

The Journal of RMLA

RMLA 
 Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association



In This Edition

Let's Start from the Beginning!	2	Yellowstone in the Times of COVID-19.....	17
Editors' Corner	4	Consistency is Key in Training	19
The Diversity of Fiber	6	The Positively Perfect Panel!	21
Memory Lane	9	Ask The CSU VET Team (II).....	24
Plenty of Time to Build a New Website	10	New Website Needed!	26
Ask The CSU VET Team (I).....	11	Quarantine with Llamas	27
Packing During A Pandemic	12	RMLA Events	Back Cover
Tough Times Never Last	13	Cover Photo	4
Take the Mystery Out of Llama Judging	14	Advertisers' Index	26
		Journal Advertising Rates,	4

Let's Start from the Beginning!

Morgan Barba - Chair, Youth Committee

Training a llama for performance, whether this is your first time or twentieth time, can be a daunting task. Every animal is different and has a different personality than the llama you previously trained. I have been honored to be able to train an Argentine llama, owned by Sonja Boeff from Zander Farms, for the past couple of months. Mira is an absolute joy to work with as she has the calm demeanor and curiosity I often look for in performance animals. However, even the calmest animals will have those off days or stubborn habits. In this quick little article, I would like to offer some training tips that I have found to be useful from a youth point of view.



One of the first things I always remember to emphasize is patience. While it can become hard to remain patient when your animal continues to avoid an obstacle you have been working on for fifteen minutes, it is best to remain calm. Your energy transfers down the lead rope to your animal, which will begin to affect it too. If I know I am beginning to lose my

patience, I either hand my animal off to someone else to try (my dad in this case) or simply tie my animal up and walk away for a minute. However, with either approach I take I always come back to my animal in order to make more progress. This is because I do not want my animal to learn the bad habit of acting up so it does not have to complete the obstacle you are having it work on.

Another tip I find to be both beneficial for the handler and the animal is to have positive reinforcement. For me, this means having apple horse treats on hand in my pocket to reward my animal when it completes something right or to talk in a positive tone. Talking in a harsh, mean voice will begin to affect the animal's willingness to complete tasks because it feels as though it is not doing it right. The only time I use a

harsher voice is to correct my animal's behavior when it begins to act unruly. I find using a positive tone of voice actually makes me feel better too! While there



are many forms to reward your animal with, I find food to be a strong motivator for a lot of animals. For example, Mira is very food motivated, which I use to my advantage when I make her do things that are new and unfamiliar

for her. I do not always give my animal a treat or a bite of grain when it completes a task. I also like to pet or give them a belly rub as it helps build up a connection between us.

Finally, I always like to remind youth this is supposed to be fun! There of course is a time to work, but I like to allow my animals a chance to either graze for a little while or take them for a walk in order for us both to have a positive end. When a handler and an animal become overly frustrated, it no longer becomes fun. Therefore, my rule of thumb is to spend about fifteen minutes of good training (practicing obstacles, showmanship, touching, etc.) and then about ten minutes for grazing or for a walk. During this time, I no longer bother my animal as it gives it a few minutes to relax and just enjoy themselves.

Overall, you as the trainer have to decide what methods work best for you. Training a new animal can be scary and yet so fun at the same time. Just remember to always stay calm, patient, and positive!



-- Board of Directors --

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer	At-Large
Lougene Baird 631 Silver Springs Cir Cottonwood AZ 86326 808-747-5023 lougenebaird@outlook.com	Linda Hayes 9660 N. Antelope Meadows Drive Prescott Valley AZ 86315 970-379-4576 llamas@skybeam.com	Jon Barba 12540 Racine St. Henderson CO 80640 720-467-2181 jwbarba48@gmail.com	Ron Hinds 5704 Canyon Trail Elizabeth CO 80107 303-646-1320 alpacaron@gmail.com	Geri Rutledge 2209 Rd 9 Waco NE 68460 402-366-9304 buckshollow@wildblue.net

The Journal of RMLA[©] is a quarterly publication of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association ("RMLA"). The RMLA Journal Committee and the Board of Directors reserve the right to select and edit all articles and advertisements submitted.

The information in The Journal is not intended to be a substitute for qualified professional advice. Readers are encouraged to consult with their own veterinarian, accountant or attorney regarding any questions concerning their animals or business operations.

RMLA is not responsible for any losses resulting from readers' failure to heed this caution. The views expressed by the authors of articles are not necessarily those of the Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association, Inc., its officers, directors or members.

Reproduction of Journal Articles: Articles may be reproduced (unless otherwise noted) after obtaining written permission from the author. The author and The Journal of RMLA must be given credit for the reproduction of the original work.

-- Chairpersons, Active Committees --

Bookstore

Co-Chairs

Marilyn Arnold
303-841-5126
bookstore@rmla.com
Lougene Baird

Education & Outreach

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay
406-580-5954
education-outreach@rmla.com
Liaison Ron Hinds

Finance

Marilyn Arnold
303-841-5126
rmlaaccounting@yahoo.com
Liaison Jon Barba

Membership

Dan Schreiner
307-265-1780
membership@rmla.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

e-Communications:

Facebook

Morgan Barba
facebook@rmla.com
Liaison Jon Barba

Website

Ron Hinds
303-646-1320
web@rmla.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

E-Blasts

Co-Editors:
Content-**Kathy Stanko**
Layout-**Ron Hinds**
rmlaeditor@gmail.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Events/Marketing

Mary Wickman
719-687-1423 719-651-8871
events@rmla.com
Liaison Geri Rutledge

Fairplay Llama Event

OPEN
Co-chairs needed
Liaison Ron Hinds

Fiber

Kathy Stanko
970-256-7716
rmlafiber@gmail.com
Liaison Geri Rutledge

The Journal

Co-Editors:

Content-**Kathy Stanko**
Layout-**Ron Hinds**
rmlaeditor@gmail.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Library

Dick Williams
406-826-2201
bellama@blackfoot.net
Liaison Jon Barba

Nominations & Elections

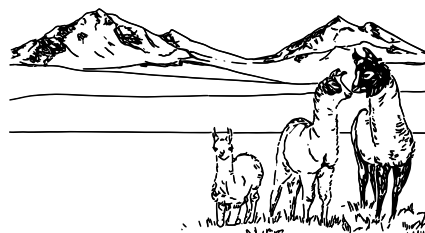
Christina Abel
620-626-8743
luckyonyx4@hotmail.com
Liaison Linda Hayes

Pack

Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay
406-580-5954
llamas@yellowstonesafari.com
Liaison Lougene Baird

Youth and 4-H

Morgan Barba
720-467-2181
RMLAyouth@rmla.com
Liaison Jon Barba



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 26

Ad Type	Width x Height	Member	Non-Member
Business Card	3.5"x2"	\$15	\$18
1/4 Page Horiz.	7.5" x 2"	\$24	\$36
1/4 Page Vert.	3.5" x 4.5"	\$24	\$36
1/3 Page Horiz.	7.5" x 3"	\$35	\$48
1/3 Page Vert.	2.5" x 10"	\$35	\$48
Half Page	7.5" x 5"	\$48	\$72
Full Page	7.5" x 10"	\$78	\$117
Two Page Spread	15" x 10"	\$200	\$300

- **Classified Ads**—Member \$10 for up to 50 words
Non-Member \$25 for up to 50 words. Ads must be related to the Camelid industry.
- 25 cents for each word over 50 for both Member and Non-Member.
- Ad rates are quoted per issue. Lock in the current rate by purchasing the same ad for four consecutive issues and receive a 10% discount.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ARTICLE AND AD SUBMISSION:** Email all text and/or graphics content to: RMLAEDITOR@GMAIL.COM. 'Camera ready' ads and articles should be submitted via email in .PDF, or any text readable by MS Word. Images alone should be submitted in .jpeg(.jpg) or .tiff. Quality photos start at 1-2MB.
- We suggest ads and article graphics be submitted in color at 300dpi. Both will be converted to grayscale for printing.
- For ad design or graphics that require scanning: Use address: RMLA/Ron Hinds -5704 Canyon Trail, Elizabeth, CO 80107-7814 or email to AD-DESIGN@RMLA.COM. Phone: 303-646-1320.
- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAYMENT:** Send your check, payable to RMLA, along with a copy of the ad to:
- RMLA - 5704 Canyon Trail - Elizabeth, CO 80107 - 303-646-1320 - RMLAADVERTISE@GMAIL.COM
- Payment and ad copy must be received prior to submission deadline. See the table above for dates.

Journal Staff:

Content - Kathy Stanko
 Layout and Design - Ron Hinds } Co-Editors
 Email - RMLAEditor@gmail.com
 Advertising – Staff, RMLAAdvertise@gmail.com
 Proof Reader - Marilyn Arnold

EDITORS' CORNER

Have you noticed: everything is changing every day, sometimes more than once a day! We find it difficult to keep our heads on straight. Ron and I have put together a Summer Issue that we hope you enjoy. But that, too, has changed a bit. This issue is 28 pages so no need to go looking for the other 4!

We have received many great articles from our members. We especially enjoyed the article about Lars Garrison's adventures at the library with a llama. Perhaps many of you have a similar story you could share with all of us. The article brought back many memories and gave us a moment to chuckle. Thankfully, everyone survived!

It has been many issues since we have published an article from another publication. But the article by Darrell Anderson, Taking the Mystery out of Judging, was just too informative to pass up. No matter how you interact with your llamas, this article has something you can take away and use.

Finally, the team at CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital has written a great article on the differences between using Bute or Meloxicam for pain management in our llamas. They do work differently in the body. And perhaps your vet can help you determine which might be best in any given situation.



Thank you all for your contributions to the Journal and to RMLA as a whole. Everyone, stay safe, stay well and enjoy your animals.



Kathy and Ron

Cover Photo:
 See article on page 9.

Letter from Your RMLA Board

Thank goodness! A beautiful summer is before us. We live in a much different world now than it was as the last Board letter was written. We hope you are all healthy and looking forward to our next season.

Your Journal staff and contributing members have put together a wonderful issue that encourages and reflects on the many opportunities we all have as we deal with the current way our lives have changed. Thank you to all who have shared thoughts and special things to do and accomplish with your animals. We encourage you to take the time to read this Journal in its entirety.

You will see three, similar but different, articles on training written by Morgan Barba, Linda Hayes and Marty McGee Bennett. Take a little from these articles and you will have a new look at training as told by these three experienced people.

Get up – Get out – and Get active. This we can do regardless of being sequestered while we continue to maintain the suggested six feet of separation. Check out Alexa Metrick's article on how to safely Pack during a Pandemic. This is good information to help you get moving with your animals. Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay comments on the return of the public visiting our first National Park – Yellowstone. We can hope other National Parks will follow suit.

If the week has you staying home, read what some of our talented fiber members are doing - inside and outside - in the Diversity of Fiber article! You will pick up on some ideas to keep you busy while still having fun with your animals and their fiber. Perhaps, you will get a few things done that have long been set aside for another time.

And if you really want to do something daring – check out talented Katy White's article on re-building your Website. What a challenge. This will either convince you to give it a try or stick with your current IT person. Either way, it is amazing what Katy accomplished. After you enjoy the article, check out her website.

The last of many other articles written for you are the closing words by Al and Sondra Ellis entitled *Quarantine with Llamas*. This article pointedly wraps it up. We are the luckiest folks around to be able to connect with our animals who bring kindness, peace and enjoyment to our lives each day.

* * * * Two items of interest from the June 1, 2020 Directors Meeting * * * *

- 2020 Director election schedule will call for nominations in late June, ballots to be mailed to members in late July and ballots due to Election Committee in mid-August. Two Directors to be elected this year.
- Because of the Covid-19 virus and the requirements for social distancing there will not be a face-to-face Annual Meeting. The Board will begin preparing for a teleconference meeting, details to be announced when finalized.

Stay safe, stay well and know you are appreciated! Lougene



Truly AmaZing

is what the volunteers & contributors of Southwest Llama Rescue can

accomplish. *Help Is Always Needed: your time and money go a long way.

*Contact: www.SouthwestLlamaRescue.org or SouthwestLlamaRescue@yahoo.com or 184 Hoofbeat Trl, Kerrville, TX 78028

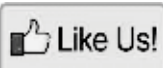
*Designate SWLR as your charity while shopping online at such stores as:

smile.amazon.com

Come On! - You spend the same... it brings in money for SWLR!



SWLR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supported 100% by donations. Ad paid for by SWLR



www.facebook.com/Rescue.Llamas

The Diversity of Fiber

By Kathy Stanko
Chair, Fiber Committee

Towards the end of March, I sent an email out to the RMLA Fiber Community: *Good Morning everyone. So here we are, 'stuck in place' for the most part. For my part, I am thankful that I have 17 llamas that need attention of every kind. This week I began working with 2 each day. It is fun and it gets me outside and I feel like I am getting something done. Each one requires a different type of attention. Some need to be reminded about haltering and walking, so I do that. We have a couple of skittish and head-shy guys. So I am using my Camelidynamics training to get them more comfortable with my presence.*

Most need grooming, so I do what each can tolerate and remind them that I can touch everywhere on their bodies. My ultimate goal is to get them used to a lot of leg touching so I can cut out all the leg-wool mats! I feel like I have 6 months to get all those legs cleaned up! So far, I have 1 leg done on two different llamas. I have lots of time and patience!

Now, let's have some fun. What are you all doing to keep yourselves entertained during this time?

One good thing about llamas and their fiber: you can go your own direction and do your own thing. Our members have not been going to fiber shows or festivals as they, too, have been cancelled and postponed.

But our members have been fulfilling their passion for fiber in other ways. Read on.

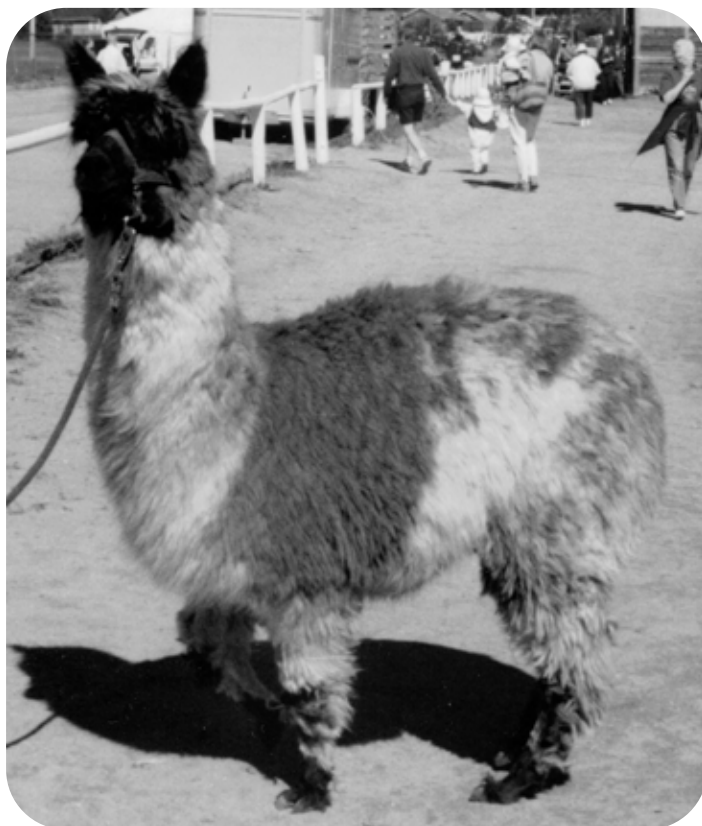
From Katy White, Midway UT

I've inventoried and packaged my stock of roving, trying to be ready for whenever we can be out and about again. And I and my assistant website designer, Seamus, have spent a good deal of time updating the ranch website. The previous site was old and not mobile ready, so I've converted to a new theme and rebuilt the pages. Now I am trying to learn how to set up a Woocommerce shop for my llama products.

Editor's note: see Katy's article *Plenty of Time to Build a New Website*, page 10.

From Chris Switzer, Estes Park, CO

Very glad to have projects to work on. I spin a little, knit some, weave lots, and also work on hand picking fleece (reddish brown alpaca plus white Suri). I find I need to work with my hands. I need to think about



something else besides the news. I need to look forward and keep a good attitude. With just 1 old llama plus 2 alpacas (1 old, 1 middle aged) we do not have many chores. The llama and alpacas are so happy to get onto the lawn in front of our house that has some new green grass!!

Imagine brown & white, 2 ply handspun alpaca yarn. It is variegated in an irregular color scheme. Some of the handspun is darkish, so put with dark brown alpaca yarn for warp. The other is lightish, so put with off-white warp. Woven for scarves, 10 epi in the reed, with a balanced beat so that both warp and weft show. The "look" of the scarves is texture, but they are smooth to the touch.

When you spin, just take a handful of the brown, then some white, and repeat in no particular order. Plying will also add to the variegation. For knitting, a 2 ply is needed; for weaving, a single can be used on the shuttle, or a 2 ply.

P.S. This alpaca was pinto with spots (!) and she had 1 male cria with the same colors.

From Nancy Wilson, Camp Verde, AZ

I have plenty of fiber projects to keep me busy! I have

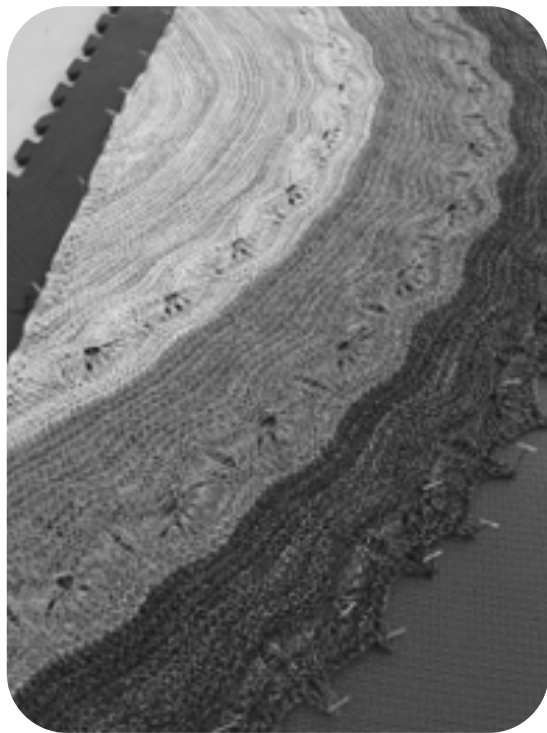
continued on next page

three knitting projects going. One is a handspun scarf using an alpaca/East Friesian wool blend that I dyed. Second is a capelet that I'm using some commercial spun Madeline Tosh yarn, and third is a KAL I'm doing with the Verde Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild. We're all knitting the Odyssey shawl from Ravelry in different yarns.

Note: KAL is short for knit-along and is a group activity, where hundreds of knitters are working the same pattern at the same time. It is a great way to work a pattern with the support of hundreds of knitters all using different yarns.

Our plan is to display the shawls at the show we put up at the Sedona Public Library. I'm using handspun. It's yarn I've spun drafting two fibers together. I'm using a dyed merino braid that I bought in Illinois last year visiting family. Then the other fibers are white Polwarth, tan llama/wool/mohair, and a dark gray llama/alpaca/wool blend.

Also, I've been watching some rigid heddle DVDs and hoping to get my loom warped soon. I'll use commercial yarn for the warp and handspun for the weft. The Saori philosophy really resonates with me, so I'll be weaving random yarns.



Odyssey shawl. I'm using hands-on. It's yarn I've spun drafting two fibers together, I'm using a dyed merino braid that I bought in Illinois last year visiting family. Then the other fibers are white Polwarth, tan llama/wool/mohair, and a dark gray llama/alpaca/wool.



Rocky Mountain Llamas

Halters, Leads, Packing Supplies

Timberline Pack Systems

Books, DVDs, and more

All Our Gear is Trail-Tested, Llama-Approved

www.rockymtllamas.com

303-530-5575 Niwot, Colorado

Outfitting Llamas Since 1980

And finally, I am chair of the group planning Arizona Fiber Arts Retreat, to be held in Prescott, AZ, January 20-23, 2021. This is now an RMLA event so you will be receiving details as they become available.

From Lynda Liptak, Albuquerque, NM

I sure enjoyed reading your notes; you inspired me to send out a story as well. Albuquerque is greening up now and the llamas are getting more playful. I love watching them cavort around and pronk and play king of the hill on a small mound we made. We have 11 llamas now with 7 being recent (since late November) rescues (wild and two came in pregnant) and they need all the time I can offer. My volunteers and I have done a lot of gentle handling. Two just went on their first walk with training packs; I am very proud of their progress and the work we have done with them. I decided to keep these two so they are getting extra attention. I also use Camelidynamics techniques with a little blend of my own style. I plan to watch Marty's online classes to keep motivated. Am sorry we have to wait a year before she comes back to the Santa Fe area.

continued on next page



I will need to shear these newbies soon and that will be a fun trial especially for the females who are pregnant and I feel challenged to gain their trust.

I did put my hands on my old stash of alpaca fiber just yesterday only to surrender it to SWLR for Baxter to felt up blankets. She has a new felting machine to try out. I tried to cram 27 lbs into one large microwave box by squeezing out all the air I could and managed to hold the box closed with gorilla tape (lots of it). I know vacuum bags work nicely to compress and are good moth protection for carded and spun yarn, but they are pricey enough for me to keep them for just storage.

SWLR is a great cause I am happy to donate my precious fiber to and I need to recognize that I can't get to everything I want to.


My daughter came in from San Francisco just before the city lock down and we quarantined together at home here in Albuquerque. She wanted to do a knitting project for her baby and my first grandchild! We knit up a couple of beautiful baby bibs (yes with wool - not cotton, although spinning cotton is fun too when I get a clean stash fresh from the field in Las Cruces, NM). They came out lovely. I had to start out with something simple before I do the baby sweater since I am a part time knitting practitioner with low end skill. I have so much handspun from past years my focus is to move it from hanging on my pegboard looking colorful to getting it on a body looking more gorgeous and useful.

From Kathy Stanko, Whitewater, CO




Our llamas are sheared! And during this process using scissors, electric clippers, and a lot of patience we now have many 'naked' legs! Still more 'leg mats' in my future but I will get there and soon the llamas' legs will be mat-free.

I have been knitting shawlettes. These are not full-length shawls as I do not have the patience for that. Shawlette is smaller, more like a summer evening shoulder wrap. Prior to this adventure, I had not knitted a triangle shawl. Once I got the hang of how you start one: creating a knitted tab of sorts at the top from which the entire thing grows before your very eyes. I am still learning about keeping my tension loose so the whole thing flows. The one in the photo has several rows of beaded yarn around the bottom. In the center, from top to bottom is about 16 inches. Please ignore the loose yarn that has not been tied off yet; a small detail that I put off until the very, very last possible moment.





Jerry Dunn
Bear Track Farm
Llama Training Center
303-277-1129 BTllamas@outlook.com



PACK'EM**STACK'EM****DRIVE'EM**

Memory Lane

Where our “old timers” tell interesting tidbits from the past.

By Linda Hayes,
Old and Current Timer!

The following is by Lars Garrison. Lars lived in Vermont and had over 700 llamas and alpacas in his 22 years in the business. He did a lot of buying and selling and was one of the movers and shakers in the early days of llamas. He has recently retired and moved to the Rocky Mountain area.

One children’s day, Lars’ wife was to read *Is Your Momma a Llama*. The library was in a 1905 mansion. The event was on the second-floor children’s reading room.

Here is how Lars remembers it.

“I took WMF Emperor Alexander, well trained, loved attention, showed very well, statuesque. The stairway was eight feet wide, three flights, two landings, hardwood floor, slick. Up was fine, he had used the stairs in our home as practice so no problem anticipated. In the reading room, 25 kids got to pet him. Asked him to lay down, which he did on first request. Half a dozen of the kids used him for a pillow. Two went to sleep!

Half an hour later; time to leave. He stood up, went down the hall, took the first stair, second stair, front foot slipped so he jumped about seven feet to the next landing. Luckily, no one was in the way. Kids thought it was part of the show. Looked at the next flight and immediately jumped but slipped on landing. Went to the third flight, took the stairs one by one and looked around the stairs, seemed to say “I told you so!”

The story was in the local paper, got us an invitation to the library every year after that, specifically asking for Emperor Alexander. Turned out to be the best marketing tool we had.”

PS: P.S. Lars makes the hats he is wearing in the photos.



Plenty of Time to Build a New Website

By Katy White - Pear Tree Llamas

In January of this year (before all the virus stuff hit) I had decided to completely revamp my website. I knew my website was old, static, and not mobile friendly. Plus it did not have an online shop component. It took a lot more time to do this than I realized, seeing as I knew very little about what I was doing to begin with. The website finally went live in May.

I decided to build the website on a WordPress template. However, there are umpteen million templates available and selecting one took a very long time as there are many issues to consider. I use Bluehost as my hosting company, and they have a service called Blue Sky which will assist you with WordPress development. For a monthly retainer fee you can call Blue Sky as many times as you like during the week for help and guidance with WordPress problems or questions. Their expertise is invaluable. They have three different levels of service, the one I chose being the most expensive. For my purposes it was worth it.

With their help I backed up my old website, took it down, purchased and installed the new template, installed a "Coming Soon" page and put the whole thing in maintenance mode. I worked on the pages one at a time. A big issue was adding a Woocommerce Shop page to my website for my llama products. Because this supports financial transactions, it was necessary to convert the site to a secure site and also to add a CDN (certified data network) to make the pages run faster. (There is an additional subscription charge for a secure site, but Bluehost will install a Cloudflare CDN for their hosting customers for no charge). I also added a Contact Us page.

I should note that my website is really pretty simple. And certainly the steps I went through to bring it online would probably sound ridiculously easy and straightforward to someone experienced in website design work, which I am not. And I could have hired a website designer to do the whole thing. But I wanted to go through the learning experience of doing it, because at my age (75) it is good to make an old brain learn new things. I don't use a lot of bells and whistles on the site - no streaming video, no flashing banners, none of the other eye-catching gimmicks that my site would certainly support if I wanted them. But I don't. There is still work I need to do on it. I'm not happy with some of the images and need to take/get

some better pictures. But since it has been live I have been contacted by a sheep owner wanting to buy a guard llama (I sent her to Southwest Llama Rescue), the Salt Lake Hogle Zoo wanting to buy llamas (I also sent them to Southwest Llama rescue), and a couple wanting to book a llama ranch tour and buy yarn. So I guess the site is working for me.

In the photo you will see my assistant website designer. He is terribly helpful, especially if you rub his tummy properly. His name is Seamus.



h h



**Antelope Alpacas
Fiber Arts Center**
303-646-YARN (9276)

Fiber Arts Resource Center
Yarns, Fiber, Clothing, Blankets
Fiber Arts Supplies & Classes
Knit, Spin, Weave, Crochet, Felt

360 Main Street
Elizabeth, CO 80107
AntelopeAlpacas@aol.com
www.AntelopeAlpacas.com

Lothlorien Llamas

Dick & Jeanne Williams
P.O. Box 1070
Plains, MT 59859
(406) 826-2201
bcllama@blackfoot.net
Packing & Raising Llamas
Since 1983



Ask The CSU VET Team (I): *Bute or Meloxicam?*

Rachael Lyons, DVM - Livestock Medicine and Surgery Resident - Colorado State University

Phenylbutazone (commonly referred to as “bute”) and meloxicam are both non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that are used in camelids to reduce pain, fever, and inflammation. Both are relatively inexpensive and can be given orally, making them practical for owners and veterinarians to administer. So how do we choose between the two? Studies have shown that meloxicam provides longer term NSAID therapy in llamas compared to phenylbutazone. Additionally, these drugs have variations in their mechanisms of action and therefore different predilection for possible side effects.

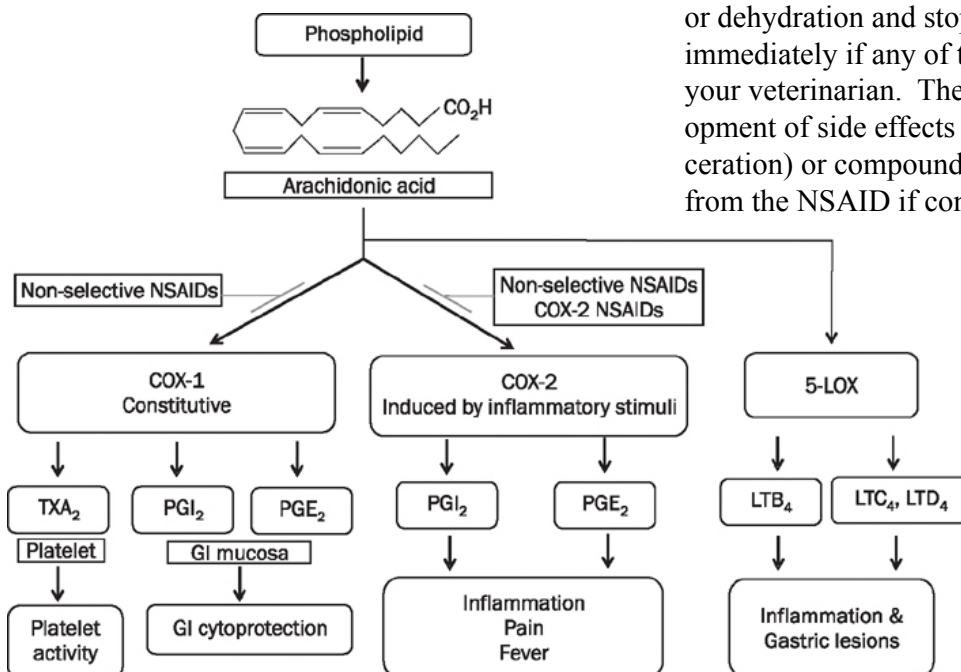
Meloxicam is a cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) selective inhibitor, whereas phenylbutazone is a non-selective COX inhibitor (meaning it inhibits both COX-1 and COX-2 enzymes). These enzymes are part of the arachidonic acid pathway, which is a major mechanism for the production of pain and inflammatory mediators in the body. Refer to the diagram below to review the arachidonic acid pathway and to see where non-selective COX inhibitors (phenylbutazone) vs COX-2 selective inhibitors (meloxicam) exert their effects.

However, not all of the end products of this pathway are harmful, and some of the prostaglandins serve key

protective functions in the body. While non-selective NSAIDs, like phenylbutazone, decrease the production of harmful prostaglandins, they will also decrease the production of protective prostaglandins. For example, PGI₂ and PGE₂ are important in maintaining mucosal blood flow and mucous secretion in the gastrointestinal tract of mammals. This is one reason why gastric ulcers (C3 ulcers in camelids) can develop as a side effect in animals treated with phenylbutazone.

Research in other species has shown that while COX-2 selective inhibitors are not completely free from GI-related side effects, there is a greater GI safety profile for drugs like meloxicam in comparison to non-selective cyclooxygenase inhibitors like phenylbutazone. NSAIDs can also cause kidney damage by inhibiting the production of prostaglandins responsible for regulating renal blood flow.

It is important to monitor your camelid closely if he or she is receiving a NSAID, whether or not it is meloxicam or phenylbutazone, especially if he or she is being treated for a prolonged period of time. Monitor your llama or alpaca for development of diarrhea, black/tarry stool, colic (abdominal pain), inappetence, lethargy, or dehydration and stop administration of the NSAID immediately if any of these signs are observed and call your veterinarian. These signs could be related to development of side effects in the GI tract (such as gastric ulceration) or compound the risk of damage to the kidney from the NSAID if concurrent dehydration is present.



https://synapse.koreamed.org/ViewImage.php?Type=F&aid=7518&id=F1&afn=28_KJG_67_6_300&fn=kjg-67-300-g001_0028KJG

Packing During A Pandemic

by Alexa Metrick, editor of Pack Animal Magazine

Editors' Gratitude: We want to thank Alexa for sharing this article and photo with us. Working together, organization along side organization and people along side people, will get us through these times.

COVID-19 has completely altered the outlook for the 2020 packing season, abruptly and significantly. In the summer issue of Pack Animal, a number of subscribers wrote in to explain how the pandemic has altered their summer plans; unsurprisingly, the outfitters have been affected more drastically than the recreational packers, and the more urban or suburban packers are feeling the effects more acutely than the rural folks.

It is important for all of us to remember that our personal experience, while valid, is not necessarily the same as any other packer. For example, here on Colorado's Front Range, our trails are seeing an incredible increase in traffic and we need to alter our behavior quite a bit to ensure that everyone stays safe and that our public lands hold up under the onslaught. Packers in Wyoming, where the population density is significantly different, may not need to change much of their behavior this summer. However, we all need to understand that the ripple effects of this will most likely be around long past the summer months, and proceed with compassion, both for our fellow outdoor enthusiasts and our precious public lands.

In an effort to anticipate the pandemic's influence on outdoor recreation, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics worked with its research partner, Pennsylvania State University, to help everyone from land managers to outfitters to outdoor enthusiasts make responsible decisions. Their preliminary findings show that group size has dropped, people are staying closer to home to recreate, and people are taking less risk when they head outside. Learn more here: <https://lnt.org/research-resources/leave-no-trace-covid-19-research/>

All of these changes are in line with the recommendations outlined by the newly-formed Recreate Responsibly Coalition, a group of nonprofits, outdoor businesses, and land managers who are working together to educate people on how to recreate responsibly. The coalition's six guidelines are:

#1. Know Before You Go: Check the status of the place you want to visit. If it is closed, don't go. If it's crowded, have a Plan B.

#2. Plan Ahead: Prepare for facilities to be closed, pack lunch and bring essentials like hand sanitizer and a face covering.

#3. Practice Physical Distancing: Adventure only with your immediate household. Be prepared to cover your



What will packing in the age of COVID-19 look like? Emma Stensland wears a mask while leading llamas up the trail. Photo by Toby Stensland

nose and mouth and give others space. If you are sick, stay home.

#4. Play It Safe: Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury. Search and rescue operations and health care resources are both strained.

#5. Stay Close To Home: This is not the time to travel long distances to recreate. Most places are only open for day use.

#6. Leave No Trace: Respect public lands and communities and take all your garbage with you.

Learn more here: <https://www.recreateresponsibly.org>.

As we head into the packing season, I urge everyone to give plenty of thought to all of these issues before hitting the trail. Stay close to home, plan less risky trips just to be on the safe side, and practice Leave No Trace principles to take care of our public lands. And even if you're not ready to head outside, please remember that we are all needed to protect our access to public lands—Alaska seems to be a hotbed of pack llama bans right now, but all of our public lands are being threatened in a myriad of ways and need your advocacy. Visit www.packanimalmagazine.com/read_publiclandadvocacy.php to learn more.



Tough Times Never Last

A Message to RMLA Youth

Jon Barba, RMLA Board Member - Liaison to Youth and 4-H Committee

Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do was written in 1984 by Dr. Robert Schuller. Even though this book was written before any of our current RMLA youth members were born, the critical takeaway is relevant today as it was over 30 years ago. No matter how tough times get, you have the potential to achieve your best life. The impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our communities, including this one, is unprecedented. While things are changing rapidly, this show season is turning out to be anything but ordinary.

Earlier this year, the RMLA Board created a new Facebook Page where we would be able to share information about upcoming shows, post informational articles, and share the accomplishments of our members. We also started the new youth program with an emphasis on recognizing the efforts our youth members put into this hobby. We had big plans — then the pandemic hit. Show superintendents have made the difficult decisions to cancel or postpone their events out of concerns for the safety and well-being of our community and the general public. For many, including my family, these shows are the highlight of the summer. Showing llamas and alpacas is truly a family affair for us. While we certainly love the challenge of competing, these shows and gatherings were also where we see old friends, meet new ones, laugh, joke, and have fun. Not having the opportunity to do what we all enjoy is hard, but there are other ways to connect and stay involved. Right now, try to focus on those.

I recently had a conversation with some of our youth members regarding the “lost year” we seem to be stuck in. Understandably, they were very disappointed. It is difficult to focus on other things when we are unable to enjoy what we are passionate about doing. I reminded them that showing is only one part of being involved with the RMLA and this hobby. Just because we cannot gather and show right now does not mean we cannot be engaged. Instead, ask yourself: What are you in this for, and what do you hope to gain? Just because you cannot show does not mean you cannot practice! We would love to see our youth members practicing with their animals. Send us a photo, and we will include it in an upcoming edition of the RMLA Journal. We would love to hear what you are doing during the pandemic. Please write us an educational article, or tell us about your experiences working with your animals.

Whatever you do to stay involved and achieve your best life during these unprecedented times, just remember, tough times never last, but tough people do! And please remember to use the SurveyMonkey link to keep track of your participation and tell us about it! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K5Q99ZZ>.

We hope to see you all in person very soon.



Like Us!

RMLA's facebook PAGE

Facebook.com and search for Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association

RMLA DISCOUNT

Stillwater Minerals

Since 1989

RMLA Member 1990

800.255.0357

Ask for Jo or Bob Riley



www.StillwaterMinerals.com

Special RMLA 5% Discount

On the Internet enter Discount Code: **RMLA**

Expires 12/31/20

Complete analysis available on the Net

*Free Shipping (extra freight for Buckets)

**Save an additional 10% on orders of 200#
or 15% on orders of 500#**

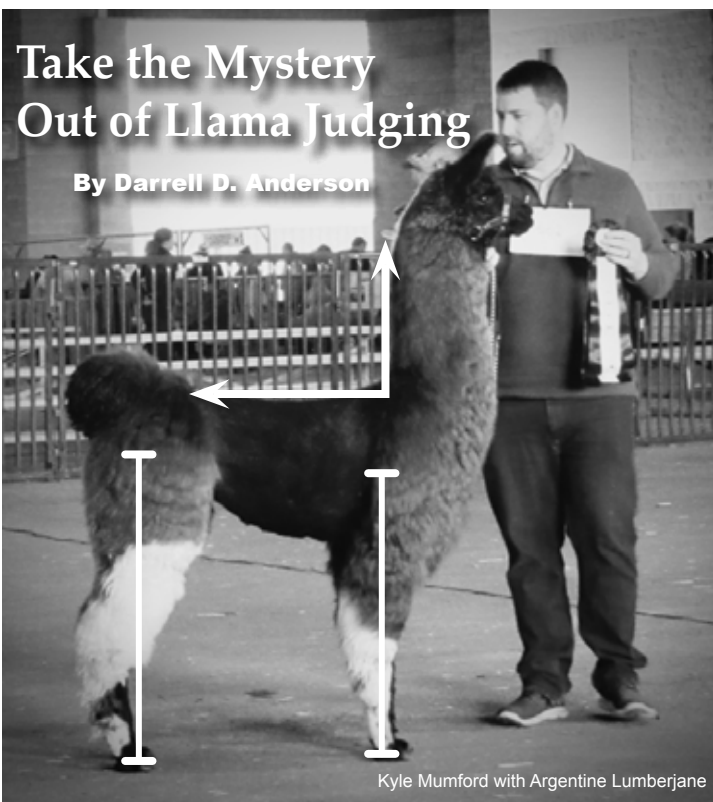
Editors' Note: We graciously want to say 'Thank You' to Kyle Mumford, editor American Llama, and Darrell Anderson for permission to reprint this article. Whether you show llamas, breed them, perform or pack with them, take them to public relations events, or admire them in the pastures understanding good physical confirmation is important. I suspect we will all find something of interest in the great article that can help us with overall herd management.

Have you ever...

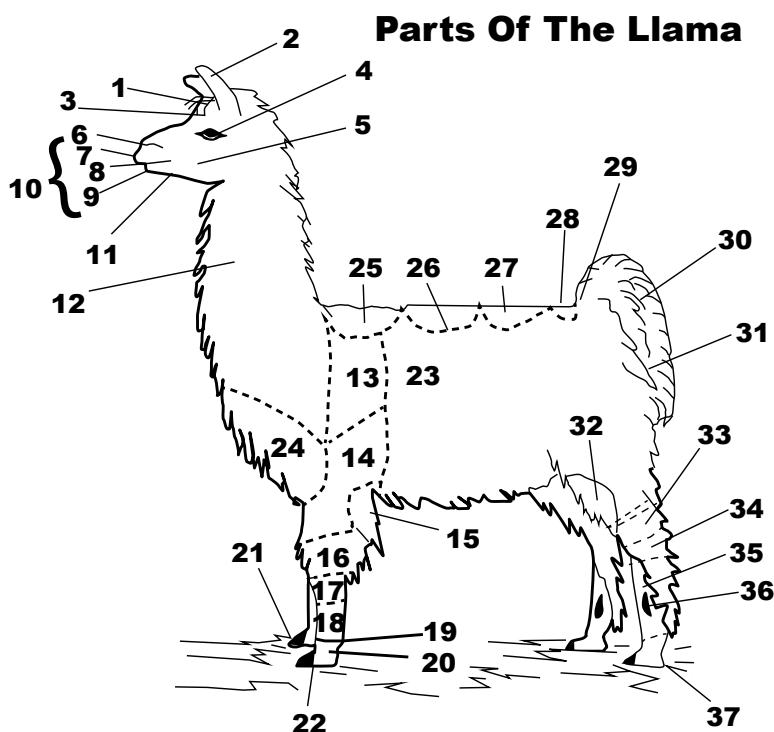
been traveling home from a llama show and you ask the question, "What did that judge mean when he said the llama that placed in front of me in the halter class was more balanced?" Or, "what was she referring to when she said that the llama ahead of me in the line-up tracked more correctly both front and rear?"

Whether you're a rookie or have been showing for decades, the more you understand about judging llamas, the more beneficial it will be to you in evaluating your own llamas at home.

One of my favorite livestock legends, Dr. Harlan Ritchie from MSU, once wrote that, "Judging instills confidence in those people who may be timid, and humbles those who tend to be conceited." I think that is very true, but don't let that affect your decision to learn more about judging your llamas and those you might be considering to add to your herd.



One of the unique scenarios in which we find ourselves in the llama industry is that there is not a true breed standard or end product that we all are using as our goal. But again, don't let that discourage you from learning all you can about judging llamas. In reality, llama breeders are trying to relate "form" of the animal with the "function" for which it was intended to serve.



Parts Of The Llama

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Poll | 19. Fetlock |
| 2. Ear | 20. Pastern |
| 3. Forehead | 21. Nail |
| 4. Eye | 22. Pad/Slipper |
| 5. Check | 23. Ribs |
| 6. Nostril | 24. Sternum, Chest |
| 7. Upper Lip | 25. Withers |
| 8. Mouth | 26. Back |
| 9. Lower Lip | 27. Loin |
| 10. Muzzle | 28. Croup |
| 11. Jaw | 29. Base of Tail |
| 12. Neck | 30. Tail |
| 13. Shoulder | 31. Buttock |
| 14. Arm | 32. Stifle |
| 15. Elbow | 33. Gaskin |
| 16. Forearm | 34. Hock |
| 17. Knee | 35. Hind Cannon |
| 18. Cannon/Shank | 36. Scent Gland |
| | 37. Heel |

continued on the next page

So let's take a look at some of the basic areas of consideration in evaluating llamas. For ease of this article, I will categorize some of the most common traits to look for when you're at a show or at home in your pasture.

One of the first steps in discussing llama judging is to become familiar with all of the terms for the various body parts. Once you've conquered that task, you will have a better understanding of the faults and traits we'll be discussing.

General Appearance/Balance

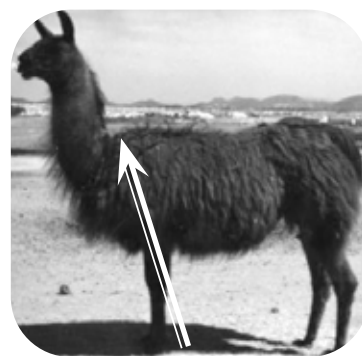
The llama should be well balanced, symmetrical, and proportioned for its age. It also should stand on four strong legs correctly placed, and with no deviation. The length of the neck equals the length of the legs, and two-thirds the length of the back. The body parts should flow together as he/she moves across the ring. The neck should come out of the withers smoothly and not bounce when on the move. The llama should move in a very comfortable manner – if not, there is probably a structure problem that needs to be evaluated. Watch for llamas that have a clumsy gait, are weak topped, steep in their rump, or look like a committee created them.



Good Topped Llama



Weak Topped



U-Necked

The Body

The back of the llama should be straight with a high tail set and smooth shoulder/neck juncture. The chest should have sufficient capacity for air exchange and the rib should be rounded to provide for internal capacity. You may find that some llamas are easy-keepers and might be carrying too much weight, while others may be under-conditioned.

Feet, Legs and Movement

The skeleton is the framework, and if it is designed incorrectly, it will hinder the development and function of the llama. That is why there is a lot of emphasis on correct feet and legs when judging llamas. Proper angle of the bones on either end of the llama are a big part of flexibility and fluid movement.

Here are some common problems seen in llama structure and how each one impacts movement:



knock- kneed = will wing out when on the move



Narrow based = narrow walking, some rope- walking



Splay footed = will wing out when on the move

continued on the next page



Sickle hocked = hind legs set too far under on the move, causing a low tail set appearance when on the move, rolled rump.



Cow hocked = shorter stride, close at the hock and stiffness of hock, choppy movement.



Weak pasterns = stiff, jerky movement – not comfortable



Post legged = short, choppy stride, stiffness of hock, leg is too straight, causes the tail to bounce

Breed and Sex Character

This encompasses ear shape, design and overall style of the head. Males should look masculine and have two even sized testicles. Females should look feminine, and have a vulva that is not too infantile or tipped.

How do I learn more about judging? You can find some veteran breeder that would be happy to visit with you about llama evaluation. Most judges will also be glad to visit with you, when they are not in the ring judging. And of course, going to shows and watch and listen to the judges, as they place the classes and give their oral reasons is a great way to learn.

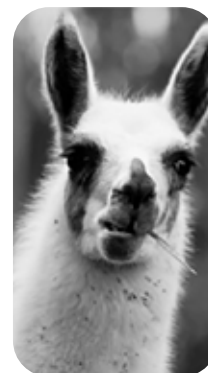
I have only scratched the surface with this article, but hopefully it will help you start to erase the “mystery” of llama judging, and help you design your breeding program. Happy Judging!!



Llama with a desirable head



Ears set too far forward



Ears too short and straight

About Darrell Anderson

Darrell and Merlene Anderson live in West Lafayette, IN. Darrell is a certified judge in the Alpaca and Llama Show Association (ALSA) and in the International Llama Registry's Show Division (ILR-SD). He has been selected to judge the national show for both organizations. In 1980, he coached the national champion 4-H livestock judging team. Darrell has recently served as the chairman of the ILR-SD judges committee. He is still a respected member of the committee and has been instrumental in helping aspiring judges become certified.



Yellowstone in the Times of COVID-19

by Susi Hülsmeier-Sinay, Yellowstone Llamas

Yellowstone National Park closed its gates to visitors on March 24, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to close was based largely on requests and recommendations from local health officers in surrounding counties, states, and communities. Yellowstone sits in three states (WY, MT, ID), making decisions on reopening complicated, especially when certain states find themselves at different stages of virus transmission and recovery. While 96% of Yellowstone is in Wyoming, three of the five entrance stations to the park reside in Montana, and a small portion of the southwest corner of the park is in Idaho.

operations outlined in Phase 1. The Park worked closely with Montana and Idaho to reopen the remaining gates as soon as possible. That day has finally arrived! Yellowstone's Montana entrances (West Yellowstone, Gardiner and Silver Gate) will remove their road blocks tomorrow, June 1, 2020 and Phase 2 can begin.

Phase 1 includes public access to roads, trails, and boardwalks as well as limited essential services including gas stations, medical clinics, and certain restrooms. A range of mitigation measures, both indoor and outdoor, will be implemented throughout the park to protect both visitors and employees. The Park is evaluating



While the timing of the park's temporary closure coincided with the shoulder season, the economic stress and impacts associated with the closure are continuing to grow substantially as the summer months approach. While these economic stressors do not override health concerns, they are being considered. The Park's goal has been to open safely, minimize risks to visitors and employees, allow visitors to access Yellowstone, and help restart local economies. Wyoming requested the earliest possible opening while Montana and Idaho still had 14-day quarantine in place.

To accommodate these varying conditions, the Park opened Wyoming entrances on May 18, 2020 with access to the lower loop as well as facilities and

high-congestion areas to determine what actions may be appropriate. Some examples include additional signage, parking considerations, one-way traffic on boardwalks, and visitor spacing at public restrooms. The Park may also actively manage high-congestion areas by limiting the number of vehicles and/or people entering a specific area. No commercial tour buses will be allowed during Phases 1 and 2.

Phase 2 will include opening of campgrounds, backcountry permits, visitor centers, additional stores, boating & fishing and limited food service. During phase 2, limited, small-scale commercial operators (10 people or fewer) will be allowed to operate once they have submitted COVID-19 mitigation plans to

continued on the next page

the National Park Service and have received a letter of approval. With exceptions, the responsibility for proper COVID-19 mitigations will be the responsibility of the individual business operator.

Large operations, like tour buses, will not be considered until Phase 3, which will also include hotels, dining and full ranger programs. No date has been given for the start of Phase 3.

Since May 18, people have visited the park through the East and South entrance but social distance behavior has largely been disappointing. In addition, a bison was bothered by a visitor just 2 days after the park partially opened causing the animal to attack. Covid or not, social distance to wild animals in Yellowstone has always been 25 yards (except for bears and wolves who require a respectful distance of 100 yards). So, I guess we are back to “normal” tourist behavior.

As Yellowstone moves into Phase 2, let's not forget that nothing has changed as far as the virus and its danger is concerned. What has changed is how we behave when near crowds.

We at Yellowstone Llamas have already been approved to operate in the backcountry this summer, where we will finally be able to escape the depressing situation of hunkering down and waiting for better days. We are confident to be able to safely take care of our small groups in Yellowstone's great outdoors but a lot will depend on how the general public continues to behave in the 'front' country. The Park Service has indicated that an increase of infections due to irresponsible conduct may force the park to close again.

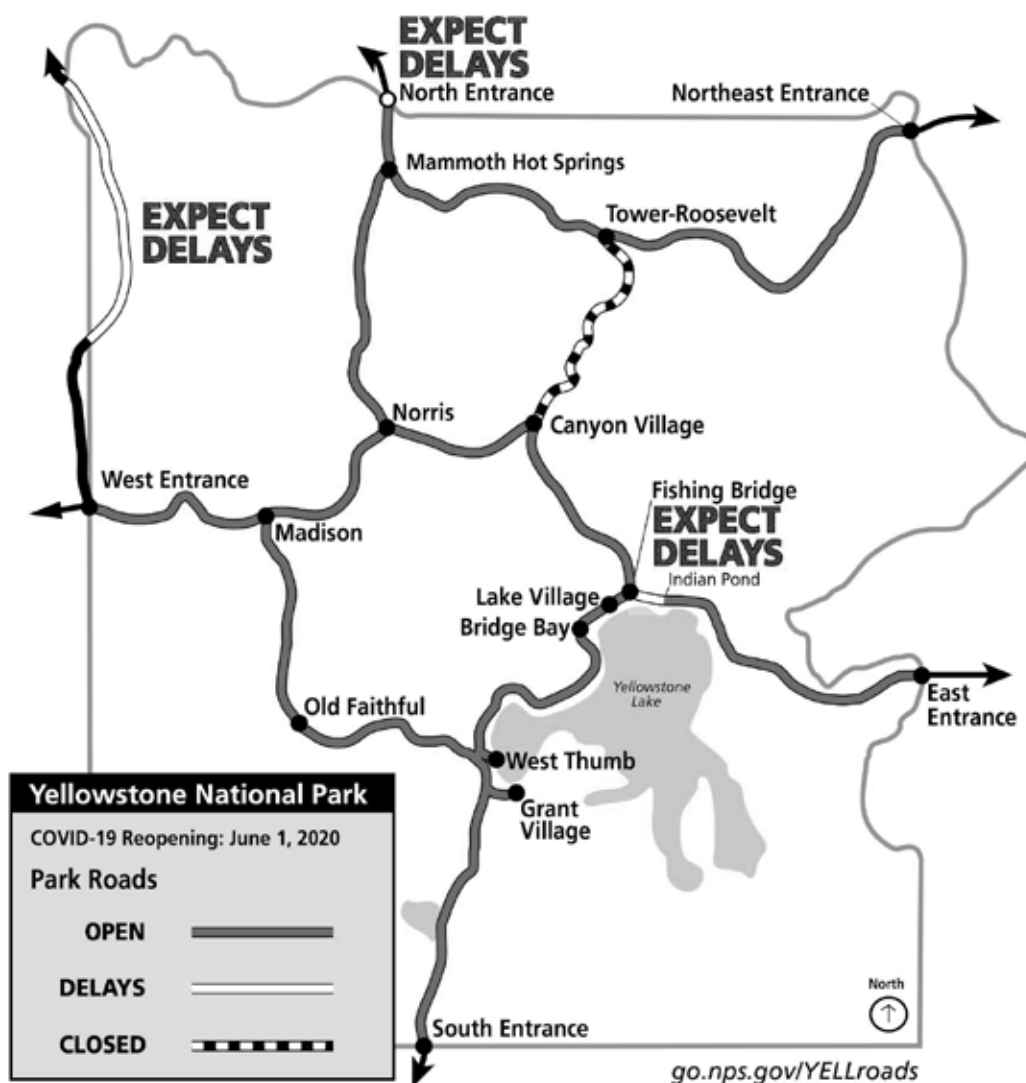
In the meantime, the llamas and I are continuing along our path towards summer. We are a positive bunch and are looking

forward to hitting Yellowstone's trails come July with a hearty: “Let's go Llamas!” The backcountry will be the safest place to be and we can't wait to stretch our legs on long hikes, wade through deep creeks, enjoy a hearty picnic beside a trail, watch wildlife and sleep under the stars. Between now and then, a lot needs to be done: shearing, training of rookies, checking and fixing equipment, and precooking food for our dinners by the fire.

Though we do understand and respect the reality and gravity of the pandemic, we won't let this vicious virus get us down. During the time of COVID-19, we still live, dance and play, and, on occasion, SPIT! You bet!!

Author's Note: Portions of this article are directly from the Yellowstone National Park Official Reopening Plan.

Editors' Note: if you are planning a visit to one of our National Parks or Monuments, please check with the specific park for its plans, guidelines and restrictions.



Consistency is Key in Training

by Linda Hayes

Most people know that in order to teach an animal something you must have them repeat the process several times. Even humans. We learn to play the piano by repeating the cords over and over. But with animals there is more to it than simple repetition.

You have probably heard the saying “Practice makes perfect” and then carried a step farther: “Perfect practice makes perfect.” It doesn’t do any good to have your llama repeat something several different ways. Be consistent in what you are asking and make sure that the task is completed correctly every time.

Let’s say you want to take the halter off, but your llama likes to jerk back and pull loose. You must make sure that you don’t give negative actions a chance to happen.

To do this you need to break down the task into several steps. Work to make each step happen correctly. Start with your llama haltered and on a lead. The first thing you need to do is tell the llama what is going to happen next. Llamas can learn several words. They want to know what you are going to do. Surprises make for negative results.

Pick a simple word like “halter” to let the llama know you are about to do something with his head. You can use the same word when you put the halter on. Tell him

what you are doing. Every time. “Halter” lets him know the area you will be touching and in general, what you will be doing.

Always say the word in the same tone of voice. The Chinese speak in tones as well as words. “Dog” can mean many different things depending on the tone of voice. They pretty much sing their words. Llamas learn language in the same manner. Make sure you always use the same tone. Be consistent.



Even if the llama pulls back you will have him under control with your arm and the halter.

Next you want to make sure that the llama can’t get away from you. Put the lead rope around his neck. Position it up close to his head as you will have more control that way. Hold both ends of the rope so that the llama knows you have him under control and won’t let him jerk back.

Say “halter” again, unbuckle the halter but don’t take it off. Keep the crown strap firmly in your hand. At this point the llama will try and jerk back. You won’t allow it because not only do you have a rope around his neck, you also have a hold of the head strap on the halter and are keeping it from sliding down his nose. This, along with your arm being around the back of his neck should keep him from getting loose.



Undo the halter while still holding both ends of the halter and also the lead rope. Keep everything snug on his head.

continued on the next page



Be sure to lift the halter off his nose. Don't slide it down.

Still controlling him with the lead rope, gently lift the halter up so that it is not touching his nose. Llamas hate to have anything rub on their faces and the nose band sliding across his tender nose is probably what got him started jerking back in the first place.


It will take a good while to retrain him and make him understand that you will no longer rub his nose when you take the halter off. You have to be consistent. For that reason, try to never let visitors remove the halters. Only people who are trained in the proper technique should be allowed to do it. The llama needs the removal to be the same each time. It only takes a few people letting him get away with jerking back to have all your training undone.

Once the halter is off, hold tight to the lead to keep him from jerking away. Make him stand there for a few moments. Don't remove the lead rope until he lets you hold him with only your arm around his neck. Wait until he relaxes. When you get to that point give him your word for "good boy" in the same tone of voice that you always use. Only then should you turn him loose.


Depending on how compliant your llama is will determine how long the retraining will take. If you have one that is really strong and hard to hold, start out with two halters on him and tie him up with one. Then if he tries to get away from you, he will still be contained. The llama should never get away with jerking back.

Good training means you break the task into small parts and are consistent in your movements and tone of voice. Soon your training will have paid off and your llama will be consistently cooperating.




Once the halter is off, keep control with your arm and the lead which should still be around his neck. 

PACK ANIMAL



Pack Animal Magazine is about the hiker's companion: the llamas, goats, and other pack animals that willingly haul our gear into the great outdoors. A quarterly print magazine full of color photographs, *Pack Animal* is for anyone who loves our wild spaces and our public lands.



WWW.PACKANIMALMAGAZINE.COM
ALEXA@PACKANIMALMAGAZINE.COM

The Positively Perfect Panel!

By Marty McGee Bennett - Camelidynamics.com

Get yourself some cows and you had better learn the intricacies of barbed wire and corner bracing; get some horses and get ready to replace boards that are kicked aside or chewed in half...get some fallow deer and get ready to build a 10 foot fence, but get yourself some lamas and breathe a sigh of relief!

Never pick up a hammer, never dig a posthole and never break a sweat, simply use lightweight panels in various configurations and your handling and training needs are met. We hauled a load of 9x5 foot panels back from a conference last year to add to the 30 that we already have. To be sure, I have a special need for panels for our new Training Center, but I think everyone could benefit from owning at least 10-15 of these treasures and I wouldn't mind having 20 more. The handling and training applications of sturdy, moveable panels are endless.

The Perfect Panel

Stock panels come in different lengths, heights and weights. Panels designed specifically for camelids are fabulous. These are usually 9 feet long and come in different heights. My favorite panel for camelids is 9 feet long and 5 feet high. These lightweight panels are easy to move around, can be hooked together in a series,



T-post covered with PVC pipe.

and when you use them to make a pen it is just the right size for training. However, even a sizable or determined alpaca can upend or push over one of these lighter panels. Thankfully this is easily remedied. You can secure these panels to an existing anchor: a tree, a sturdy part of the barn or a T-post pounded a couple of feet into the ground. You can protect the animal from the T-post in a number of different ways. You can slide a PVC pipe 3 inches in diameter right over top of the T-post. Heavy-duty cable ties are usually all that you need to secure the panels to the anchor.

Heavier panels can have their place in your setup too and are usually easier to get from your local ranch and feed store. Regardless of how cumbersome these heavier panels are to move around... they can still be moved and that is the wonderful thing about panels!

Panels that have square meshing instead of rails are useful for some applications, but I don't like them for use in handling situations such as medicating and trimming toenails. An animal could injure his foot or get a leg caught in panels with squares rather than rails. If you are frustrated when your lama sticks his head through the rail when you are working with him, you can modify the panel easily. There are several clever plastic fencing products that can be used to close the rail openings. Simply cut the plastic fence to the correct size and attach the plastic mesh to the panel with zip ties.



Mesh Fencing attached with zip ties.

The Catch Pen

The most basic use for panels is to create catch pens... wherever you need them! Regardless of how comfortable your lamas are in your presence they will usually opt for hanging out in the field rather than playing with you, which means you need to have a system for catching them. Catching the average lama will usually require one of the following: an Olympic caliber runner, a dart gun, or some sort of container and a system for herding the lama to it. A container that is too big (anything over 12 x 12) means trapping the animal in the corner and using the neck as a means of restraint. I have written reams about why this is not a good idea.

continued on next page



The Catch Pen

Herd your llama into a 9 x 9-foot pen, approach him from behind the eye or better yet for difficult llamas use a wand and a rope and your job is exponentially easier. You will be able to hear an audible sigh of relief coming from the direction of your llamas when you consistently use a catch pen.

The beauty of using panels over fixed stalls or pens for catching is their flexibility. If you are having difficulty with a particular technique or animal, **MAKE YOUR TRAINING PEN SMALLER**. When it comes to animal handling, containment is much easier and safer than restraint. Muscle your llamas and they will learn to fight you. Reduce the size of the container and you eliminate both momentum and the incentive to escape. With nothing more than some baling twine or my personal favorite- the alligator clips with nylon attached- you can divide your catch pen in half by moving one of the panels to the middle up-right that divides the panel in half. You end up with a rectangle that is 4.5 feet by 9 feet. This is a great size for working with a couple of weanling llamas on their first haltering lessons or for giving injections to one llama.



First Law of Camelidynamics... if you are having trouble with a handling task... make your pen smaller!

Handling Facilities

Panels are great for building temporary areas but you can also use them for setting up a semi-permanent barn layout. Panels offer many three major advantages over permanent dividers.

- Flexibility- change your layout when you want or need to;
- Ventilation- more airflow in the summer; fewer cold spots in the winter

- Visibility- your barn is more “llama -friendly” the animals much prefer an open floor plan to small boxes.

In addition to separating groups of animals you can very effectively use panels to create handling facilities in your barn. Panels can be used to create a laneway leading to a scale and then to a small handling area. Create a circular handling system and your job is a lot easier. Llamas naturally follow other llamas. Always have one llama in front and one behind and the days of pushing and dragging are over. As your herd grows or the composition of your herd changes, it is a simple matter to change the configuration of the panels and the areas they enclose.

It would be great if all llamas were born knowing how to lead, but they aren't and there are many circumstances under which it is necessary to load and haul a llama that doesn't know how to lead. It is a great idea to use panels and incorporate a semi-permanent loading laneway into your barn layout; however, with panels you can also create a loading laneway when you need one. Remember it is no good to try to herd one llama away from the rest. If you are loading an untrained llama by



herding him into a trailer, always herd a group of llamas into the trailer, close the door to the trailer, hop inside and then herd off the ones you don't want. Organize your barn area so that you can leave your trailer parked next to the barn at the end of the loading laneway and you can use your trailer as a handling area too. A trailer can be a great place trim toenails or medicate your animals.

Teaching Llamas to Lead

Teaching a llama to lead can be a nightmare without the right setup. A llama that has never experienced being attached to a human will run to the end of the lead and

continued on next page

The Positively Perfect Panel..., continued ...

panic when he can't get away. In a large area there is little or nothing the handler can do to prevent these problematic behaviors. Instead the handler is forced to hold tight to the rope as the lama throws himself wildly around or must let go of the lead rope—neither option is safe or desirable.

Use a long narrow aisleway and an extra long lead for initial leading and you can simply step in front of the



lama to stop any end runs. The lama can work out that he is attached and can't run away inside the laneway. Once your lama student is leading well you can leave the safety of the laneway for a larger area with much less drama. Ten panels make a wonderful "teach to lead setup". Set up three pens attached to each other 9 feet from a fence line. A few animals in each pen make the process even easier. By opening the pen at the end, you can create the laneway and a convenient place to turn around.



lma to stop any end runs. The lama can work out that he is attached and can't run away inside the laneway. Once your lama student is leading well you can leave the safety of the laneway for a larger area with much less drama. Ten panels make a wonderful "teach to lead setup". Set up three pens attached to each other 9 feet from a fence line. A few animals in each pen make the process even easier. By opening the pen at the end, you can create the laneway and a convenient place to turn around.

Special Situations

Try as we might we can't see into the future. No matter how many farms you visit or how carefully you plan, your barn set up is going to fall short at some point. I have only one word for you and it is not "plastics" - it is panels! With panels you can... create holding areas that can be used for educational events when a number of animals may be visiting, create holding areas for visiting animals, graze animals on a small area of grass that isn't fenced or separate animals physically but not visually.

For example, when a baby is born in nasty weather and you want to keep the dam and new baby with the herd but prevent the baby from wandering away or getting stepped on in a crowded barn, create a small pen for mom and baby in the middle of your loafing area with four panels. Voila! You have a way of keeping the female with the herd without the baby becoming

interested in the barn walls or the wrong female. This is a much better solution than separating the mother and baby in a separate area such as a stall. Putting new babies in a stall with solid sides will often get them interested in a dark corner. They will nurse in this dark corner instead of looking for mom's "dark corner" her udder and will waste precious time. This happens often enough that these babies are called "wall babies." Panels have no dark corners but still serve the purpose.

Shipping can certainly up the price of your panels. Here are a couple of suggestions for getting your panels:

1. Go in with others in your local area and buy them in bulk and arrange transport in bulk.
2. Shop on the Internet or your local farm newspaper for someone who might be selling used panels locally.
3. Arrange to buy panels at a show. Often panels are sold at the end of an event.
4. Make a trip to buy panels on behalf of a group.
5. Talk to llama or alpaca transporters about transporting panels when they have the space.

We all love a win-win outcome. Organization serves many masters...each and every one of your lamas will settle in and settle down when you use panels and the two-leggeds benefit too! Getting the management job done more easily and efficiently means more time to enjoy your lamas.



Ask The CSU VET Team (II):

Robert Callan, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVIM Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Editors' Note: Camelid antibodies are again in the news. New research was published a few weeks ago in the 'Cell' research journal. The link can be found in an eblast RMLA sent out on May 13, 2020.

Dr. Callan believes that the current research being conducted by a group of collaborative institutions, using nanobodies created from blood provided by a llama named Winter does hold promise for the future. At this time, the research shows that these nanobodies can prevent SARS-CoV-2 from infecting cells cultured in the laboratory. That is a long way from showing that these nanobodies administered to a person can prevent or effectively treat COVID-19. As with everything, more research, tests on human populations, and eventually FDA approval still need to be accomplished before this could ever be used as a viable prophylactic or treatment.

This article is a reprint from The Journal of RMLA, Spring 2018. As new credible information becomes available, Dr. Callan has agreed to send us the links. Check your eblasts.

Camelid Antibodies in Science and Medicine

Both old world and new world camelids produce a unique form of antibodies in addition to the more universal vertebrate antibodies. These unique antibodies have proven to be very useful tools in research, diagnostic development, and therapeutics.

Antibodies are proteins that circulate in the blood and tissues. To understand what is so special about camelid antibodies, we need to understand a little bit about antibody structure. One arm of the vertebrate immune system is humoral immunity and it is dependent upon B-lymphocytes that produce antibodies. Each B-lymphocyte produces a specific antibody that has the unique ability to recognize and bind to other molecules called antigens.

The specificity of binding for a particular antibody is determined by an area called the variable region and it is this variation or variability in the amino acids in this region that create the unique binding specificity. Antibodies can then bind to proteins or other large molecules and interfere with their function. For example, antibodies can bind to surface proteins on bacteria or viruses and block their ability to bind and infect tissues or cells. They can bind to toxins and neutralize their toxic effect. They can bind to infected cells and result in antibody mediated cell cytotoxicity or antibody mediated complement fixation, both of which result in destruction of the infected cell and with it, hopefully the pathogen as well. So, antibodies are very important in preventing, controlling, and eliminating disease caused by infectious pathogens or toxins.

Up until 1989, all vertebrate antibodies were thought to have the same structural form consisting of

two heavy chains and two light chains bound together to form a Y or T-like structure (Figure 1A). However, a unique form of antibodies that consist only of two heavy chains was first identified in Dromedary camels and then in other species of the Camelidae family including llamas and alpacas (Figure 1B).

About 25-45% of systemic antibodies in llamas and alpacas are the non-conventional heavy chain antibodies (Figure 1B). It is not really known why this type of antibody evolved in camelids. However, the antigen binding domains of heavy chain antibodies have special characteristics that make them particularly valuable for medicine and research. This binding area of a heavy chain antibody is labeled the VHH region. This smaller segment of the heavy chain antibody can be synthesized in the laboratory and in this form is called a nanobody (Figure 1C).

Nanobodies or VHH domains have several very special characteristics.

- High affinity for target molecule regions.
- Resist thermal and chemical denaturation.
- The antigen binding domain is much smaller than that of conventional antibodies and can recognize and bind to areas of proteins, such as concave regions, hinge regions, and catalytic sites of enzymes, which are inaccessible to conventional antibodies.
- Can be expressed in bacteria like E. coli as well as in mammalian cells. Expression in bacteria is much easier and greatly aids the production of these molecules in the laboratory.



continued on next page

Figure 1

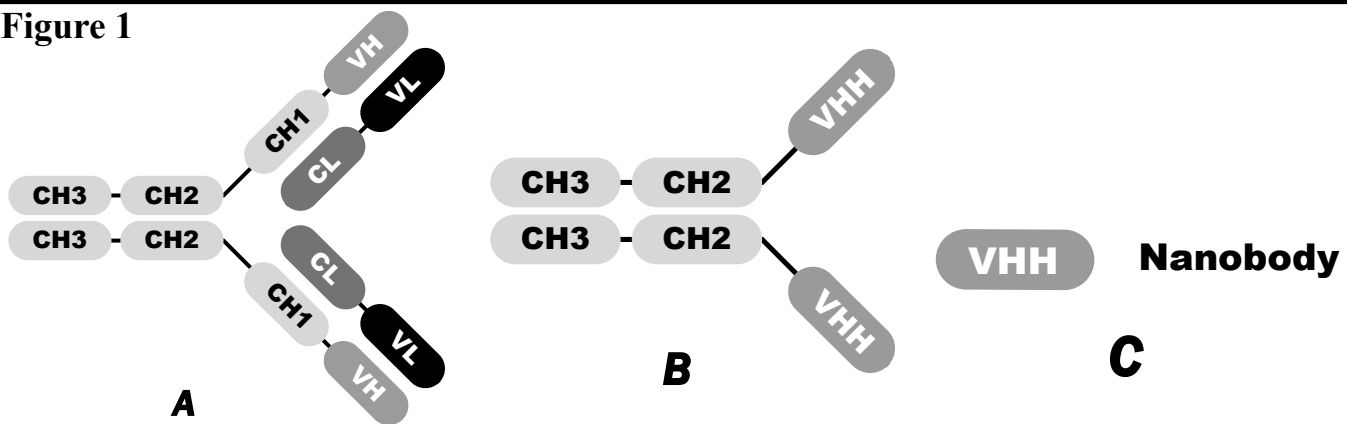


Figure 1. Structure of conventional Heavy and Light chain immunoglobulin compared with Heavy chain immunoglobulin. (A) A conventional antibody with two heavy chains and two light chains. (B) A camelid heavy chain antibody made of just two heavy chains. (C) A nanobody that is just the variable heavy chain domain of a heavy chain antibody.

- They are generally nonimmunogenic in other mammalian species. Thus, when used as a treatment or medication, they are not rejected and destroyed by the immune system of the patient being treated.

There were numerous research papers in 2017 that utilized the special properties of nanobodies. One paper examined the ability of nanobodies produced against the hinge region of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) fusion protein (F protein).¹ RSV is a respiratory virus that infects humans as well as cattle. In adult humans, the virus typically produces mild disease similar to a cold. However, RSV can cause severe interstitial pneumonia in some infants infected with the virus. Infant RSV can have a very high mortality and often requires hospitalization and intensive care. The fusion protein of RSV is part of the viral surface membrane and is essential for the viral lipid membrane to fuse with the host cell membrane, allowing the virus to enter and infect the cell. The fusion protein has a special hinge region that allows bending of the protein in the fusion process. However, conventional antibodies cannot fit into this hinge region and block the change in structure of the F protein. In this paper, heavy chain antibodies were produced by immunization of a llama followed by screening for specific antibodies that neutralized RSV.

These RSV neutralizing heavy chain antibodies were then used to identify and synthesize nanobodies that specifically bind to the hinge region of the F protein with very high affinity. When bound, they prevent the bending of the F protein during viral attachment to the host cell and thus prevent entry of RSV into the cell. Conventional antibodies are unable to bind to the hinge region due to the much larger size of the antibody

binding region and thus are unable to prevent infection by this mechanism. RSV infection in mice was prevented when these nanobodies were administered intranasally prior to challenge.

This paper demonstrates the special properties of these very unique antibodies produced by llamas and alpacas. It is very likely that research, diagnostic, and medical applications of camelid-derived nanobodies will be developed further in the future.

Current areas of research of camelid nanobodies include:

- Influenza Virus
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Rabies Virus
- Foot-and-mouth disease virus
- Rotavirus
- Human Immunodeficiency virus
- Hepatitis B Virus
- Protein misfolding diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and Prion diseases.

Footnote

1) Rossey I, Gilman MS, Kabeche SC, Sedeyn K, Wrapp D, Kanekiyo M, Chen M, Mas V, Spitaels J, Melero JA, Graham BS, Schepens B, McLellan JS and Saelens X (2017). "Potent single-domain antibodies that arrest respiratory syncytial virus fusion protein in its prefusion state." Nat Commun 8:14158.



New Website Needed!

By Linda Hayes and Ron Hinds, Board Members

RMLA.com needs to get tech-savvy. We need a person or persons that can help us move our website to a new form. The website needs a new technological 'system' to enable individual RMLA leaders to create, read, approve and publish additions to the website without using a central 'webmaster'. The website may look good but behind the screen it incorporates very ancient methods to provide what you see.

The need for this major change was brought to our attention by the current web-manager, Ron Hinds. Ron knows the site's growth can't continue in its present condition.

The website itself needs the help of technologically experienced persons to redo it. It would be ideal to create a team of both RMLA members and outside technological help to begin this transformation. Ron would love to be part of the team but doesn't necessarily want to be the leader. The leader needs to have experience with websites and be knowledgeable of content management systems (CMS). We need several people to step up to the plate to determine the best direction to take the website into the future.

There are many programs that could be used. The most popular appears to be 'WordPress'. WordPress and similar systems comprise a CMS which is very capable of providing what is needed for RMLA, members and visitors. If you or someone you know is comfortable using such systems and can help in the effort, the RMLA Board would like to hear from you. We need your expertise.

The Board would like multiple RMLA members to volunteer to provide input as needed, however, this will not be a total volunteer project. We understand that we will probably need to hire someone to do the initial work.

If you are a young person that needs to build your resume this will be a chance to put your knowledge to work and get the credit needed for future employment. If you are already working with computer programs this is a chance to earn a little extra money or to donate time for the benefit of the llama world.

RMLA is an all-volunteer organization and it will not succeed in the future if our younger generation doesn't come forward and help keep it going. We need you. Please consider helping us. Please contact Ron or Linda at 'newwebsite@rmla.com' to help us with your expertise.



Advertisers in this Issue

Antelope Alpacas Fiber Arts Center	10
Lothlorien Llamas - Williams	10
Rocky Mountain Llamas.....	7
Stillwater Minerals.....	13
Southwest Llama Rescue	5
Pack Animal Magazine	20
Bear Track Farm - Jerry Dunn	8
Youth Project Manual	27

www.HowToCatchALlama.com

Animal rescue site for people who need to catch llamas and alpacas.

Designed for people who know absolutely nothing about llamas and alpacas.

NEW RMLA Members

RMLA IS ALWAYS GROWING

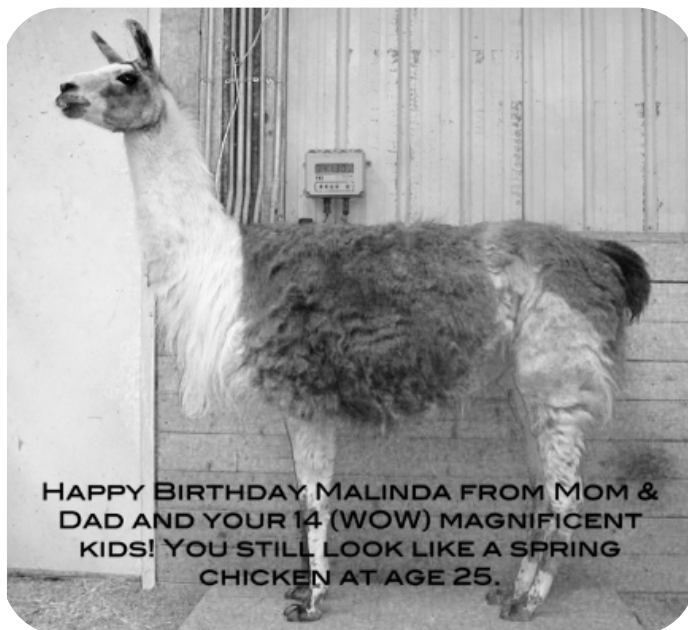
L'illette Vasquez Plymouth, CA
James and Shannon Fisher Polk, NE
Trisha Durham Kaysville, UT
Tony Lynn Merchen Crofton, NE

Additional information, phone, address, etc. can be found on the website under MEMBERS.

NOTE: Before youth members under the age of 18 are listed, a signed release is required from a parent or legal guardian. You can find a link for further instructions and that form at the top of the MEMBERS by Name page on the website. *Thank you*

Quarantine with Llamas

from Al and Sondra Ellis



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MALINDA FROM MOM & DAD AND YOUR 14 (WOW) MAGNIFICENT KIDS! YOU STILL LOOK LIKE A SPRING CHICKEN AT AGE 25.

With the country in lock-down, it really drives home how important llamas have been in our lives, and we hope in yours also. Whether marveling at the crias playing, going for a walk or a hike, hanging in the barn, training, or just watching them live their lives, they bring so much peace and enjoyment it is actually sad to think of all the folks without them. Please take the time to love them and let them calm your lives a bit while you are distancing and staying healthy.

Best from Al & Sondra

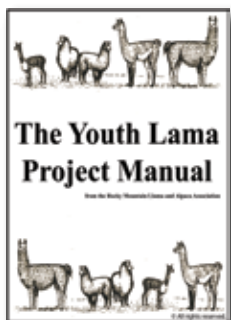


RMLA Youth Manual

32 pages of jammed packed information just for the Lamas and Lama Youth

CONTENT:

- Lama Characteristics
- Purchasing Your Lama
- General Care • Handling
- Shelter, Fencing & Facilities
- Vaccinations • Feet • Teeth
- Reproduction • Training
- Health Maintenance & more



Now in it's 6th Printing!

Only \$6 per manual, Includes postage.

www.RMLA.com -

select PRINT PUBLICATIONS

RMLA is a 501 (c) (5) non-profit organization



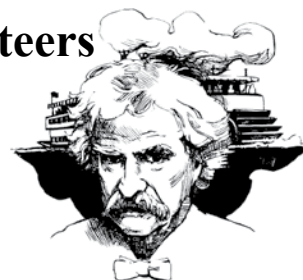
Linda Hayes and neighbors walking with Joker and Brownie. Just trying to keep the distance while everyone gets a little exercise in chilly Arizona.

Postscript from The Journal Volunteers

Ron, Marilyn, Kathy,

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

Mark Twain



Rocky Mountain Llama and Alpaca Association
5704 Canyon Trail
Elizabeth, CO 80107-7814



EVENTS CALENDAR

MARY WICKMAN, EVENTS CHAIR

For more details and live links, go to www.RMLA.com, select EVENTS and hover on the boxes.

September 19 & 20, 2020 Higher Ground Fair, Albany County Fairgrounds, Laramie, Wyoming. Llama and Alpaca Performance and Fleece Shows; Fiber/Fleece Vendors; Camelid-Related Displays and Presentations. Vendor space available. For more information, contact Gayle M. Woodsum, gayle@highergroundfair.org; or gmwrites@icloud.com.

January 20-23, 2021, Arizona Fiber Arts Retreat, Prescott AZ. Details to come. Contact Nancy Wilson at spinllama@msn.com

Save the Dates

Planning an event, but, the 'paperwork' is incomplete? Send us the information and we will let members know to Save the Date.