


The Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
Journal
www.rmla.com

Winter 2010/2011

Holiday Parade Fun



Read about it on page 18

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From The Editor

We all hate to read obituaries, especially during the holiday season when we should be celebrating and exchanging gifts. Unfortunately we have two obituaries in this issue and it is important to take a moment to remember these people and the positive impact they had on our lives. Virginia Christensen and Bobra Goldsmith were both pioneers in the llama industry and their obituaries cannot begin to express the scope of the huge contributions these two women made to the llama community. They were both first-class ladies with high ethical standards, who conducted themselves with quiet dignity, treated others with respect and made the welfare of their animals a top priority. Many pages could be written about their accomplishments, but they will probably be remembered most fondly as teachers and mentors.

Bobra's passing is especially sad for RMLA members. Bobra was not only one of the founding members of RMLA, she was also a good friend to many of us and directly influenced many more. When talking with people about Bobra, you will hear the same three words again and again. Those words are "she taught me." Knowledge and time

are two of the greatest gifts we can give each other and Bobra was always generous in sharing both. The knowledge she shared covered every aspect of caring for llamas, from fitting a halter to trimming toenails and her teachings were not limited to her clinics, published writings and videos. She was always willing to give help and advice without expecting anything in return. For instance, one of the things she taught me was how a simple well-placed knot in a lead rope held in my right hand would help me to control an excited two-year old male llama. She shared this knowledge with me while we were waiting at the gate for a halter class in which we would be competing against each other and it has helped me many times since then.

It is appropriate at this time of year to count our blessings and be thankful for them. At the top of my list of things to be thankful for this year is everything that Bobra and other llama pioneers have done to make it possible for me to experience the joy of owning llamas. When it comes time to make New Year's Resolutions, a lot of good resolves could be summed up in one: "Try to follow Bobra's example."

Bobra Goldsmith



RMMLA founding member Bobra Goldsmith died at her home on December 3, 2010. She was 80 years old and had been diagnosed with leukemia just a month ago.

Bobra was born on July 5, 1930, and spent her childhood in New York, Nevada

and California before moving to Boulder in 1947. She rode and trained horses and was the 1953 Boulder Rodeo Queen. She majored in music and played the bassoon and piano and earned a doctorate in French literature. She taught at the University of Colorado for years before retiring to devote her time to llamas.

Bobra got her first llamas in 1978 and since that time bred, raised and trained hundreds of llamas. She led packing trips, created halters and leads for llamas, founded a local 4-H club and volunteered her llamas to carry supplies for the U. S. Forest

Service. Bobra was a priceless resource for anyone interested in llamas. There was little information available about them when she started out, so she had to learn everything from what vaccinations to give to how to train them. She generously shared everything she had learned with anyone who wanted to know.

Bobra was married to Ulrich Goldsmith in 1966. He was a professor and CSU and died in 2000. Bobra is survived by her stepdaughter, Sheila Goldsmith of Bellingham, Washington, and nieces and nephews.

"Green" Ribbon Saver Program

By Judy Glaser

To be "green" and help save money when it comes to award ribbons, I'd like to start a Ribbon Saver program.

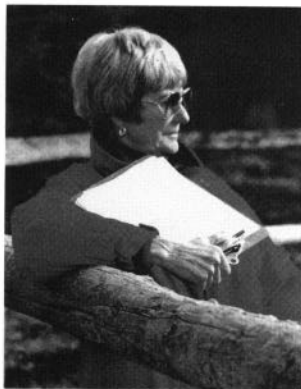
As we continue in our adventures with llamas and all that they bring to our lives, we acquire ribbons from different shows around the state. We love to get these ribbons, but some of us have boxes and piles of ribbons that have been tucked away and are just collecting dust. The Ribbon Saver Program will recycle ribbons that are still in good condition and have not been written on. To help show superintendents save money, I will collect any and all ribbons of all placements of any Colorado show. The show superintendents can either contact me or I will let them know if I have any ribbons available for them.

Ribbons can be mailed to me, or I can collect them at shows that I attend throughout the year. Ribbons can also be immediately recycled by giving them to me or the show superintendent at the end of a show.

Please help me support our shows, youth programs and activities so that no one is left out. Your ribbon donations could be especially helpful to superintendents of youth shows that have to operate on tight budgets. I will be implementing the Ribbon Saver Program at the 2011 National Western Stock Show.

Respectfully, Judy Glaser, Rockwood Llamas
29039 Maul Rd. Kiowa, Co. 80117
judy.glaser@yahoo.com

Virginia Christensen



Virginia Christensen, one of ALSA's founding members, died November 5, at the age of 80. She was at home in Gardnerville, Nevada with her husband, Dick, visiting with neighbors over coffee and cookies, when she was struck by a heart attack and died instantly.

After purchasing, with Dick, her first llamas in 1982, Virginia trained and became one of the original ALSA judges in 1987, was appointed to the fledgling ALSA board of

directors as its secretary, and in turn became one of the original ALSA clinic instructors. She remained on the ALSA books as Member #1 for the rest of her life.

For over 20 subsequent years, Virginia judged llamas and alpacas, trained new judges, presided over the ALSA judges' committee, served as a tireless volunteer for numerous llama enthusiast groups, wrote educational articles for a variety of publications, and tended meticulously to her own llama companions, many of whom still grace the field behind her home.

This list of accomplishments does little to illustrate the true power of Virginia's influence in the llama community. Her dedication to strong ethics and a moral commitment to her unending sense of responsibility toward the animals who brought her great joy over the years, made her an inspirational leader to countless people. In addition to ALSA, she provided expert support and formal work efforts to

every major camelid organization in the country, including ILR, LANA, ILA and RMLA.

In 2006, Virginia was honored by a three-day event in her name, The Virginia Christensen Classic. At that time, The Virginia Christensen National Llama Welfare Award was launched, a cash award given to individuals who work for the welfare of llamas. There have been four recipients since the award's inception, which will continue in memory of all Virginia stood for.

Virginia Christensen is survived by her husband Dick, her daughter Claudia, son Richard, her grandchildren, her cat Toonie, a small herd of llamas, and an enormous network of close friends.

Funeral services were held in Rancho Palos Verdes in November, but condolences can still be sent to Dick Christensen at 1032 Kerry Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada 89460.

Looking For The Gold

By Jerry Dunn

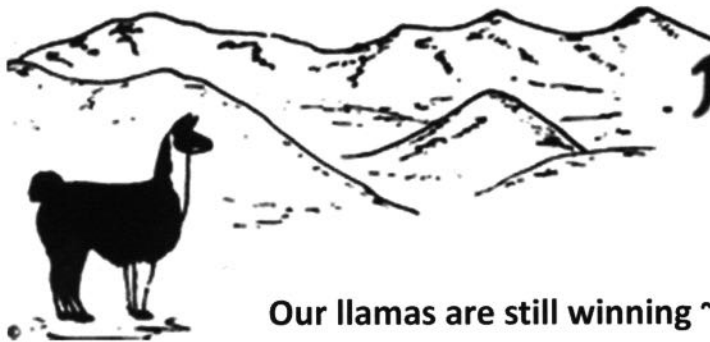
Photos by Brian Glynn and Jerry Dunn

*The winds will blow their
own freshness into you,
and the storms their energy,
while cares will drop away from you
like the leaves of Autumn.*

John Muir

A hearty group of hikers with their llamas came together in Golden Gate Canyon State Park to celebrate the changing of the seasons as the mountain sides revealed the golden splendor of a September day. New llama enthusiasts with their families and friends walked with experienced handlers enjoying the trail into Fraser Meadow.





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If you'd like to learn more about training your llamas and alpacas,
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Learn all the essentials for easy management, plus grooming, toenail
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Packing with Llamas (two-day clinic)

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- *Sun.*: A lunch hike with your llama lightly packed, learning to ford streams in various situations, cross bridges and other obstacles.

To receive clinic outlines and schedules, see our website or contact us:
<http://rockymtllamas.com> ~ questions@rockymtllamas.com

Bobra B. Goldsmith, owner
7202 N 45th Street, Longmont CO 80503-8844
303.530.5575 (office) ~ 720.306.3691 (fax)

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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.

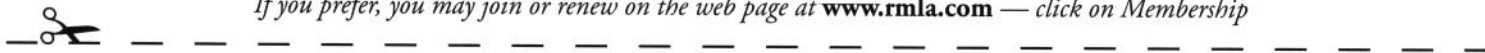
Young Adult Membership: \$10.00 per year **Former Youth members only**, who have continued education beyond High School. A parent/guardian must be the adult RMLA member sponsor. 1 vote per membership.

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 _____

- Breeding(B) Training (T) Driving(DR) Sales(S)
- Products(PR) Boarding(BD) Fiber(F) Research(RE)
- Judging(JD) Packing(PK) Leasing(LE) Brokering(BK)
- Commercial Packing(COM PK) Rescue(RS) Other(Specify)



____ Life: \$500.00 _____
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 ____ Youth: \$10.00 _____
 ____ Young Adult: \$10.00 _____

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

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Rocky Mt. Llama

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

- Finance Marketing Fiber Pack Continuing Education
- Events Membership/Web Rescue Research Nominations/Elections
- Publishing 4-H & Youth By-Laws Library Gov't. Relations

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

Don't miss any of the events, sponsored by RMLA.
JOIN NOW!!! ••• Support RMLA Foundation Inc.

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A Wee Whisper in Your Ear...

from Judy Glaser



All RMLA Members *are invited to come out* in **MARCH** for the **2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Denver.**

Since we meet in the morning, Kim Sawyer and I will have some breakfast "fuel" for you. More information will be provided as we get closer to the day of this glorious event.

Calendar of Events

JANUARY

January 7-9, 2011 National Western Stock Show Llama Show, Denver, CO,
Contact Kim Sawyer, 303.699.0997, kim@tapestryalpacas.com

MARCH

March 13, 2011 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Denver, CO., March Contact Judy
Glaser, 303.646.6311, judy.glaser@yahoo.com or Kim Sawyer,
kim@tapestryalpacas.com .

March 19, 2011 Llamas & Friends in the Park, Wheat Ridge, CO., Contact
Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

APRIL

April 9-10, 2011 Driving Clinic, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO., Contact Jerry
Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

MAY

May 7, 2011 Jelly Bean Classic, Arvada, CO., Contact Jerry Dunn,
303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

May 21, 2011 Grand Mesa Llama Show, Grand Junction, CO.

May 22, 2011 Kokopelli Llama Show, Grand Junction, CO., Contact Jill
Knuckles, 970.487.0223, talltaillamas@bigplanet.com

Fiber Basics Brochure Now Available

A brochure titled "The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Fiber" brochure was produced at Camelid Community 2010. The group at this year's annual gathering in Kansas City felt the industry needed a simple, easy to reproduce piece that could help owners take advantage of their annual fiber crop. It has been designed so that camelid organizations and individual farms and businesses can add their own contact information before printing, just like "The Basics of Alpaca & Llama Care" brochure produced at Camelid Community 2008. It should be printed on a duplex or double-sided printer in order

for the columns to be properly aligned. If individuals do not have access to a two-sided printer, they could take the attached brochure to a local print shop. Both brochures will be available for downloading from www.icinfo.org, the web site for the International Camelid Institute. A report from Camelid Community 2010 also will be posted at that site.

Many thanks to Barb Baker, Sheila Fugina and the other Camelid Community participants for making this brochure available to everyone.

NEW MEMBERS

By Barb Hance,
Membership Committee Chairperson

The Membership Committee has had very little activity since the last report. I had asked for your input in the size of the Membership Directory. There were a few people who did not like the change in size, so next year the directory will return to its 5 1/2" x 8" size.

Welcome New Members

Lynda Liptak
Paulette Kaskinen
Llama Lynda Ranch
605 El Dorado Drive NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-1744
505.898.3875
liptak@ara.com

Samantha Tanner
Pine Country Ranch, LLC
4325 Private Rd 160
Elizabeth, CO 80107-8827
303-646-4946
info@pinecountryranch.com

Welcome Back to Renewing Member

Carol Lontine
D & C Llamas
25539 Weld County Road 50
Kersey, CO 80644-9023
970.284.7740
cell 303.548.5127
cllontine@gmail.com

Address Changes

Emy DiNatale (Youth)
4833 Valhalla Drive
Boulder, CO 80301-4358

Leigh DiNatale
4833 Valhalla Drive
Boulder, CO 80301-4358

Karen B. Saunders
3478 Catsclaw Drive PMD#234
Abilene, TX 78606
325.721.4845

John & Pam Trauth
Meadow Haven Farms
PO Box 317
Christmas Valley, OR 97641-0317
775.423.5262

Gayle Woodsum
Llamas of a Coral Dawn
20833 Highway 14
Walden, CO 80430
307.399.3895
coraldawnnews@aol.com

2010 Taos Wool Festival

By Jill Knuckles

RMLA members who have consignments in the RMLA Fiber Booth know that the Taos Wool Festival is one of the most successful events for the Booth each year. If you have not heard of the Taos Wool Festival, it is a wonderful event and well worth taking the time to attend. The Festival is an outstanding regional wool market, featuring juried vendors showcasing their wool, fiber, yarns and artistic



creations. It is held annually on the first weekend of October at Kit Carson State Park in beautiful Taos, New Mexico. In addition to a wonderful shopping experience for thousands of fiber enthusiasts, the festival offers:

- Fiber Critter Showcase where attendees can see llamas, alpacas, yaks, sheep, angora rabbits, goats and more.
- Demonstrations of shearing, spinning, dyeing and other fiber related skills.
- Competitions for hand spinning, wool and fleece judging as well as finished products.

The RMLA Fiber Booth sold \$3,747 of camelid fiber products at the 2010 Taos Wool Festival, which represented items from 15 consignors. Of the total sales:

- Raw or processed fiber accounted for 23 % of sales dollars and 35 % of items sold.
- Yarn accounted for 29% of sales dollars and 41% of the items sold.



- Finished fiber products, including hats, scarves, shawls, rugs, purses and sweaters accounted for 47% of the sales dollars and 20% of the number of items sold.

I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to the wonderful fiber booth volunteers: Sharon Beacham, Sandy Lockwood, Robert Knuckles, Bob Mallonee, Sandy Nolan and Tanya Swegler.

Mark the first weekend of October 2011 for the Taos Wool Festival. It is an event you will not want to miss. You can find the RMLA Fiber Booth Consignment information and agreement on the RMLA website.

Montana Large Animal Sanctuary to Close

To: The Llama and Alpaca Community

From: National Llama Intervention & Rescue Coordination Council

The IRC Council was formed at Camelid Community in 2005 in order to provide an efficient system of coordinating llama and alpaca efforts nationwide and to help promote camelid welfare through education. The following message was written by Charlene Schmidt, IRC Council coordinator for the northwest.

Dec. 4, 2010

To all concerned:

I spoke at length this morning with Brian Warrington, one of the directors of Montana Large Animal Sanctuary. Brian is also the one who feeds the animals daily. The information circulating that the Sanctuary is closing is correct, but some clarification is needed. Although we are all feeling concern and sadness and the desire to help, we need to take a deep breath here and make sure we are all operating with the same information.

First, the Sanctuary is closing, not just to new entries, but for good. In Brian's words, "We are folding." This is due to a sudden and major shift in economic circumstances that makes what they have been doing out of love for so many animals for the last 16 years untenable. I think we are all aware of the effects of this economic downturn. Since they are out of funds, what the Sanctuary needs most at this time is monetary donations for hay and feed. While placement is going on, they need to secure a sufficient supply of hay to support the three to four tons that they are feeding daily.

As to the placement of animals, the following is the most current information concerning those spearheading this effort, according to Patty Finch, executive director of Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries:

Jerry Finch, president of Habitat for Horses, located in Hitchcock, Texas, has final say on placements but only interacts with the team captains listed below.

Phyllis Ruana—Llamas

Montana Animal Care Association (MACA)
P.O.B. 153
Corvallis, MT 59828
406-370-6668
www.montanaanimalcareassociation.org
501 C-3 nonprofit organization

Dave Pauli—Wildlife

Senior Director for Wildlife Response
Humane Society of the United States
HSUS Animal Care Centers
Billings, MT
406-255-7161

Susie Coston—Farm

National Shelter Director
Farm Sanctuary
P. O. Box 150
Watkins Glen, NY 14891
607-583-2225 Ex. 262
607-583-4472 (Fax)
scoston@farmsanctuary.org

Jane Heath—Horses

Executive Director

Montana Horse Sanctuary

Simms, MT
ht@mt.net

Patty Finch—Funding and Solutions
Beyond Critical Placements of as Many
Animals as Possible

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
patty@sanctuaryfederation.org

In closing, I would like to add that Kathryn and Brian have been there heart, mind, soul and body for animals in need. Theirs has been a dedication that can be called complete in every sense of the word. If at all possible, please make a donation to the care of the animals that these people took on to help llama and alpaca owners when they were in need.

Thank you,
Charlene Schmidt
charlene@prosperitypal.com

(Information on the IRC Council is available at www.icinfo.org, web site for the International Camelid Institute.)

DRIVE DRIVE DRIVE INCREASE YOUR LLAMA'S VERSITILITY



BEAR TRACK FARM DRIVING CLINIC

SINGLES AND PAIRS

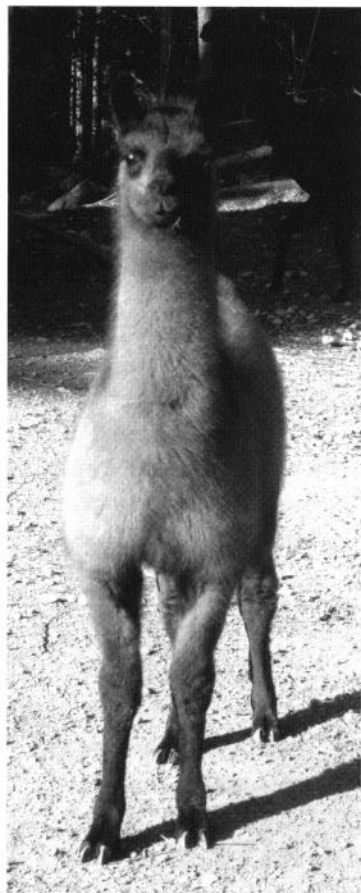
APRIL 16-17, 2011

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 6, 2011

JERRY DUNN 303-277-1129 beartrak@q.com

What Every Llama Owner Needs to Know About Hairballs!

By Chela Grey, Stillpointe Sanctuary (August 2010)
Reprinted from LANA News, Autumn 2010



First of all, YES, llamas can get hairballs. These hairballs can be lethal.

Last August we lost our lovely boy of 14 months, Royal, to what amounted to a giant hairball.

As llamas will do, he showed no real signs of anything being wrong until about two weeks before we took him to Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital in Snohomish, WA, to find out why “all of a sudden,” he was showing a lot of interest in food, but seemed not to be eating much. He would run for the hay and pellets, but lose interest after one or two swallows. He was also spending a lot of time at the poo pile with very scanty results. When this gentle soul, who had never spit (that I knew of) and was very mannerly around people, spit right in

my face with no provocation whatsoever, I knew something was very wrong.

Our vet at Pilchuck noticed immediately that Royal’s mid-section seemed bloated—isn’t it amazing how we can miss such obvious things when we are around our llamas almost all the time—and asked the usual questions about eating and drinking and pooping habits. I filled her in on all I could, and we decided on a blood draw first. There was nothing out of the ordinary. Next came an ultrasound, which revealed a mass in the upper intestine right next to the third stomach compartment. Then an x-ray, which confirmed a solid appearing mass.

By this time (two days into his hospital stay), Royal was in obvious discomfort. He tried several times to poo, and at best, could only produce two or three “beans.” We had brought a buddy for him the second day to see if smelling another poo pile would help him, and to give him a familiar face to keep him company. He did indeed “assume the position” when his buddy made the pile, but to no avail. It was quite obvious that Royal was very frustrated, and more and more uncomfortable.

The vet had been consulting on a daily basis with the doctors at the veterinary hospital at Washington State University. They reached a consensus, and it was not good. With Royal’s behavior—he was now kicking at his tummy and humming a lot—the x-ray, ultrasound and hands-on exams, the logical next step would be abdominal surgery to attempt to remove the blockage. However, the prognosis for such a step was that it was almost certainly a futile at-tempt. The mass was so close to the third stomach chamber that to bring the intestine out to remove it would be next to impossible. If they were to attempt to remove the blockage within the abdominal

cavity, it was 99.9% certain that bacteria would be released, resulting in peritonitis. Taking him home and attempting to break this block-age loose with the use of enemas, special liquid feedings (tubing) several times a day or leaving him in the hospital while the vets did all that was not only probably futile, but also a painful and difficult experience for Royal. And then of course there is always the cost. Even if we had unlimited funds, it was my opinion that putting the little guy through all that was terribly unkind. And so we opted to let him go over the Rainbow Bridge.

We had a necropsy performed, and it was indeed an almost solid mass of llama hair interspersed with a very few hay seeds and strands. Of course, I kept asking what we could have done to detect this coming on, and the answer kept being “nothing that we know of.” We were also told that this problem has begun to show up in young llamas more and more. No one is addressing it much because no one knows what to do about it, if anything.

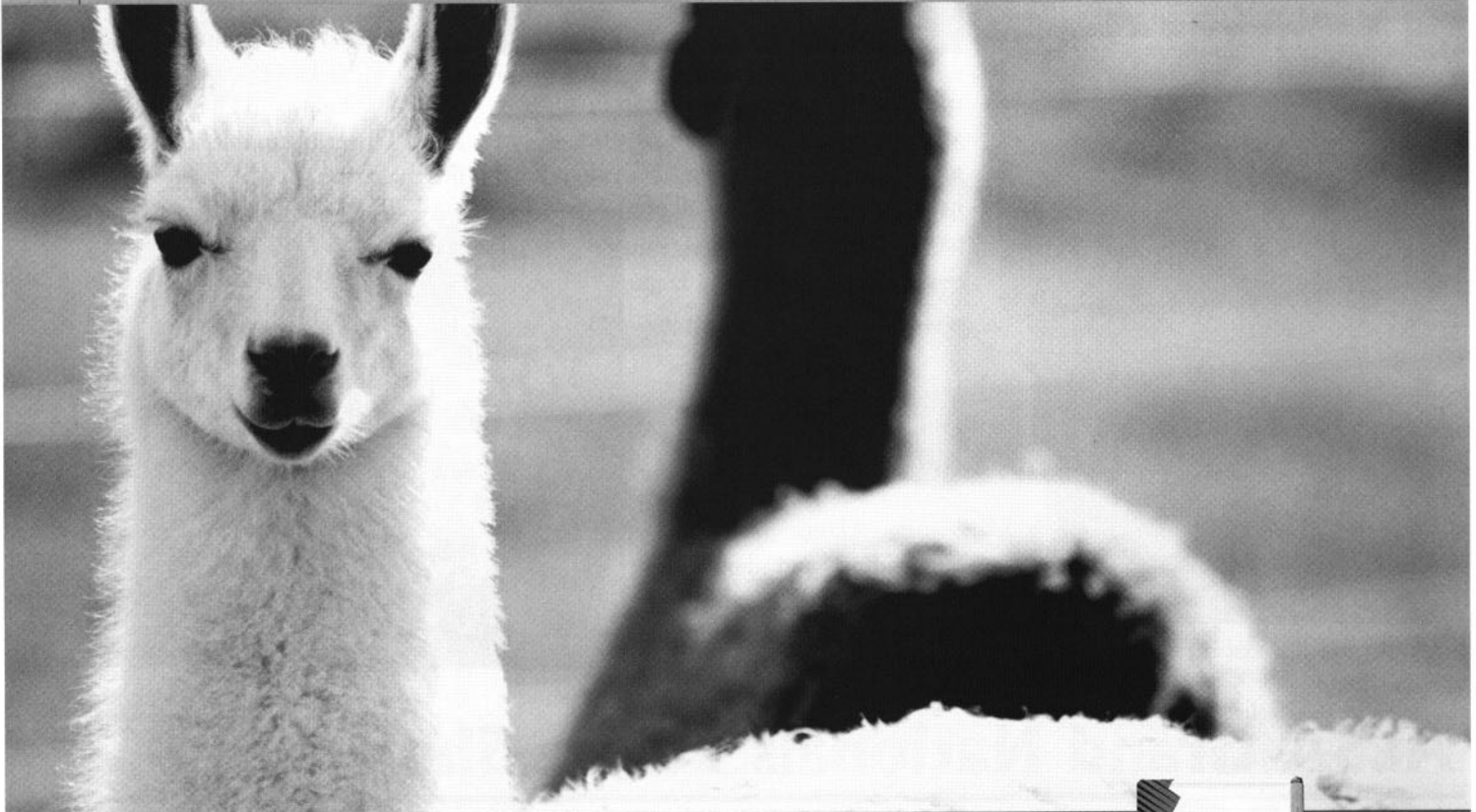
We were told not to blame ourselves. There was nothing we did or did not do that made any difference. Llamas, especially youngsters, love to run and chase and play with the others. They like to nip at other butts and chests practicing for being big guys fighting. Also, it may start with nursing. If the mom is not short-wooled or is not shorn in the spots where the cria goes after the milk, they can ingest hair that way.

I know for certain, whenever I see hair in a llama’s mouth, I remove it! I also know that from now on, when one of our llamas is pregnant, we will shear her at least in her “armpits” so the baby won’t have to go through a “forest” to get to the milk bar.

I also know I will never quite forgive myself for not being able to do something for that beloved, beautiful boy.

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RMLA Members at ALSA Grand National Show

By Cheryl Juntilla

Congratulations to all of the RMLA members who participated in the 2010 ALSA Grand National Championship in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was really exciting to see so many of you taking home Top Ten ribbons, as well as Grand and Reserve trophies, and it speaks well to the quality of the llamas in the Rocky Mountain Region. A big Thank You goes to all of the RMLA



of imagination. There didn't appear to be any official costume entries from RMLA members, but at least three of them got into the spirit of things on the sidelines. Their names are being withheld to protect their macho reputations, but you can probably guess who they are. (If anybody wants a photo of the backside of Larry's costume, please let me know and I'll e-mail it to you. I'm



members who travelled to Lincoln to serve as volunteers. It takes a lot of work to put together a show this big and your efforts help make it possible for all of us to enjoy the event.

afraid I'll get in trouble if it gets printed in this magazine.)

Most importantly, it was wonderful to enjoy celebrating our special animals and the camaraderie of friends from our region as well as other parts of the country. Since it was Halloween, the costume classes were really outstanding and both the youth and adult exhibitors showed an incredible amount



ALSA Grand Nationals Fleece Show 2010

By Geri Rutledge

Another year has come and gone to showcase the wonderful fleeces of our animals. The turnout for the 2010 Grand National Fleece Show was above and beyond the totals for the past and the members of the fleece crew could not have been more pleased. There were 134 total entries, and the display looked fantastic and got a lot of attention. Every year we are able to educate more owners about their animals' fiber and increase interest in the fiber entries.

The Walking Fiber results were announced on Saturday, October 30. It was an interesting feat to get 60 animals and

handlers into the arena at the same time for the announcement of the top ten. The animals seemed to know it was show time and stood proudly in their lines while the handlers waited anxiously for the results. Then the music of the Village People began playing in the arena and Jeff Rucker led everyone in dancing to that old favorite "YMCA." The llamas looked at the people as if they were crazy and some of the people were laughing so hard it brought tears to their eyes. It was a great way to break the tension and really funny to watch.

The Jane Sheppard Memorial Award was presented to RMLA members Paul and

Karen Schwartz of ChanTar Llamas for their shorn fleece entry from Mighty Joe's Charlie Brown. This special award is made possible each year by Sharon Beacham and Karen Kinyon.

The 2010 Grand National Fleece Show was a great success and could not have been done without the help of the many volunteers. The many sponsors, including RMLA and several of its members, deserve a big round of applause for providing the donations that go directly to the premium money. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this the best National Fleece Show ever.

More horses and more llamas will make it a fun time.

So what should you do when you meet horses on the trail? If you see the horse(s) first, alert them that you have a llama(s) and that you will step off the trail. If at all possible move down hill off the trail 50 feet or more and wait for the horse(s) to pass. Moving downhill away from the trail the llamas will not be perceived as potential predators or threats for the horses. After they have moved passed you some distance you can return to



the trail. If the horse(s) initially come up behind you, they should warn you. If they don't, most likely your llama will let you know in some manner or fashion, then repeat the same routine of moving off the trail.

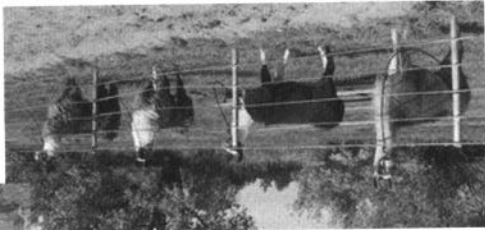
In some cases riders will dismount and lead their horse past you. Stand quietly off the trail until the rider has remounted their horse and continue on. Once the rider has dismounted they frequently want to chat. Keep a safe distance and stay alert to changes in behavior such as, ears down, head throwing, and aggravated switching of the tail by the horse or your llama. I would not recommend touching noses with the horse. Save that kind of greeting for your tentatively scheduled again for the spring.

A Special Thanks...

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the RMLA members and friends who traveled to the ALSA Grand Nationals. It was an experience and a moment that few of us have felt and all of us strive for. Taking a National Grand Championship is a dream come true and a positive statement for all the hard work and love that goes into our passion. Thanks for being supportive and enthusiastic for me. It will always be remembered.

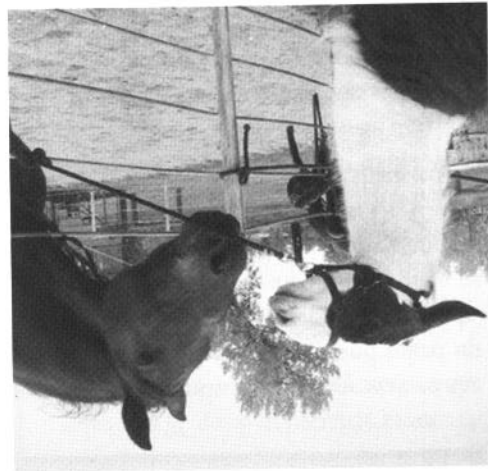
Judy and Kurt Glaser, Rockwood Llamas

We practiced first with the llamas tied on the rail outside of the arena and the horses in hand in the arena on lunge lines. Several patterns were practiced with each horse. The llamas were not particularly interested in the activities and sat quietly chewing their cud waiting for their turn to participate. Finally the llamas were lead into the arena. In the beginning there were a few whites of the eye showing and a little snort and that was it. We added packs to the llamas and still no great trauma. We worked on a few exercises in the arena then stopped for lunch. After lunch we walked over to the trails in the trees and the heat was on. The wind began to howl, trees were losing their leaves and small branches, and the footing was dry and noisy. We walked with the llamas on the trails and the horses reacted as if they had never seen



the llamas before. We practiced the protocol but the wind was making the opportunity for a positive outcome nearly impossible. With such a wild reaction and a safety concern we decided to return to the arena.

The horses, as it turned out, were primarily event horses and not trail horses, except the wise old quarter horse mare. This was a good experience for them but they needed more time and more practice working outside of the arena. We are tentatively scheduled again for the spring.



How times have we as llama hikers encountered a horse and rider on the trail, or even more interesting - a whole string of horses and mules? Where to run, where to hide? It seems to be just a matter of educating and using common sense by the llama handler and the horse and rider.

In late summer Sharron Pizuto, a horse owner, contacted me for some help in desensitizing her horse to llamas. She and some of her friends had recently been on a trail ride and met up with llamas and were not sure what to do at the time and how to de-fuse the excitement. We discussed some ideas and determined that a workshop with horses and llamas would be a way to educate several of the local riders for future situations. I agreed to develop some exercises for the arena followed by some trail work over in the trees.

Sharron posted flyers at the local feed stores and I contacted Gerald Losasso to give a hand during the workshop. Gerald had experience in owning and training horses for a number of years and was willing to help. We were able to schedule our event at the Indiana Equestrian Center in Arvada, an outdoor facility with arenas, and trails. Gerald and I brought four of our llamas for the workshop as helpers. When the time arrived six horses and handlers showed up. Two Percherons, one Clydesdale, a Morgan, a Rocky Mountain gaited horse and a seasoned 26 year old quarter horse mare with a look in her eye that made the llamas cringe.

Owner Devotion, Veterinary Emergency Response Rescue Llama After Backcountry Injury

By Carol Borchert



Wyatt and friends.

For the D'Evelyn/Tingstad family, a trip to the backcountry on Labor Day weekend held promise of hiking in the beautiful Colorado Rockies while enjoying fresh mountain air, camping with friends, and climbing James Peak. Accompanying them were their three dependable pack llamas, including family-favorite, loaded-with-personality Wyatt, helping to carry gear while providing four-legged companionship (and acting as a social magnet when the family crossed paths with other hikers).

But on Monday, Labor Day, the family's trip took an unexpected turn. Wyatt, who'd been packing for eight years, panicked at a dangerous stream crossing and broke his leg. If the D'Evelyn's loyal packing companion was to get safely home, some creative and extraordinary measures would have to be taken.

"When Wyatt came out of the stream, we knew immediately that the leg was broken," said Linda D'Evelyn. "We worked with what we had on hand to improvise a splint, including a llama first-aid kit, tent poles, and foam pads, but it wasn't adequate for him to bear weight. We didn't know it then, but the reality was it would take the next four days to get him out of the wilderness."

Even with the additional support of the splint, Wyatt was only able to carry his weight on his three good legs for short

distances. The D'Evelyn/Tingstad's were able to slowly walk Wyatt back down the trail about one-third mile before stopping for the day. The family, with two small children as well as a friend and his children, had to make a difficult decision – they would need to leave Wyatt overnight to get help. Wyatt was settled in as comfortably as possible off the trail, a sign affixed to his side instructing anyone who found him that his leg was broken and help was on the way.

Once at the trail head, D'Evelyn contacted their veterinarian for advice and considered the limited options available for evacuating Wyatt, particularly concerning the restrictions enforced on transportation in wilderness areas. On Tuesday, D'Evelyn, her husband, Helmut Tingstad, and a friend hiked back up to Wyatt, carrying antibiotics, pain medication and additional medical supplies to help get him safely down the mountain. For the next four days, Linda or Helmut hiked back to Wyatt and tried to walk him out a little further, traveling shorter distances each day as he weakened. By Friday, Wyatt was exhausted and could not go any further. The parking area and Wyatt's trailer were still nearly two miles away. On Friday night, on the recommendation of a friend, D'Evelyn called the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Colorado State University.

Dr. Robert Callan was on clinics that weekend when D'Evelyn called, and they worked together to develop a plan to get Wyatt all the way down the trail and to the hospital. On Saturday morning, Dr. Callan



Dr. Rob Callan administers a sedative to Wyatt.

and his wife, Cindy, made their way to the East Moffatt Tunnel trailhead and hiked up and met D'Evelyn and three of her friends. They carried additional medical supplies, as well as materials to make a gurney and, if necessary, a cast. Reaching Wyatt, Dr. Callan realized that Wyatt was too exhausted to walk out, even with a cast.

"The splint that they had was stable and in good condition, but Wyatt was just too tired to keep going on three legs," said Dr. Callan. "We knew we were going to need to carry him out."

Dr. Callan placed an I.V. catheter to allow easy sedation and make it easier to carry



Volunteers take a break.

Wyatt out. Next, after some trial and error, the group constructed a stable gurney using a tarp, slings and fallen logs, and Wyatt was led to lay on the gurney and sedated. The six adults lifted the approximately 350-pound llama, and were able to make 50-foot to 100-foot long carries before they had to set him down to rest their arms. It seemed like an impossible task to take him down the remaining two miles.

But help soon arrived. Another group of hikers on their way down joined in the rescue effort. Before long, two young men hiking

up the trail joined the group to get Wyatt down the trail. With 10 people, it took about two-and-one-half hours to take Wyatt the remaining distance (with occasional stops to administer a bit more sedative to keep Wyatt calm and on the gurney).

"I'm sure we were quite the sight, with Wyatt riding like a king on his throne, occasionally leaning over to graze as we walked along the trail," said D'Evelyn. "I was so thankful to have Dr. Callan there, and all the way down the trail he was explaining treatment options, types of casts, and was very optimistic about Wyatt's prognosis."

Safely in his trailer, Wyatt made the trip to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital where he was stabilized with additional pain control and I.V. fluids, his leg cleaned up and assessed, radiographs taken, and his splint replaced. On Monday, Sept. 13, Dr. Valerie Moorman, emergency critical care clinician, did surgery to fit Wyatt with a pin cast that would stabilize the bone and allow it to heal.



Carrying out almost 400 pounds of llama takes a team.

"Wyatt had some bruising, swelling and abrasions, but because he had been started on antibiotics while up on the trail, he did not appear to have any serious infection," said Dr. Callan. "He came through the surgery really well and was soon comfortably resting in a nicely padded stall. I expect that he will spend the rest of this season healing, and then be able to pack again next year."

Wyatt is due back for a check-up and cast removal on Nov. 5, but D'Evelyn said he has been recuperating quite well – though a bit grumpy about being confined to a stall

– and is definitely ready to have his cast removed.

"Wyatt's experience at CSU was unbelievable," said D'Evelyn. "He got so much personal attention, and we were really impressed with his quality of care. That's what saved Wyatt's life. It was amazing to have a veterinarian like Dr. Callan and all the wonderful staff members at the hospital, who really went above and beyond the call of duty to care for Wyatt."

Update: Radiograph taken at Wyatt's Nov. 5 checkup showed his progress stable but with little calcification in the healing bone. Two of the three pins in his pin cast were pulled, but the cast will remain in place for another four to six weeks. Other than slow healing, which is not uncommon in older llamas, Dr. Callan reports that everything is going well.

This article was reprinted with permission from the November edition of *e-insight* magazine, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University.

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High Water and High Spirits at EPWM '10

Estes Park Wool Market Surprises Us Again

By Gayle M. Woodsum, superintendent



Storms Over Estes

Veterans of the llama show at Estes Park Wool Market (and there are a lot of us in the Rocky Mountain region) are no strangers to the crazy weather that can be sent our way in June. We all have stories to share. There was the year the wind blew down the special llama display tent, sent all the trash cans tumbling from one end of the fairgrounds to the other, knocked over the port-a-potty and collapsed the sheep tent so the sheep had to be moved to the llama barn. Then there was the year we woke up to four inches of snow on the ground that turned to mud by afternoon, made way for burning sun the next day and ended in thunder and lightening Sunday afternoon. And who can forget the year of fires, when half the roads surrounding Estes were closed, fairground pens were full of evacuated animals, and the show was regularly interrupted by evacuation warnings for local llama breeders.



Preparation Before Rains

As we all prepared for a special celebration of the EPWM 25th anniversary this past June, we didn't exactly have torrential 40° rains and flooding of the Thompson River in mind. But that's what we got.

Challenging weather has always been part of one of the country's longest running llama shows, and in some perverse way it's part of why the show is a favorite for so many of us. Held out in the open air with 360° views of the Rockies (including the magnificent peaks of Rocky Mountain National Park), there's an energy in Estes Park that seems to lift the spirits of exhibitors, volunteers, judges, llamas and alpacas alike.

This year, that spirit lifting magic was much needed. According to people who have attended every one of the 25 years this highly acclaimed wool market has hosted a llama show, 2010 will be remembered as the wettest. Long time llama show exhibitors



such as **Bobra Goldsmith**, **Jerry Dunn** and **Mary Beth Hartsough** proclaimed throughout the weekend they "have never experienced weather as bad as this at Estes Park."

Yet, we all jumped right in and made it happen, starting with donations of all the performance obstacles by **Jerry** and **Bobbi Losasso**, and check-in headed up by **Melanie Darter**.

On Friday and Saturday, performance competitors and judges slogged through

8" of mud and a nonstop deluge in the obstacle ring, made worse by the fact that the grandstand and surrounding area was under construction. But there were only smiles and laughter as handlers and llamas



Adult Showmanship

did their best to perform in what is always a highly competitive Rocky Mountain performance show. ALSA judges **Penny Davidson**, **Cathie Kindler** and **Mary Wickman** struggled to write scores under cover of raincoats; petters and runners borrowed wool socks and muck boots; and runners dashed to the clerks with dripping paper before the scores were erased by the rain. A hardy, smaller than usual but still enthusiastic crowd showed up for the ever popular Leaping Llama and Llama Llimbo contest at lunchtime, and the llamas bravely crawled through the mud and gingerly leapt over puddles to keep the fun alive.

Fiber judge **Karen Kinyon** worked furiously to dig through soaked fiber for something dry underneath in order to accurately judge her walking fleece classes, and volunteers scrambled to keep shorn fleece entries from being dripped on by saturated barn roofs.

Some of the hardest people of the weekend were the performance crew, including those petters and runners. Among those unsung heroes (allow me to sing a few bars of gratitude for them here) were **Laurel**

Snider; Marshal, Jim and Geri Rutledge; Al Cozzetto; Sarah Budney; Susan Socolofsky-Hyde; Elektra and Gareth Hyde; Wyatt, Karl and Elise Thomas; Elissa Carson.

By the time halter and showmanship classes began on Sunday, with no let-up in sight for the 40° rains, arrangements had been made to hold classes in the small and dark — but dry — hay storage barn at the far end of the fairgrounds. Stalwart clerks **Nancy Jamnik** and **Maryalice Snider** happily moved their tables, calculators, notebooks and notes to the new location, and intrepid announcer **Rhonda Livengood** turned up the volume on her vocal chords to compensate for the lack of indoor speakers in the hay barn. **Brianna** and **Al Livengood-Cozzetto** kept us all going by making a run for hot food when we most needed it.

Taking advantage of the light in the open doorways, the judges adjusted their ring procedure for the unusual circumstances, grateful to be out of the rain after standing in it for 10 hours the day before. Over 100 animals from 35 ranches competed in halter classes, an additional 32 in performance

classes, and there were 31 fleece show entries that included walking fleece, shorn fleece and specialty fleece product classes.

Both open and youth versatility championships were awarded, requiring animals to be shown in halter, performance and fleece classes combined in order to be eligible. Winners were **Open Versatility Champion: HJ Isidro's All the Hard Ways** owned and shown by **Laurel Snider** of Laramie, Wyoming; **Youth Versatility Champion: Kikaida** owned and shown by **Marshal Rutledge** of Waco, Nebraska.

Without our intrepid sponsors, there would be no special championship awards at Estes Park Wool Market llama show, and more importantly, there would be no hospitality booth for exhibitors. This year, generous contributors included **Karen Kinyon, Betty Robertson, Leslie and Steve Schubert, Sherry and Jan Adamcyk, Larry and Deanna Llewelyn; Geri, Jim and Marshal Rutledge; Maryalice, Jeff and Laurel Snider; Patti Morgan** and me. Their donations helped pay for the handcrafted awards designed and created at cost by

Tracy duCharme and her new business, **ColorMeMine of Colorado Springs.**

As I packed up and put everything away until next year, I'm happy to report that my 24-year-old giant Mickey Mouse, now a veteran of many a llama show public relations course, also survived the weather with just a little caked-on mud to show for it. He says he's looking forward to next year, and as for what Estes Park will hand us then? Mickey Mouse says, "bring it on!"



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Good Things Happen When You Support Your Local Community And 4-H Club

By Robert Storer
Photos by Mel Brown and Robert Storer



Author and llama handler Bob Storer with llama, Bandit.

Have you recently heard the saying, “Nothing ventured – nothing gained”? Are you ever curious why some llama businesses seem to be doing better than others these days? In this economy, you have to promote every chance you get and create your own positive opportunities.

One such way to give your support and time is to your local 4-H. We are fortunate in Flathead County, Montana to have ranches, small businesses, and individuals that generously support the L.L.A.M.A 4-H club, led by club leader Angela Crenshaw.

When support is provided, it comes back to you many times over. M And M Llama Ranch, out of Kalispell, Montana, and Owners Monica and Mel Brown have been active in their community for years and give generously of their time by supporting the local 4-H Club. They have routinely supported them at fairs, parades and regularly host club members at their ranch to learn the basics of raising and showing llamas.

Support of the 4-H club is important to M And M Llama Ranch for a multitude of reasons. Monica and Mel list the following benefits to kids who participate in 4-H and



Pre-parade prep that everyone pitches in to help!



4-H group all set to go in the parade!!



We are starting our festive walk into the small town of Bigfork to Electric Avenue where the parade route officially starts.



The start of the parade route. The crowd loves the llamas!



Missy Otto and her daughter are a couple of tireless supporters. They always show-up to events with llamas in support of the 4-H! TJ the llama dressed as a camel is fast becoming a parade favorite!



Above: Troy with his 4-H project!



Left: Monica Brown and Bev Storer the owner of Rose Creek Ranch. Our newest ranch owner to join the parade fun!

visit their ranch several times throughout the year:

- Learning how to interact with others and how to participate as a team;
- Life skills about ownership and responsibility;
- Sustainable living;
- Animal health and husbandry;
- Learning to care for and show llamas;
- Importance of maintaining a productive operation and caring for land;
- Learning about the various aspects of the llama industry; and

- How to play a role in and be a good citizen and neighbor.

Monica said, "We receive so much more back than we give", and "it is a great way to do good and support your local community and promote your business".

The M And M Llama Ranch believes support of your local 4-H Club can be a lot of fun. It is about bringing a positive attitude and what you make of it. We invite our friends and family members to come and walk a llama. At the recent Bigfork Christmas parade we brought 10 llamas in support of the 4-H Club and we had a grand total of 18 llamas on display in the parade.

It was a marvelous sight in the small town of Bigfork. Business opportunities literally walk up to you on the street, especially once the kids are able to reach out and pet a young llama!

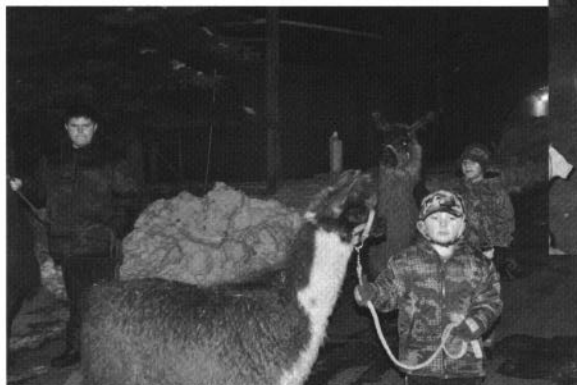
Support your local community and 4-H club and you and your business will benefit in multiple ways.

Many kids and adults can learn valuable lifelong people and animal skills from giving of your time, expertise, and experience. Try it you might like it!

For more information on your local 4-H club contact your county extension office.



Left: Maddie and her llama M AND M Janice did a great PR job during the parade!!



4-H member Hank Crenshaw, Clover Buds-Troy & Raymond getting ready to start down to the parade route.

Right: Monica and Mel Brown of M And M Llama Ranch prior to the Christmas parade this year in Kalispell, Montana.



Dwelling Extension Coverage Or Other Structures "Coverage B"

By Brent L. Holt, CLU, ChFC
Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

Understanding your insurance coverage is vitally important in today's economic climate. Proper coverage could be the difference between a profitable year and a long term disaster.

A review of most Homeowner's policies in use today shows property coverage for the insured's own property under Coverage Section I. This section is further broken down into 4 separate coverage parts; Coverage A is for the Dwelling, Coverage B is for Other Structures, Coverage C is for Personal Property or Contents and Coverage D is for Loss of Use of the Residence Premises.

Coverage B is designed to provide for losses an insured may face to structures on an insured premises other than the dwelling itself. This coverage is referred to as "Other Structures" or it is sometimes referred to as "Dwelling Extension Coverage".

Coverage B is automatically included as a percentage of the amount of that an insured selects as their limit of Coverage A on the dwelling. In most policies it is a standard 10% of the Coverage A amount. An example shows that if the insured covers his dwelling for \$300,000 on Coverage A then they automatically have up to 10% or \$30,000 available for covered losses on Coverage B for "Other Structures."

Frequently the standard limit of 10% given in the policy may not be enough

to adequately insure all of the "Other Structures". Should this be the case, there are endorsements available that can increase the limits of coverage. These endorsements increase the value limits but do not change the covered perils, and the endorsements may exclude business or farming and ranch exposures. When using these endorsements remember to request reconstruction cost estimators to insure the structures for the proper amount.

Most policies use the following or similar terminology to differentiate other structures; "Other Structures on the residence premises set apart by clear space" from the dwelling.

This has been interpreted to mean stand alone type structures that do not share common attachments such as walls or roofs with the dwelling. Fences, utility lines or similar connections are not considered to be an attachment point under this definition. (Fences, even though they could attach to the dwelling, are considered to be other structures and would be covered under Coverage B)

The most obvious example of what the coverage is designed for is a detached garage. When analyzing other structures such as a carport, it may be less clear. A carport that shares a common roof with the dwelling is considered to be part of the dwelling. A free standing carport

is considered to be a separate structure covered under Coverage B.

Coverage B is intended to provide coverage for a detached garage or other similar structures. It could be used to provide coverage for storage sheds or nanny quarters if they are set apart by the clear space definition noted above. A prime concern is how the other structure is used. Structures used in whole or in part for business or farming and ranching are not usually covered under a standard Homeowners policy.

If the structure is used for business, farming or ranching it should be covered by a commercial policy or a hybrid policy like Farm Bureaus Country Squire policy.

Business exposures have many different risk profiles that cannot be addressed with a personal lines contract like the Homeowners policy. Some limited coverage may be available on an incidental basis. Always check with your agent when you become aware of such exposures. Left unaddressed they can lead to coverage gaps and problems for everyone involved.

Policies can be difficult to understand so don't be afraid to ask your agent to show you where an item is covered or excluded in the contract. Do not depend on verbal explanations or policy summary sheets.

The only thing that counts is what is written in your contract.....!

Important Notice About Estes Park Wool Market

There is going to be a bit of a change for the 2011 Estes Park Wool Market. You will not receive the Wool Market Book in the mail. Everything is going to be posted on the website <http://www.estesnet.com/Events/woolmarket.htm>. This will allow EPWM to post workshop, vendor, and

animal information as it is received from the various superintendents. The majority of Wool Market information should be posted by the end of the year and you will be able print anything that you need from the website.

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

Llama Fiber 101 — Producing Quality Fleece

By Sharon Beacham, ALSA Certified
Llama Fleece Judge (Retired)

There are 3 factors that llama owners can control to maintain the quality of the fiber that their herd produces: environment, stress, and nutrition.

Environment: Grooming a pasture is actually easier, and a more efficient use of your time, than grooming a llama.

If you prefer chemical warfare to hand-to-hand combat for controlling weeds, be sure to check with your veterinarian and extension agent about toxicity and when it is safe to let your llamas graze on the treated areas. For maximum effect, spraying should be done before the weeds set seeds. Spraying plants with seeds guarantees even more next year since the dead plants mulch the seeds they drop. Pull, and either burn or bag, as many weeds as practical. Gone is gone...

Trampled hay, leaves, cactus, burrs, tumbleweeds, twigs, pine cones, tree sap, baling twine and wire are also possible contaminants. Maintain your pastures and corrals to eliminate them, or fence off problem areas. Pasture vacuums can be useful.

It helps to have small enough openings in your feed racks that your llamas can't take big bites and drop the extra hay on others. Have you ever noticed how small a llama's mouth is? 4"–5" square openings are adequate – so they only take as much as they can chew at a time. Some owners advocate low, wide tables to catch the hay that drops out of the llamas' mouths. Lower is better, so they can lie down and eat during the winter.

Line rolling pits with sand. Avoid bark chips or sawdust bedding – they stick to fiber like Velcro. If you use bedding straw, be sure it contains no seed heads.

For detailed control information, see *Weed Management for Small Rural*

Acresages, www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/03106.html

Stress: These factors have adverse effects on fiber quality:

Lack of training to accept handling. Attend clinics, read books - whatever it takes to make your llamas comfortable in your presence.

Anxiety is also caused by barking dogs, exposure to harsh weather, illness, and overcrowding for shelter, food, and water. Provide several more places for your llamas to eat than the number of llamas. This helps insure that all have access to hay.

To avoid heat stress, establish an individualized shearing schedule for each llama in your herd. Shearing should be done whenever the undercoat reaches 4 to 5 inches in length.

Observe which llamas are friends and avoid separating them.

Geldings often make the best fiber producers because they're not subject to the stress of breeding, pregnancy, and lactation.

Occasional brushing, blowing, and removing of surface fleece contamination are acceptable before a show or other public appearance. Grooming to the skin is not advisable or necessary and it is unpleasant and painful to the llama.

Nutrition: Good fiber production is 50% feeding and 50% genetic. Fiber-producing animals need an adequate source of protein in order to produce quality fiber. Consumed feed goes first to support pregnancy and lactation, then to maintaining the llama, and finally to fiber production. Have your hay and/or pasture grass analyzed to know exactly what it does and does not provide. Adjust feed and supplement according to the results.

Clean water and a free-choice salt/mineral mixture are also necessary.

Feed quantity is as important as feed quality. Fat llamas produce fat fiber. If you exceed the basic nutritional requirements of the llama, the excess becomes fat deposits and maximizes the genetically pre determined micron count of the fiber. This is illustrated by making an ink dot on a balloon before blowing it up. As the balloon gets larger, so does the dot.

The other extreme - inadequate quantity - can produce a condition known as starvation fineness. The fiber becomes weak and brittle.

Establish a regular schedule of parasite control appropriate to your herd and location. Internal parasites prevent optimum use of nutrients. Either learn to do it yourself, or take fecal samples to your veterinarian for analysis. External parasites contaminate the fleece and make the llama itch.

It's discouraging to shear what should be a beautiful, show-quality fleece and find it so full of weed seeds, hay, or lice that it ends up in the trash. Allowing the fiber to become overgrown, weathered and weak is also a waste of a natural resource. Producing quality fiber does require effort on your part, but it's more satisfying, and profitable, than hauling it to the dump.

The ALSA Llama Fleece Judging Clinic Manual, and this article, contain information first published on Elena Stamburg's *Llamaeapedia* web site. It has stood the test of time - over 15 years. Unfortunately, her site no longer exists. Attending an ALSA Fleece Clinic provides access to Elena's research and observations, as well as that of other llama fleece judges, and can answer all your questions about llama fiber.

Concerns About Rabies Vaccinations

Reprinted from the October - December, 2010 issue of News & Views From COLA, published by the Central Oregon Llama Association.

The article below is a post forwarded by Sharon Parr from the Llama-info chat list. She noted that "We don't normally have to worry about this around here but it does happen occasionally and this seemed like really good information for everyone to have."

Written by Nancy Fox

Stone Fox Llamas/Fibre Works

Mars Hill, North Carolina

www.stonefoxllamas.com

Rabies and vaccination for it is a subject that comes up regularly on Alpacasite. Earlier this year, Dr. Ruthanne McCaslin, a prominent alpaca vet and breeder posted this:

Rabies vaccines should be given in rabies endemic areas, but only **KILLED VACCINE** (never use modified live -dog vaccine - in a camelid) and only in **NONPREGNANT** animals. The only exception to this would be if you have a rabies outbreak in your area and you have a pregnant animal that has never ever had a rabies vaccine in her whole life.

OVER VACCINATING is just as dangerous as under vaccinating. As with much else in life, balance and common sense is key.

I think this lengthy post from last April will answer some concerns. It's from Dr. Steve Hull who used to teach medical students and now is an alpaca breeder who supplements his income by giving seminars and consultations to other breeders:

Here are some comments from our seminars where we talk about rabies vaccine and vaccinations.

1) The rabies vaccine **MUST** be given by a veterinarian for you to have legal protection. In many states (not all), you can buy rabies vaccine "over the counter" at many farm stores with no prior veterinary prescription. But in the event of rabies exposure, your county

health people will **NOT** recognize your non vet, self administered rabies vaccine administration (ye s, even with receipts, etc).

2) The older rabies vaccines were known to cause reactions. Even with recent improvements, the rabies vaccine still remains a "hot" vaccine. This means that it has more potential to cause post shot reactions compared to a "cold" vaccines (West Nile for example is considered a cold vaccine for alpacas/llamas). However, giving a hot vaccine and a cold one within hours can cause more reactions than either given alone. For this reason, never allow your vet to administer the rabies vaccine and a CD&T (or Leptospirosis or West Nile or whatever vaccine) at the same time (unless they want to hang around for an hour afterwards). The majority of acute vaccinosis reactions are often apparent, within minutes, of giving the rabies vaccine with another different vaccine. You can always give the other non-rabies vaccine several days later. Always, always watch your animal after giving any vaccine, but always observe after a vaccine as sometimes it takes thirty minutes or so for the acute symptoms to flare up.

3) There is no "one recommendation" for the rabies vaccine. Across the country, the rabies exposure risk due from wild animals simply varies too much. You must look at your county/state data and make up your mind with your vet's input. For example, rabies is highly endemic in some areas of the southeast USA, and it is virtually absent in others. One recommendation for all geographical areas is foolish as the rabies vaccine does cause reactions. But in rabies endemic areas, you **MUST** vaccinate! Your vet will know your area's risk .

4) If your alpaca/llama sees a rabid skunk/ raccoon/bat/whatever, their natural

curiosity leads them right up to that animal. They often "nose" the animal and resultantly get bit on the nose, lip or legs. Rabid animals can act "furious" (like dogs) or "dumb" (like cows). Not all drool. One symptom of rabies is seeing a clearly nocturnal wild animal wandering about in the bright daylight oblivious to other animals/people. Some do not show symptoms. For example, Skunks carry rabies and not show symptoms until very late in the disease. In the meantime, they can pass this disease to offspring during pregnancy.

5) When people call me about a wandering and "dazed looking" raccoon/skunk in the daylight, I immediately advise calling animal control. They will shoot the rabid looking animal. They will not trap it. In most areas, animal control simply does not have the resources to confirm rabies on every suspected wild animal. If a suspected animal bites a person, then a confirmation test is always done. If animal control cannot get there immediately, then you need to deal with this. Do **NOT** let this very likely rabid animal wander away to later return and potentially bite one of your livestock, dogs or cats, your neighbor's animals (or you!). I dislike guns, but I have one for this very purpose . . .

6) Alpacas/llamas get rabies. This is clearly documented. Camelids can show either "dumb" or "furious" rabies symptoms. Rabies is spread by saliva and our camelid friends have a way of projecting this. Consider your liability for farm visitors . . .

7) The only way to confirm rabies is to cut off the suspected animal's head, get a small section of brain tissue, use specific stains and look for cellular Negri inclusions under the microscope. There is **NO** other test. If your county suspects rabies in your animal, they have the right to quarantine your animal (at your

cost) and sadly (if symptoms persist) to kill your animal. This latter issue is rare - but it does happen. Most often, you are told to quarantine your animal on your property (14 to 30 days depending).

- 8) There are one year rabies vaccines and three year rabies vaccines (both under the IMRAB and RABAC labels). But each comes from the same exact same batch! The three year lots are just tested for efficacy at three years and thus cost more due to the longer testing, time, etc. Thus, the three year tests show that the vaccine works at three years so it can be labeled as such (RABAC-3 or IMRAB-3).
- 9) Some states/counties with endemic wildlife rabies insist on rabies vaccination every single year. I, and many other animal health experts, feel that this is too often for alpacas/llamas. We prefer every three years. The reason for the yearly vaccination protocol is to insure that a large percentage of the animal population gets rabies immunizations.

- 10) There are blood antibodies that can be tested to show that the rabies vaccine protection remains. Several dog/cat studies show that rabies vaccine protection exists for at least five years after injection. Some states/counties will accept blood antibody results and others will not.
- 11) The use of the rabies vaccine (and every other veterinary drug) for alpacas/llamas is considered a legal "off label" use. Off label means that there is no legal documentation of efficacy. This does NOT mean that the vaccine/drug/treatment does not work, rather, it simply means that in the case of an adverse reaction or lack of protection, there is no legal recourse against the vaccine manufacturer and/or vet. This off label descriptor is typically a legal issue, not necessarily a pharmacological concern.
- 12) Rabies vaccination is not just for protection of your pet. Rather, it is a public health issue as people get rabies from rabid animals (zoonotic disease).

This sounds strange, but your vet is actually licensed to protect the public by immunizing/treating animals. This is a legal issue and gets back to the reason why only licensed vets can verify that a rabies vaccine has been properly administered.

I suggest that newcomers print this off, and discuss this with your local vet. He/she has the best perspective for protection of your animals (as well as you!) and, together you must make the decision that is best for your animals in YOUR area.

Hope this helps.

Dr. Steve Hull
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Mesa County Fairgrounds Improvements

By Wally Juntilla,
Investigative Reporter

Some much needed improvements are going to be made to the Mesa County Fairgrounds in Grand Junction. Some questions and concerns have been raised about exactly what is being done and how the construction schedule may affect the Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classics to be held on May 21 and 22, 2011.

A review of the plans and bid package shows that the six existing inner barns are being demolished and will be replaced by a single large barn. It will be 195' by 90' and have a total of 75 stalls with dirt floors. Thirty stalls will be 10' x 10' and 45 will be 12' x 12' units. The new barn will be equipped with five 4000 CFM exhaust fans for cooling. Some improvements are

proposed for the north barns, but it does not appear they will be demolished as part of the project.

Other planned improvements include a new gravel parking lot and a new modular 10' x 20' building for check-in and office purposes. In addition there are plans to expand the east end of the covered arena by 31 feet and add 15 feet to the north side to accommodate covered spectator seating.

The work is scheduled to begin on November 29th with a preliminary completion date of March 7, 2011. So even though this is a government project, the majority of the work should be completed well before the Grand Mesa and Kokopelli shows are held in May.

Get Ready For Spring Shearing

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With cooperation from our friends at the Colorado State University Veterinarian Teaching School, the goal of this column is to answer your basic camelid-care questions in a helpful and practical way.

In this issue we are examining pain. I suspect that more folks than me have looked at our animals (even our dogs and cats) and wondered 'are they in pain?' And, for myself, I may 'wonder' that for weeks. Well Dr. Holt and Dr. Buss have again provided us with some guidelines.

Question: How Do I know if my Llama is in Pain?

Response from Doctors Holt & Buss: Remember that Llamas are stoic animals and are able to hide pain very well. There is no easy way to assess pain in animals, especially in a species that hides it so well, but we try to take clues that they give us to determine how they are feeling. This assessment is especially difficult with animals with chronic progressive diseases since they have time to adapt to changes in their bodies and hide the pain more easily. Below are some tips to try to help you identify when something is not quite right with your animal.

Know your Llama- You know and understand your llama's behavior more than anyone else, even your veterinarian. You spend the most time with them and are much more capable of identifying abnormalities. Don't second guess yourself when you think something is wrong. It is always better to play it safe than worry that you are overreacting.

TPR- Temperature, Pulse, and Respiration. These 3 physical exam criteria can give a lot of evidence as to what is going on with your animal and they are easy to do at home. Keep a record of these values on any animal in question, checking TPR's twice daily. All three can potentially increase in the face of pain, disease or infection.

Activity and Appetite- Monitor the activity level over time. Is your animal getting up to eat and interacting normally with the other animals? Is the animal eating an appropriate amount? Normal llamas should eat at least 1.5% of their body weight per day. Just because they are standing at the feed bunk, doesn't mean that they are consuming sufficient feed. A decrease in any of these can indicate pain or disease. A good example is if your llama is slower and less interactive in the morning they may be stiff and suffering from arthritis.

Monitor Body Weight and Body Condition- An animal that has chronic pain or a chronic illness will not eat as much food and will over time lose weight and body condition. There are several body condition scoring methods available and they all work just fine. If your animal shows progressive loss of body condition or drops below the mid-point of the scale you are using, then you should investigate a possible cause.

Make a calendar- It can be hard to remember day to day changes in your animal. Many find it helpful to create a calendar of 'good and bad days' or with more objective criteria like TPR, and appetite. This can help you notice trends in your animal and assess if they are getting better or worse. It is a useful tool in assessing quality of life.

Question: So my Llama IS in pain, now what?

Response from Doctors Holt and Buss: If possible, the first step once you determine your llama may be in pain is to try to determine the source of the pain. It is best to seek veterinary attention at this point so that some tests can be performed to rule in or out some possible reasons that your llama is suffering. These tests may include a good physical exam, blood work, x-rays or ultrasound exam.

It is important to know that very few pain medications have been scientifically tested in camelids and it is difficult to predict how helpful and safe they may be for long term use and chronic pain management. Always consult your veterinarian before putting your llama on any medications. The following information can help guide you.

Non-Prescription and Prescription Drugs:

- Aspirin is a non-prescription analgesic that can be used for generalized pain.
- Flunixin Meglumine (Banamine)- Helpful for abdominal and visceral pain. Also may provide relief from musculoskeletal pain.
- Phenylbutazone (Bute)- Often used for musculoskeletal pain. May have higher risk of GI ulcers but is the least expensive analgesic.
- Adequan or Legend- These are joint supplements that may be prescribed for chronic arthritis.
- Other prescription medications- Morphine, Butorphanol, Gabapentin/ Amantadine (for chronic pain), Rimadyl (carprofen) for joint pain.

Herbal Analgesics: There are some herbs that have been used for reducing pain in animals. Scientific evidence is lacking for the usefulness of herbs for pain management in camelids. Some of these may not be effective because they get broken down in the C1 stomach. With that said a few different herbs have been reported anecdotally to help.

- Arnica- helpful for acute pain.
- Devil's Claw- acts like banamine and bute; can be helpful for chronic pain.
- Black Chasteberry- may help with soft tissue or spinal pain/injury.

Exercise: This is a very important component to pain management regardless

of what the disease process may be. The amount, duration, and intensity will vary significantly depending on the case but exercise can help immensely with joint mobility, muscle strength, and quality of life. Walk with your llama.

Environment: It is important to consider what the best environment is for our animals as they get older and thinner and more chronically painful. It is helpful to provide a stall or other shelter with comfortable bedding and protection from very hot, cold, or inclement weather.

Complimentary Care: Complimentary care may include any and all of the following:

- massage therapy,
- acupuncture,
- chiropractor,
- osteopathy, and
- physical therapy.

Thank you RMLA!

By Mary Kate Steele

I have been honored as being this year's RMLA youth representative. I was presented with my belt buckle and savings bond at the Nebraska State Fair by Larry Lewellen and Geri Rutledge.

I have had llamas since my 8th birthday. My sister wanted a llama so we got two, one for each of us, and they were delivered on my birthday! I am a member of the Camelidkids 4-H club based in Polk County Nebraska. Showing llamas through 4-H and ALSA shows over the past four years has really helped me come out of my shell. I am shy and llamas have given me something to talk about and share with others. When you're at a show it's easy to make friends because you all have something in common and your llama is there to be a quiet friend and support you. One of my favorite things to do is to practice my trumpet for my llamas! They seem to enjoy my music so I'll stand right inside the llama pen and play for them.

Once again, thank you for selecting me to represent RMLA this year. I look forward to showing my llamas and letting people see what great and smart animals they are!



All of these may help and are dependent on the individual animal needs.

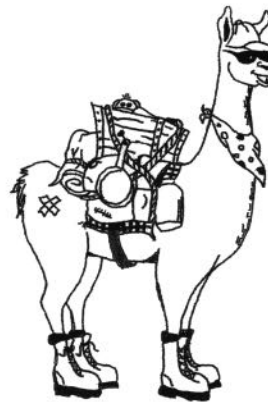
Other Alternatives: If these other options are not providing sufficient relief, there may be other more invasive procedures that can help such as joint injections, nerve blocks, or even surgery. It is important to consider that if the pain cannot be controlled, the quality of life should be assessed for your animal. Unfortunately humane euthanasia may be the best option for the welfare of your animal.

Thank you reader for your questions. And, thank you Doctors Holt and Buss. I certainly learned a great deal from this information. 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. Thank you!

.....

Help!!! I need questions for upcoming issues. Submit questions you would like answered to Kathy at turkeytrot2@aol.com. Just a reminder, if a timely response is needed please call your own vet! Thank you.

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Colorado State University Veterinarians Recommend Annual Rabies Vaccine for Livestock, Horses

CSU News Release
For Immediate Release, Tuesday, November 30, 2010

FORT COLLINS — Colorado State University veterinarians are recommending that livestock and horses be vaccinated for rabies due to an increased number of infected skunks in the state.

While bats have spread rabies in Colorado for many years, rabies spread through other wildlife has typically been more common in Eastern states. Over the last several years, more skunks in Colorado have become infected, which has resulted in an increased infection rate and risk of infection to livestock and horses. This is due in part to habitat changes and human movement of wild animals that spread the disease into areas previously uninfected.

CSU veterinarians recommend horses and livestock, particularly pet livestock such as llamas and alpacas, be vaccinated once a year, and also recommend vaccination of commercial production livestock in locations where there is high skunk activity. CSU veterinarians also strongly encourage all companion pet owners to vaccinate their cats and dogs. All warm-blooded animals, including humans, can be infected with rabies.

“While livestock or horses contracting rabies is still uncommon in Colorado, it is extremely important – now more than ever – to work to prevent animals from contracting the disease,” said Dr. Bruce Connally, a veterinarian with Colorado State University’s equine section. “It’s important because, if an animal is exposed to rabies, the symptoms can be difficult to distinguish from other illnesses, and while it is being diagnosed, the animal and people exposed to it are at risk of contracting the disease.”

Wounds from a rabid skunk bite may not be visible or easy to detect on livestock or horses, and symptoms of rabies mimic

other more common illnesses and could be confused with regular colic or a foot or leg injury. Rabies also can enter the body through cuts or scratches. Rabies can be spread to people through contact with saliva or bodily fluids.

“A rabies bite to an animal that has not been vaccinated is invariably fatal,” Connally said. “The animals — horses and livestock — will die. If you value them, invest in a vaccine.”

Cases of rabid skunks biting horses or livestock have to date been limited to the area near south Denver and the eastern plains. However, due to the continued spread of the disease in skunks, it is important for anyone in Colorado to vaccinate animals that could be exposed.

Signs of rabies in animals include:

- Changed or altered behavior
- Acting nervous or agitated
- Vicious, unprovoked attacks
- Excessive salivation and difficulty swallowing
- Roaming or separation from the herd
- Unusual sexual activity
- Abnormal vocalizations
- Ascending paralysis, normally beginning in the hind limbs
- Signs of colic such as lying down more than usual or getting up and lying down repeatedly, rolling, standing stretched out, repeatedly curling the upper lip, pawing the ground and kicking at the abdomen
- Depression
- Self mutilation
- Sensitivity to light

Vaccines range in price for different animals. Cattle vaccines are available for

less than \$5 each, and horse vaccines range from \$10 to \$15, depending upon the number of animals vaccinated. Rabies vaccinations last for a year.

While vaccines have been approved for use in horses and cattle, no vaccines are approved for use in camelids, a group of animals which includes alpacas and llamas. However, camelids may still be effectively vaccinated with any vaccine labeled for sheep or cattle. Due to the lack of formal government approval on the vaccine, state veterinary and public health officials may still treat camelids as non-vaccinated animals during an incident. CSU veterinarians recommend that camelid owners consult with their veterinarian before beginning a rabies vaccination program for their animals.

Rabies vaccines do not have to be administered to livestock or horses by a veterinarian, but animals not vaccinated by a veterinarian may be treated differently by officials who respond to a potential rabies case.

“If the vaccinations for cattle, sheep and goats are given by a veterinarian and proper records are kept, then those animals should be considered rabies vaccinated by Public Health officials if there is exposure. Vaccinations can be given by the producer in order to save cost but animals may not be considered rabies vaccinated if exposure occurs,” said Dr. Rob Callan, head of the university’s livestock veterinary service. “This distinction affects the length of quarantine and how animals are handled after exposure.”

Anyone who suspects that an animal in their care may have been infected with rabies should immediately do the following:

- If an infected skunk, bat, raccoon or dog has been identified that may be

transmitting the disease to other animals, do not handle or get near that animal or that animal's carcass. If possible, safely secure its body; veterinarians can submit the body to test it for rabies.

- Immediately call a veterinarian. A veterinarian can immediately begin to assess the situation and contain the spread of the disease.
- Limit human and other animal contact with any possible exposed animals.
- Most animals die from rabies within 10 days of developing signs of an infection.

To reduce the chances of livestock, pets or human exposure to rabies:

- Do not feed or handle wildlife
- Do not relocate rabies reservoir species such as skunks or raccoons
- Exclude bats from homes, barns and other outbuildings
- Rabies virus does not live for long periods outside of a human or animal and is easily destroyed by soap and water or common household disinfectants.

For information on human rabies illness, see www.cdc.gov or <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>. For information on what to do if you have been bit by an unvaccinated animal or suspect you have otherwise been exposed to rabies, call your local health department.

Source:

<http://www.news.colostate.edu/Release/5507>

Felting Fun

By Catherine Steele

We have 250 bars of felted soap done! Only 250 bars to go... before next year's State Fair!

Lots of hot water, a little Ivory soap (lavendar scented is supposed to keep the moths away), and lots of Camelidkids' hands went into felting soap for the 2011 Nebraska State Fair. The club members enjoyed wrapping hotel soaps with fiber and going squish, squish, squish. The next table tied the strings to decorate the soap while it was still wet. Then we left them sitting out to dry a few days. Since they are on plastic we had to turn them over every day for a few days so the bottoms got some air.

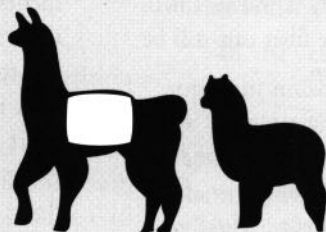
Our 4-H Club had over 500 bars of hotel soap donated from Grand Island Hotels. The plan was to let children visiting the State Fair felt some soap. We were amazed at the turn out near our



"lead a llama" exhibit and were so busy handing out balloons and tattoos and helping people have a chance to lead a llama that we decided to felt the soap to hand out at next year's Fair. We will spend another meeting felting our soaps. Then we will hand them out as "shoe sachets" to the youth that come visit us at the 2011 Nebraska State Fair!



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Conquering SABLE

(or How to Deal With Your Stash of Llama Fiber)

By Sharon Beacham, ALSA Certified
Llama Fleece Judge (Retired)

This article first appeared in Showing, Spring, 2007. It was revised for this issue of the RMLA Journal.

Fiber artisans — spinners, weavers, knitters — are all notorious for accumulating more fiber than they can ever expect to use. Hence the acronym SABLE: Stash Accumulation Beyond Life Expectancy.

Many llama owners could also adopt this acronym. Do you have bags of shorn llama fiber stashed away until you get around to doing something with it? Only you're not quite sure what? You saved the fiber because you know there's a market for it, but what must you do before having it processed and made into something? If you've read about or observed shorn llama fleece shows, you may also wonder if there are some show entries in your stash. Help is here.

Winter is a good time to evaluate what you have. It's the first step in conquering SABLE and a logical one before shearing again. Begin by setting aside any fiber that was shorn more than 2 years ago. Long-term storage compromises quality, especially if you live in an area with hot weather and/or high humidity. A fleece entry must be shorn within 2 years of the date of the show.

Using the criteria and explanations that follow, sort the newer fleeces into 5 groups. Differences in preparing a fleece for processing or to show are noted.

1. *First-quality fleeces that meet all the criteria:* Bag these by color to send to a mill for processing into yarn and/or roving.
2. *Second-quality fiber:* Have reasonably clean fiber, with good tensile strength and softness, from the neck, legs, backbone, and fiber between 1 and 3 inches long, processed into batts for making felt.
3. *Entire or partial fleeces that fail the cleanliness and strength criteria:* These can be used for insulation or padding; cut into small pieces to mulch your garden; washed and enclosed in a cover for a pet's bed or

put out for the birds.

4. *Trash:* Discard all matted and excessively dirty fiber, chunks of coarse leg and belly hair, fiber less than 1 inch long or that contains moths, lice, dung tags and anything else that shouldn't be there.
5. *Exceptional quality fleeces to enter in a show:* These consist of all the prime fiber, minus skirtings (neck, belly, backbone and leg fiber), from at least the barrel -- the section between the llama's shoulders and hips. Include shoulder and hip fiber if it's the same quality. Barrel, shoulder and hip fiber together comprise the blanket, which is the ideal quantity for a show fleece.

A skirting table is helpful (directions at end), but use any surface with good lighting and weather protection. If a fleece is in sections or handfuls, instead of two intact sides, it's ok. Spread it out with as much of the cut side down as possible.

- Was a blower used to remove dust, debris and vegetation before shearing? Would a reasonable person take the time to shake and pick out the majority of it before shipping the fiber to a mill? The more debris you send, the more comes back to you in the yarn. A show fleece should be as clean as possible and may require the use of tweezers to remove the smallest pieces.
- Does the fiber feel soft and "alive"? Is it lustrous? Dry, rough, dull fiber is "dead" and not worth processing. If sealed in plastic bags, there's a possibility of mildew. In a warm, damp environment, it can grow on the fiber, staining and eventually rotting it. If there's only a musty smell, it will wash out and the fiber can still be processed, but not shown.
- How good is the tensile strength? Here are 2 tests: Pull out several locks of fiber -- about 1/4 inch in diameter -- from different areas of the fleece. Hold each firmly by the ends and snap. You should hear an almost musical "twang" that indicates good condition. "Thunk" does

not. Another test is to hold a lock close to your ear and pull hard on it. Breaking fibers sound like Rice Krispies. A carding machine exerts even more pressure and causes weak fibers to snap and form neps -- small fuzzy bundles -- which make lumps in the yarn. There's no sense in paying freight to send fragile fiber to a mill. A fleece judge may disqualify a fleece with weak tensile strength.

- Are there sections of matted fiber? Solid matts can't be carded by machine. Pull off and discard them before processing or considering the fleece for show. While you're at it, skirt (pull away from the edges), or pick out, any neck, backbone, leg and belly fiber. This is almost always coarser and dirtier than the prime fiber from along the llama's sides. Put what you remove into the second-quality group or trash.
- Is there a dark coating on your fingers after skirting a fleece? Suent is a term, borrowed from the sheep-wool industry, that describes a combination of perspiration, dust and the natural oil in llama fiber. It appears as a stained band on light colors and can be felt on all colors as a slightly sticky, greasy residue. A mill can wash it out, and so can you before shearing. It compromises the quality of an already shorn show fleece.
- How long is the fiber? The ideal staple length for hand or machine spinning is 3 to 6 inches. A show fleece from a llama 24 months or older must be between 3 and 8 inches. There is no maximum length limit for show fleeces from younger llamas, but they must also be a minimum of 3 inches long. Remove and reserve fiber less than 3 inches for felt. Discard anything less than 1 inch. If this is a show fleece, turn it over and look for second cuts -- short pieces caused by shearing an area twice. Pick them off and discard. If the fleece is processed, carding will remove most of them so they won't lower the quality of the yarn. Overgrown fiber may be cut into shorter lengths, but it produces

a rougher-feeling yarn due to the extra cut ends.

- Are there 2 distinct textures and lengths of fiber within the fleece? Guard hairs are longer, coarser, and straight. They come out easily if you place one hand on the cut end and pull on the tips with the other. Left in the fleece, they'll cause the finished yarn to feel prickly. Undercoat fibers can be quite soft, fine and have a crimped appearance. There's a visible correlation: the longer and thicker the guard hairs, the softer, finer and more crimped the undercoat. Due to human intervention, many llamas now have nearly homogenized fiber -- the guard hairs are similar in diameter and length to the undercoat and don't need to be removed. You must always leave them in a show fleece so the judge can evaluate their texture and ratio to the undercoat.
- Do you see anything moving? Clothes moths try to hide when disturbed. Unlike regular moths, they avoid light. They're 1/4 inch long, beige, and have a narrow, triangular shape. Egg cases are thin tubes about 1/2 inch long. Larvae excrement looks like dark brown grains of sand. If you find any of these, put the entire fleece in a bag, seal it and put it in the trash.
- Do any areas of the fleece appear to have been salted? If all the grains are the same size, and pale beige in color, they're actually lice nits (egg cases). They stick to the fiber as if glued on. It takes magnification

to tell if they've hatched. Since they're species specific, they won't transfer to you, but washing doesn't completely remove them. Mills don't accept contaminated fiber and it's grounds for disqualification in a show fleece. Unless the infestation is limited to a few small areas that you can remove, discard the fleece in the trash.

- Is there any weathering? Trim off and discard sun-bleached tips before sending the fleece to a mill. They're usually weak enough break in the carder and form neps. You shouldn't trim the tips off a show fleece. Extra cut ends adversely affect the evaluation of hand -- the tactile qualities. If the weathered tips pass the tensile strength tests, you can still enter the fleece.

A fleece that meets all the above criteria is worth the effort and expense to have processed. If you washed the llama before shearing, and didn't use any fiber conditioners, you probably have a show-quality fleece. A mill can wash out dust and dirt, but it's too late, after shearing, to wash a show fleece.

Finally, go back to the older fiber and take a quick look at each fleece. You now have the experience to tell if it's a candidate for processing. Test for tensile strength first. Add these older fleeces to the appropriate groups.

A list of fiber processing mills is available at www.midwestfiber.com/mills.html.

Check the internet for fiber artisan guilds in your area. Their members are potential

customers. You might also arrange for a member to create garments for you to wear or sell. The more you do with the fiber from your llamas, the more you increase their marketing value.

If you would like to learn more about llama fiber, contact the ALSA Fiber Committee for information about an Educational/Beginning Level Shorn Llama Fleece Judging Clinic. There, you'll learn every aspect of producing quality fiber and evaluating it. Your herd management skills and breeding decisions will benefit from the application of this knowledge. The clinic is also the first step in becoming a certified llama fleece judge.

SABLE can be conquered now and avoided in the future. I hope you found several show entries while dealing with your stash.

Directions for making a skirting table:

A skirting table frame may be constructed from scrap lumber or 2 x 4's purchased for that purpose. The minimum size is 4' x 4' -- large enough to hold at least one side of a shorn fleece. Staple plastic construction barrier or chicken wire to one side of the frame. The openings in the skirting surface should be at least 1 inch across, but less than 2. This allows dirt, debris and second cuts to fall through when the fleece is gently shaken. Support the frame on saw horses. You may need to use concrete blocks to raise it to a comfortable working height. This simple construction is portable and stores easily when not in use.

Mary Kate Steele Receives 2010 RMLA Youth Award

We are proud to announce that Mary Kate Steele from Osceola, Nebraska, was named as the 2010 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association's Youth of the Year. Mary Kate is a member of the Camelid Kids 4-H Club and the daughter of Robert and Catherine Steele.

Mary Kate excelled in the competition by showing her actions towards the llamas and her community. She is involved in just about every class at the Polk County Fair, does community service, belongs to the Girl Scouts and is active with her church. She has gone from a shy girl who hid behind

her sister, to a brave, self-confident and outspoken youth who does great in the show ring and in public relations events.

Mary Kate was awarded a \$100 savings bond, a personalized engraved llama belt buckle and a certificate.

To be eligible for this award, the applicant must be an RMLA Youth member for two years. An application process is stated in the spring each year and the Youth Committee selects the winner. For more information about this award, contact Youth Committee Chairperson Dick Williams at drdrjhw@hotmail.com. More information

about RMLA membership can be found at www.rmla.com.



Current and former Board Members Geri Rutledge and Larry Lewellyn with 2010 RMLA Youth Mary Kate Steele and her llama Vulpes at the Nebraska State Fair.

Journal Advertising Rates, Specifications and Deadlines

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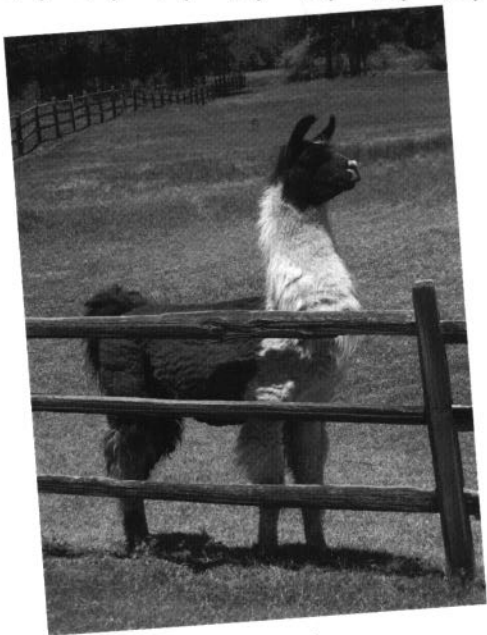
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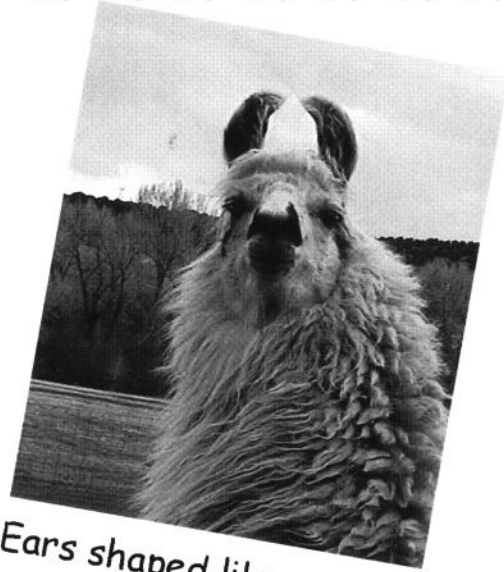
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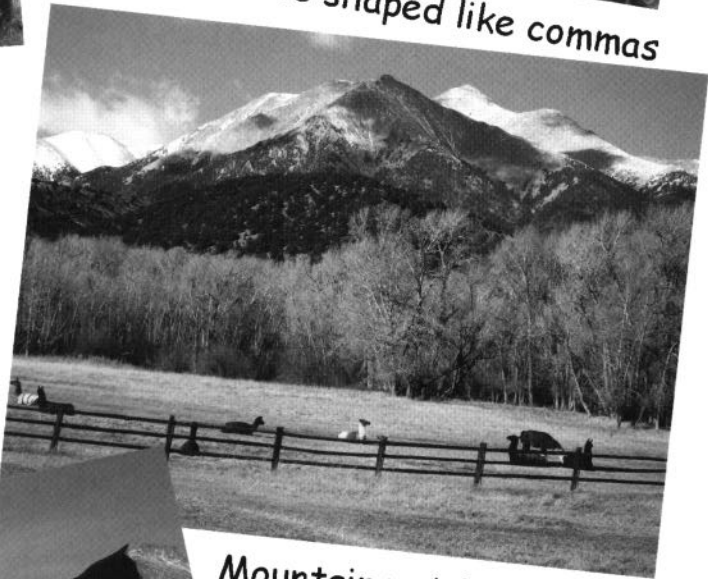
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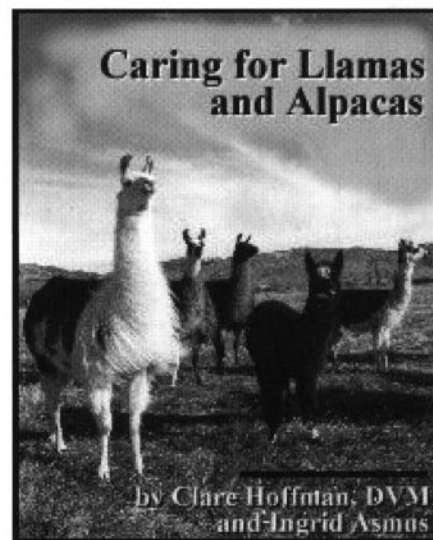
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