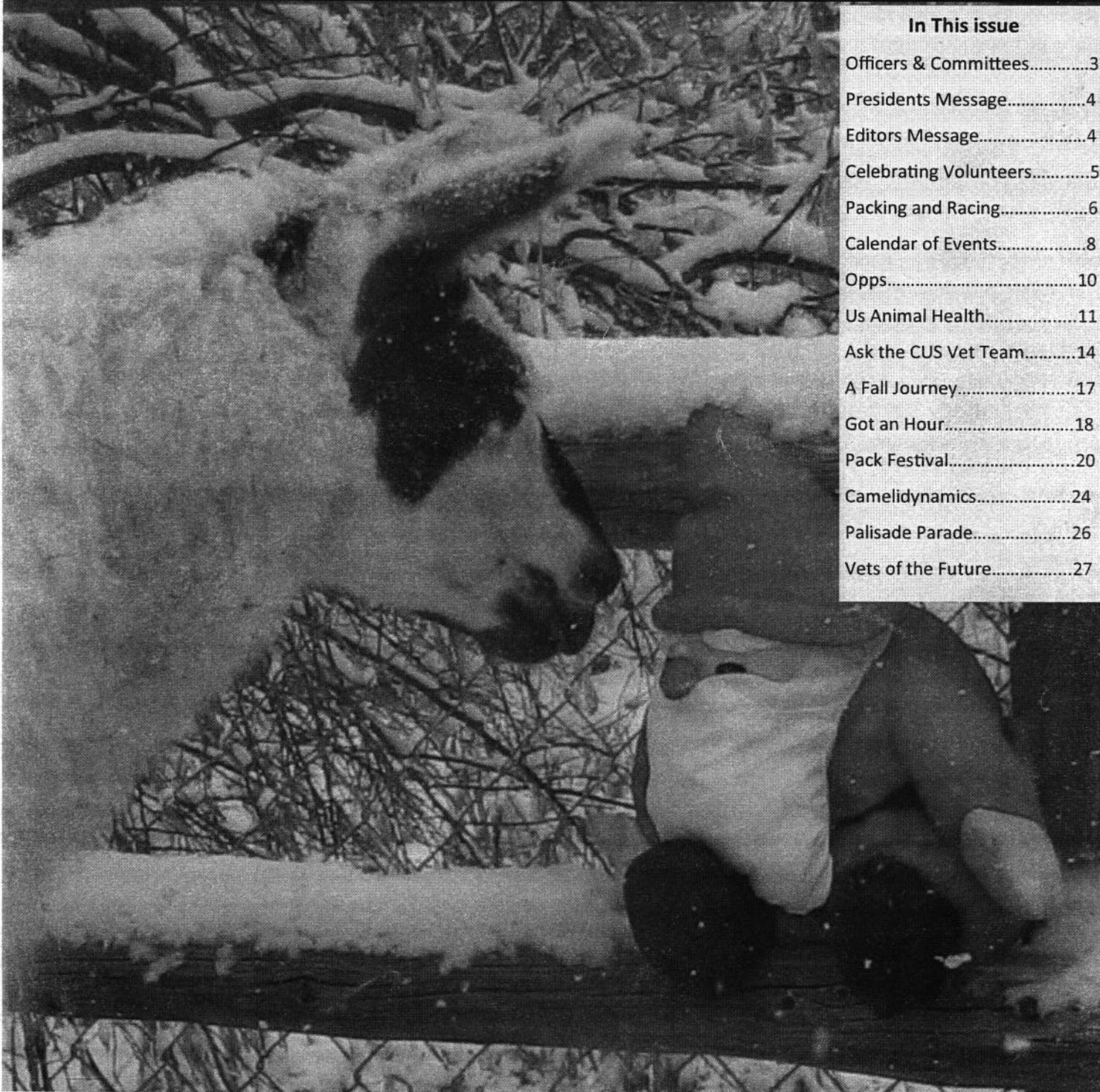


The  **Journal**
Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
www.rmla.com

Winter 2011



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Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	March 1, 2012	March 20, 2012
Summer	June 1, 2012	June 20, 2012
Fall	September 1, 2012	September 20, 2012
Winter	December 1, 2012	December 20, 2012

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Starting with the Spring issue of the Journal, members may purchase business card ads for \$45 and receive a 4th Business Card ad for free! e-mail your print-ready Business Card (s) with a minimum of 300 dpi to Journal Editor Sue Grimm at rmlaeditor@gmail.com.

Send check with a copy of the ad to Sue, Box 7, Dumont CO 80436.

President's Message

Happy New Year to all,

What a year it has been!

About this time last year, your Board of Directors was struggling with a budget. And it was a struggle. We had to make some tough decisions. It was the Board's goal to manage your membership dues money very wisely. We all thank the membership for your support during these past months. It has been encouraging to hear such positive things from many of our members.

We are so excited that the *RMLA Youth Manual* has been printed and delivered to the RMLA Bookstore for distribution. The YM has been a long-standing RMLA tradition. With age, the text had become tired as the last text update was about a decade ago. Linda Hayes, Karen Schwartz and Gayle Woodsum teamed together to read, edit, re-read and re-edit. Once the content was just right, Gayle spent hours reformatting and reshaping the look of the Youth Manual. I am so very appreciative of their dedicated teamwork. You

can now order your copies from the RMLA Bookstore on RMLA.com.

In addition, *Caring For Llamas and Alpacas* has been revised. We thank Barb Hance for the days and days of working copy back and forth with the authors. Barb proofed and re-proofed. She worked tirelessly with the print production company in Parker, Colorado. It was Barb who found one big final bust in the copy at the last minute. Somehow, the ISBN number and Barcode had been deleted from the back of the book. Thanks to Barb's sharp eye, this error has been corrected. This will give RMLA a much better working relationship with booksellers who purchase CFL&A in bulk for resale around the world.

Producing and distributing two great books is not cheap. To reprint two in the same time period is a draining expenditure. Both publications will be paid for out of funds that have been saved over the years of sale just for this purpose. It has been RMLA's policy to reserve the net profit from the Youth Manual and

Caring For Llamas and Alpacas to assure their continued existence.

I would like to add that I have truly enjoyed serving as your President. I have met new lama owners and renewed friendships with folks we had not connected with since our Great Adventure to live out here in the Central Pacific. With the internet, e-mail, VOIP, Skype, and all the other amazing electronic gadgets, I actually see and talk with members more than I ever was able to when I lived in the center of Colorado!

As we begin a new year, it is my sincere wish for all of you that you enjoy your animals. The kindness and respect you show for your animals has spilled over into the character and quality of RMLA. Thank you and stay safe, you are important.

Lougene

A Note From the Editor

By Sue Grimm

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. This has been my 1st year working on the Journal. As you can see from the last issue the light bulb went off on how to use Publisher. For this I have to thank my daughter Jess as she made a surprise visit and was able to show me the in's and outs of Publisher! You will continue to see more improvements and changes in the Journal as time goes on.

I want to thank Jerry Dunn for this month's cover photo. I also want to take this time to thank all the volunteers who step up at every occasion to help. From the show crews to the RMLA Board. With out the many people who step forward to

help this organization could not function. At the next show or event don't be afraid to step forward and thank the people involved in the event.

I challenge each and everyone of you to contribute to the Journal. Send me articles and photographs, you never know what I will put on the cover. I would love to see pictures of your yarns and projects, camping trips and youth projects, and just the fun of being around your animals. Use the Journal to show case your farms and animals with an ad.

I look forward to a wonderful new year and being able to meet members of RMLA. Sue

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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

RMLA Celebrates Long Time Volunteers

By Jerry Dunn

Bob and Barb Hance have been long time volunteers within the RMLA organization. They served as great resources for RMLA history and procedures.

Bob left the RMLA Board of Directors this fall after serving as Treasurer and Liaison to several committees.

Bob was also instrumental in maintaining the RMLA news line for the membership. Barb still serves as the Membership Chair.

The picture shows two celebrated people taking it easy near their apple orchard in their new matching deck gliders donated by RMLA.



Suti's Girls Are Here!

and going to the show ring in 2012



Glenn & Kathy Stanko
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Packing and Racing with the Leaping Llamas 4-H

By Sage Thomas

This 4-H year was a great one, though it did not start out that way. Near the beginning of the year a good friend of ours, Bobra Goldsmith, got leukemia and died a few weeks after being diagnosed. This was very tragic for the llama community as she was a pioneer in llama training. She was also very connected with our 4-H group and she was the source of llamas for kids that did not already own one. After she died, the Rocky Mountain Llama farm changed and so did our club.

Our club is now very small in size, I only have three fellow 4-Hers, Alyssa Carson, Tate Niemann, and my brother Wyatt Thomas. The small size has allowed us to do things that we never could do before. For example, the goal of the club this year was to go on a 3-day camping trip. With our small size, it is much easier to organize and get everyone to practice with his or her llamas to train for a challenge like that.

Three days a week I walked or hiked with my llama Aztec. I would put 20 – 50 pounds of weight in his packs and he would sometimes go for six miles without a complaint. For months we did this, though most times it was a simple walk. When it came to the actual hike, I knew Aztec was ready.

When we started, we had to do a stream crossing right away. The club ended up having to do 5 stream crossings that kept our shoes

soaking for a good three quarters of the hike. We also trekked through mud and climbed steep and rocky hills. Eventually we got there and we were all completely exhausted. Leigh DiNatale, my 4H leader, scouted the area for camping spots up on a hill while the rest of us rested on the ground, rubbing our legs. Eventually we found a spot and we took it. We set up camp, staked out our llamas, ate dinner, and went to bed.

The next morning we moved the llamas to a different part of the meadow to make sure they did not over graze the meadow. Our llamas were doing fine staking out. We had practiced this a lot during training before the trip and it really made things easy at camp. We ate breakfast and headed out to catch some dinner fishing. About 10 minutes in I caught my first fish. It was a five-inch brookie, so I cleaned it and placed it in a bag. I headed up stream and I caught about 5 more fish, but they were all cutthroat trout so we were not allowed to keep them. With my last worm I caught two more fish, one a rainbow and the other one a brown trout.

When we got back to camp, Leigh told us about a big beaver pond higher up in the valley. We packed our stuff and headed off hoping the fish were going to be something other than cutthroat. When we got there, our salmon

eggs didn't work at all. I decided that we could try some jigs and right after I got mine on, I casted and immediately got a bite. I casted again and caught a large rainbow trout. After that I caught another rainbow in the pond. I decided to move to the next pond and after getting stuck in the weeds a couple times, I caught a giant brown trout. I went on to catch another one but that it was a cutthroat. Eventually, I lost my lure and it was getting dark so we decided to go back to camp.

That night we ate the delicious trout that my dad cooked. We then had marshmallows and went to bed. In the morning we packed up and headed out. The trail back was easy as cake and we did it within an hour. We put the llamas in the trailer and headed to Fairplay for the llama race.

The Fairplay race is an awesome event that happens every year. We run for about 3 miles with our llama through a cross country course below Fairplay's Main Street. The Fairplay race was huge this year. It consisted of almost a hundred llamas. Many people borrowed llamas and knew very little about their animals. My dad and I headed back to the starting line and were talking to some people when we heard the gun shot. We immediately started running as fast as we could for the pit stop where we could pick up our pack. As we started running and my dad was

trampled and hurt his wrist pretty badly. Aztec and I kept on running and for the first mile my dad was unable to catch up to us. During the second stream crossing, Aztec's pack was caught on a string and it almost fell off. I had to stop and fix it and that was when my dad caught up with me. We kept on doing a mix of running and walking for the rest of the race. When we crossed

the last stream, we were tired and unfocused so we lost track of the trail. We wandered around for what seemed like a half hour and we finally found the trail again. This year, we conquered "Heart Attack Hill" and Aztec barely resisted going up it. We then ran the quarter mile to the finish with everyone congratulating us and we finally crossed the finish. I then saw the

rest of the 4-H club coming in behind me, one after the other.

We all went back to our camp and packed up. Aztec and I had worked very hard for this race and I was extremely happy with our week. The hike went amazingly and we placed very well in the Fairplay race. Overall, this was a great end to the year!



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JANUARY

- **National Western Stock Show Llama Show**, Denver, CO, January 7-8, 2012
Contact Steve Quackenbush, 303.688.6662, SteveQ@Bar-Q-Diamond.com

MARCH

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, Denver, CO., March 17, 2012
Contact Judy Glaser, 303.646.6311, judy.glaser@yahoo.com or .

- **Llamas & Friends in the Park**, Wheat Ridge, CO., March 24, 2012
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

APRIL

- **Driving Clinic**, Bear Track Farm, Golden, CO., April 21-22, 2012
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com

- **Stars N Stripes**, Waco, NE., April 28, 2012
Contact Jim Rutledge, 402.366.9303, buckshollow@wildblue.net,
Catherine Steele, thesteelc@gmail.com

MAY

- **Wild N Woolly Show**, Waco, NE., April 29, 2012
Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thesteelc@yahoo.com

- **Jelly Bean Classic**, Arvada, CO., May 12, 2012
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com,

- **Grand Mesa Llama Show**, Grand Junction, CO., May 19, 2012
- **Kokopelli Llama Show**, Grand Junction, CO., May 20, 2012
Contact Cheryl Juntilla, 970.640.8028, cajwdj@aol.com

JUNE

- **Estes Park Wool Market Llama Show**, Estes Park, CO., June 8-10, 2012
Contact Gayle Woodsum, 307.399.3815, coraldawnnews@aol.com

JULY

- **FAIRPLAY LLAMA RACE/WALK**, Fairplay, CO., July 28, 2012
Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, Gary@JmhFarm.com
- **FAIRPLAY CAMP PERFORMANCE SHOW**, Beaver Creek Recreation Area, Pike National Forest, Fairplay, CO. July 29, 2012.
Contact Sandra Lockwood, dslockwood@juno.com, 303.838.9554.

AUGUST

- **Leadville Trail 100-Hopeless**, Packing Aid Station Support, Leadville, CO.,
August 16-19, 2012
Contact Gary Carlton, 303.503.1324, gary@jmhfarm.com, Vickie foster, vlfoster@aol.com
- **Nebraska State Fair Llama Show**, Grand Island, NE., August 25-26, 2012
Contact Catherine Steele, 402.747.2301, thesteelc@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER

- **LOCC Fall Show**, Castle Rock, CO., September 1-2, 2012
Contact Barb Harris, 719.275.9457, wildcatllamas@aol.com
- **Colorado State Fair Fun with Llamas**, Pueblo, CO., September 1-2, 2012.
Contact Brianna Cozzetto, 719.371.4839, brianna0215@yahoo.com
- **Looking for the Gold Llama Hike**, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, CO., September 29, 2012
Contact Jerry Dunn, 303.277.1129, beartrak@q.com
- **Paca Buddies**, Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO.,
September 22-23, 2012
Contact Brent Holt, 281.250.2000, Brent.Holt@CFBMC.com.

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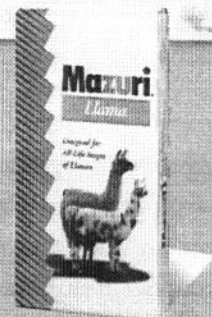


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Opps!

These photos were inadvertently omitted from the Fall Issue of the Ask the Vet Column. So we introduce the wonderful CSU interns at this time.

This is Dr. Alexandra Hund happily bathing a pig! Dr. Hund is from southern Germany and graduated from the vet school in Leipzig in 2008. Last year, Dr. Hund was one of the Livestock Interns at CSU and she is continuing her work at CSU for another year as a "Super" Intern in Livestock Service and also helps with other livestock extension and research programs at CSU. Dr. Hund chose CSU for her training "because it's a great place to work and learn". She would like to continue training in livestock medicine and surgery as well as livestock management in the future.

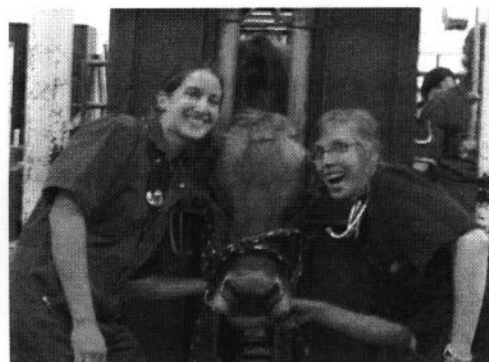
In the next photo, we find Dr. Katy Lutz (on left) and Dr. Andi Lear (on right) 'snuggling' a cow ... or is it a bull? They look like a totally

fun crew! Dr. Andi Lear is from Covington, KY and attended Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in Auburn, AL. Dr. Lear was awarded one of two internship positions with the CSU Livestock department in July 2011. Dr. Lear's interest in the CSU program is because "CSU is the perfect place to gain better experience and knowledge with a wide variety of species as well as work with renowned veterinary clinicians. Andi's dream veterinary practice consists of working with all food and fiber animals, ranging from cattle, small ruminants, pigs, and camelids.

Dr. Kaitlyn Lutz is a current livestock intern at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She grew up just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and spent most of her time working with and training horses. She attended the University of Delaware for her bachelor degree in Animal Science and attended veterinary school at the

University of Pennsylvania. She was drawn into livestock medicine during her time at U. of Delaware where she worked on a project studying dairy cow lameness. She is excited to have the opportunity to work at CSU and get to know their camelid patients!

Wow there is so much enthusiasm in this group. It really makes me wish I was young again and could still wrestle a cow! (Not . . . I could never wrestle a cow.)



RMLA would like to recognize...

Kathy Stanko

For several years Kathy has worked with the CSU Vet Team to obtain articles for your Journal. Thank you, Kathy



Happy holidays

From the Llama youth

Can you guess who's

Baby? This photo was

Just too cute to leave

Out

brent.holt@cfbmic.com



(281) 250-2000

Report on the US Animal Health Association 2011 annual Meeting

Compiled by Karen Conyngham, ILR representative to the USAHA Board of Directors and

Susan Tellez, Camelid Alliance.

The 115th annual meeting of the US Animal Health Association was held in Buffalo, NY October 1-5, 2011.

Camelid owners who attended this year included Susan Tellez representing the Camelid Alliance, Karen Conyngham, representing the Intl. Lama Registry on the USAHA Board of Directors and Dr. Pat Long, representing the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Assoc. on the USAHA Board of Directors.

USAHA is an international forum where producers join state and federal regulators and researchers/scientists from a wide variety of specialties to discuss issues affecting the health and welfare of livestock species and wildlife. The annual meeting gives the camelid representatives a chance to talk with state veterinarians, US Dept. of Agriculture, Animal Plant & Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) personnel and researchers about issues of concern to the camelid community.

Two common themes were heard during many committee presentations.

First, the absolute need for strict biosecurity measures for animals that travel off their home ranches AND for ranches that bring new animals in. The outbreak of EHV-1 in cutting horses last May began as a result of commingling at a competition in Utah and spread to affect 10 states. While no camelids were infected, several university vet hospitals had to quarantine their equine and camelid facilities while treating infected horses, thus prolonging the length of the hospital stay for llamas/alpacas. For a review of recommended camelid biosecurity measures, see: <http://www.camelidcare.info/biosecurity.htm>

Animal welfare also came up many times. Several national groups are trying to impact production animal facilities and this issue definitely has the attention of livestock producers, USDA/APHIS and USAHA. This has become a global issue.

The following report covers committees in which camelids or diseases of interest to camelid owners were mentioned.

Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids

The committee began its program with a memorial tribute to the late Bob Frost of Lincoln, CA given by Karen Conyngham. Bob served as president of USAHA in 2003, the only camelid owner and one of the few private producers ever to hold that office. He was a member of the committee since 1990 and made many significant contributions to USAHA and the overall health of camelids, other livestock and wildlife in the US. He will be sorely missed.

Parasitic Infections of Alpacas and Llamas

Dr. Patrick Long, Camelid Health Care Services, Corvallis, OR

Mycoplasma haemolamae and *Eimeria macusaniensis* are commonly diagnoses for camelid owners in the United States. These parasitic diseases can cause serious disease in camelids but in many cases, there will be unapparent, low level infections that do not cause apparent clinical disease. Dr. Long explained that chronic, asymptomatic carriers are present in both of these diseases.

Mycoplasma haemolamae is a hemotrophic bacterial infection of camelids that been detected in several countries across the world. Most prevalence studies show that 20-30% of camelids surveyed in multiple locations are posi-

tive for this hemoparasite. It is believed that biting insects may be vectors; transplacental transmission may be possible. Anemia is usually mild with inconsistent evidence of regeneration. Many positive camelids have higher packed cell volumes than negative animals. There have been no treatments identified that consistently clear camelids that are positive for this parasite. Clinical camelids do respond to tetracycline treatment. Most infected camelids have been identified as chronic carriers. Dr. Lakritz at Ohio State Univ. is currently working on establishing lab culture methods.

Eimeria macusaniensis (*E. mac*) is a coccidia that has been linked to high death loss in neonatal alpacas in Peru. While first described in the US in the 1990's, it has recently emerged as a severe pathogen in the US. This may be due to increased animal density on farms, increased awareness and more consistent detection methods. It appears that *E. mac* can survive for considerable time in the environment; farms that have had problems with this parasite in the past need to be watching for symptoms that include wasting, possible abdominal pain and weakness with diarrhea appearing in crias. Hypoproteinemia is the main blood abnormality. This pathogen is problematic due to the long pre-patent period (36-41 days under experimental conditions) and increased mucosal damage as compared to other coccidia of camelids. To detect *E. mac*, floatation fluids used must be of high specific gravity (1.27 or higher). The Modified Stolls test (using a sugar float solution) is recommended in conjunction with centrifugation. Mix 2 grams of feces with 98 ml of water and allow to rest overnight. 10 ml of this solution is then spun in a centrifuge for 5 minutes. The water is poured off and the remaining fecal pellet is re-suspended with a sugar floatation solution and

again spun in a centrifuge for 5 minutes. A cover slip is then placed on the top of the test tube and examined under a microscope 60 minutes later. *E. mac* is a large coccidia compared to others and is avocado-shaped. There is a PCR test now available to test for *E. mac*, but it needs to be validated so it not yet commercially available. Treatment medications include Albon, Corid or Marquis (ponazuril).

Dr. Long also gave a report on the diagnosis of Granulocytic Ehrlichiosis in camelids in the U.S. This has been infrequently reported. The causal agent is now classified as *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. Clinical signs may include partial anorexia, lethargy and progressive ataxia. Treat with oxytetracycline and supportive care.

Rift Valley Fever Review and Update on Veterinary and Wildlife Surveillance in Kenya

Dr. William Wilson, ARS/USDA, Manhattan, KS

The presentation gave a thorough overview of Rift Valley Fever (RVF), its multihost range (including cattle, camels/alpacas, and other small ruminants), its epidemiology, geographic distribution, the potential U.S. mosquito vectors, vaccine availability, and its zoonotic potential. He reviewed diagnostic tests available including Antigen capture ELISA, serology, and PCR. He is working on a field deployable and a high throughput PCR assay for RVF.

More than 50 alpacas and llamas have died from RVF in South Africa during the 2011 outbreak. Ages were not reported on these cases. Sheep and cattle are the main hosts of RVF. Clin-

ical signs include anorexia, diarrhea and abortion. Young animals tend to be more likely affected. ARS is researching whether N. American mosquitoes can be a competent vector for this disease; *Culex tarsalis* is definitely going to be a problem and is common in the US. There are African vaccines in use and some of those could be useful in the US, once they are validated. Ever-increasing international travel and trade, in conjunction with climate change, means the US could be at risk for RVF.

Committee on Captive Wildlife & Alternative Livestock

Serodiagnosis of Tuberculosis in Camelid Species

By Konstantin Lyashchenko

Konstantin Lyashchenko of ChemBio Diagnostic Systems, Inc. provided a presentation on serodiagnosis of tuberculosis. Tuberculosis (TB) in South American camelids (SAC) is caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* or *Mycobacterium microti*. Three serological methods, Rapid Test (RT), Dual Path Platform (DPP), and Multiantigen Print Immunoassay (MAPIA), were evaluated on naturally infected SACs.

The study population included 156 alpacas and 175 llamas from Great Britain, Switzerland, and the United States. TB due to *M. bovis* (n=44) or *M. microti* (n=8) was diagnosed by gross pathology examination and culture in 35 alpacas and 17 llamas. Control animals were from herds with no TB history. Results were compared with the comparative skin test that is currently used.

In alpacas, RT and DPP showed sensitivity of 71% and 74%, respectively,

while in llamas it was 77% for both assays. Diagnostic specificity was higher for DPP (98%) if compared to RT (94%) in llamas and similar for the two assays in alpacas (98%). When the two antibody tests were combined, the parallel testing interpretation (either assay is reactive for a positive result) enhanced the sensitivity of antibody detection to 89% in alpacas and 88% in llamas, but at the expense of lower specificity (97% and 93%, respectively), whereas the serial testing interpretation (both assays must be reactive for a positive result) maximized the specificity to 100% in both SAC species, although the sensitivity was 57% for alpacas and 65% for llamas.

Full text data will be published in the spring of 2012.

Note that *M. bovis* continues to be a serious problem for camelids in the UK due to the overwhelming infection endemic in badgers and cattle in parts of England and Wales.

Committee on Import/Export

Relative to camelid import/export, there is no change in regulations between the USA and most foreign countries. The Canadian regulations remain in place for movement, with a request now for the E-File CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection in electronic format) to be implemented on all cross-border movement.

Bluetongue regulations by the European Union prohibits Imports from the USA, because each location has very different serotypes of the Bluetongue disease. Movement among the EU Countries remains restricted. Imports of camelids from the USA to the EU must continue to go through Canada, and is still an active process. No current camelid export numbers were made available here.

ALL ports of embarkation or import are on high alert and testing for all animal diseases with exceptionally high alert for foot and mouth disease symptoms to ensure safe products and animals.

Committee on Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses

A REMINDER that the West Nile Fever [WNV], Bluetongue [BTV] and Enzootic Hemorrhagic [EHD] diseases are transmitted by mosquito-like midges, and not from animal to animal or farm to farm. The seasonal environment and locations reflect the incidence, and that appears to be reduced now in camelids. The extremes of rains and drought across the US have changed the populations of midges collected for identification.

Committee on Parasitic Diseases

Remember to check camelids for ticks at regular intervals, as there are numerous diseases carried by a wide variety of ticks. The incidence of tropical diseases has increased in the southern states of the US. Regular herd health checks and wildlife control within pastures is advised. The newest innovative application of insecticide to control horn flies in farmed deer and commercial cattle is by use of paint ball guns.

AAVLD Bovine Virus Diarrhea Special Scientific Session

Detection of BVDV Antigens in Hair Samples from Alpacas, Deer and Cattle

By Andres Read, Jing

Zhang, Daniel Givens, Clayton Kelling, Daniela Bedenice, Lalitha Peddireddi, Peter D. Kirkland.

This short presentation indicated that alpaca hair samples could be used to test for BVDV. 50 tail hair samples (with root ball, taken from the base of the tail) were collected and stored dry in a zip-lock bag. Samples can be held for up to 7 days at 98 degrees F. This study confirmed results by also testing skin and blood samples from the same alpacas.

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Ask the CSU Vet Team

By Kathy Stanko &

the Colorado State University Camelid Vets & Interns

With cooperation from our friends at the Colorado State University Veterinarian Teaching Hospital, the goal of this column is to answer your camelid-care questions in a helpful and practical way. This time we will learn that you can geld your camelid too early. Also we will learn about the important camelid research projects that are ongoing at CSU. Enjoy.

Question: At what age should llamas and alpacas be castrated and why?

Response from Dr. Robert Callan:

In general, it is recommended that llamas and alpacas not be castrated until they are at least 24 months of age. While the surgery is safe and often easier at a younger age, there are some growth and health concerns when they are castrated at under than 24 months of age. The primary issue is that testosterone is partly responsible for normal closure of the growth plates (physes) of the long bones, particularly the bones of the legs. The growth plates of the long bones generally close between 18 to 24 months in male llamas. If testosterone is not present, the growth plates will remain open and continue to grow for a longer time. This results in an animal that develops a taller more upright stature. Some have suggested that this upright conformation can lead to musculoskeletal problems such as fetlock laxity, patellar luxation, or degenerative arthritis. However, this is not proven. Therefore, the common recommenda-

tion is that llamas and alpacas are not castrated until after 24 months of age.

The other complication with early castration is the possibility that early castration may interfere with normal development of the urethra, resulting in a smaller urethral diameter. This has been demonstrated in goats but to our knowledge has not been proven in llamas or alpacas. The concern with a smaller urethral diameter is that it may increase the risk of urethral obstruction caused by urinary calculi (urine stones, urolithiasis). Urethral obstruction by urinary calculi is a serious medical emergency and often requires surgery to correct. The prognosis for resolution depends on the type of urinary stone and the amount of damage to the urethra. So, anything that can be done to minimize the possibility of obstruction is considered beneficial. Thus, many owners will also delay castration to minimize the possibility of a smaller than normal urethral diameter.

Question: What local and/or national camelid research projects is CSU involved in?

Response from Dr. Kaitlyn Lutz (Intern) & Dr. Stacey Byers: CSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital sees a large camelid caseload; however, camelid research is also going on behind the scenes to help advance the care that we can provide to our patients in the future. Dr. Stacey Byers, a board certified internist in the Integrated Livestock Management Section, has taken a lead role in the camelid research projects at CSU.

1) Evaluation of Monitoring Devices and Treatment Methods for Hyperglycemia in Camelids

Camelids commonly experience hyperglycemia (high blood glucose or blood sugar) due to stress and a variety of

disease states. Hyperglycemia in sick camelids can persist for days until the primary medical condition resolves and normal metabolic feedback pathways restore control. Camelids appear to have poor glucose tolerance and are relatively insulin resistant which complicates the animal's health and the response to treatments. There are several related projects occurring which are investigating the hyperglycemia issue and the difficulties we have in monitoring and regulating glucose levels. We are using healthy donated alpacas for these projects at this time and based on our findings, will hopefully incorporate the equipment and medications into the management and care of hospitalized patients. All camelid species have similar blood cell profiles. However response to medications may vary so some of the studies will need to be evaluated in llamas and paco-vicunas to ensure dosing levels are appropriate for each species.

a) Point of Care Glucometer Evaluation

Veterinary hospitals that treat alpacas use a variety of point of care (POC) glucometers to follow blood glucose in a relatively quick and inexpensive manner. There are many human meters and one veterinary specific glucometer. Reports evaluating these glucometers in humans and animals have found variations between the meters and with disease states, medications, and sample types. The veterinary glucometer has not been validated for use in camelids and therefore is not currently recommended. The camelid elliptical red blood cell is known to interfere with many table top blood analyzers but the effects of red blood cell size and shape on POC glucometer func-

tion have not previously been evaluated.

Dr. Stacey Byers and Ms. Oriana Beemer (veterinary student, class of 2014), recently completed a preliminary study comparing three commercial POC glucometers that use two different test strip enzymes against the gold standard of a reference chemistry analyzer. Four donated alpacas were used for this study. An intravenous catheter was placed in each animal and each animal was given either an IV bolus of dextrose or a bolus of insulin. The animals' blood glucose levels were then monitored every 30 minutes over an 8 hour time period. Each animal was tested with both dextrose and insulin over the study to decrease inherent variability. Whole blood and plasma glucose concentrations from the glucometers were compared to serum glucose from the chemistry analyzer to evaluate accuracy and determine if blood cell shape and size have an effect on results. Results are being analyzed at this time and will be used to determine if there is a preferred glucometer for use in alpacas.

This project was funded through a student research grant that Ms. Beemer received from the CSU Clinical Sciences Department. Results of this project will be submitted for publication this winter. Ms. Beemer will be presenting the results at the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Research Day in January.

b) Continuous Glucose Monitoring

The purpose of this research is to evaluate continuous glucose monitoring systems in alpacas. Due to the prolonged hyperglycemia some camelids experience, insulin treatment is often used to decrease the glucose concentrations and mini-

mize complications occurring with elevated glucose and associated electrolyte imbalances. Monitoring insulin therapy and glucose concentration requires repeated blood collection which can be difficult and uncomfortable for the animal subjected to repeated needle sticks. The continuous glucose monitor is a small device placed under the skin. It provides a continuous readout to a small receiver, which can then be analyzed or downloaded for evaluation. The advantage of these meters is that the animal does not need to be restrained and have blood collected with a needle, thereby reducing needle sticks, patient discomfort and stress, and venous trauma. Continuous glucose monitoring will also allow for very detailed assessment of blood glucose over time and should aid in proper medical treatment. Currently these monitors are used in some human diabetic patients but have not been evaluated in camelids to determine proper placement, measurement accuracy, and animal tolerance to the device. Four healthy donated alpacas will be used for this study. The monitor will be placed under the skin and IV jugular catheters placed to obtain comparison blood samples. The monitors will remain in place for up to 2 weeks which is based on information obtained from other research projects.

This project is funded by Dr. Byers "start-up" research funds provided to new faculty by her department. The project will be completed this winter and results submitted for publication in the spring.

c) Insulin Response Evaluation

During the point of care glucometer evaluation study described above, several formulations of insulin were used. It was noted that the animal's blood glucose reacted

differently based on the type of insulin used, which is leading to a study to evaluate insulin response in alpacas.

There are several forms of insulin on the market ranging from a short acting to a long acting form. Three commonly used insulin formulations which will be used in this study, are regular, NPH, and Ultralente. These three formulations are rapid, intermediate, and prolonged respectively when it comes to onset and duration of action. The effect of these different types of insulin is not well described in alpacas resulting in veterinarians attempting to dose by extrapolation from other species, extrapolation from published case reports, or clinical experience. Both the continuous glucose monitoring device and individual blood sampling will be used to evaluate the response of healthy alpacas to different insulin preparations. The information will be allow us to further study the use of insulin in sick camelids and to ultimately provide better medical care. This project will be run simultaneously with the continuous glucose monitor project mentioned above.

This project is funded by Dr. Byers "start-up" research funds provided to new faculty by her department. The project will be completed this winter and results submitted for publication in the spring.

2) Vitamin E and Serum Cholesterol in Camelids

Vitamin E is a critical antioxidant required by all mammals. The vitamin is abundant in green forages but rapidly degrades following cutting and storage so supplementation is required for animals maintained on hay diets. Since vitamin E is found in all cellular membranes and in intracellular and extracellular fluids, deficiencies manifest in

a variety of conditions with muscular and neurological systems most commonly affected. Despite vitamin E supplementation in llamas and alpacas, deficiencies are not uncommon. The cause might be due to inaccurate supplementation guidelines, inadequate ingestion, or other unknown factors affecting vitamin E in the individual animal or in the diagnostic sample.

Vitamin E is transported through the blood on lipoproteins and research has shown that variations in lipoprotein concentrations effect vitamin E concentrations. Cattle exhibit significant fluctuations in lipoprotein and cholesterol concentrations due to the metabolic demands of pregnancy and lactation. It is now common to measure both serum vitamin E and cholesterol concentrations in cattle to more accurately evaluate vitamin E status. Despite similarities in physiology, diet, and metabolic processes between camelids and cattle, it is unknown if camelids experience similar fluctuations. If camelids do experience cholesterol fluctuations, this would be an important factor to analyze and provide a more accurate indication of vitamin E status in camelids.

Thus far, a preliminary study has been performed measuring vitamin E and cholesterol levels on four llamas. The

samples were sent to four different diagnostic laboratories to evaluate the variability between laboratory results based on reference ranges. It was found that there was variability in individual results; however, it is difficult to interpret these findings since true camelid reference ranges for vitamin E and cholesterol have not yet been established.

Before determining if there is a relationship, proper collection and storage methods must be verified due to reports of collection, processing, and storage factors affecting vitamin E concentration. After guidelines are established, research can be performed to evaluate cholesterol and vitamin E throughout various production stages in camelids. The information will be used to develop and evaluate solutions to resolve or prevent vitamin E deficiency in camelids.

Two healthy donated alpacas will be used for the preliminary study of effects of storage and handling on vitamin E and cholesterol. Intravenous jugular catheters will be placed to collect blood samples. Following the evaluation of these results, the second phase will be performed on client owned alpacas (adult males, pregnant females, and their crias after parturition until weaning). Blood samples will be

collected over time and compared to feed and supplements to determine if there are metabolic variations that can affect vitamin E levels and how these levels vary with sex, pregnancy, and in juveniles. The final results will be used to develop a follow on research project to determine how we can increase vitamin E levels and appropriate levels needed for camelids raised on primarily hay based diets.

This project is funded by a CSU College Research Council grant provided by the USDA. The project will be completed in 2012 and results submitted for publication upon completion. Dr. Andi Lear, Livestock Medicine and Surgery intern and Dr. Byers will be performing this research project.


Finally, here is an opportunity for you to help with this research:

If you are interested in helping to fund the upkeep of our research herd to help insure that these projects are able to come to fruition, please contact Dr. Stacey Byers by calling the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital at 970-297-5000.

Have a question? Just e-mail Kathy at turkeytrot2@aol.com.

Do you have a great photo to share relating to RMLA events or members?

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A Journey into the Golden Hills of Fall

By Jerry Dunn Photos by Brian Glynn

Golden Gate Canyon State Park has become one of our favorite places along the Front Range of Colorado to celebrate the fall colors. Friends and families have been loading up their favorite llama to join in the four mile hike for nearly twelve years.

The first outing was an overnight in the park. It was an interesting collection of camping styles to say the least. One couple brought a huge teepee and another couple set up their two bedroom Coleman tent with a fully equipped kitchen complete with Tiki lamps. Fellow campers, laughing and giggling, help set up the extravagant accommoda-

tions. There were also people camping in alpine tents and people sleeping in their vans. The meadow at the edge of the campground was filled with beautiful llamas staked out in belly deep mountain grass. It was a production that could not be outdone. Since that first outing people have become busier and found that a day hike was more suitable to their schedule.

The timing was near perfect this year in the park with all the gold and orange hues blanketing the mountainside with the warm air smelling of fall. We had "old timers" and several young people in our group this year. Guess that would cover both llamas

and people that came along to experience the camaraderie. The trail passed through open meadows and evergreen forests with views of Mt. Evans and the Indian Peaks Wilderness. There were no water crossings on this hike; however, we did see a couple of moose peeking out through a giant willow bush that we had to carefully negotiate around.

This is an enjoyable hike for llamas in training as well as experienced hikers. Watch for the date and time for next year on the RMLA Events Calendar and join us.



Got an Hour? Let's Take A Hike

By Jerry Dunn

There is something very wrong with this statement. What were we thinking?

Debby Rothwell, who boards her llamas at my place, stopped by and wanted to go on a quick hike and then get back home early so she could do her weekly chores. She suggested the Chavez Trail which is in the Denver Parks system just off I-70. Neither of us had taken this trail before. It was a little over a mile long and we should be able to breeze through it in an hour or so. We loaded up Harley and JB in the van and headed to the hills. The tale of the Chavez Trail three hours later comes to an end.

The first clue about trouble to come was that the first half mile was all DOWNHILL into an old stream bed filled with rocks and very little water. Once reaching the bottom the trail began to zig zag back and forth back up the other side of the canyon. The trail consisted of huge boulders worn smooth from years of rushing water, an occasional dirt path, slow moving water, and more rocks. I forgot to men-

tion we did not have our llamas carry packs, no water, no first aid, and no snacks. We could not predict the challenges we were about to experience. The best thing we could have done would have been to carry fanny packs because in a couple of instances the trail was so narrow we were side stepping facing hanging on to the side of the mountain. I have no idea where the llamas were at that point but they showed up at our side at the end of these challenging little sections. The llamas were being so cool finding their own way through the loose rocks bushes and trees while being careful not to pull on the lead rope. Had they pulled on the ropes there would have been a crash for sure.

At one point we were walking along the trail and both llamas suddenly stopped and turned their focus uphill. We were in lion country and we were sitting ducks. As I looked up to see what they were looking at, I promptly tripped and fell on my face. Blood everywhere with no first aid available. Debby had a tissue in her pocket that we

used to stop the bleeding. And then the laughter began. We were so stupid.

From that point on Debby took both llamas at the water crossings while I fumbled my way through the bushes and rocks with my head spinning from the fall. Near the end of the hike we began to see people hiking in slippers and flip flops. Boy, were they in for a surprise! We didn't see any wildlife except for one very long gray snake.

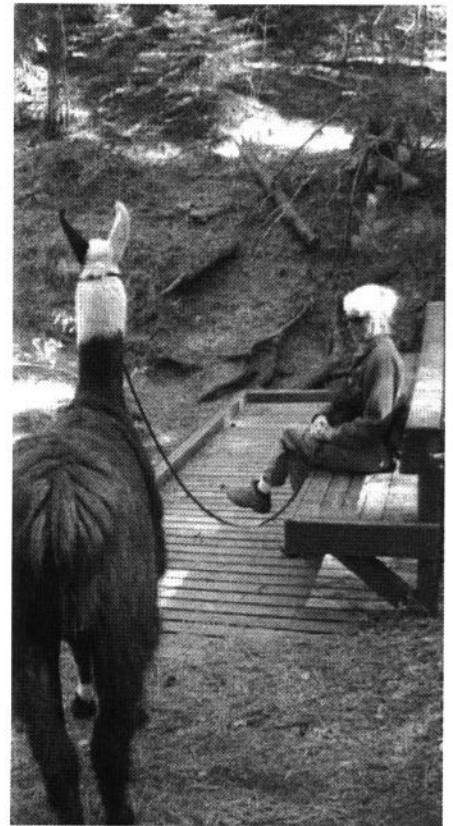
The trail came to an end with a "comfort station" followed by a connecting braille trail. The signs on the braille trail gave no warning to hikers of what we had just experienced.

This week we visited a new site with the same animals. We took our fanny packs this time with water, snacks, and first aid. We were looking forward to a similar adventure, but it was all blue skies from on top of North Table Mountain. No snakes or lions, just an occasional deer sighting.

Plan ahead, be safe and have fun with your llama.

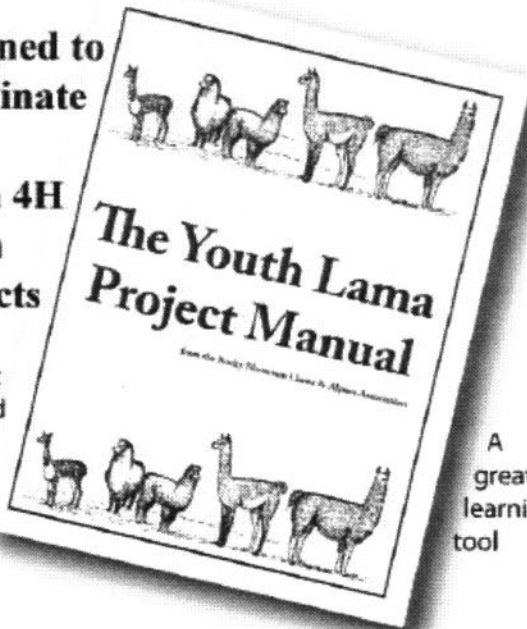
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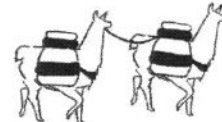
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A Report On the 2011 Llama Festival

By Alexa Metrick and Charlie Hackbarth

About a month ago, eighty-three llama packing enthusiasts gathered in beautiful Silverton, Colorado to talk shop. What a weekend! Old friendships were rekindled, new ones were made, and a dedicated group of people, a group of people who understand the qualities and the value of the working llama, were united. Because all of the participants were so willing to share ideas and knowledge, we were able to make real progress toward re-defining the sport of llama packing.

We measure the success of the 2011 Pack Llama Festival in these terms: fantastic weather and fresh air, absolutely phenomenal mountain scenery, a great group of people, and real discussions. The experts were everything we promised and more; the effective delivery of ideas and the wealth of information given by the wise veterans and impressive young adults completely exceeded our expectations. But it was not just the experts who made this festival so fantastic; all of the attendees, whether beginners or experienced experts in their own right, contributed to the free exchange of opinions, information, and ideas. It was a once-in-a-lifetime gathering, and one we won't soon forget!

The Pack Llama Trials Association played a huge part in the Festival. The result of PLTA's financial sponsorship and hard work in planning and implementing PLTA's

activities was evident in the success of the weekend as a whole. We were able to demonstrate safe procedures for training and handling pack llamas and also display the abilities of the working llama first-hand through four outstanding courses, two of which went up the mountain directly from the Festival site.

The Festival website, <http://packllamafestival.rentallama.com>, is now becoming a repository for photos, videos, lecture notes, and camp cook recipes from the weekend. Alexa will be adding things as she gets them processed, so be sure to check the website or Rent-A-Llama.com's facebook page for updates.

There are several concepts that surfaced continually in our discussions throughout the weekend, the most important of which is the idea that regardless of the type of packing we do, we all have something to bring to the table. Many different iterations of the sport were represented this weekend, from performance showing to day hiking, from overnight family camping to commercial outfitting, and a wide range of intensity and experience were displayed in each category. But we all pack with llamas, and a certain level of knowledge about the packing process is required to achieve success at any level.

We all have more to learn, but we all contribute something, too.

This also means that if we aren't willing to take the time to educate ourselves, we shouldn't be involved with using, buying, raising and/or selling llamas for packing. It's simply not good for the sport. At the same time, if we do breed, while we should always strive to breed up to improve our pack stock, we need to recognize that not all llamas will make the top-tier cut. Those that fall short can fill needs at different levels, and this is where being able to match a handler's expectations to a llama's ability (whether renting, buying, or selling) is essential.

We hope to receive more comments about the 2011 Pack Llama Festival from those who attended. Hopefully, the Festival website will become a destination for sharing the knowledge and enthusiasm that was on display September 22-25 in Silverton, Colorado. And, finally, we'd like to again thank all the people and organizations who supported us and helped us cover our costs.

Some are wondering if we are going to do this again in the future. While it may not be organized by the same folks, the seed has been planted, the blueprint is available for anyone to use, and positive ideas are flowing around the country that will result in good things happening in the

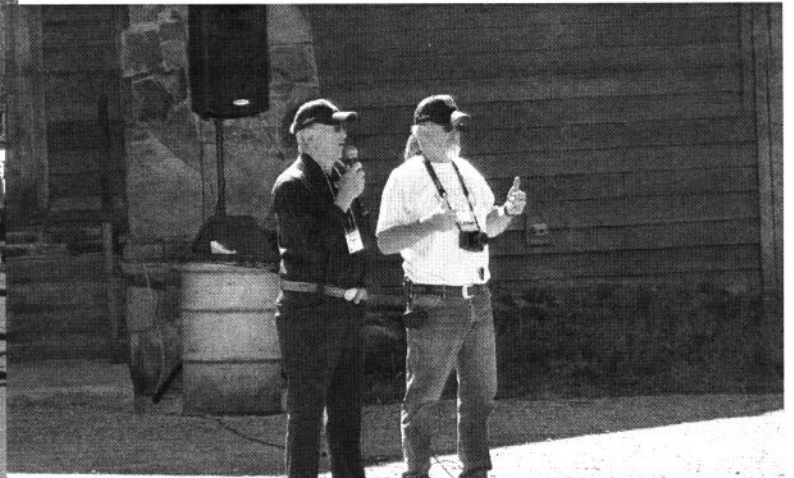
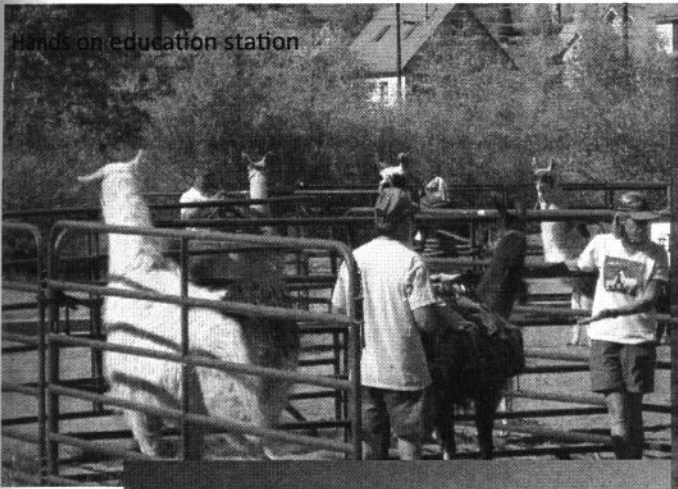


A Panel of Experts

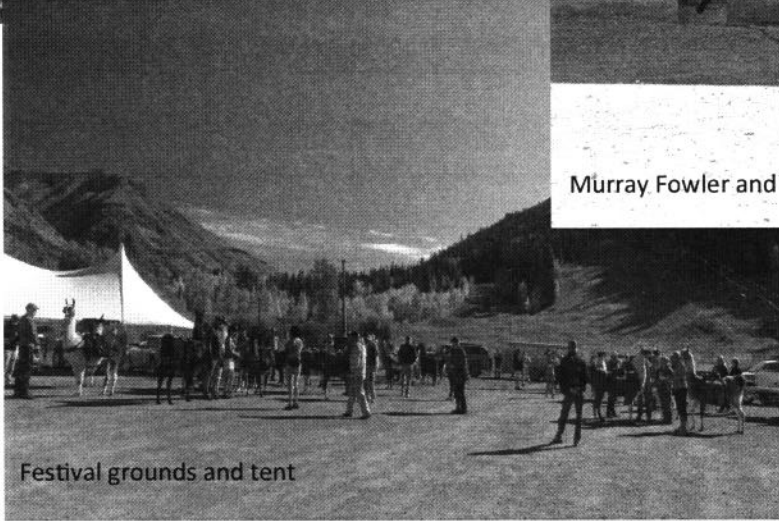


A Hardy Group of Campers

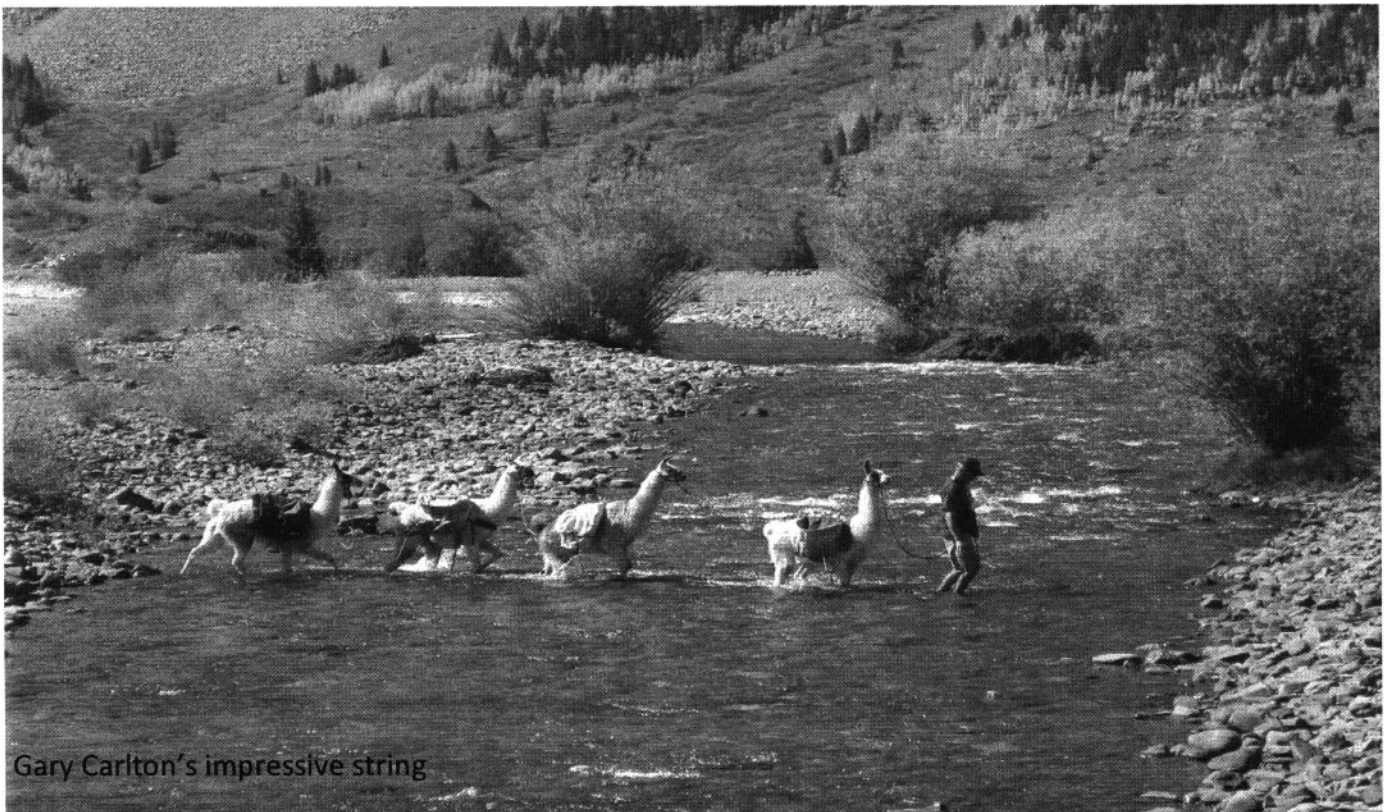
Hands on education station



Murray Fowler and Wally White commentators for the pack parade



Festival grounds and tent



Gary Carlton's impressive string

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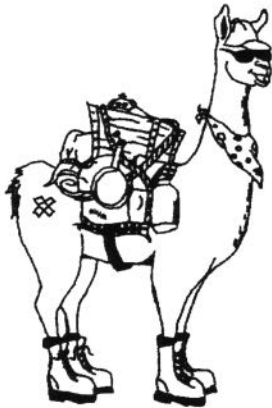
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A black and white photograph of a white llama standing in a field. Above the llama is a banner with the word "Llamas" written in a cursive font. Below the photo, there is a signature and the text "M&M LLAMA RANCH".

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BY Carolyn Ownby

MLAS Rescues and Rescuer Go to School

Background

In January of 2011, I took in four llamas from the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary (MLAS). It's not that I didn't have enough to do already, working full time and wrangling a farmyard full of animals (alpacas, llamas, horses, dogs, and barn cats).. One can't rescue every unfortunate case, but this situation spoke to me. And besides, some of the rescues might be good packers, which I wanted to try. I had told my boyfriend some time ago that I would only go backpacking again with a llama!

Aside from losing funding for feed with the impending severe Montana winter coming, the conditions at the MLAS were

deplorable. The place was advertised as a haven where animals could live out their natural lives. However, they neglected the "domesticated" part of the equation, and provided no care for animals bred in domestication for thousands of years which depended upon human intervention. One of the llamas we unloaded in Colorado was dragging a train of fleece that was ripping from his skin in places. My guess is that he had not been shorn for 10-15 years. We trimmed the worst of it on the spot.

We named our four new critters Max, Jesse, Joe, & Musty. Once home, we fattened them a bit, and within a couple months my boyfriend and I started taking them for walks, then walks with a pack. But they weren't getting any gentler, and haltering was a traumatic experience for them and me. I started wearing a riding helmet to protect myself from getting bonked! I had long been interested in learning more of Marty McGee Bennett's methods, but I didn't fully grasp the techniques from her book. When she generously offered a clinic discount to rescuers, I decided it was the opportunity of a lifetime.

So, in October, I loaded Max, Joe, and Jesse into my trailer and headed out on the long drive from Fort Collins, CO to Albuquerque, NM. Musty, the fourth rescue and the oldest, is already fairly easy to handle and four llamas would make the trailer too crowded anyway.

Meet the Rescues

Max is very tall, with a suspicious eye. We estimate he is 8-10 years old. He has put up a wall of defense from his past experiences with humans, I figure, and my handling wasn't helping. He does know grain, however, and feeding helps put him at ease.

Jesse, perhaps 6 years old, had clearly NEVER worn a halter or been on a lead before coming to Colorado. He has a pleasant curiosity about him and seems to like his new home.

Joe, maybe 8 years old, is the most stoic. He has a tooth root abscess, yet he has gained so much weight since his Montana days that he's on the stout side now. I believe he had been handled some, at least enough to learn dodging techniques.

Clinic Hosts

The clinic was hosted by Lynda Liptak and family of Llamas Del Sol in Albuquerque, NM.

Lynda welcomed us warmly after an exhausting drive and late arrival. She had a place ready for the beasts to stretch their legs and graze, and for me to sleep! Thanks Lynda!

The Liptak's were most gracious, opening their home, keeping us all fed, and supplying Marty, our instructor, with all she needed to run the clinic successfully. Hosting a clinic is no small commitment, but Lynda saw the importance of showing more folk ways to make a partner of their camelids through gentle handling instead of force. We even had a gal travel from Germany to attend!

Lynda's journey into the world of llamas began in February of 2009, when she heard of an abandoned farm in Colorado with two neglected, mistreated llamas. Despite being camelid novices; a neighbor, her husband, and she loaded them up in a make-shift trailer and brought them home to the North Valley of Albuquerque. In searching for the best way to build a relationship with her new rescues, she found and got started with Bobra Goldsmith's video on line and since then she was a

llama-lady in love with llamas! Then, searching for more material about what goes on inside of a llama – their thoughts, feelings, and attitudes, she stumbled onto Linda Tellington-Jones' TTouch method, and then Marty McGee Bennett, a devoted and gentle llama trainer who trained with Tellington-Jones on TTouch especially for llamas.

Fast forward to June of 2011 and Lynda finally attended the Camelidynamics Basic Clinic plus Shearing Day given by Marty where she was given hands-on instruction. She wanted to develop these techniques! This, along with noting several llama and alpaca owners having trouble with managing their animals and her wishing to have Marty give her specific insights on her own llama rescues, prompted her to apply to host a Clinic at her ranch.

Clinic take home lessons

What I learned at this clinic not only changed the way I handle my animals, but also how I can choose to handle myself in general. I have a better idea how to respond to a llama's apprehension and make interacting with me less of a trauma. I am no expert now by any means, but I've seen a better way and aim to get there!

The Sieve

One of the first things Marty addressed was a standard by which to choose our actions and behavior. We discussed how we wanted to be perceived by others when handling our animals, and selected defining words: kind, efficient, respectful, confident, etc. By clearly defining what we intend, we filter out lesser behaviors, be it with our animal or human relationships. This is the "Sieve Test." Our animals read us better than we read ourselves; they know when our attention is elsewhere or our motives impure.

Although intent is important, it won't go far without the skill to implement it. After all, a llama will always be a llama! We

learned methods to catch an animal without trapping, to halter without force, and to lead without dragging.

This reminds me of a quote from my high school days, "You can judge a person's character by what they will do if they believe they will not be caught" (Sawney Webb). How many times have I been rough with my animals, trying to get nails trimmed or some such thing, when I might never do that if a reporter was watching? That behavior certainly fails the sieve test! And it does not define who I want to be.

The TTouch

Marty taught us some of the TTouch methods she learned from Linda Tellington-Jones. I am truly amazed how this simple, circular touch can calm an animal and make human presence tolerable for them. It even helps my flighty alpacas. The TTouch is not easy to do it without practice – it takes a calmness and conscious intent to effect the llama's relaxation.

Marty showed us a video from the clinic Lynda attended of an alpaca being sheared under no tight restraint, and with electric shears, no less! This particular alpaca, Drasina, was given to Marty as a problem case, and was always the last to be shorn because she made such a fuss. Given a new approach of respectful treatment and conditions that she must have appreciated, she stood quietly in a three-sided panel enclosure with Marty and Lynda at her head feeding her periodically. This was the first shearing day that Marty had tried shearing alpacas standing up without bracelets and it was a huge success. You just never know until you try.

The Result

Often the errors that we made arose out of rushing, trapping, forcing, or just not seeing/reading the llama's body language quite right. Sensitivity to the llama's perspective is so very useful and to engage

them on their terms starts to build their trust. Once we started to understand the freedom of movement they needed and were able to give them freedom of movement and breathing space, cooperation started to emerge. Body language, calmness, and respect for space were key in obtaining cooperation.

The MLAS rescues, as with all my animals, are benefitting from Marty's training. Thank goodness they are tolerant and forgiving as I muddle though! They see my intent, and are letting me practice to gain the skill I need to develop a partnership with them.

Results with Max, Joe, and Jesse are pending. Life realities being what they are, I don't work with them as much as I'd like. But they never forget, and they never mind just being llamas between sessions. From a training standpoint, I am fortunate that the MLAS llamas suffered primarily from neglect rather than mishandling. So, for the most part, I'm not dealing with severe, deep-seated fears of human interaction.

See Marty working with Max at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pjrTj7cj6U>

Special thanks to Lynda Liptak, my sister Gussie, and her husband George for helping me put this article together!

Congratulations to

Lloyd and Kristy Wamsley on the birth of their son Lane Allen Wamsely. Born November 10th 2011.

Lloyd is a former RMLA Youth Member

Marty Working with Max



Carolyn working Jesse's mouth with TTouch. Note loose lead

Marty demonstrating haltering and halter fit with Tom



A Palisade Parade

By Kathy Stanko

Palisade is a small town near Grand Junction, CO. It is probably better known for its peaches and wine than its Parade of Lights. Preferring small, cozy outings, the Grand Mesa Llama & Alpaca Club has participated in this Parade of Lights for several years.

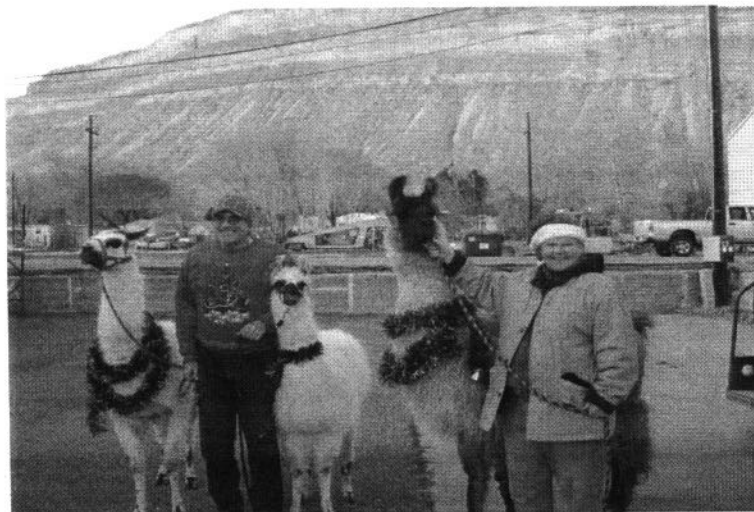
This year 12 club members and 9 llamas joined the fun. Why so many people without llamas you might ask? Well a couple of folks had to carry our club banner and then of course a most courageous member pushed the decorated and lit-up pooping scooping items!

Well we were #9 in the line up. As we began moving entry #8 pulled in: a van filled with residents from the nursing home! Now that is participation with style. The main part of the parade route is only 3 blocks long. But it was jam-packed with folks, mainly kids, all wanting a look at the llamas. A few of the lucky ones even got a llama touch or a kiss!

For many of the llamas, this was their first parade. But they all did well, even our little 6 month old who felt most comfortable walking between her mom and a llama-friend. The llamas 'new-to

-parades' had their ears forward and their curiosity peaked: who are these people, what is all the noise and why is it dark? The 'I've-done-this-before' llamas just walked, ears forward, knowing that soon they would be back home. One, having had enough or may just wanting to spend the night, kushed!

So as the band played and the fire engines roared, we walked and had a wonderful time. All too soon it was time to go back home.



Vets of the Future

By Larue Johnson

As a follow up to the information provided on page 19 of the Spring RMLA journal under the heading Vets for the Future by Kathy Stanko, I feel I must provide the following:

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners scholarship that I initiated in 2002 upon retirement from CSU remains a pending endowed scholarship fund. The eventual target is for \$25,000 that would then allow an annual award of the accrued interest. With perhaps naïve \$\$\$ optimism I agreed to begin awarding scholarships in 2004 such that a total of \$5,500 has been awarded to date. The current balance at the CSU Foundation is \$17,500 and annually diminishing with a \$1000 award being made each year. The original scholarship funding came from some camelid owner donations but the majority has come from the profits from the neonatal clinics that I offered as well as from the popular llama and alpaca "T" shirt sales. Neither of those sources is currently transfusing the fund and unfortunately my personal donations had to cease.

Perhaps a review of the Neonatal Clinic is in order in light of new camelid owners as well as many of us old timers do forget. In 1985, at the request of the Rocky Moun-

tain Llama Association, I initiated the Neonatal Birthing Clinic that has been very successful in training owners and in many cases, veterinarians to understand the uniqueness of camelid reproduction, reproductive management, the birthing process and diagnosis and procedure for handling difficult delivery. This clinic has been repeated more than 120 times all over the US but as well in Canada, the UK, Australia, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador. Conservatively, 2500 (+) "graduates" of this clinic have in addition generated \$125,000 (+) that initially provided support for camelid research and the teaching herd at CSU as well as at various other veterinary schools. However starting in 2002 all profits went toward the goal of the endowed AASRP scholarship.

RMLA can stand tall for what was initiated back in 1985. No other veterinary school has an AASRP scholarship to honor students that aspire to work with small ruminants. While we all have limited discretionary funds these days, I would encourage you to help me to attain this goal by going to all possible sources to see if we can inch forward to the \$25,000 goal. You know, when someone dies, there will be an effort to honor that individual's charity

with a donation that unfortunately the deceased will have no knowledge of. I will be 76 on August 31 and to the best of my most recent doctor visits will be around for a while barring the unforeseen. If you would be so inclined to honor me as a living veterinarian that worked extensively with camelids for 30+ years and feel strongly about encouraging students to work with camelids, I would be extremely grateful. Checks should be made payable to the CSU Foundation for the AASRP Scholarship Fund.

Mail to Paul Maffey, Director of Development

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