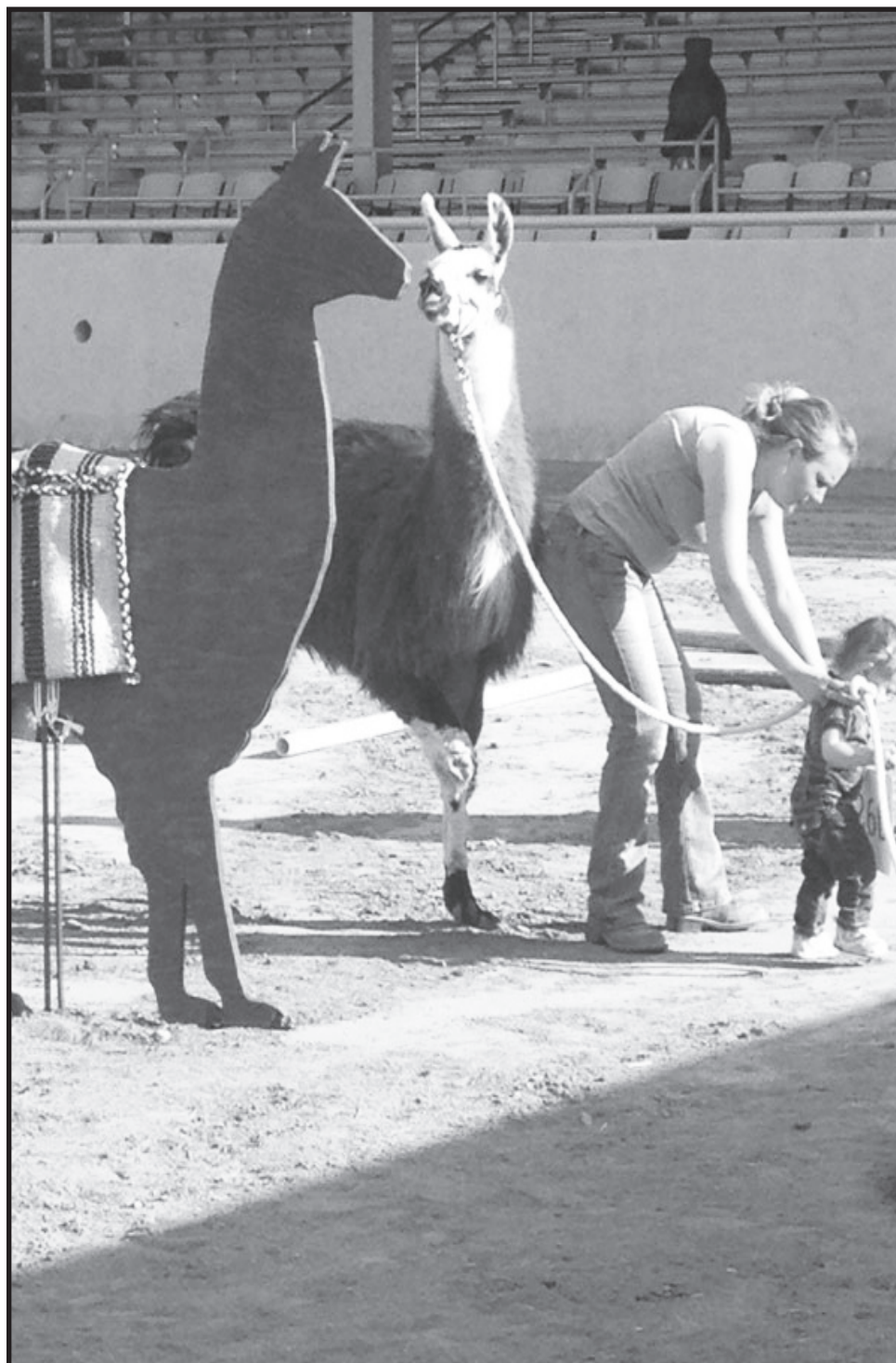


The Journal of RMLA

RMLA 

Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



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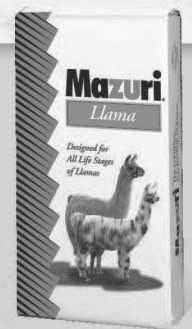


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Journal Submission Dates, Ad Rates and Specifications

Issue	Submission Deadline	Mailing Date
Spring	February 20	March 20
Summer	May 20	June 20
Fall	August 20	September 20
Winter	November 20	December 20

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
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Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$78	\$117
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RMLA Journal Co-Editor – Kathy Stanko
6778 Kannah Creek Rd.
Whitewater, CO 81527-9605

You can reach Kathy at 970-256-7716 or via the email addresses below.

- **Email text and/or graphics content to:** RMLAEditor@gmail.com
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Content - Kathy Stanko
Layout and Design - Ron Hinds } Co-Editors
Email - RMLAEditor@gmail.com
Proof Reader-Marilyn Arnold
Ad & Article Writer/Solicitor-Sue Grimm

Dear Members:

Ron Hinds and I are extremely grateful to have the opportunity to serve RMLA as co-editors of **The Journal**.



Over the past few weeks we have strived to get up to speed on what needs to be done and how best to do it. Working cooperatively as a team takes a bit of 'getting to know you'. But we are having fun and that is the best part.

Before we journey on, Ron and I want to give our sincere 'Thanks' to Sue Grimm for all of her efforts over the past 2+ years. Sue, with a full-time day job, jumped in to a huge 'feels like a full-time' volunteer job when no one else would. So we give big thanks, hugs and kudos to Sue.

Both Ron and I are retired from the 'day job' scene so we are hopeful that serving as co-editors will not be overwhelming. Ron will be handling layout and design, his area of expertise. I will be handling content, my area of expertise.

In addition, our team includes Marilyn Arnold, who is an awesome proof reader. Thank you, Marilyn. Sue Grimm has volunteered to write articles and solicit advertisers. Thank you, Sue. And finally, our fearless leader, Lougene Baird, has agreed to keep the ship steered in the correct direction. Thank you, Lougene. With all of these 'Thank you's, I feel like we have just won an Oscar!

An invitation: if you have an area of expertise that could be of service to **The Journal**, please let us know. Our team is boundless; all are welcome. And if you have an idea or two on how we can improve **The Journal**, we would love to hear from you. This is going to be fun.

Respectfully,

Stanko - Ron
Co-Editors
Hinds - Kathy



RMLA President's Letter

Lougene Baird



As the seasons change throughout the year, so does our membership and the leaders of this organization. For those of you who chose to renew your membership this year, I want to say thank you. Your continued support and contributions to RMLA are essential for the wellbeing of the organization as we go forward. Each one of you contribute in your special way to make RMLA what it is.

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting in Evergreen, CO on October 19. Hopefully we will have a great turnout, a beautiful Fall day and a chance to renew our friendships with other RMLA members and meet new members.

And, for me, with the Annual Meeting comes the end of two bitter-sweet eras. Jerry Dunn, with whom I have served on the RMLA Board for 15 years in total, will be leaving the Board, as well as the Chairmanship of the Events Committee. Jerry and I are four days apart in age, she being the older and therefore I have always viewed her as a fine mentor. Working with Jerry has taught me much and I treasure our up-and-down times together over a good bottle of wine!

With Jerry, Geri Rutledge will also be completing a six year term. Geri has been deep in the organization's workings in important areas. Besides keeping accurate records as Secretary, Geri has worked closely with the Fiber Co-op, kept the elections in fine shape and stayed in tune to the needs of the RMLA Youth and 4-H in all respects. I have so enjoyed work-

ing with her as I have learned an immense amount about her beautiful attitude toward life and her unselfish giving to all with whom she comes into contact regardless of the arena of interest with llamas or her professional life.

It has been a delightful pleasure for me to work with Jerry and Geri. I will miss your team spirit, sharp thinking and sense of RMLA history. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You have both given more than any one of us could ever ask and done it beautifully and with style. Please stay close to us.

And I must say thank you to Sue Grimm -- what an enormous job when you took over the Journal! Thanks for staying on the Journal staff as Kathy Stanko and Ron Hinds, co-editors, now take the lead in this their first issue. Please everyone, extend your hand by helping Kathy and Ron -- you all have had great times with llamas, please share them by contributing to the Journal content and by supporting the Journal with an article now and then.

Finally, I look with eagerness to working closely with Katy White and Brent Holt as they begin their three year terms as Directors. I welcome both to the Board as Directors to do their part in what is a good working team with the future of RMLA and its members at heart. Thank you, Katy and Brent, for giving of yourselves to serve as Directors.

So, with this in mind, let's go into another season and continue down the RMLA path of educating and doing what is best for our mem-

bers and the animals that bring us all together and that we love.

Have fun putting hay up for the winter. I love the smell of fresh hay stored in the barn.

Lougene



Cover Photo:

Photo was taken at The 2013 Estes Park Wool Market by Gayle Woodsum of Llamas of a Coral Dawn, Hebron, North Park, CO, coraldawnnews@aol.com, 307.399.3815, blog at www.WritingLlamasAndLife.com

Mom is Brianna Cozetto, the sub-junior handler is Aubryne Cozetto. The wooden llama is 'Picacho the Wooden Llama', and the very perplexed, not-a-three-legged, llama is Mac-ey's Huckleberry Mountain Avalanche.

If you have a terrific, non-advertising photo you think qualifies for a front cover, send it to RMLAEditor@gmail.com and you'll be given full credit if it is chosen.

*Thank you,
Co-Editors, Kathy and Ron*

Camelids on the Run

By Sheila Fugina
Representative to 2013 Camelid Community

In early June, 2013, a llama escaped from its home in Florida. Many of us no doubt heard this story: to catch the llama, officials used a taser. In view of this incident and other related stories, one of the topics discussed at Camelid Community 2013 in Kansas City in August was how to provide animal control officials with the information they needed.

The article "Catching & Haltering Llamas and Alpacas" was thus produced. The ICI (International Camelid Institute) has generously put this article on their website. Please visit the following link to download a copy.

Use this shortened URL: <http://goo.gl/33pdwR>
Actual URL:

<http://www.icinfo.org/mebelodia/Catching%20and%20Haltering%20Llamas%20and%20Alpacas.pdf>

The article was written especially to educate animal control authorities on what to do and what not to do to round up stray camelids. So please pass this information along (either in person or an e-mail) to your county sheriffs, wildlife officers or whoever is in charge of animal control in your area.

Sheila Fugina (and her husband Britt) can be reached at:
Shady Ridge Farm
1331 130th Avenue
New Richmond, WI 54017
715-246-5837
bsfugina@presenter.com
www.ShadyRidgeFarm.com

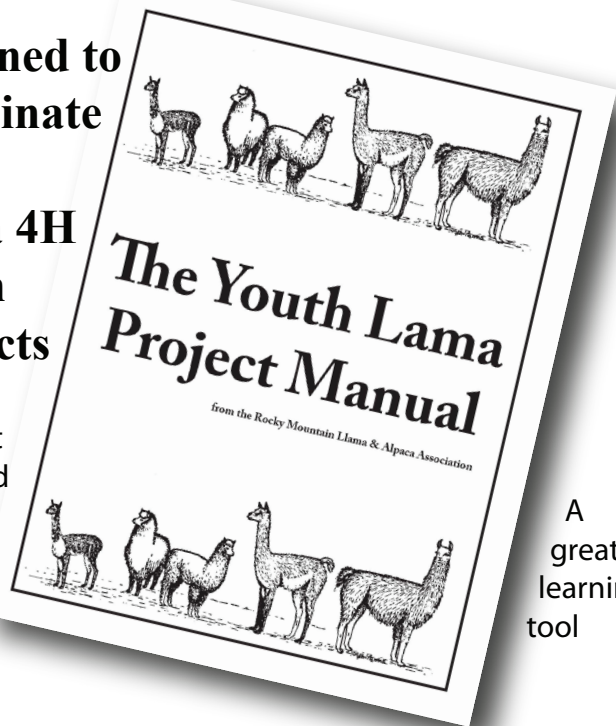
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The RMLA Board of Directors
 invites you to attend the
2013 RMLA Annual Meeting
 to be held on
October 19, 2013 at 1:00 PM
 in **Evergreen, Colorado**

The meeting will be held at the home of
Jim and Marta Haas – Soda Creek Llama Ranch
 871 Soda Creek Road in Evergreen

Plan to stay for
 light refreshments after the meeting.

*hope to
 see you
 there!*

Jim and Marta will share with the members
 a new and wonderful use for llama fiber and
 the ideas they have developed for
 marketing llamas and finding the right buyers.

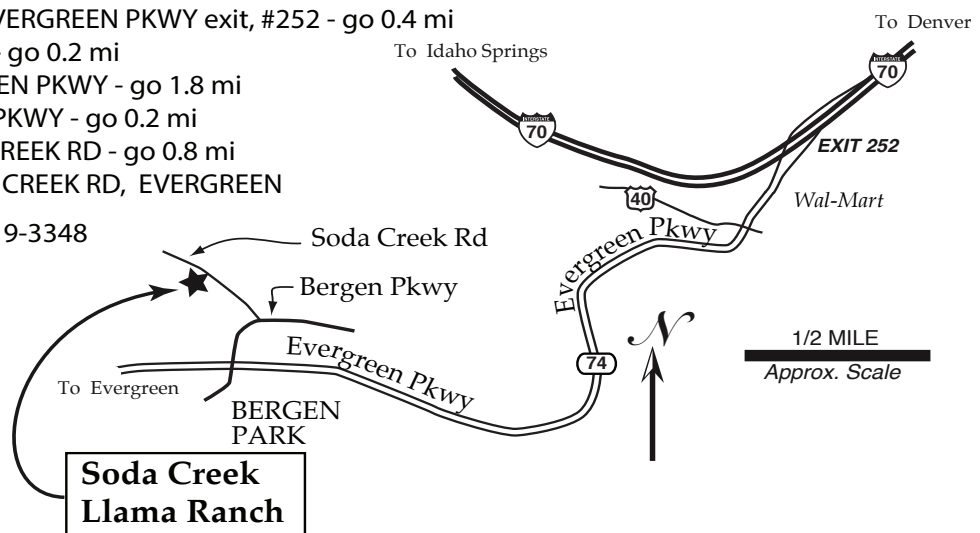
Please RSVP: Marta Haas

martahaas@wispertel.net or info@SodaCreekLlamas.com
 or call 303-670-3373

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Gastric Ulcer Research Project



By Stacey Byers, DVM, MS, DACVIM Colorado State University
Veterinary Teaching Hospital

As you may have read in earlier newsletters and an email blast, veterinarians at the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital are studying methods to diagnose and treat C3 gastric ulcers in camelids. Currently, there are no reliable methods to accurately diagnose gastric ulcers in live llamas and alpacas.

The C3 ulcer study is underway, but moving a bit slowly at this time. We are having difficulty modifying a laboratory analysis technique that will be used to detect one of the oral compounds we are interested in evaluating. This product should be absorbed across an ulcerated C3 surface and be measured in the blood or urine. Once the kinks are worked out in the laboratory assay, we are ready to finish evaluating the absorption and excretion rates in healthy alpacas.

So far we have given one of the oral products to an alpaca and collected urine and blood for 48 hours. This involved inventing a body suit and urine collection bags that would not spill or interfere with normal behavior such as when the alpaca kushed or wanted to roll around.

We are fortunate to have received an additional \$1000 in

donations from five sources. **THANK YOU!** If you are interested in assisting with the funding for this research by providing a tax deductible donation, please visit the CSU VTH website (<http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/vth/Pages/default.aspx>) and follow the Make a Gift link. From there, you can select the "Camelid Research and Education" fund from the Information drop down menu (about 2/3rds the way down the list). To ensure your donation gets to the right place, please note 'camelid ulcer research' in the comment box.



Oh, and a side note: the alpacas are currently being housed outdoors with a long-term bovine patient as companions for her. The gang is getting along famously and the cow has not started humming, yet!

If you have questions about the study, please contact Dr. Stacey Byers at 970-297-5000 or srbyers@colostate.edu.



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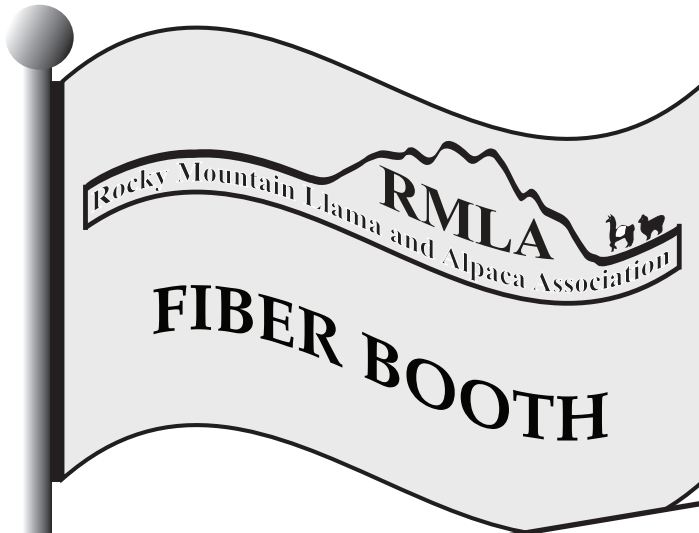


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RMLA Fiber Cooperative

New Managers for the Fiber Booth!



From the RMLA Board of Directors

After 8 years at the helm of the RMLA Fiber Cooperative, Patti Morgan is retiring as Manager. Congratulations, Patti, and thank you for all you have done.

Beginning in 2014, the booth will be managed by the team of Cheryl Juntilla and Jill Knuckles. Cheryl and Jill already have experience managing the Fiber Booth. Jill has been superintendent at the Taos Wool Market for the past several years. And, Cheryl and Jill were co-superintendents at the Salida Fiber Festival in 2013 and again this year.

We all look forward to the enthusiasm that the new managers will infuse in the world of llama fiber and products!!

Photo taken by Patti Morgan

The three volunteers mentioned in this article can be contacted at:

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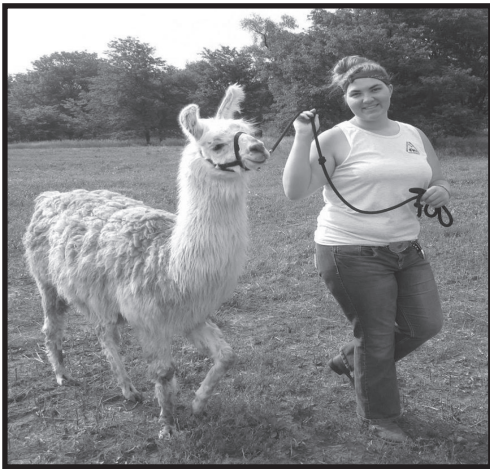
WHERE IS SHE NOW?

by Catherine Steele (a proud Mother)

This summer Stephanie Steele is working towards her FFA American Degree. She earned her FFA State Degree the year she graduated from high school - 2012. The FFA American Degree is the highest degree offered by FFA. Steph, if she gets all her record keeping completed, will receive her degree at the National FFA Convention in October of 2014 (not 2013).

Once we got the word out that Stephanie needed more agriculture-related income this summer to achieve her award, she has earned income by working for other llama owners doing chores, fixing fence, unloading hay, and shearing.

She was also contacted by Randy Cipriano to bottle feed an orphaned cria. Since crias need



to be bottle fed every few hours, Randy brought the baby to our place. Steph (in fact our entire family) had prior experience

handling and bottle-feeding a cria because a few years ago we got an orphan from Geri Rutledge.

Geri taught us well - "don't baby him, when you feed him it means business". Even though they mean well, a bottle-fed cria will start treating you like one of their own including spitting, kicking, and neck wrestling. This is all very normal behavior for a llama; not so much



Catherine Steele (and Robert)

Steele Dreams Llama Land
Catherine and Robert Steele
12930 N. Blvd.
Osceola NE 68651
402-747-2301
TheCSteele@gmail.com

Editors' Note: Stephanie Steele was the recipient of the RMLA Outstanding Youth Award in 2008. We thought you would like to know what she is up to now.

for a human. If the cria is raised correctly, then none of this behavior should be a problem.

It has been a joy to watch Stephanie work toward her FFA American Degree. She has learned so much, especially in the area of shearing. She is professional and tells people like it is, not necessarily what they want to hear.

At the same time she is extremely patient with the animals and their owners. I often hear how good she is as a CNA at the nursing home where she works. I think her bedside personality works for the animals as well as for people.

For example, she was shearing for some people who don't show their llamas but they like to look at them. They have a male who was bottle fed and is now beginning to get mean. She recommended they get him gelded soon. They replied that they want to have "babies to watch and play with". Stephanie reminded them, "Babies grow up and if you don't manage them correctly and train them, you are only adding to the problem". But she said it in such a good tone that nobody was offended. She is an excellent steward for the llamas.

continued on next page

Where is she now?, continued

And after shearing some very difficult animals last weekend, she said she really liked having her shearing service on the side. She is planning to take her shears to college and be available next spring for the western part of the state. And she has already been requested by the family with the untrained animals to shear again next year. She plans to keep shearing all through medical school - so keep her in mind if you need some help!



Thanks to everybody who has helped Stephanie towards earning her agricultural-related income for this American Degree. We really appreciate it!

We would love to know what other former recipients are doing now. So, please drop us a note or an article: Co-editors, Kathy and Ron at RMLAEditors@gmail.com

Thank you



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Ask The CSU VET Team

By Kathy Stanko & the Colorado State University Camelid Vets & Interns

Wow, Autumn already? Hope everyone had a wonderful summer. We had a great deal of rain (for the desert) in July which brought out the mosquitoes and another round of West Nile Virus. So, to refresh myself on what this disease can mean to our llamas, I contacted Dr. Callan at CSUVTH. I now share this information with you, as a reminder, and perhaps for future planning. Following this discussion, Dr. Sarah Raabis explains uterine prolapse.

Question: Summer rains mean more mosquitoes which mean West Nile Virus. Does spraying the llamas with fly or mosquito repellent help protect them? What are the symptoms of West Nile Virus in camelids? And what is the treatment?

Response from Dr. Robert Callan:

While mosquito repellent applied to the llamas will in theory help decrease mosquito bites, in practicality, it is probably not going to be effective. The areas that will need to be covered are the areas with short or thin fleece such as the nose and face, axilla, belly and groin area. The duration of effectiveness is limited so application would need to occur several times during the day or at least before dusk and dawn.

Most llamas and alpacas that are infected with West Nile Virus do not show clinically observed signs. They may have a transient fever but since they don't often show other signs, the fever is rarely noted. Rarely,

some animals may develop neurological signs just like humans and horses. So far, clinical neurological disease in camelids has been reported in alpacas but I am not aware of any confirmed clinical cases in llamas. So, there does seem to be a species difference in susceptibility. The neurological signs can range from a mild head and neck tremor, to more pronounced tremors including the trunk. Some animals become uncoordinated and stumble. Severity may progress to where the animal is uncoordinated and weak and may not be able to stand at all. Finally, this may progress to seizures and death.

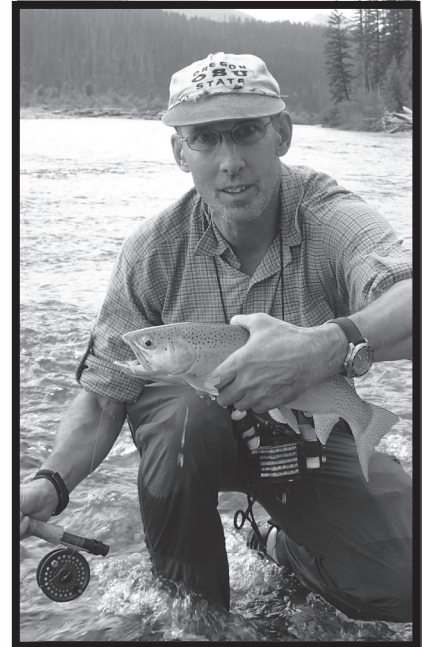
The best prevention is vaccination.

Treatment is supportive, trying to buy time until the animal's immune system can fight off the infection. Steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatories are often administered. In our experience, if the animal continues to stand and eat, then the prognosis remains favorable. IV fluids with dextrose support may be needed. Once they become recumbent and stop eating, they typically progress and die.

The best prevention is vaccination.

There are limited studies on use of the current equine vaccines in llamas and alpacas. Both the Fort Dodge vaccine (Innovator, 3 initial doses followed by a yearly late spring booster

recommended) and the Merial vaccine (Recombitek, 2 initial doses followed by a yearly late spring booster recommended)



Dr. Robert Callan DVM, MS, PhD
Robert.Callan@ColoState.EDU

have had some safety trials and appear to be safe in llamas and alpacas including pregnant llamas and alpacas.

Either vaccine can take 3 weeks after the final dose to become fully effective. And about 10 days are required before the yearly booster is fully effective. Therefore, the best time to vaccinate is in April or May depending on your location and the normal arrival of mosquitoes. And, as with all vaccines, owners should be cautious when vaccinating animals on hot days or when they are stressed. We recommend either vaccinating early in the morning or late evening. I am not aware of any llama or alpaca safety studies for any of the other equine WNV vaccines.

continued on page 14

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Owners of Arazzmatazz Alpacas

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Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD)	Feed/Problem	Lameness/Research	SNOTS, The
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BSE/MadCow	FMD	Mad Cow/"BSE"	Toxoplasmosis/Cats
Cats&Toxoplasmosis	Foot	Male/Reproduction	Vaccination/Clostridial
Clostridial/Vaccination	Forages	Micoplasma haemolamae (EPI)	Vesicular/Stomatitis(VS)
CPR - Heart Stop	Glucose/Tolerance	Minerals	Water
Deafness	Handling/Behavior	Necropsy/Post Mortem	West Nile Virus
Dental Health	Hay/Tests	Neonatology/(New Born)	Whip Worm
Drug/(Injections)/Reaction	Health/Topics/Access	Nitrate & Nitrite Poisoning	
Drug/Usage/Info	Heat/Stress	Nutrition	
Dystocia	High Altitude Sickness	Overdue Pregnancies	

....head to RMLA.com go to menu item 'Resources' and select 'Health'.

*Much of what you see there was compiled by the previous webmaster, Barb Hance.
Thanks Barb.*

I currently recommend vaccination of animals over 4 months of age for their first year, followed by a booster in the late spring their second year in endemic areas. After that, you can continue annual vaccination of all adults in the spring.



However, there is some evidence that annual natural exposure of previously vaccinated alpacas and llamas provides a booster response with minimal risk of disease. Thus, some producers are not repeating vaccination in adults after the second year of age except in their most valuable animals if they want to conserve costs.

Question: What are the minimum equipment/supplies for an owner to have on hand for the emergency of a post-partum uterine prolapse prior to their veterinarian arriving?

Response from Dr. Sarah

Raabis: *(Editors' note: this piece was written by Dr. Sarah Raabis while an intern at CSU. Dr. Raabis is now continuing her training in a Large Animal Internal Medicine residency at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.)*

Uterine prolapse most commonly occurs as a complication of dystocia, retained placenta, or manipulation during parturition. Animals at risk are older, multiparous females that have relaxed vaginal and pelvic ligaments, which allows for the uterus to telescope through the cervix and out of the vaginal canal. In severe cases, the entire uterus can be exterior to the vulva (the uterus is

essentially inside out). The placenta may still be attached.

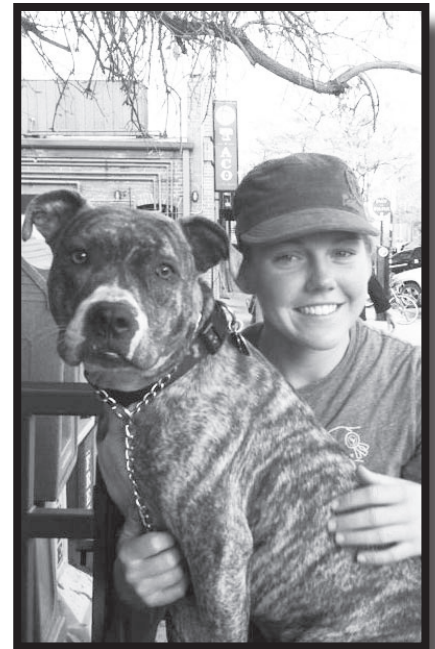
A uterine prolapse is different from a vaginal prolapse, which often happens mid to late-gestation. In a vaginal prolapse, the walls of the vagina protrude through the vulva, however, the cervix and uterine endometrium cannot be visualized. Often, a vaginal prolapse will only be seen when the animal is laying down.

Uterine prolapse is a potentially life-threatening emergency and a veterinarian should be called immediately. The most important complications of uterine prolapse include endotoxemia and septic shock from contamination and hemorrhage from blood vessel rupture.

The supplies that an owner should have to help care for an animal with an uterine prolapse include:

- A halter for restraint
- A bucket of warm water with either a povidone iodine or chlorhexidine disinfectant.
- A cup or scoop that can be used to help rinse the uterus while cleaning it.
- A clean plastic tarp or plastic garbage bag to help protect the uterus from contamination.
- Some granular sugar that may be used to help draw out the edema in the uterine tissues.

Owners should move an animal with a uterine prolapse to a



Dr. Sarah Raabis, DVM
Resident at University of Wisconsin-School of Veterinary Medicine.

clean, dry space. Ideally, the animal should crouch on a slight decline, so that the animal's pelvis is elevated relative to the head. This positioning will facilitate replacement. Place a clean tarp or trash bag under the protruding tissue and cover it, so that it is not contaminated by the ground. If the animal will not crouch, use a clean tarp or plastic trash bag to hold the uterus until the veterinarian arrives. This will decrease tension placed on uterine vessels. If the animal tolerates it, owners can use tepid water to gently rinse the protruding tissue to remove debris.

Before administering any medications, the owners should first consult with their veterinarian. A common recommendation is to administer antibiotics with good Gram-negative spectrum (such as Ceftiofur) as a preventative for septicemia. In addition, it is

continued on next page

also commonly recommended that owners administer flunixin meglumine to decrease uterine inflammation and as a preventative for endotoxemia. When the veterinarian arrives, they will attempt to replace the uterus. This should only be performed by the veterinarian, as there are many risks of infection, blood vessel rupture, and tearing the uterus. The most important things for owners to remember

are to keep the uterus clean of debris and protected from contamination and to reduce tension on uterine blood vessels by having the animal cush onto a clean surface or by holding the uterus until the veterinarian arrives.

Thank you, Dr. Callan and Dr. Raabis, for this wonderful information.

**Have a question for the vets?
Please send me an e-mail
turkeytrots2@gmail.com.**

Kathy Stanko (along with her husband, Glenn) can be reached at:
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Why I Volunteer

For All The Planning . . .

By Gary Carlton

It is the unplanned moments that warm my heart and make putting on an event all worth while.

My ex-wife comes up every year to help out with registration at the Fairplay Llama Race. This year we had about 25 medium shirts left over after the race. Most of the crowd had wandered off to the park to walk around the booths. We were just sitting by my trailer with the llamas staked out and she said to me "how about we give the left over shirts to the kids walking by instead of you using them for rags in your shop?"

She started calling kids over and asking them if they would like a llama race shirt. The results were something I will never forget. These children lit up with big smiles and their parents thanked us endlessly for our kind gesture. These folks will never forget the RMLA or the event or that day because of a spur of the moment thought to do something nice for the children.

As I wrapped things up on Sunday I again saw several of these kids and their parents around town and all were still wearing their llama shirts, and again, many of the parents thanked us.

Then an older gentleman came up to me with his granddaughter on Saturday afternoon and said they had arrived there too late for the llama lunacy and was wondering if he could pay me to let her walk a llama.

I told him that I would not accept any money but if he agreed to stay right next to her in case the llama was spooked by a dog or something then she could take my most gentle llama out for as long as she liked. About an hour later, they returned and she had a smile that will last until Fall and her Grandpa was almost in tears as he thanked me for making his granddaughter's summer the best ever.

These are the moments that make this event so special to me.

And, as a postscript: it was another really good year with no injuries to Man or beast. Everything ran super smooth and once again my team of ranches and volunteers surpassed my every expectation and made 2013 another great success story. Thank you to each and every one of you!

Plus, I was given some really good thoughts and ideas from RMLA members on new directions and events that we could create to handle the ever growing popularity of this event. So look for changes in 2014. With the help of the most amazing team of folks I have ever worked with, the future of the Fairplay Llama Race looks bright.

Photos from 2013 Fairplay Llama Race



Photos taken by Vivian Johnson.

Reporting from the Estes Park Wool Market, 2013

by Gayle M. Woodsum, Llama Show Superintendent

One of the oldest and most well known llama shows in the United States once again took center stage this year at the Estes Park Wool Market (EPWM), June 7 – 9. Entries topped out at 189 for the three-day

Estes Park

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event, from 66 llamas participating in halter, performance, youth, showmanship and fleece classes. As always, the competitive mix displayed the true versatility of llamas and alpacas: three alpacas participated in both youth and open alpaca performance, with llamas making up the rest of the entries.

Halter classes were offered as a double show that brought in 70 entries showing under judges Hank Kaufman of Ohio for the Gold Show, and Patti Morgan of Kansas and Colorado for the Silver Show. They were joined by Rob Knuckles and Larry Lewellyn of Colorado, who gave up their usual roles as exhibitors for the opportunity to apprentice as performance judges under two of ALSA's most experienced judges.

In the halter ring, there was nothing easy in the competition for the hard-won grand and re-

serve championships that went out to llamas from the high quality, national level breeding programs of Brianna Cozzetto and Rhonda Livengood; David and Sandra Lockwood; Carlos Mendoza; Ranee Forney; Paul and Karen Schwartz; Cathleen and Jerry White; and Gayle Woodsum.

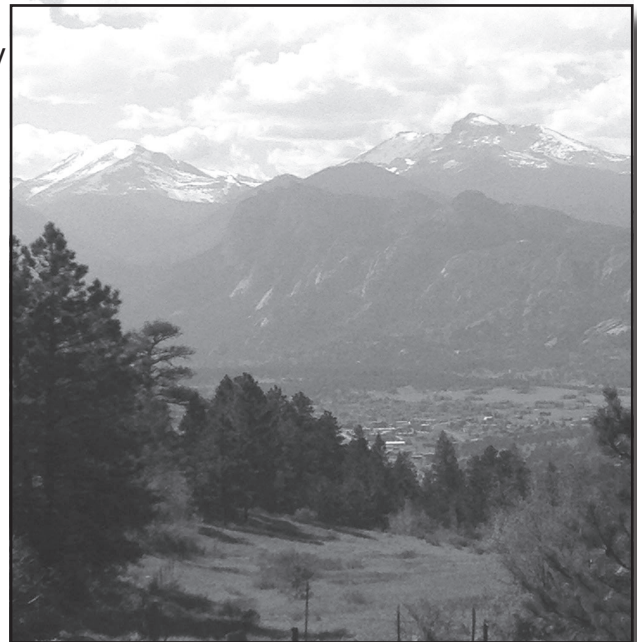
In Saturday's performance classes, Ranee Forney delighted all attendees by returning llama driving to the show ring. Decked out in purple splendor, Chewy's Fast Fire made driving llamas everywhere proud with a stellar display in both pleasure and obstacle driving, topped off with a bow to the audience after receiving his well earned blue ribbons.

The five youth exhibitors, Aubryne Cozzetto; Joshua and Zachary Mason; and Kira and Alex Leland, made their classes shine with exceptional enthusiasm, fine sportsmanship and impressive llama handling skills. Aubryne, not yet two years old, took the ring by storm in two sub-junior performance classes and in sub-junior showmanship. Her skills were greatly improved over last year's showing debut — this year she actually walked and led her llama rather than having to be carried by her mom.



Gayle M. Woodsum with Spirit.

Kira and Alex were surprise, last minute entries this year. They had come to EPWM to participate in the alpaca display and youth showmanship area. Then they met Geri Rutledge, who let them know that the RMLA/ALSA show was offering a full slate of youth performance classes. They joined ALSA on the spot, signed up for the show and were thrilled for the opportunity to take on the youth performance



classes with graciously welcoming llama exhibitors Joshua and Zachary.

continued on page 20



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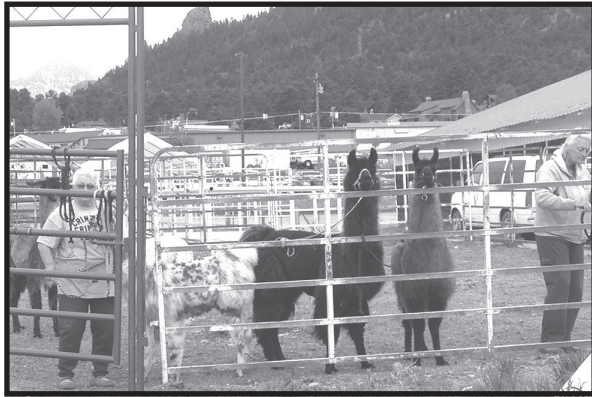
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Google.com reference results as of August, 2013

Go to www.Google.com and type in each of these phases (use quotes to search for the phrase instead of each word). Hit return or click Search and Google will tell you how many references there are on the Internet to that word or phase. And it will begin to list the first 1000 or so in order of the most popular.

- llama - 122 million
- alpaca - 13.8 million
- “llama and alpaca” - 2.5 million
- “Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association” - 23,000

In the larger and highly competitive ranks of open performance, 18 llamas in the novice division and 10 in the advanced classes went all out to tackle challenging



courses and once again prove that the Rocky Mountain region still reigns supreme when it comes to talent and skill in the performance show ring. Mary Wickman of Colorado added her judging expertise for a three-judge team covering obstacle, pack and public relations courses. Champion and reserve champion awards were earned for the training programs at Brianna Cozzetto and Rhonda Livengood's Lllamarado; Raneé Forney's RC's Lllamas; David, Sandra and Warren Lockwood's Lockwood Dreamstar Lllamas; Jim, Geri and Marshal Rutledge's Buckshollow Ranch; and Laurel Snider's Stargirl Lllamas.

All this was topped off with six team entries for the crowd pleasing short stack and pack string classes. The packing competition was complete by 12 entries in the EPWM's unique Model Packer class judged each year by Jerry Dunn. In this class, llamas are judged on conformation, temperament and movement specifically desired in a pack llama.

It would not be a true wool market without the jaw-dropping beauty of the llama fleece shown each year, and 2013 was no exception. Judged by Karen Kinyon of Colorado, this year's fleece show was stunning with 26 shorn fleece entries, 20 walking fleece entries and 5 specialty fleece entries including yarn, garments and felted creations. In addition to entries from throughout Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming, there were

winning mail-in entries from as far away as Texas. Entries were prepared, packaged and entered by Lisa Blidar, Kris Booi-Rapacz, Judy Glaser, Adryce Mathisen and Susan Proctor. Shorn and walking fleece show championship honors went to Kris Booi-Rapacz; Judy Glaser; Jill Knuckles; Carlos Mendoza and Emily Varela; Raneé Forney; Karen and Paul Schwartz.

This year's show also included the audience favorite: Lleaping Llama and Llama Llimbo held at noon on Saturday. This is a fun jackpot competition of llama and alpaca jumping and crawling done for a grandstand filled with hundreds of cheering, applauding spectators.

To help boost similar public relations success, at noon on Sunday, Jerry Dunn created a timed event for human and llama teams called Trailhead Buster, which was also well attended and enjoyed by the general public. For each entry in this challenge, two humans worked

together to go from being passengers in a parked truck-and-trailer rig to getting their llama out of the trailer, putting on its pack system, and getting to their "campsite" to remove camping gear and placing it in a tent. Winners were the team with the fastest time.

To close the weekend, an event that is so special in the hearts of Rocky Mountain llama show enthusiasts, the prized Sharon Beacham Fiber award was announced. This year was the second annual presentation. The award went to the fleece team efforts of Carlos Mendoza and Emily Varela.

On a personal note from me, the EPWM llama show superintendent for the last 10 years, I was touched to tears by the Saturday presentation of a plaque of appreciation that came from the mayor of Estes Park, but really came from fairgrounds director Bo Winslow and events manager Lexy Jacobson. As I retire from this role I've loved for the past decade, and look forward to being able to once again show my own llamas at the show, I'm thrilled to welcome new superintendent Jill Knuckles. We will work together for a smooth transfer of the reins and both of us happily anticipate many more wonderful years of llamas and alpacas at Estes Park Wool Market.

Gayle Woodsum can be contacted at Llamas of a Coral Dawn, Hebron, North Park, CO, coral-dawnnews@aol.com, 307-399-3815, blog at www.WritingLlamasAndLife.com. Gayle also took the photos.



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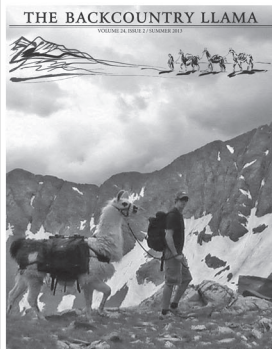
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Gearing Up for Hope Pass

By Vicky L. Foster
Lightening Ridge Llamas
Allenspark, CO

This year marks the 26th year of my involvement with the Hopeless Crew, a joyous, but tough volunteer effort. The Hopeless Crew takes all equipment and supplies up to just below Hope Pass, elevation 12,500 feet. The crew then runs the aid station with the help of medical personnel provided by the Leadville Trail 100 Run. This year over 1,000 runners registered for the race, with over 850 starting the race. With pacers, the Hope Pass Aid station saw over 2,000 participants for supplies and services.

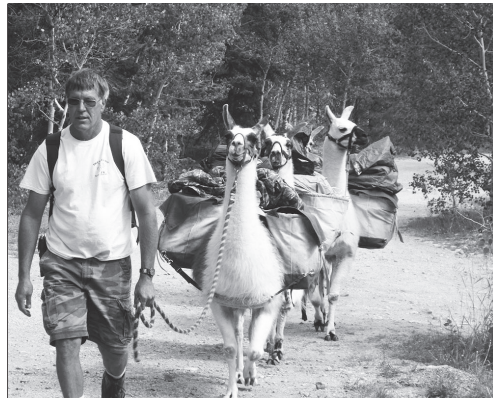
I thought you might enjoy learning how this all comes together. Here's the timeline from this year.

May 2013 My friend, Elaine Johnson, starts calling to set up Saturday appointments to help get the girls in shape. I run a predominately female pleasure pack string, meaning that both they and I need to get ourselves fit for the trail after a winter of not working much. Tal, my intact male, takes care of himself. Elaine, Ed Stotts, one of my animal caregivers, and I try to hike the string with a load at least every other weekend.

4-July-2013 We get the string hooked up and ready to go to the Allenspark 4th of July Parade. The kids love to see the llamas and it gives me an additional opportunity to check tack and make sure that my gear

is operational. The llamas are fantastic in their red, white and blue and we have a fun time afterward on the back deck with a BBQ.

25-July-2013 We all head south for the annual Fairplay Llama Pack race. I am running late and Gary Carlton, who runs both the Fairplay race and is the captain of the Hopeless Crew, calls to make sure I am going to make it. Llamas are always at a premium at the race and he is worried that my seven won't



At the Bridge ready to head out to the pass-Gary Calton loading up

be available. It's a wonderful event, as usual, and my male, Tal, comes in first in the single runner category. All of the girls do fine, if not performing spectacularly as runners. Even Cody, our retired gelding, makes the walk portion of this event (he came in last). Gary is totally focused, properly, on this event, but we start discussing the Hopeless Crew effort for 2013. We remind ourselves several times that, although the Leadville Trail 100 has gone corporate, we do the aid station for the runners.

30-July-2013 The supply list is sent to our contacts at the race and we are hoping that we will get most of what we request. Last year they changed the supply units on us. This year, they did the same thing. It keeps me on my toes!



Vicky L. Foster.
Photo by Vicky Homan

2-August-2013 We hear from Curt Prewitt that he will be joining us for the Hope Pass aid station. Three to four more llamas, yahoo!



Aid Station fire pit.

5-August-2013 Chris Colucci confirms that the volunteers from the Golden High School Senior Seminar and Track team will be coming up again this year. These wonderful young volunteers save us since they run up on Saturday, work the hard part of the race for us and then run home that evening. They epitomize what is good in youth these days. We are so very grateful to them and the adult volunteers who come along.

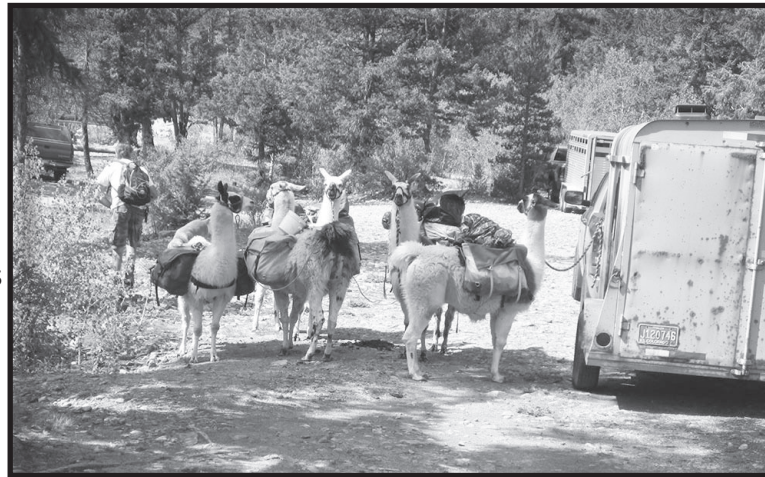
continued on page 23

8-August-2013 We volunteer the string for an equipment and supply drop for the Wilderness Restoration Volunteers at Lake Isabel in Boulder County, along with Stan Ebel and his packers from Buckhorn Llamas. The string is in good shape and I am feeling optimistic about the hike to Hope Pass.

We also learn today that we have another ultra-runner volunteer-Darren Maurer. He also proves to be wonderfully Hopeless—checking out what’s going on and pitching in wherever and whenever needed. Hooray! Yet another Hopeless Crew member is born!

10-August-2013 Gary Carlton calls to check in before he makes the long ride from Strasburg to Leadville. Gary will set up base camp on Sunday and pick up a load of gear and supplies for the top on Monday. I begin to load my trucks and trailers (two each) with the gear I have for the Hope Pass Aid station. I have a floor to ceiling rack of plastic tubs in my pole barn (5 sets of camping cookware, two 3-burner Coleman stoves, cooking utensils, 5 coffee pots for heating water, three camp tables, five portable camp stools, lanterns, the cook tent, a base camp tent, the potty tarp for Hope Pass, and multiple tarps for base camp). The tack for all six of the llamas that will make the hike gets checked one last time and loaded: my pack, Ed’s pack, the dogs’ packs, food for everyone - all into the trailers or trucks.

11-August-2013 This day brings more packing and organizing. I discover that syrup for our cola drinks cannot be easily obtained—the hot summer has meant that many suppliers have simply run out. Finally, I find the syrup in Evans, CO and make the drive to pick up the syrup - three hours on the road! (You bet we’ll get the syrup EARLY next year.) The runners don’t like the fizz from the bottled stuff and the syrup saves us huge amounts of



At the Bridge ready to head out to the pass-Gary Calton loading up.

weight over actual cola bottles. Thanks to Curt Prewitt, an ultra competitor, llama packer and long time insightful member of the Hopeless Crew, for that idea. When my horse ride on Miss Whinny is cut short by lightning, I get back to packing!

We hear from a new volunteer for the Hopeless Crew—Darin Olson will be coming up with his 15 year old daughter, her friend and his 12 year old son. More help and three additional llamas to help get supplies up to the aid station. We are so happy to have these wonderful new additions to the crew. They proved to be super-wonderful help during the race.

12-August-2013 Up early to finish up some work (consultants never stop, you know). Last minute packing and we miss our deadline to head out for Leadville by only an hour. After braving I-70 (UGH!), we get to base camp and Gary has a huge stack of gear under a canopy and enough wood gathered and cut to last the week. Base camp tent is set up and we start sorting gear. We enjoy a peaceful campfire and probably

too much wine with our grilled dinner.

13-August-2013 Ed and Gary will be making two trips to tree line just below Hope Pass, the first on Tuesday.

I discover that the staff for the LT 100 sent up the wrong tent for medical and forgot to include poles...so that gear will have to be replaced when I go into town for the food Tuesday afternoon and it means we can’t get that tent up on the first load. We are trying to take anything in which we hope the bears won’t have an interest. As we sort through the supplies, we try to make sure we will have what we need and not take what we don’t need up the hill. Space and weight are at a premium.

Ed and Gary load up and head out, leaving a little later in the day than planned, but still out in good time to get up and back in one day. They make the trip with minimal incident

continued on page 24

Gearing up for Hope Pass, continued

(my top loads weren't as tight as needed and I SWEAR I will not make another trip up that hill without the strong webbing straps with metal cleats that can be tightened and will not loosen). While the guys are hiking, I head back to Leadville for the food pick-up.

Our contact, who has had the list for weeks, doesn't have everything ready and tells me that he cannot find plastic bottles of bullion....frustrating...I could have picked them up in the valley, but cannot find any in Leadville. That means we'll run short during the race. While he is chasing around Leadville for supplies, I log into work using the wi-fi at the race store and finish up a few reports that are due before I head up top.

14-August-2013 We are up and about at a leisurely pace in base camp. Camp coffee, a nice breakfast and off we go to Leadville again for another supply run. Our contact still doesn't have our full list completed. Then, he tells us that the medic will bring the medical supplies up on her back (probably over 50 lbs not counting the oxygen and IV fluids). We finally manage to talk him into rounding up the oxygen bottles and IV fluids. After much pressure, he tells us where the medical supplies are stored and we head off to find those. It is a frustration to have to fight to get what you know is needed. As it turns out, five of the IV fluid bags had expired, the packet of IV lines was actually oxygen lines. Lesson: double, triple and then check again. Charles Haas, another of my animal caretakers and man of all

skills, shows up in the evening. Charles doesn't hike, but does a great job taking care of base camp as hikers and packers come through to load up for Hope Pass.



15-August-2013 Up early and filling panniers with essentials, trying to make sure everything we MUST have gets to the top. Patti Morgan, Mary Jo and Tom Blackwood, Molly Stuart and Danny Uden (all long-time Hopeless Crew members) arrive with Patti's string and the water filtration system. This system was initially devised by Jim Osmun (no longer joining us at Hope Pass on this planet). We miss him tremendously.

The system has been improved upon by Tom and is now really amazing. Tom pumped over 700 gallons of water via battery, supplemented by solar power for the Hopeless Crew Aid station this year. I realize I needed to log in one last time before I head out and beg wi-fi from the Twin Lakes Roadhouse Lodge. THANKS, folks.

We all head up to the Hope Pass Aid Station (second trip for Ed and Gary and 10 of the llamas). The hike isn't long, but it's up, then more up. We get a good early start

and make it in time for all tents to be set up before dark, water to be filtered and we all enjoy a nice dinner and sunset.

16-August-2013 The crew puts up our food tarp (keeps the food workers and food dry, as well as providing sometimes much needed shelter for the runners). We decide that it's seen its last year at the Pass since the tarp is starting to shred.

Additional volunteers arrive throughout the day. Elaine Johnson (helps in the cook tent during the race), Sylvia Murphy (supports medical), Vicky Homan (my niece) and her friend, Gopal Shah (both of whom were invaluable in the food area during the race) arrive with three of my string and additional supplies. The "grand puppy", a golden named Dillon, is also with my niece. He and Gary's new golden, Wheatley, make a cute sight playing in the meadows.

continued on page 25

Gearing up for Hope Pass, continued

Curt Prewit makes it up as well. Gail Davidson and Dave Austin, a first responder and super valuable around the aid station, arrive with Gail's two llamas loaded to the hilt. Linda and Jen come over from Winfield, new medics for our crew. She, Jen and Nadia and their support crew really did a fantastic job working the medical through the race and helped out whenever they had spare time. They also have become truly Hopeless! We have a new ham radio operator named Tad (Lance usually hikes up for the Aid Station) and he also proves to be very willing and able to pitch in whenever he can. Another welcome volunteer!

That night we share a group dinner of just the Crew and enjoy a relaxing evening around the campfire. The sleeping bags were a very welcome sight after a long day of getting ready.

17-August-2013 RACE DAY! The run starts in Leadville well before we are up. We enjoy a group breakfast of pancakes, eggs, ham and hash browns. Everyone is fueled up and read for a long day of work. The big North Face medical tent gets put up and everyone starts to get their area organized and in place. I have always called the Hopeless Crew a 'natural team' - one where people gravitate to what they like and see a task that needs done and it just works. The first runner passes through before 10:45 AM (our expected time) and we are, as they say, off to the races. Darren, Gary and Ed do the water duty walking back and forth with llama strings

carrying the five gallon jugs we use to hold the water for the aid station. It's a tough climb and these folks work hard. The food tent gets continuous business throughout the day and around mid-day medical starts to get busy.

The Golden High School kids arrive just behind the front runners and get to work filling water and electrolyte drink bottles for the runners. Elaine and I start cooking ramen and potatoes like crazy in the cook tent. We run out about 9 PM. All of the food is gone by 9:30 PM. The last runners get salt and hot chocolate. The final runner this year was helped into camp around 10:30 PM. After nourishment and first aid, the runner headed on down, accompanied by another runner and a medic, around 11:30 PM.

Throughout the race, we hear many sincere thanks and expressions of gratitude for the Hopeless Crew's work on Hope Pass. The runners always appreciate us and they make all the hard work before, during and after the race worthwhile.

18-August-2013 We are all up early and start packing up the gear for the hike down. All the llama packers know that space/weight is at a premium and everyone takes whatever they can. Once loaded, we head out. I run sweep with Darren Mauer. Everyone makes it down with no problems, except for the one person who missed the bridge turn-off and hiked a bit extra. We sort things out at base camp under threatening skies, lightning

and thunder sounding in the distance. Gary, with the longest drive, heads off to Strasburg and Curt, Ed, Charles and I drag ourselves into the race warehouse to drop off equipment and the few leftover supplies we had. The skies open and we get drenched in this effort. I-70 is again a nightmare on the way home, but we make it well before dark and get the llamas into their pens and fed. Most of the gear gets left in the trucks and trailers and we hit the hay early.

19-23-August-2013 Clean-up week. Everything has been re-washed and stored in the pole barn, ready for the next packing trip.

Finally, Gary and I want to express our deep and heartfelt thanks to all of the new and long-term members of the Hopeless Crew. It is truly a different kind of volunteer effort and your generous donation of time, gas, work, gear and so many other things is very much appreciated by the runners.

One final thought: we will always and forever need more pack llamas for this aid station. So keep this adventure in mind for 2014. If you would like to talk about participating in any way please contact either myself, Vicky Foster at vlfooster@aol.com or Gary Carlton at www.jhmfarm.com.

Photos taken by
Charles Haas &
Ed Stotts



Should You Geld Your Pack Llamas?

By Al Ellis

My wife and I originally started breeding to produce our own personal packers. It turned into a mission and a desire to provide jobs for our llama "boys" by introducing people to llama packing. We started outfitting about 14 years ago. Because of this we have been in the somewhat unique situation of needing all of the packers we were able to produce. Until recently our "boys" grew up and never left home, about 100 adult and teenage males, so we were able to watch them throughout their career. From this we have reached a few interesting conclusions, one of which we discuss here.

Don't automatically geld your intended packers; this is an irreversible action and deserves careful consideration. It has generally been accepted that males who are not to be used for breeding should be gelded. Conventional wisdom used to believe intact males could neither live together in a herd, nor work together on the trail. That was a whole lot of bunk!!

This is not to say there aren't some parameters that need to be considered: age groupings, allotted space, fighting teeth, etc.

However there can be a huge downside to gelding your packers: possible fallen pasterns and 'long bone'. We see many cases where gelded packers are given early retirement due

to fallen pasterns, the common term used to describe down in the fetlock, or hyperextension of the fetlock, or weak pastern. I acknowledge this problem is not universal, but it is widespread and serious, so why take the chance if you don't have to. We all want our partners on the trail to be with us as long as possible, and it is a sad day when we have to leave them at home.

In the past it was convenient and common practice to geld surplus males as early as 4 to 6 months of age. It was then discovered this early gelding caused the growth plates to re-

Of course, llamas being the wonderful creatures that they are, tried to do what they were asked, but the majority were physically incapable of extensive packing. Now it is recommended not to geld until the animals are full grown. This solved the growth problem,



Al Ellis of Highline Trail Llamas.



main open longer and resulted in llamas growing taller than their structure could support. This is the origin of the myth that tall llamas can't work and will break down. These poor llamas along with others that didn't meet the breeder's goals (anything but packing) were marketed as packers.

and this was the practice we followed. We only gelded the animals that were a little too aggressive in their group (12 to 20 intact males), never prior to 3 years old and up to 7 years old.

It only took a few years for us to realize the geldings were starting to break down and their

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*Should You Geld Your Pack Llamas?,
continued*

intact counterparts were going strong. We completely stopped gelding a number of years ago and every male we gelded ended up in early retirement, prior to 15 years of age and some at 12. With only a couple of exceptions, the intact males are capable of heavy duty work into their late teens. Arthritis, probably something to do with long cold (lots of -30 F and beyond) winters and many years on the trail, pretty much sets the time for the "gold watch", but most remain up on their pasterns their entire lives.

There are some considerations when keeping intact males. The main issue is having enough room for them to settle a dispute when playing ends up with someone getting mad. One acre per llama up to 10 acres is a good rule of thumb. They also need plenty of room at the feeding areas, not too different from dominant females. Spending time on the trail together absolutely re-enforces their cohesiveness as a herd. The whole situation is much simpler if there are no females around.

Age is important; keep them in their own age groups until age 4. The boys go through what we refer to as the terrible two's, the equivalent of adolescence in human teenagers. They seem to constantly want to wrestle and chase each other. As they gain size and strength, it looks scary but we feel it really helps to develop their muscle. Their chests and thighs begin to feel like they are made of steel. This

starts at age 2 to 2 ½ and lasts until 4 but some individuals take it to 6. If they are spending time on the trail together, age 4 is the norm. Even though they are approaching full grown and look tough as nails, they are just high school kids. And you don't put high schools kids in the NFL. That is, don't mix 4 year olds with older males.

You also need to really keep on top of their fighting teeth. It would be nice if they all erupted at once, or at least if they all came out at the same time in each llama, but this doesn't happen so it is usually several episodes of trimming.

Don't panic at the occasional dust ups, the speed and power they display is awesome. Fortunately serious injuries are extremely rare, and after the fight they are best buddies again.

And one final note about fallen pasterns. It seems probable that pastern strength is affected by a combination of things; genetics, weight, nutrition, overall health, but an important component is obviously hormones. I kind of think sometimes we are on the edge of some defi-

ciency, copper, boron, whatever, and the presence or lack of hormones tips the balance. Genetics could be playing two roles, structural weakness where nothing makes a difference, but also the ability to assimilate or thrive on diminished levels of some key nutrient or combo of nutrients. This could explain different outcomes in different parts of the country.

While we don't all agree on the importance of natural hormones, I think most of us agree grossly overweight llamas are almost certain to drop. Plenty of exercise is important, but carrying loads too heavy for the body structure will also cause a breakdown. A loaded llama should show no basic difference in their stride than when they aren't carrying a load. Forget the old "percent of body weight" theory.



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LLAMA CAMP 2013

By Suzy Hassler

On July 5th and 6th the Rocky Mountain Llama & Alpaca Association and the Nebraska Llama Association joined forces to host the first ever “Llama Camp” in Waco, Nebraska. The goal of the camp was to provide hands-on education about raising llamas and alpacas and to learn about their many purposes. The camp was open to anyone who had an interest in learning more about these extraordinary animals.

Participants ranged in ages from 3 to 87, some of whom were new alpaca/llama owners and others who had never been around a camelid before and attended solely to appreciate a new experience. Our youngest attendees were three year old twins; our oldest came from a local nursing home. The majority of folks came from Nebraska, but we also had campers from Colorado and South Dakota.

At any given time you would find 30 to 60 people at Buckshollow Ranch participating in various activities. There was so much to do and only two days to accomplish it. Participants were divided into teams (team Bolivia, team Argentine, team Chilean and team Peruvian) to help them keep pace moving through the many activities that were planned.

Day One started out with craft projects to get folks acquainted with working with raw fiber. At Station



#1 campers learned a simple way to dye wool. Each team was able to pick the color they wished to dye their batch, lit the small propane-powered kettle, got the water boiling and added the dye and fiber. While the cooker was going, they moved to the next table to learn to card fiber.



Carding disentangles, cleans and intermixes fibers to produce a continuous web of fiber called a batt. Camp-goers were very cooperative, took turns, respected the equipment and got very creative in their colored blends. After carding, campers went back to their boiling kettle, added vinegar to set the color and cooled the fiber, setting it out in the sun to dry. Then they made their way to another station.

At Station # 2 campers learned to craft felted eggs by first making a

ball with raw wool. Dish soap was added, then the balls were dipped into water and “squished” until they felt compact enough to place into plastic Easter eggs. The plastic eggs were then dropped into socks and placed in the dryer. The heat, soap and agitation produced the finished felted product. Ladies from the Fairview Nursing Home at Fairmont came out to get a taste of llama camp life. Besides getting up close and personal with some of the animals, teens Courtney Pecka and Kaitlyn Winter patiently instructed the ladies in the art of egg felting. They had a good time being included in some of the activities.

Station # 3 was a wet felting craft. On a piece of freezer wrap, participants made a big felted circle of raw wool blends combined with a glue and water mixture. They then flipped this onto small ceramic bowls, molded it around the sides and set it in the sun to dry. Afterward they used paints to finish decorating. These bowls and the felted eggs would be entered at their respective County and State Fairs in the youth and open divisions under felted and group projects. For the Girl & Boy Scouts this was a requirement for their badge.

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Llama Camp-2013, continued

Station # 4 was animal grooming. Participants learned the proper way, from start to finish, to prepare animals for the show ring including blowing the foreign matter from their fiber, shampooing and brushing them.

After lunch, everyone got involved in "training". By training, I mean the campers and the animals. This was more than a little interesting! Some of campers had only

seen llamas in a zoo. And some were a bit shy of the animals due to size. And some had no fear factor at all so we had to hold them back.

We educated campers on safety, kept them in pairs and started off with simple tasks like how to pet, how to change pace, how to back up. Backing proved to be a challenge as the campers all wanted to grab onto those long dinosaur necks and push the animals back. The funny part was some of the animals knew what was expected of them and they were looking at the campers like - seriously? "Just tell me what you want, and let's do it!" Later in the day the campers learned how to get an animal through tunnels,

walk into deadfall, jump and go through a water feature.

The best part of this training was watching their faces - both the

animals and the campers. Once folks learned that the animal's tail goes up when rewarded, the hugs and kisses being exchanged were endless. Earlier in the day some campers were making comments

like - "did you see that, she just kissed that llama" and by about 3 PM, they were having heated discussions over who got what animal, and why they should be the one walking it, and hugs and kisses

were happening everywhere.

After supper camp-goers were allowed to meet the babies; two crias

age 5 and 9 months. The crias had not been haltered trained, and were just beginning their 'kindergarten' class. Older kids explained to the group what they were about to do. Imagine a group of 25 folks, and two crias. By the time they were done, the crias were haltered and walking placidly. The leader of the group, Stephanie, had them all singing, playing red light green light and doing haunch turns.

Before we called it a night, we went back to the obstacle course with the crias. By the end, those two crias were jumping, going through tires and loading up. The campers played games, were noisy enough for most the neighbors in a two mile section to hear them, and formed new friendships. At midnight we had to shut them down, because we were tired. And their cell phone batteries were dying. Everyone and everything needed to plug in for the night.

On the morning of Day Two, we handed out the Llama Camp T-shirts: a sketch of a llama sitting on a log roasting a marsh mellow over the fire with the tent and

moon in background. Then we continued with simple education using a beach ball. Questions were written on the ball. When you caught the ball the question by your right thumb was the one you had to answer. Next it was time for the Llama/Alpaca walk-n-talk. We went down by the river and found a big open area where folks could work on their showmanship skills.

By now we had a group of about 30, mostly kids. The campers were talking and laughing as they prac-



continued on next page

Llama Camp-2013, continued

ticed picking up feet, showing teeth, backing - just about everything they had learned the day before. Now we were making progress! For showmanship, campers broke down into three groups and the older kids



were put in charge. They learned proper spacing, how to hold the lead rope, and how to present to a judge.

Then it was back up to the farm, for cool drinks, and back into the teams to finish the projects. It was organized madness. Teams went through the four stations again. This time, Station 4 was a picture frame craft project. Participants used their carded colorful wool blends from the day before, traced a picture frame on freezer wrap, set the wool blends on the paper and with glue-and-water mixture to make a personalized picture frame which was then set out in the sun to dry.

After lunch a pack demonstration was held; how to properly put on and take off a pack and how to tie a safety knot. And we learned that when you stuff a pack, you should

give the clothes back that you took a year ago from someone's stall because you didn't have your pack filled out at the time!!!

And then it was all out practice, practice, practice. We had enough animals that everyone could lead their own. It was amazing to watch as the three year old twins, knee high little people, would just go unhook an animal and start taking it through the course. Up on the bridge they went, no fear, over the

tires, into the trailer. Some parents were biting their nails. They were just amazed that their child, who was afraid earlier, was now totally in charge.

A closing ceremony was held to thank everyone for attending. Everyone had earned the LLAMA CAMP patch. You would have thought it was an OSCAR, they were so excited.



So, to pull this off, what did it take? 28 gallons of lemonade, 22 gallons of sun tea, double those numbers in water, 90+ hot dogs, 10 pounds of breakfast sausage, a roaster full of sloppy joes, and watermelons. What was the end result? 60+ youth and adults and animals educated, trained and bonded.

And we could not have done this without ALL of our amazing volunteers who donated time, energy, and equipment. Special thanks to Robert and Catherine Steele and Jim and Geri Rutledge, the Camp Directors. They were the behind the scenes organizers, leaders and a bit mentally challenged by the end of Day Two. Also, we give a shout out to Stephanie and Mary Kate Steele for helping teach during the two-day event

Thanks to the Nebraska Llama Association and Rocky Mountain Llama & Alpaca Association for sponsoring the 2013 Llama Camp. We have great memories and experiences to share for a long, long time.



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A Postscript From The Editors

Thank you to everyone who submitted an article for this Fall edition of The Journal. The diversity of information and personal stories is truly amazing, as are the variety of writing styles. And, the photos: WOW!

Keep them coming, *Ron and Kathy*

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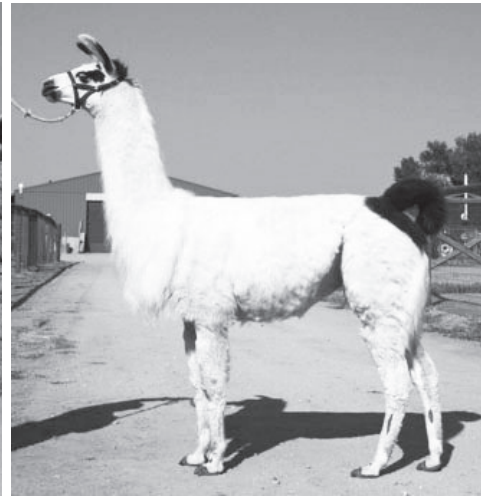
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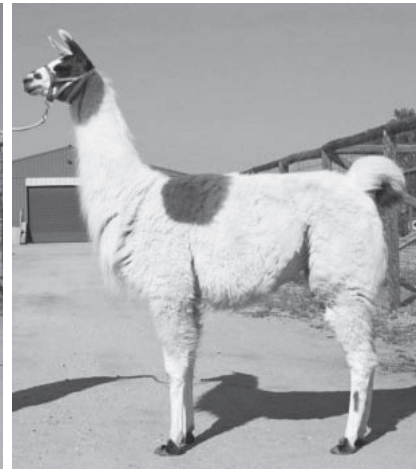
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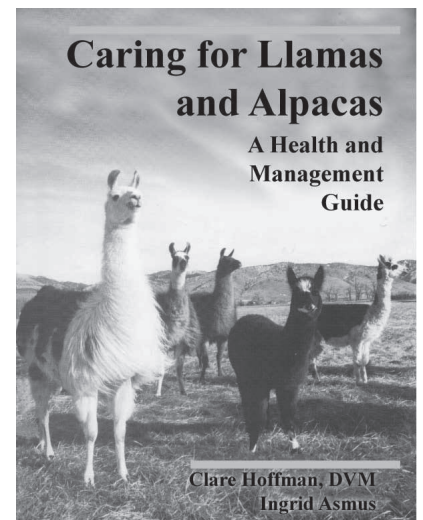
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