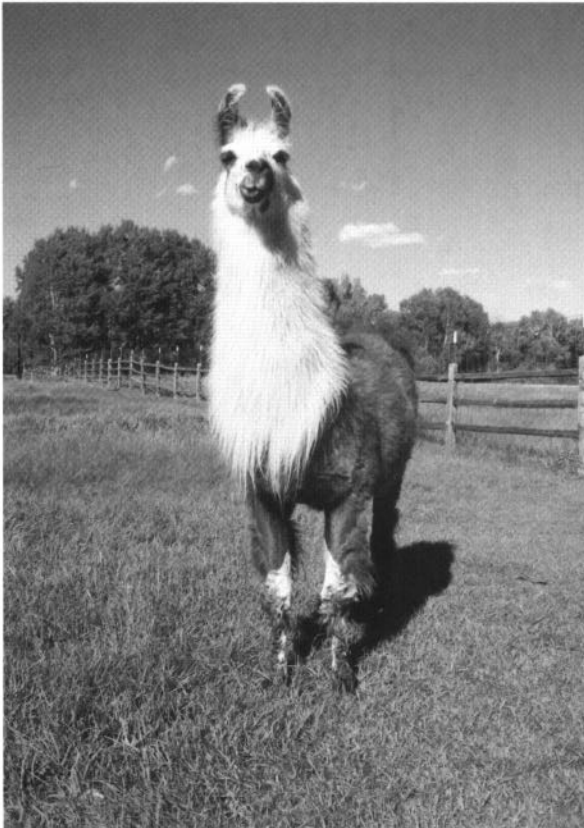
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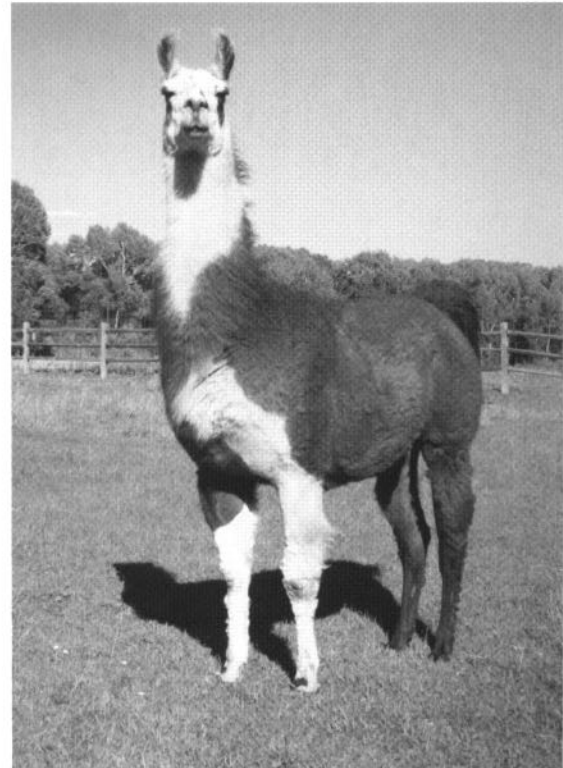
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For more photos - or better yet, to arrange a visit - please contact:

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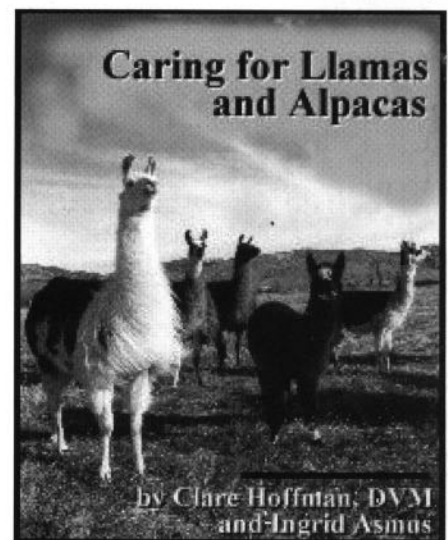
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