



Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About....

September 2018

Michigan Llama Association

Vol. 23, Issue 3



November 6, 2018

U.S. Mid Term Elections

**No matter what path you choose, your llamas remind
you that it is important to exercise your right to vote!**



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Michigan Llama Association
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Llama Living



**Holiday Issue
Deadline**

November 15, 2018

FYI: You will notice that there are a two vacancies on the Board listing above (Youth Representative and Immediate Past Member) along with two Chair positions (Facebook and Web Master).

If you would like to fill any of these positions for the remainder of the year 2018 and/or the year 2019, contact President, Corky Dubois. If you are not familiar with these positions, but think you might want to learn more about them, have a say in how the MLA is run, and make an over all contribution to your organization, Corky can fill you in on the details.

New Location

MLA Annual Board/Election Meeting

November 17, 2018

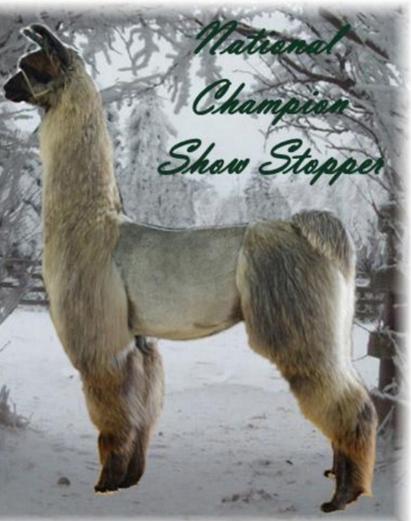
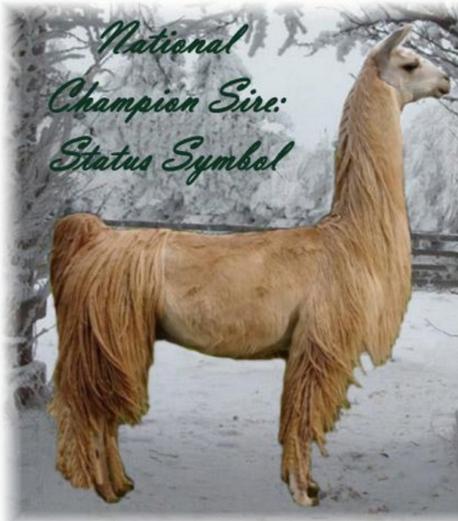
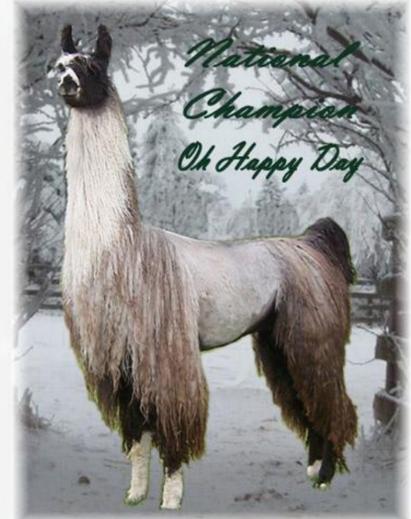
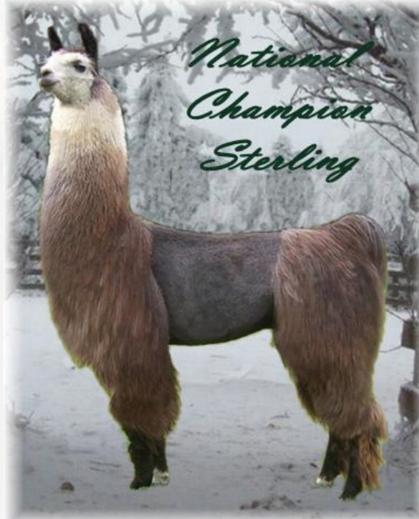
**Kiwanis Hall
17335 Manitou Beach Rd.
Addison, MI**

*Look for the building with the red roof on
the south side of Manitou Beach Road.*

**Potluck starts at 11:30 a.m.
Meeting starts at 12:30 p.m.**

Watch your mail for updates and ballots!

Dominant, Prolific Sires are needed in today's highly competitive market! We help to assure they stamp out Beautiful Offspring with an array of Show Champion Females for their court!



We will be offering Females bred to these Outstanding Males! Stay Tuned! Offspring Available Now!



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Marty's Corner

Neutral Contact

By Marty McGee Bennett, CameliDynamics



Neutral Contact is a connection with an animal with your hands or through a lead line, catch rope or handler helper (various tools we use in CAMELIDynamics) that does NOT affect the animal's balance. I have described it in many ways: light contact, having a connection, releasing to contact. It is also returning to a state in which you are poised for whatever happens next, it could be called coming back to center, or recovering balance. Many sports offer a useful metaphor for neutral. When playing tennis you do not return to center court after returning the ball, you will be at the mercy of your opponent's ability to place the ball in an area of the court you can't possibly get to. Finding that place of balance when doing yoga is another metaphor for neutral.

Whatever term we use - and I like neutral contact these days - being able to experience it and return to it after using other signals such as preempting (a signal/technique used to help an animal KEEP his balance) and racheting (a signal/technique that causes an animal to lose his balance and take a step in the desired direction) is crucial to handling success. It can be difficult to know when you have neutral contact because the connection is so light that it doesn't feel like much. If you feel something in your fingers or hands, you probably have too much weight in your hands.

In other words, you are pulling: not simply being connected. Heavy hands result in resistance and often movement in the wrong direction on the part of the animal. A slack line (often the gold standard in performance classes) does no good if you want to help your animal keep his balance and preempt any attempts at movement



Neutral control.



Slack line.

or offer subtle signals to move. With a J-line or slack line, by the time you notice that your animal needs help and you take up the slack in the line, the misstep has almost certainly occurred and you are now going to have to make a big correction instead of a very tiny preemptive signal.

How can you tell if you are using neutral contact as your default connection? Because neutral is by definition the absence of something, so it turns out the best way is to know when you aren't! Animal handling using balance as we do with CAMELIDynamics is using very quick contractions of the muscles and returning to a neutral state. It shouldn't be physically tiring. If you are leading or balancing an animal and your biceps or hands are getting tired, you are not returning to neutral; you are holding steadily.

When leading look at the hook attached to the halter. When you are offering signals and information with the intention of getting your animal to change his balance, you will be using the lead and the hook will be parallel to the ground. This means that the bottom of the hook will be pointing at you. A slack line of J-line means that the hook is

dangling freely and pointed at the ground. When you have neutral contact with your animal, it means that the bottom of the hook will be canted slightly towards you. You are connected and ready.

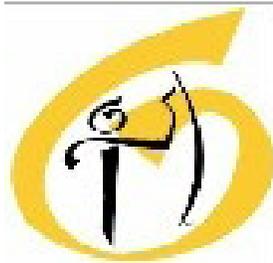
Another excellent way to find out if you have a good feel for neutral contact is to get feedback from a human. With a human partner standing facing each other with a catch rope around the “animal” up under the armpits. The handler is holding one end of the rope in each hand and the “animal” just stands still with his eyes closed and doesn’t move. The handler asks the “animal” two questions: (1) Can the “animal” feel a very subtle signal given through the rope? (2) Can the “animal” feel himself locking his knees, gripping the ground with his toes or otherwise feeling the need to resist the handler?



Tension on the line.

The answers to the questions should be “Yes, I can feel the signals and NO, I am not resisting. If the animal cannot feel a signal through the rope then there is no contact at all. If the “animal” is feeling the need to resist in the slightest way to keep his balance, then the handler is not neutrally connected - he is pulling. By tinkering with the connection and asking for feedback from your “animal” you can find that sweet spot that means you are in NEUTRAL! Do your best to memorize this feeling and add it to your muscle memory.

Another fantastic learning tool for this technique is to have someone videotape you as you work with your animals. Whether you are trimming toenails or leading, neutral is visually obvious when you see it. The reactions of the animal will surely help you see when you are going beyond neutral to holding or losing contact all together.



*For more information or to contact Marty directly,
go to CameliDynamics.com.*

*Would you like to attend one of Marty’s workshops, but there are not any offered in
your area?*

*Think about hosting one of Marty’s workshops on your farm or contact Marty at
CameliDynamics about ordering her online courses.*

Calendar Of Events

SEPTEMBER

September 1-2, 2018

Lamafest

MSU Pavilion

East Lansing, MI

For more information see the article in the June 2018 issue of Llama Living, visit the Lamafest web site and/or Facebook page, or contact Don Topliff at 517-655-5988 or e-mail him at dktopliff@gmail.com

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

November 15, 2018

Llama Living Deadline for the Holiday Issue

Include holiday greetings to your friends and potential customers in your advertisement.

November 17, 2018

MLA Board/Membership/Election Meeting

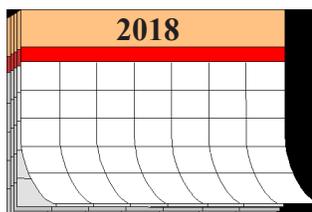
Kiwanis Hall

Addison, MI

See notification on page 4 in this issue of Llama Living for details.

DECEMBER

Get your barn/shed ready for winter. Dig out and clean up those water heaters.



Holiday Wishes

Do you want to wish your llama friends, current customers and future customers 2018 holiday wishes, but don't want to send out a stack of cards?

Think about sending your holiday wishes in the December 2018 holiday issue of Llama Living. The deadline for this issue is November 15th.

You can take out a greeting/advertisement from a business card size to a full page. The staff at Llama Living will be more than willing to work with you on a design if you don't have the software to design your own. You come up with a sketch and contents and the staff will work with you in putting it together. If you need help with your ad, make sure to allow plenty of time to have it completed by the November 15th deadline.

We're trying something a little different for the Vet Corner: Q & A. We want you to submit your camelid vet questions and Dr. Char will try to answer them in upcoming issues! PLEASE feel free to submit questions via e-mail to: LlamaDr@aol.com.

QUESTION: How can I best deal with frigid winter temperatures for my herd? How do I warm up a cold animal?

ANSWER: Thank you to Denise Fehrenbach and Marianne Stein for submitting these questions! We've all been dealing with some wicked winter weather - subzero temperatures and even colder wind chills, plus not to mention the ice and snow storms! While normal winter is typically tolerated quite well by our camelids, more extreme weather can really take a toll on them.

SHELTER

One of the easiest things to do is to get them out of the weather. Shelter from the wind and precipitation makes a huge difference. Sometimes, herd dynamics and a few bossy animals can keep more timid ones out of shelter. Keep a watchful eye to see if behaviors like this are happening in your barn. When the cold gets extreme, it may even be necessary to close barn doors (if possible) to be sure no one gets left outside.

BEDDING

It drives everyone crazy when our camelids are picky or messy and waste hay by dropping it all over the barn floor. We are tempted to rake up the good hay and replace it in the feeder or even just rake it out of the barn totally, leaving a nice clean floor. In extreme temps that extra hay on the ground can just lay where it is to help insulate the floor the animals kush on. We all have different types of barn floors - dirt, gravel, sand, concrete, rubber matting, etc. Each of these materials will differ in how they handle moisture, the padding they provide and how they transfer heat. In extreme weather, when animals may be locked in or choose to stay in, they will also urinate and defecate in the barn more frequently. Due to weather, you may not be able to clean bean piles as often as you'd like. But remember, manure breaks down and produces heat as it does so. If you put your bare hand down to the floor in areas where animals have their bean piles, you'll feel heat emitting from it (and I don't mean just the "fresh" beans!) If left in place, manure and urine for a "manure pack" underneath the surface bedding. This pack is biologically active - it is composting itself inches below the surface and can help produce heat. Obviously, you need to replace fresh bedding atop it - perhaps a layer of sawdust, shavings or weed pellets to absorb excess moisture and then dirt, gravel, or clay floor. But it can be achieved over concrete as well. Also, when it does come time to completely clean out the barn, remember that the manure pack is wet and can get quite heavy. It is probably not a good option if you don't have a tractor to assist you! For those who have concrete floors - a layer of straw or old hay is a great idea and using shavings in moist areas to prevent slippery icy conditions. Rubber mats can be used to help with cushioning and may help keep animals up off of wet areas.

NUTRITION

Extreme cold is a time for extra calories! Calories are energy and energy is heat, so this is definitely the time to add in extra hay. Most people probably feed a grass or timothy mix hay. Alfalfa is very dense in calories and protein - mixing a little bit into the normal hay ration can help give some extra energy to animals in extreme cold. Remember, that our animals are herbivores and fiber is extremely important to digestion - while grain/pellets are great to supplement where the hay falls short, don't rely on it too heavily. You can increase your grain/pellets amount or frequency during cold spells, but by all means, do not suddenly increase it by large amounts - it can cause sudden changes to the pH of the stomach compartments.

WATER

Clean, non-frozen water should be readily available at all times. In fact, animals may drink even more water in the winter because their forage is dry (hay) instead of summer pasture (grass) which contains a good deal

Vet Corner

Continued

of moisture. There are many options for heated buckets, tanks and automatic waterers. A dehydrated animal can have lower blood pressure and poor circulation, in turn possibly cooling the body temperature. Remember to keep free choice minerals available at all times as they ingest the minerals and salt, it will also help increase their drinking.

COATS

Coats are definitely not for every animal and are probably only needed in extreme weather. In most cases, their fleece is sufficient. Instances where you could consider a coat: extremely thin animals, those you've observed shivering consistently, debilitated/sick animals with balding/exposed skin/extremely short fleece, animals that may be getting bullied/pushed out of the shelter by others., Check coats daily, as they do shift on the animal and the straps can get caught on things. Make sure animals aren't sweating underneath their coats also. Coats can get wet/muddy and they can actually chill the animal and thus will need washed periodically. Leaving a coat on for weeks at a time can also begin to mat the fiber underneath.

HEATING

Some people may have built heated barns or areas of the barn that are heated - such as an office space or hospital stalls. There are even ways to heat concrete floors by radiant heat - heating elements or pipes carrying hot water run through the concrete in the floor. If the heated barn was built with livestock in mind, then those are probably safe options. However, there are other types of non-permanent heating devices such as space heaters and heat lamps. **BE CAREFUL!!!** These are probably not safe ideas and cause a fire safety hazard. We have all heard the stories of barns that burn down in the winter due to heat lamps and electrical fires. Animals are unpredictable and we cannot supervise them 24/7. Things can and will get knocked over, bumped into, and chewed on.

WARMING UP THE COLD CAMELID

Hypothermia (low body temperature) can occur in any camelids, but will happen more readily in sick, debilitated, elderly, thin, down or wet animals. A normal rectal temperature is anywhere from 99-101°F. If you randomly took rectal temperature, you may find an otherwise normal llama has a temp of 97° F - we are not worried about these guys. You know your animals and their personalities, and changes in behavior are your biggest clues to a problem. The animals you need to worry about are the new who are behaving oddly, shivering, reluctant to rise, not eating, etc.

First of all, get them out of the wind - move to the interior of the barn, hospital stall, or heated office/garage (if you have one). If nothing else (maybe you have a down animal in the field that you're unable to move) create a barrier of straw hay bales around them to block the elements and tie a tarp over the top. One way you might move a downed animal, especially in snowy conditions, is to roll them onto a tarp and pull the tarp like a sled to the barn.

Make sure they are dry - and if they are wet, use hair dryers or even your Circuiteer/blower to get them dry. What if there is no electric? Do you have some towels to towel dry them? What about sawdust/shavings? **COVER** them in a thick layer - it will help absorb moisture - their fiber will be **FULL** of it in the spring and you may have to throw out their fleece, but at least they will be alive!

You can put blankets on them, an old sleeping bag, or a llama coat once they are dry. Emergency silver mylar (survival blankets" help reflect your own body heat and trap it, so you can even try wrapping one of those around the animal.

Offer a bucket of plain, warm water and another with added electrolytes. This will help get some heat into their body. If they will not drink, you can give some orally with a syringe, but be careful not to be messy and get them wet. "IF" you are familiar with how to pass a stomach tube, you can give a liter of warm water or electrolytes via the stomach tube. **DO NOT** even attempt this if you are not well-versed in how to do so and how to know if the tube is in the right place.

You could accidentally administer fluids into the lungs if the tube goes down the trachea instead of the esophagus, and then you have a MAJOR problem. Offer some high-quality hay or alfalfa and a little bit of grain/pellets (if they are accustomed to eating grain/pellets). Calories=Energy+Heat!

As long as it is supervised, this is a time where you can use a heat lamp or a small heater temporarily, but I would not leave the animal unattended with those devices on! Bed them with a thick layer of straw or hay. You can use a heating pad or electric blanket around the abdomen, but remember: do NOT place it directly on the skin - you need a barrier like a towel in between, do NOT get it wet (electricity!), and do NOT put it on high - check under it frequently to make sure the skin is not getting too hot. There are now some animal-specific heating pads available as well as heated mats that you could use according to their manufacturer directions and some of these may be listed as being water-resistant or water-proof, which may be safer. Electric not available to use these devices? Rubbing the animal with your warm hands to create friction on the skin can also help create heat. Hot water bottles and heat packs can also be used around the armpits and abdomen, but again - use a towel barrier so they do not get skin burns. In a pinch, get out those disposable hand and feet warmers to use. A cheap, fast, easy, reusable homemade heat pack can be made by filling a men's tall athletic sock with uncooked dry white rice and the end tied off or sewn shut. Microwave as needed.

If the animal is not starting to improve after about 30 minutes, you may need to call your veterinarian. They may be able to administer warm IV fluids, if necessary, or evaluate the animal further for other health issues.

Reprinted from ORVLA Topline, February 2018, Volume 35, No. 1. □

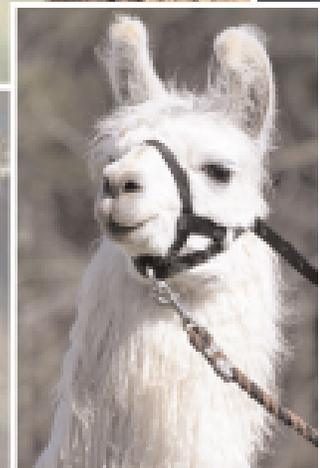
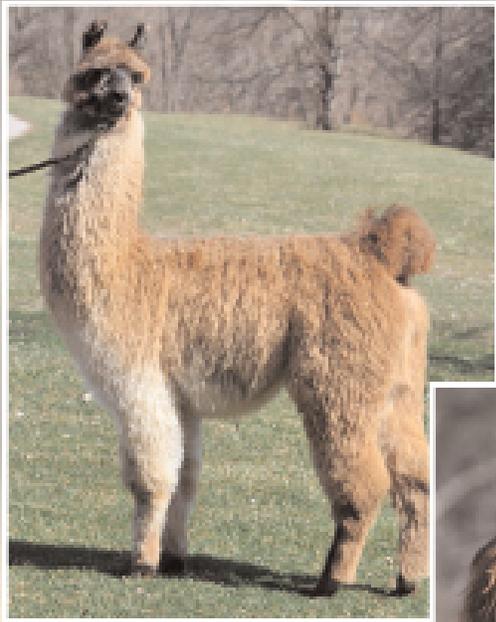
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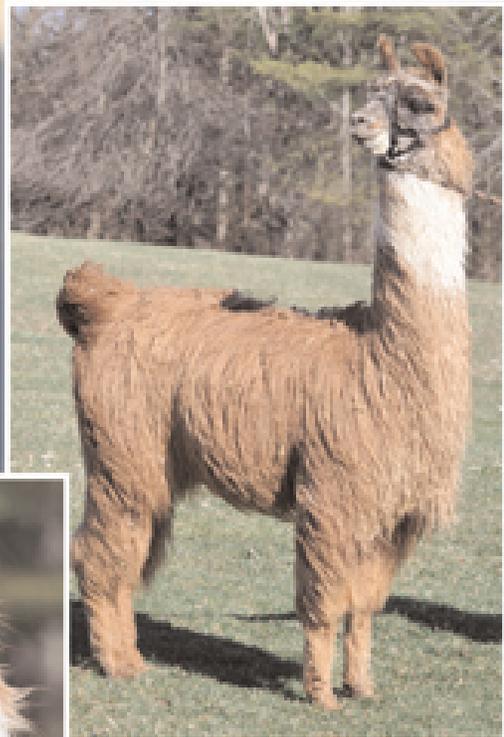
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Classic Style Working Llamas

By Niki Kuklenski, JNK Llamas

True classic llamas are a beautiful and wonderful rare treasure. Often what are actually lighter woolled llamas are mislabeled as classics, but are not. For some people it is hard to understand the differences between them and the light wool llamas. In the last few years, classic llama classes have become available at shows and some of them are combining light/medium wool classes. This combining of the two wool divisions is working quite well. Many of the lighter woolled llamas were actually borderline medium or medium woolled animals and fit much better with this combination. The classic llamas are obviously different and do fit better in a class by themselves. To better understand the classic llama, I have added this definition from the ILR Classic Focus Group page www.Iwantallama.com/Classics/default.aspx.

The evolution and refinement of a short and functional coat type clearly distinguishes today's Classic Llama. The Classic llama has emerged as a measurably distinct phenotype that can be reliably reproduced. The term "Classic" is now in use internationally to identify this distinct llama breed type. The fundamental attributes that most clearly identify a Classic llama include:

- ◆ A distinctly double-coat with abundant guard hair over the entire body; Are notably sparse-coated(not dense).
- ◆ Combing is a practical method to assess coat density. Classic llamas released dead undercoat fibers can be easily combed out and when combed out, Classic llamas have the appearance of almost entirely guard hair; the undercoat is then often only visible at the front of the neck where guard hair is naturally minimal.
- ◆ Underwool that molts seasonally
- ◆ Short neck wool often with a distinct "mane" of guard hair.
- ◆ Classic llamas have short hair (not wool) on their faces, ears and lower legs and a large "window" of short smooth hair on either side of their sternum. The lower leg hair may be either "smooth" (straight) or "rough" (wavy, kinked, or with curl).
- ◆ The length of guard hair on a classic llama can vary from 2 to 12 inches, but more commonly falls in the 3 to 9 inch range. Classic llamas also commonly fall into to categories based on guard hair length. This this distinction exists does not mean there is a requirement for the animal to be classified as one or the other as a range of guard hair length exists that still distinguishes a llama as a classic. The length of wool fiber beneath can vary from approximately 2 to 5 inches. (This criteria was obtained from the International Lama Registry web site).

For some it is hard to understand why you would define a type of llama by coat type only. It is important to know that first and foremost, classic style llamas are working animals. Animals meant to pack, drive and to do other work that some types of llamas would not be as well suited. Every person who utilizes these animals has a different expectation and need of their llamas (think of how varied people's shoe choices are). Some are happy to pack a few miles down the road on flat trails and camp. Others need to have llamas that are able to cover many miles in a day. The need of the owner determines the type of animal they seek and use. Because of this, the focus group for the ILR decided that they would go no further than defining a Classic llama by coat type. It is up to the owner to ferret out what works for their individual needs.

Think of a classic coat like you would a Labrador or Golden Retriever dog. They do shed seasonally and this shedding undercoat easily pulls or rakes out with little work. This effort leaves behind a nice, short, shiny coat. If the llama does not release this undercoat easily, is not a classic, This is very important to understanding if the animal truly is a classic or a light/medium wool.

The classic coat is important for many reasons. The course guard fiber of the coat not only helps to keep debris off the animal, but it also protects and insulates the llama from weather cold or hot. As pack animals, the Classic llamas need to be able to maintain their temperature in rain, snow and heat.

Another easy way to determine a Classic llama from other wool types is the tail. Most true classics have a very sparse and thin tail. When individuals have sheared their light/medium woolled llamas to try and get them

into class, the tail has been the tell “tail” sign. You do not see classics with bushy and full tails.

Grooming classics can be easy if you have the right tools. I prefer to start with a still bristled slicker brush, then I use a short-toothed rake and I finish with my long toothed rake. I work on a small area and move from the shoulder to the rear end to remove all the shedding undercoat. You can see the distinct difference as you work through the coat and the undercoat is released, leaving the shiny guard fiber behind. Many of my classics lean into the rake and even bite the air as I groom them. It is important to groom them regularly as you do not want to have your animal not be comfortable when you put on a pack or do other hard work. Remember too not to groom them completely in the winter as they can and will get cold depending on where you live.

Personally, I love my classics and the ease of maintaining them. True Classic llamas are hard to find and still harder to find with good conformation and pedigrees. If you were interested in learning more about them, I would encourage you to go on the International Llama Registry page listed above.

Reprinted from the Humming Herald, South Central Llama Association, Winter 2017, Number 107. □



Distinct “mane” of guard hair.



Sparse, thin tail.



Double-coat of wool.

Classic llama example photos courtesy of Bittersweet Farm for the Llama Living reprint of this article.

The Benefits of Youth Livestock Shows

By Stan Smith, OSU Extension in Fairfield County

With the Fairfield County Fair just around the corner, hundreds of youth throughout the county are busy completing livestock projects

While for decades the 4-H and FFA system of competition has proven to be a highly effective aid in the development of youth into productive members of society, in some circles the value of competitive livestock competitions occasionally comes under criticism. In an effort to validate the long time perceived benefits of livestock competitions a study was conducted at Texas Tech University.

The study involved a review of historical documents, in depth interviewing and observations to analyze real life situations. From the resulting data, themes were generated to validate what was perceived to be the benefits of livestock exhibition.

The results of the studies produced some surprises. Typically, the most common benefit a majority of people suggest about livestock exhibition is the responsibility a young person gains from caring for and showing an animal. However, responsibility was not nearly the strongest beneficial theme to emerge in the study.

In fact, the top six themes generated from the study listed in order included social relationship, character building, development of family values, exposure to competition, exposure to cultures, and the knowledge and care of animals that is gained.,

Most surprising was that the development of social relationships by showing livestock was the strongest theme to emerge throughout the study. Participants emphasized the importance of developing friends and social contacts. These friendships aid in the satisfaction of career goals as well as the simple need for companionship.

Included under the category of character building was responsibility, confidence, sportsmanship, and how to deal with loss. Participants felt that character developed through exhibiting livestock promoted the growth from a child into a successful adult.

The opportunity for togetherness and developing family values put emphasis on the importance of the family participating in activities together and was considered an important life skill.

The fourth highest ranked theme dealt with the competition that livestock shows introduce to exhibitors. Two meanings developed within the study. One resulted from the need to satisfy the desire of participation in competitive events while the other related to the exposure of winning and losing. This was also apparent within the character theme.

The opportunity for exposure to diverse cultures that comes from exhibiting livestock at various stock shows around the region aided youth in the further development of life skills.

The sixth theme that emerged from the study was the knowledge and care of animals that exhibitors gain from showing livestock. Participants felt this knowledge was important as it relates to many life skills and future careers.

As you enjoy your visit to the Fairfield County Fair in a few weeks, keep in mind it's more than just simply livestock shows and competitions. The goals of 4-H and FFA are to develop leadership, life skills, and citizenship for its membership. As you enjoy the livestock and various other exhibits at the fair, know that lots of youth development is also happening as families work closely to handle the many challenges presented by raising animals, while also maintaining a commitment to school studies and related activities.

This article reprinted from ORVLA Topline, May 2018, Vol. 35, No. 2. It was submitted to Topline by Bill Safreed. ♦



Getting Better Results in Showing Your Llama

By Caroline Gardner

Why do you show your llama? Have you been consistently winning or placing? Have you ever taken the time to really think about it? Your answer will be a major factor in the results you have been achieving. If you're serious about improving your current show results, you need to allow yourself the time to think about it.

Think strongly about the three benefits you currently feel you receive from showing your llama. For example: 1 - Show off my llama. 2 - Enjoy the competition, and/or 3 - Increase the value of llama. You get the idea. Now take a good look at your answers. Chances are your preparation at home and your show prep are only matching your perceived benefits. If you want to improve the results you're getting from showing your llama, you will have to increase the amount of effort you're putting into him or her,

There are many simple things you can do to improve the show preparation and skill levels you currently have. By doing so, this will improve the show results you are getting with your llama. The most important and easiest is to practice at home.

- ◆ Practice, practice, practice. This is applicable to every area of your show preparation: Halter training, grooming, standing, stacking, walking, shearing, etc.
- ◆ Groom your llama thoroughly a week before your show. Do not just limit your groom to the body and neck - make the time to brush your llama from head to toe. If your llama has ear fringes or bangs, why ignore it? Anything you can do to give your llama a finished look is a plus. Grooming is a great way to increase your llama's eye appeal. We all get busy and it's easy to fall into the habit of waiting until the last minute to groom.
- ◆ Does your llama protest when you groom it? Try using a detangler with a soft bristled slicker brush - it reduces the pull on the fiber. Less pulling = less pain = happier llama. Take the time to groom your llama in sections over a series of days - you will find you may have groomed your llama more thoroughly than you anticipated.,
- ◆ Your show box is an important tool. Always double check the llama grooming supplies in your show box. This applies no matter what type of showing you do. Keep it stocked well with your favorite llama grooming supplies. They are the tools you need to do your show prep, look after them. Do you have enough of everything? Do you have your spray bottled for water and/or finishing spray? There is nothing worse than going to apply your finishing touches and finding you do not have the supplies you need. If you find yourself short of grooming supplies, it can dramatically affect the results you get when preparing your llama for a show. Not only is your llama not looking his/her best for the show, you can get stressed and this transfers itself to your llama. If you're serious about improving the results your llama is getting - start treating your show box (and the grooming supplies it contains) like the important tools they are for your success and that of your llama.
- ◆ Do you get lines when you shear of uneven patches of fiber? Always use SHARP blades and make sure your llama is clean and dry before you start. Practice your shearing each season. Have your clipper lube handy as well as a rag to wipe any excess lube from your blades. Excess lube can make the fiber sit lower than it normally would - giving an uneven shear job after the llama dries. Always wash your show llama well after you shear.

Find the right show halter to flatter your llama and its color. Put your show halter on your llama, take him to a quiet area and practice a show workout reflecting back on your last show. Practice making your llama stand up as you would be required to in your class. The more you do this, the better your llama will perform at shows. Ten minute a day, three times a week, can make a big difference to your llama's success. Llama are smart, they catch on. A llama who is light on the halter (meaning not much pulling to get him/her to move) is poetry in motion. A llama who has to be drug on the halter can very well mean the difference of placing high or low.

This article was reprinted from LANA News, Llama Association of North America, Spring Edition 2018.



The Art of the Socket

CU Boulder Graduate Takes “Artisanal” Approach to Making Prosthetics

Author Unknown

When an 11-year-old lama named, Bella, broke her right hind leg in a gopher hole in 2019, her owners, Chuck Robuck and Trish Drandt-Robuck of Newcastle, CA, chose to amputate rather than euthanize her.

But curious Bella loved wandering the couple’s ranch and, unable to live the life she had known, fell into a depression.

That’s when they called in the University of Colorado Boulder graduate, Michael Carlson (‘02KINE), a certified prosthetist, orthotist and “medical artist” who crafts prosthetic sockets.

As Will Rogers once noted, “the best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can’t ask his patients what is the matter - he’s got to just know.” Carlson, 39, faced the same dilemma with Bella and, for the next three and a half months, he struggled to get her prosthetic interface (the part between the skin and artificial limb) just right.

“There were huge setbacks” he says, “including a real communication barrier.” But after three tries, Carlson succeeded and Bella has worn her leather-and-metal prosthetic leg for eight to 10 hours a day ever since. “In her case, this was a life-saving procedure”, he says.

This case was unique for Carlson though in an important way. Most of Carlson’s patients are humans. “I really shine when someone walks well”, he said, referring to his chosen profession as “artistry of the socket.”

And not just walk. Among his most gratifying experiences are helping a man who lost his leg in a BASE jumping accident, who then made a successful jump from the bridge where the accident occurred and the time he went snowboarding with a veteran for whom he’d created a sports prosthesis.

Carlson gives partial credit for his success to his early exposure to craftsmanship in his father’s woodworking shop, especially learning how to use a sewing machine and his long love affair with ceramic wheel-throwing - aka pottery.

Reprinted from LANA News, Llama Association of North America, Spring Edition 2018, □

Do you have a learning experience involving your lamas or your farm that other could benefit from knowing?

Please share those experiences/lessons with an article in Llama Living. You don’t have to be an experienced writer to tell your story. The staff at Llama Living will help you edit your story if you wish and definitely correct your spelling!

There are owners out there who could benefit from your knowledge and experience. Please consider sharing that information.

To enter information to be published in Llama Living, send in your article (short, medium, or long) to the staff at Llama Living - e-mail: GRJax7@springcom.com or snail mail it to 14775 Peckham Rd., Albion, MI 49224. If you have any photographs that help to tell the story, please send them as JPG or PDF attachments to the e-mail listed above.

Herbs for Llamas and Humans

At the Ranch or on the Trail - Part Two

By Tina Hodge

(Llama Living Editor Remarks: Although this article is about plants in Western states, many of these plants also grow in the Great Lake States including Michigan. Be sure to run these plants past your vet if you find them in your pasture or on your trail route to see how they can affect your llamas.)

ON THE TRAIL

“Gather knowledge before gathering plants” or have an experienced trusted plant person along.... If you are unsure of what certain plants are, don't pick them or stake llamas out amongst them.

I have chosen a few western plants that are fairly easy to identify as well as not easily confused with toxic look-a-likes. A good plant I.D. book is a must. It is a good idea to check with Forest Service, BLM, or others for a list/photos of known toxic botanicals and endangered or threatened plants species in the area in which you will be packing. Be suspicious of mushrooms and fungi! Many species are edible or medicinal, but too many are toxic and can be tricky to identify. Again, an expert is highly advised.

Gather the following plants only if they are in abundance and no contaminants are present. Watch out for molds, black spots or smut, heavy insect larva or populations, too much animal waste, upstream danger, wilted or brown/dead plants nearby (evidence of recent spraying), etc.

SAFE, TASTY, OR MEDICINAL PLANTS ON WESTERN TRAILS

DANDELION

Food: Salads, sandwiches, soups, stir-fry

Medicinal Use: Safe diuretic, will not deplete minerals as it is mineral/vitamin rich and very nourishing.

Sweetest in springtime.

WATERCRESS

Gather from clean water sources only, as it purifies water. Pick plant parts above the water or wash well and let dry because of possible Giardia.

Food: Soups, salads, snacks and peppery flavoring

High in many minerals.

STINGING NETTLE

Gather with gloves when plants are youngish, less than 1.5 foot tall. Must be cooked or dry to eat.

Food: An amazing, abundant, tasty vegetable adaptable to many recipes.

Medicinal Use: Overall tonic and stamina builder, very effective for allergies, nourishing, blood building, mineral rich.

MINER'S LETTUCE

Food: Salads, sandwiches, soups, snacks

High in Vitamin C

HORSE MINT OR OTHER MINTS EXCEPT PENNYROYAL - BACKPACKERS FAVORITE!

Mints always have square stems.

Food: Very tasty tea herb for beverages.

Medicinal Use: Use for tummy trouble/nausea/flatulence

Add a few sprigs to a cup and pour boiling water over it. Sweeten if desired and goes well with lemon.

ELDERBERRY

Never pick the Red Elderberry from the north coast - only the blue to purple berry varieties. Some people can get queasy from the berries unless cooked or dried. Use only the flowers or berries.

Food: Sprinkle flowers or dip white flower heads in pancake batter and fry. Add to muffins, cakes, etc. Ripe berries can be eaten off the bush, fresh or dried can be made into a delicious tea, added to muffins, pancakes, etc.

Fantastic as syrup. Makes an excellent sour dough starter.

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Herbs for Llamas and Humans

Continued

Medicinal Use: Anti-viral for fevers, colds and flu. Anti-oxidant and vitamin rich, Flowers make a good skin or would wash steeped in hot water.

EDIBLE BERRIES

Food: Blackberry, Raspberry, Currant family (Ribes), Serviceberry, Huckleberry, Thimbleberry, etc. I.D. before eating. A treat and a pick-me-up. All rich in anti-oxidants.

WILD ROSE

Food: Flowers and hips for tea. Flowers make a lovely garnish.

Vitamin C rich rose hips can be a great snack, but eat the red outer part only and spit the seeds out as the hairs on them can be irritating to the digestive tract if you get too many.

JUNIPER BERRY

Do not use this during pregnancy!

Food: Delicious as a tea, but not for every day use.

Medicinal: Tea is anti-fungal and can be used as a wash for ringworm and other fungal infections on people and animals.

PLAINTAIN

There are narrow and wide leaf varieties.

Medicinal: All types antiseptic. For bites and stings pick a leaf and mash or chew a bit then apply. Seeds are laxative, also called psyllium seeds.

RED CLOVER

Food: Use blossoms and top leaves for tea.

Medicinal: Mash blossoms and leaves and apply as a drawing poultice. A tonic herb that is both blood building and blood cleaning,

WILLOW

All species of willow are loved by herbivores.

Food: Use leaves for tea.

Medicinal: Excellent for llamas experiencing pain. Anti inflammatory for both humans and animals. Pick whole branches with leaves on (if in season) and let the animal eat both leaves and bark. For humans, strip a half handful of bark and simmer in water for 15 minutes - drink for headaches, etc.

CALIFORNIA POPPY

Food: Any part of the fresh plant can be chewed including flowers and seed pods.

Medicinal: Mild sedative for sleep, nervousness or cranky children. Can be used for toothaches.

WILD LETTUCE

Food: Tea of leaves (a bit bitter). Can use the young leaves.

Medicinal: Another sleep helper.

HERBS TO HAVE ON HAND

IMMUNE SYSTEM STIMULATORS

These herbs help the body to mount a strong response to the threat of bacterial, viral, fungal and some parasitic infections. Useful internally and externally.

EUCHINAEA PURPUREA OR AUGUSTIFOLIA (Echinacea) - antibacterial/antiviral.

SAMBUCUS SPECIES (Blue or Black Elderberry) - antiviral

OLIVE LEAF (Olea Europea) - antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal.

BLACK WALNUT (Juglans Nigra) - antifungal antibacterial

COMBINATIONS OF ABOVE HERBS WITH OSHA, LOMATIUM, GOLDEN SEAL OR PROBIOTICS

INJURIES/STRESS/TRAUMA: RESCUE REMEDY

WOUND TREATING HERBS: These herbs help clean, heal and protect wounds while preventing infection.

Often used in conjunction with internal immune boosting herbs.

CALENDULA

An antiseptic and specific for the healing of old wounds. Can be diluted for flushing out a wound or abscess and also full strength.

HERBAL SALVE

Use a good herbal salve obtaining healing and antiseptic herbs (Comfrey, Calendula, etc.) with beeswax on wounds after they have been cleaned. The wax helps seal out dirt and insects while keeping the wound moist.

HERBAL POULTICE

A poultice with a clay base and herbs is a help with wounds that have gotten infected, abscesses, rashes, and to draw out splinters, etc. This dries out the skin and can be followed with herbal salve for moistening if desired.

HERBS TO STOP BLEEDING (demostat)

Yarrow leaves or extract.

ABSCESSES

Calendula, Clay poultice, Herbal Salve or cream for scarring, internal herb for immune system.

SWELLING

Epsom Salts/hot water soaks, Apis Mel Homeopathic.

BITES AND STINGS

Calendula, Clay poultice, Apis Mel Homeopathic.

CALMING HERBS

Valerian, California Poppy, Passion Flower, Homeopathic Calms Forte, Rescue Remedy

EAR PROBLEMS

An antiseptic, anti-inflammatory Ear Oil., Ear Internal immune herbs if necessary.

DIGESTIVE PROBLEMS

Slippery Elm and Ginger powders and extract. Activated Charcoal, Probiotics, Homeopathic Nux Vomica and Diarrex, possibly Milk Thistle or Turmeric.

EXTERNAL PARASITES

100% Pyrethrin powder, Diatomaceous earth in rolling spots, Black Walnut or Sweet Annie (*Artemesia Annua*) internally.

INTERNAL PARASITES

(Depends on which parasites - fecals recommended). Digestive parasites - Black Walnut/Wormwood combinations, other specific herbs for the situation.

SKIN PROBLEMS

BLACK WALNUT

Antifungal, antibacterial.

CALENDULA

For itching, wound cleansing, wound healing

ALOE VERA

For burns, urine burn, etc.

BLACK NOSE SYNDROME

Calendula followed by Herbal Salve

HOMEOPATHIC SULPHUR

Itching

POSSIBLY INTERNAL LIVER HERBS

Milk Thistle and combination formulas,

POSSIBLE INTERNAL ENZYMES

Such as Prozyme to help mineral absorption (i.e. Zinc).

POSSIBLY ESSENTIAL FATTY ACIDS

Added to grain - Evening Primrose Oil, Flax Oil, etc.

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Herbs for Llamas and Humans

Continued

LIVER HERBS

Milk Thistle as single extract or combination formula, Burdock Root or Turmeric.

KIDNEY BLADDER HERBS

Uva-Ursi, Dandelion, Horsetail, etc.

STONE FORMATION

Devil's Claw Yucca Blend

NOURISHING/BUILDING/TONIC HERBS

For after illness or elder animals

RED CLOVER

Blossoms/Leaf

DANDELION LEAF

STINGING NETTLE LEAF

OAT STRAW

MARSHMALLOW LEAF

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY HERBS

For pain, swelling and some arthritis conditions

DEVIL'S CLAW YUCCA FORMULA

LICORICE

WILLOW LEAVES, BARK OR EXTRACT

TURMERIC

HOMEOPATHIC

Arnica Montana, Apis Mel, Ruta Grav

Glucosamine

Omega 3 Fatty Acids

FOOT CRACKS OR WOUNDS

Epsom Salts/Hot Water Soaks

Calendula Extract

Herbal Salve (apply wound and then liberally on a menstrual pad, wrap loosely with vet-wrap then silver tape).

Umbilicus Dip

Calendula or Echinacea extracts (unless highly contaminated)

TREATMENT TOOLS

60cc flushing tip syringes, other size calibrated syringes with tiny tips.

Small, good flashlight.

Latex or rubber gloves,

O.B. gloves

Vet wrap

Assorted gauze textures and sizes

Menstrual pads for wound padding on feet

Silver tape

Dog size catheter

Sharp scissors

Bowl or mortar and pestal for mixing poultice of flushes.

HERB RELATED READING LIST

Peterson Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflower, by Neihaus/Ripper

Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock, by Shirley A. Weathers

Poisonous Plants of California, by Fuller/McClintock

Edible and Medicinal Plants of the West: All you ever wanted to know about herbs for pets, by Gregory Tilford
 Medicinal Plants for the Mountain West - Medicinal Plants of the Pacific West, by Michael Moore
 The Complete Herbal Handbook for Farm and Stable, by Juliette de Bairacli Levi
 Edible and Useful Plants of California, by Charlotte Bringle Clark
 The Weed Cookbook, by Adrienne Crowhurst

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Llama Living is a quarterly newsletter published by the Michigan Llama Association.

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Newsletter deadlines for articles, classified ads, and traditional advertisements are February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th.

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