

## BEFORE BUYING A LAMB OR SHEEP FROM US, WE WANT YOU TO BE FAMILIAR WITH A FEW THINGS....

Here is a checklist all new sheep owners need to commit to:

- ❑ Sheep are wonderful farm pets. They are true grazers. Unlike goats, they prefer to keep their heads down and weed as opposed to being a browser who likes to eat bushes and trees. However, they will **nibble on EVERYTHING** in reach. That includes your prize flowering plants! You must “corral” any plants that your sheep can get to when they are out grazing.
- ❑ **Some plants are toxic to sheep.** Make sure you know what plants your sheep can get to.
- ❑ **Sheep need REGULAR SHEERING.** We breed wool sheep and wool sheep do not shed. Sheering is best done by a professional. *We only sell lambs and sheep to individuals that can demonstrate they have a reliable source for annual sheering.* In addition, a knowledge of hoof care is required and easy to learn.
- ❑ Although sheep **tame very easily**, you do need to **commit to putting in time** to teach them you are safe. Using treats, a lamb or sheep will easily learn to walk on a leash, go into a crate or pen, hop in the car and even do tricks. But, if you do not do this regularly, your sheep will revert to its natural tendency to keep you at a distance. After all, they are naturally prey animals. Unlike dogs, when someone approaches them, even someone they know, it is natural for them to move away from you. And if you chase them... its all over.
- ❑ A proper pen includes a large area and a small, contained area you can ask the sheep to go into so you can easily “catch” and handle them. *If you get a sheep and just turn it out in a big pen, it will not stay friendly.* It may come up to the edge of the pen to eat treats but it will not allow itself to be caught. Our website has a useful diagram for a basic enclosure design: <https://cameldairy.com/mini-spotted-sheep>  
BUT... using treats in a small area, you can teach them to allow a collar to be put on and using treats, clip a leash on and work with them on walking on the leash with you for treats.
- ❑ **If you push on a sheep’s head.... It will butt you!** If you play head-butt games with your lamb or sheep, you are creating a problem. We NEVER push on or fuss with the top of their heads. We do scratch them, rub their ears and pet their faces/chins. But we NEVER push on their heads. If a sheep does start dropping its head and looking as though it wants to butt, we discourage that using a squirt bottle.... NOT by hitting them on the head. That would only encourage them!

