



Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About...

March 2019

Michigan Llama Association

Vol. 24, Issue 1



It's Soon
Time
To
Think
About
Shearing
Me!

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Spring Fund Raiser

To benefit Llama Living

May 4, 2019

Mid Michigan Llama Show

Bring llama related items to the big drawing and silent auction table. Be sure to purchase tickets for the drawings and unique llama auction items.

For more information contact Annette Aldrich at 517-675-7705.

Llama Living



517-857-4626

GRJax7@springcom.com

Michigan Llama Association

Web Site - www.michiganllama.org

Facebook Page - Michigan Llama Association

2019 MLA Board

Bittersweet Farm



Rebecca

1993 - 2019

RIP

Suzanne Hockin Frambes

Kenneth Frambes

517.857.4626

**Llama Living
Next Deadline**

May 15, 2019

President	Corky Dubois	616-902-2382
Vice President	Gary Surratt	517-457-3524
Secretary	Sheila Miller	517-645-2719
Treasurer	Pat Schneeberger	517-627-6562
Youth Representative	VACANT	
Immediate Past Member	VACANT	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Year one of two	Bev Souva	989-856-3461
Year one of two	Tim Douwsma	574-606-6183
Year two of two	Dave Thompson	626-902-2382
Year two of two	Bev Surratt	517-547-3524

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hillsdale Show	Tim/Stephanie Douwsma	574-606-6183
Lamafest	Corky Dubois (contact)	616-902-2382
Library	Gary/Bev Surratt	517-457-3524
Marketing	Renee` Hobbins	231-228-6128
	Julia Tarsa	
	Sarah Wolf	
Membership	Pat Schneeberger	517-627-6562
Mid Michigan Show	Dave Thompson	616-606-6183
Newsletter	Suzanne Hockin Frambes ...	517-857-4626
Nomination	Jerry Miller	517-645-2719
Scholarship	Corky Dubois	616-902-2382
Spring Fund Raise.....	Annette Aldrich	517-675-7705
Youth/Youth Fund Raiser ...	Bev Souva	989-856-3461
Youth Show	Corky Dubois	616-902-2382
Web Master	Lifelines Media	
Michigan Fiber Industry		
Coalition Liaison	Sheila Miller	517-645-2719

There are two positions (Youth Representative and Immediate Past Member) that are still vacant. If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please contact Corky Dubois. Lamafest 2019 will be run by a committee with a point person assigned. If you are interested in volunteering for Lamafest 2019, please contact Corky Dubois.

Calendar of Events 2019

MARCH

APRIL

April 13-14, 2019 (Spring)

Fiber Expo

Washtenaw County Fairgrounds

Ann Arbor, MI

www.fiberexpo.com

April 20, 2019

MLA Hobo Show

Hillsdale Fairgrounds

Hillsdale, MI

Contact Tim Douwsma for more information at (517)606-6182 or tdouwsma@comcast.net

MAY

May 4, 2019

MLA Mid Michigan Show

Eaton County Fairgrounds

Charlotte, MI

For information contact Dave Thompson at (616) 902-2382 or egflamas@yahoo.com

May 15, 2019

Deadline for Llama Living

May 18, 2019

ORVLA Show

For more information check out the ORVLA web site .

JUNE

June 21-23, 2019

All American Youth Jamboree

Noblesville, IN

For more information see Page 7 in this issue of Llama Living.

JULY

July 18-29, 2019

Ohio State Fair

For more information about this lama show check out the ORVLA web site.

AUGUST

August 14-18, 2019

Michigan Fiber Festival

Allegan County Fairgrounds

Allegan, MI

www.michiganfiberfestival.info

August 15, 2019

Deadline for Llama Living

August 31 - September 1, 2019

MLA Lamafest

MSU Pavilion

East Lansing, MI

Contact Corky Dubois for more information at (616) 902-2382

SEPTEMBER

September 22 - 28, 2019

Hillsdale County Fair

Hillsdale, MI

Lama Show within these dates

Contact Gary and Bev Surratt for more information at bgsurratt@tc3net.com

OCTOBER

Fiber Expo (Fall)

Washtenaw County Fairgrounds

Ann Arbor, MI

www.fiberexpo.com

NOVEMBER

MLA Board/Membership/Election Meeting

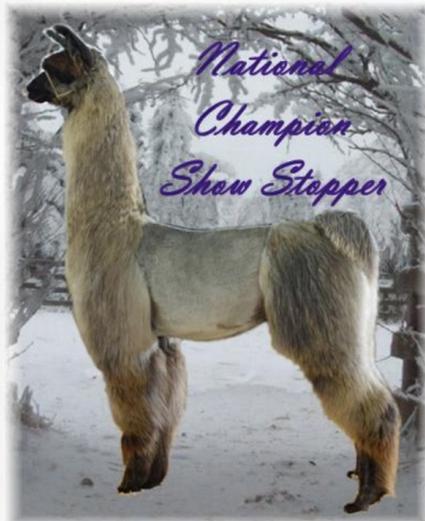
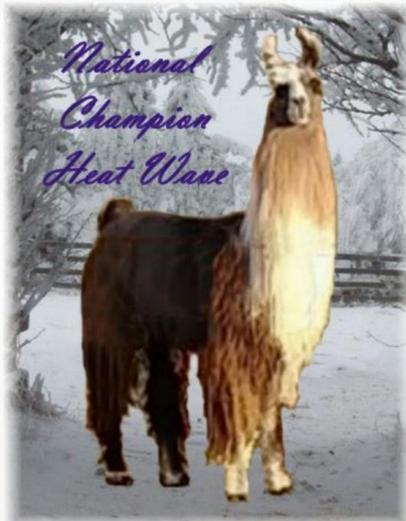
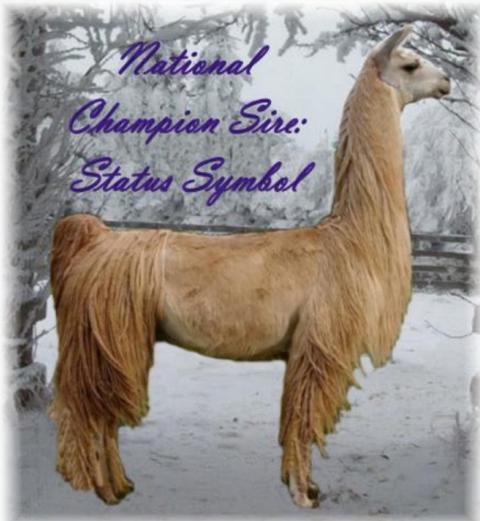
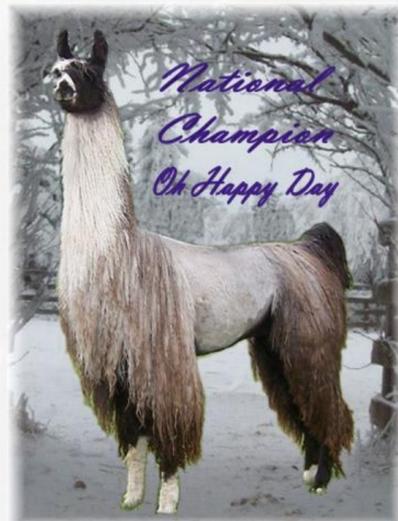
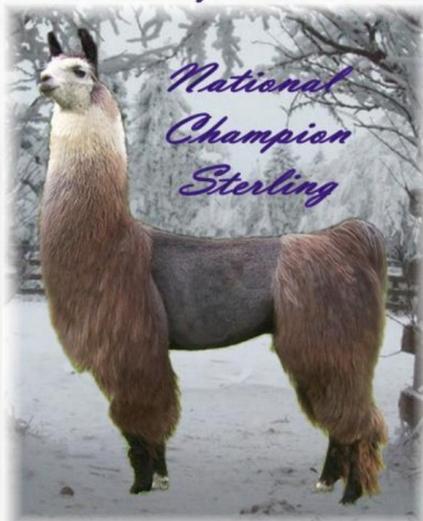
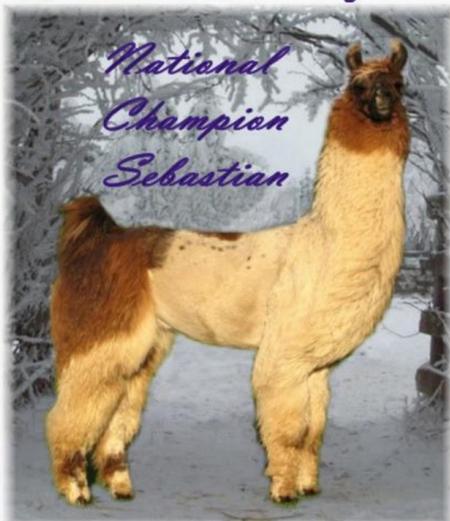
More information coming soon.

November 15, 2019

Deadline for holiday issue of Llama Living

DECEMBER

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!



CHAMPION
BRED

Offspring
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We have Puppies!
Most colors
Available!
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for the puppy
of your choice!

National Champion Llamas & Miniature & Toy Aussies
Lloyd & Tami Lash H: 517.467.2709 C: 517.605.7809 www.LashsUniqueAnimals.com

American Youth Jamboree

"Where every youth is a star!"



A Don't Miss Event! - Make Your Plans Now!

National Youth Show & Conference for 4-H, ILR, & ALSA Youth

Cash Premiums, Ribbons, Awards, Prizes, & Fun!

New! Take-A-Chance Halter, Blue Star Raffle, & Mystery Entry Envelopes

Three Complete Youth Shows	Skillathon	Take-A-Chance Showmanship
Sweepstakes Obstacle	Vet Clinics	Many Fiber Workshops
Showing Seminars	Poster Show	Open Halter Show
Youth Fiber Show	Versatility Awards	Farmer Olympics
Photo Show	Funny Money Auction	Youth Judging

June 21st - 23rd, 2019 * Noblesville, Indiana (by Indpls.)

www.youthjamboree.net * One Low Entry Fee

 Hubbard Feeds Inc.
Llama Feed & Minerals



MLA Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted by MLA Secretary, Sheila Miller

A brief MLA Board of Director's Meeting was held February 2, 2019 at 11:10 a.m.

Present were Corky Dubois, Pat Schneeberger, Sheila Miller, Dave Brown, Tim Douwsma, Gary Surratt and Beverly Surratt. Bev Souva was absent.

NEW BUSINESS: Pat made the motion to sponsor the Youth Jamboree, being held June 21-23, 2019, in Noblesville, IN in the amount of \$100. Gary seconded and the motion passed. The Jamboree is a national event specifically for youth and lamas and is open to all youth.

Corky presented the progress of the web site. With the exception of adding the PayPal button, when needed, the original proposal is complete. The fees for updates by quarter and major rewrites or changes were discussed.

The photo for the Membership Booklet was selected by a majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. ☐



MILLER'S LLAMALAND



Jerry & Sheila Miller
4705 Llama Lane, Potterville, MI 48876
517 645-2719 ~ millerlama@aol.com



**We're making our way to the
Mid-Michigan Llama Show
Join Us!**

May 4, 2019
**Eaton County Fairgrounds
Charlotte, MI**

**Go to : www.michiganllama.org
for entry and information**

Llamas from
Lash's Unique Animals

Marty's Corner

Learning To Set Limits -The Business Of Boundaries



By Marty McGee Bennett

All social creatures must learn how to be social. Because llamas and alpacas live with humans they must learn the rules that govern living with humans. People who love llamas and alpacas have a hard time denying them anything, but being a good steward is not about never saying, No. Being gentle, kind, and reasonable does not mean that you set no boundaries or that you let the animal lead the lesson. An additional complicating factor in the camelid world is the high percentage of new owners that elect to deal with an intact male. Raising and training whole male livestock of any type is much trickier than females or geldings of the same species. Whole males are subject to intense feelings around breeding and territoriality that females and geldings don't have. Raising and owning male camelids in particular, means learning to set boundaries.

In the midst of training or herd management sessions where do you draw the line for inappropriate behavior? When do you insist on cooperation? When do you take a break from training? When do you back off altogether?

When is it appropriate to use food and when are you creating a cookie monster that won't do anything without a bowl of grain in front of him? I am sometimes dismayed to see new camelid owners allow their woolly buddies to run rough shod over them in the name of kindness. These new owners have the best of intentions, however it is no kindness to let a domestic animal of any kind push the bounds of appropriate behavior. Llamas and alpacas raised without boundaries are in danger of running so far afield of human rules that they must be euthanized.

Experienced animal handlers do not create situations in which animals behave inappropriately. A good trainer is able to create an atmosphere of cooperation because they are clear in their expectations and they set boundaries. What follows is a list of my boundaries - *both those I set for the camelid student and those I place on myself?*

- ♦ I expect my llama or alpaca student to pay attention to me so....I don't make lessons last too long. I don't ask for constant state of attention when there are hard to ignore distractions. I don't ask baby or adolescent camelids to pay attention when I don't have a clear lesson or agenda. I don't ask my animal student to pay closer attention to what is going on than I am. If you are not paying attention to what you are doing don't expect your animal to be hanging on your every word.
 - ♦ I expect that my llama or alpaca will be respectful of my space and that he will not push me around physically... so I am likewise respectful of my animal's space and I don't push time around or use my muscles to try to control him. I refuse to get into a physical contest of wills. I do not put the animal in a position in which he has no choice but to defend himself physically.
 - ♦ I expect my animal student to be cooperative so...I don't ask him to do things that are unsafe or to perform tasks that are beyond his ability at that moment. If I feel that I have miscalculated in my estimation of what the animal could do, I back off and ask for something easier.
 - ♦ I expect a llama or an alpaca that I am working with to try new things and to trust me to be in charge of the lesson, therefore I explain new tasks very clearly; that is I chunk them down. To chunk something down is to divide the task into the smallest pieces necessary to achieve cooperation without fear (more on chunking down later). I don't ask the animal to do things that I don't have time to chunk down.
 - ♦ I give an animal time to think - time to think without constant barrage of signals and verbal commands. Time spent waiting in silence is much more productive than verbal encouragement which only distracts the animal student from the task at hand.
 - ♦ I understand that I may sometimes have to ask a llama or an alpaca to do something that is unpleasant, frightening or both. When a procedure is too scary or too painful for an animal to tolerate without a great deal of physical restraint I will ask my veterinarian to help me by administering a sedative.
- I do my best to be as kind to my fellow humans as I am to the animals. I understand that veterinarians, spouses
- ♦ or farm hands are doing the very best they can to help. Llamas and alpacas don't wake up in the morning and

decide to drive their owners crazy and humans don't have llamas and alpacas so they can make them miserable. One of my students sent me a card a few months ago with a wonderful sentiment... **Everyone is doing the very best they can at a given moment and when they can do better they will.**

The following examples should help to illustrate what I mean about chunking a task down and setting boundaries.

Loading animals in a van or vehicle is a common task. When dealing with groups of untrained animals it is much easier to herd them in as a group, however teaching an individual animal to load in a vehicle is most easily accomplished by chunking down the trailer into its component parts. A trailer is nothing more than a something unusual to walk on combined with sides and a top. Confronting the animal with all of this at the same time can be overwhelming. Chunk it down and no individual step is very hard. The "camelid cavern of confidence" is a wonderful tool for teaching an animal to load in a trailer as well as to trust the handler. The cavern begins as nothing more frightening than a series of poles on the ground, as each layer of difficulty is added the animal realizes that he can leave his comfort zone with the leadership of the handler. Graduation is a trip through a pretty frightening tunnel. Once the animal has completed the camelid cavern of confidence loading in a trailer looks like a piece of cake.

Another common boundary line that seems to be fuzzy when people first begin training a young llama or alpaca is bumping/slamming and kicking. These behaviors almost always arise when animal are tied and humans do things to the animals that are frightening. The animals use what they have to defend themselves.

I don't tie an animal up when I work with him, but instead work in a confined area - a catch pen (approximately 9 x 9 feet). I stand behind the animal's eye and allow the animal to move into an escape route that I offer. In this way I am still leading the lesson, but in a way that feels safe to the animal and defensive behaviors become unnecessary. Working in this way means that the animal is always free to move away from me. If they have learned from previous handling to defend themselves by pushing or kicking, these behaviors are no longer necessary. In a very short time they realize they have the choice to move away from me and the problem is solved. On the other hand, if you are holding or cornering an animal and his only choice to be safe is to bump you, then all bets are off. In this case you are preventing the animal from getting away to protect himself and you get what

Continued on Page 10.

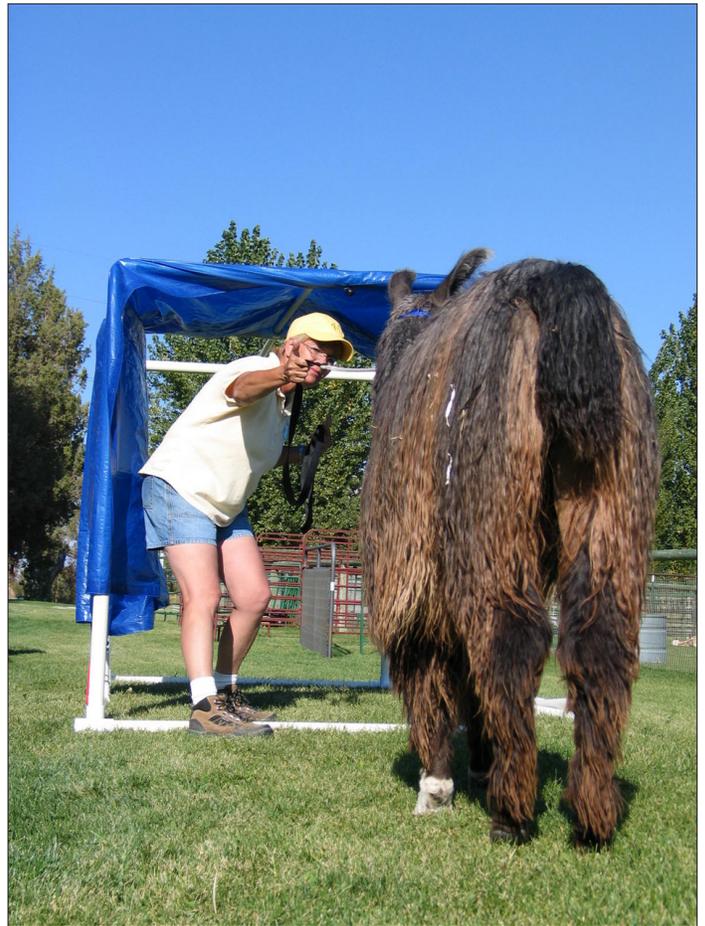


Start of the training for the "Camelid Cavern of Confidence"

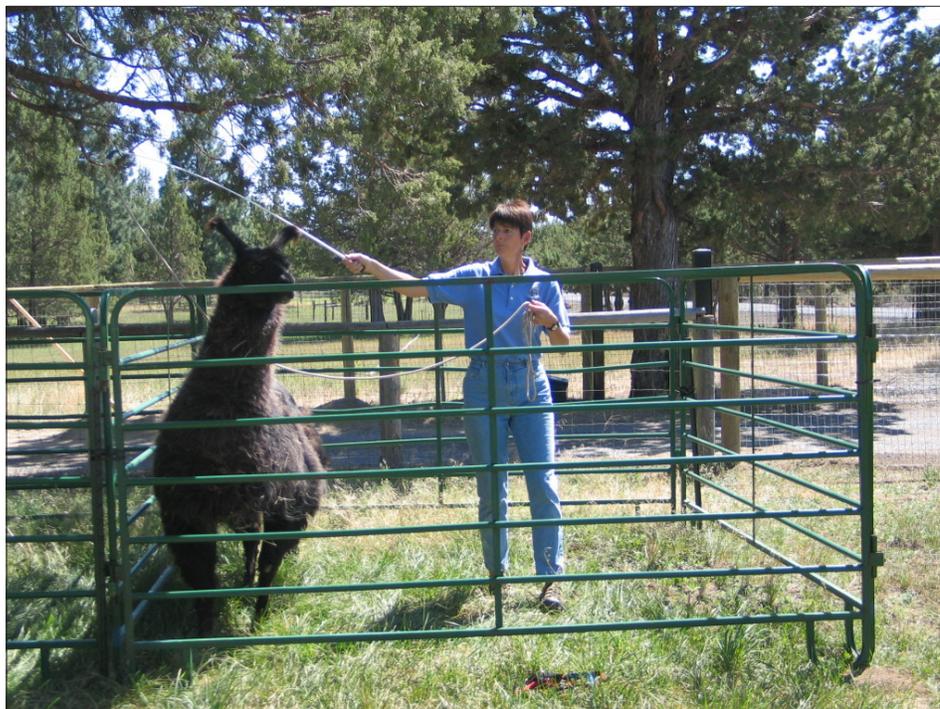
Marty's Corner Continued

you get. It would be inappropriate to correct this animal for slamming you. You have given the animal no choice.

The practice of using food for training or handling is an interesting issue and one that could take an entire article if not a book to address. Using food is THE most potent training tool in your toolbox and is a great way to teach cooperation and offer motivation. Just a few simple boundary rules can help to keep novice handlers and animals out of trouble. When working with food it is important to have complete control over the food. I like to use a pouch with a small shallow dish and fed out of the dish. In this way the pouch/dish become the signal that food is available for training, but the food cannot be stolen. Animals must never get food when they are being pushy. The behavior that is occurring just before the animal gets the food is the behavior that will be repeated. If the animal gets food by reaching forward and stealing food from your pockets or hands or an open dish, you are teaching the animal to perform these behaviors. A system for controlling the food is crucial to your success. If the animal has previously learned to steal food, begin by working on the other side of the fence and teach the animal that food is only available when he is being polite. When working with frightened animals, it may be necessary to offer the food on the ground stepping away from the food. Working in a larger area and allowing the animal to be far enough away to feel safe is also a way to inspire confidence in more timid animals. I will use food as a way of



“Camelid cavern of confidence.”



Working in a 9 x 9 foot pen.

improving an animal's attitude about being in a catch pen and working with me by simply offering food at the beginning of a lesson. I will use food to help an animal breathe and relax or to distract them during a herd management task such as toenail trimming and I use a clicker/marker and food reinforcers to teach off lead behaviors.

So what about kicking? I consider it reasonable for a camelid to kick to defend his legs or body. By working in a catch pen and offering the animal an escape route, there is no reason for the animal to kick. It is important when teaching animals to allow having their legs handled to chunk the process of leg handling down into less frightening bits. Most

llamas or alpaca that thoughtfully aim to connect with humans have learned to do that because they have been tied or restrained and groomed or otherwise forcibly handled. Punishing an animal that kicks for this reason only reinforces his position. Alternatively, llamas or alpacas that kick reflexively are not thinking about what they are doing, the nerve impulses never make it to the brain. Kicking of this nature is similar to a human knee jerk reflex. It would be unfair and inappropriate to punish an animal for kicking in this way.

Tying an animal from grooming often leads to body slamming. The llama or alpaca that fish tails on the end of a line and body slams the handler is behaving defensively. Punishing this animal is not fair. Grooming is often uncomfortable. It is not reasonable to expect a llama or an alpaca to accept discomfort without attempting to get away. We humans need to examine both the need and manner of our grooming. Llamas and alpacas are fleece animals that should be shorn regularly rather than groomed. I understand the necessity for some show preparation and grooming prior to putting a pack on, but leavening the grooming process with ample amounts of kindness and food AND using tools that are more comfortable like a boar bristle brush is the most reasonable approach.

I often hear stories about “difficult” animals that begin this way. “Larry Llama was trying to be dominant. He was just trying to get away with _____.” You fill in the blank. Inexperienced handlers almost always present their agenda too slowly and leave too many empty spaces. Llamas and alpacas hate a vacuum. If you don’t have an agenda they will rush to create their own. An animal dealing with a human that doesn’t seem to know what he or she is doing, will feel very vulnerable. Imagine you were preparing to pull out into heavy traffic in a car with a person who didn’t know how to drive. If I found myself in a car with an inexperienced, tentative driver, who really didn’t seem to know how to drive, I would either want to get behind the wheel and drive myself or get out of the car. Almost anyone would feel the same way. My behavior in this case would have nothing to do with being dominant, being the boss, or trying to get away with anything - it is the lack of leadership and competence that feels scary. Dividing lessons into smaller tasks helps both the animal and the inexperienced trainer to feel more confident.

One final note about handling intact males, if you are inexperienced with camelids, it may be better to get a bit of handling experience before you work with an adult intact male. If you have an intact male that is a hand full, consider gelding him. Gelding older adult males, even males that have been used for breeding, can have a remarkable settling effect. Be prepared to wait several months to a year for the behavioral benefits to fully become evident.

Setting boundaries is crucial for a healthy relationship with your animal. To quote an old saying - “Good fences make good neighbors”. Set appropriate boundaries with your llamas and alpacas, particularly males, and they will feel safe with you and be more cooperative.

For more information and helpful tips from Marty, check out the Camelidynamics web site at camelidynamics.com. □



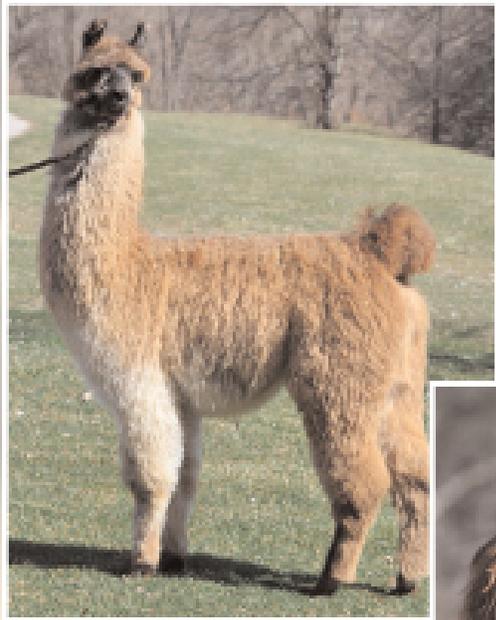
Offering food while training.



Feed bag and bowls for training from Camelidynamics.

Looking for a great new addition to your herd?

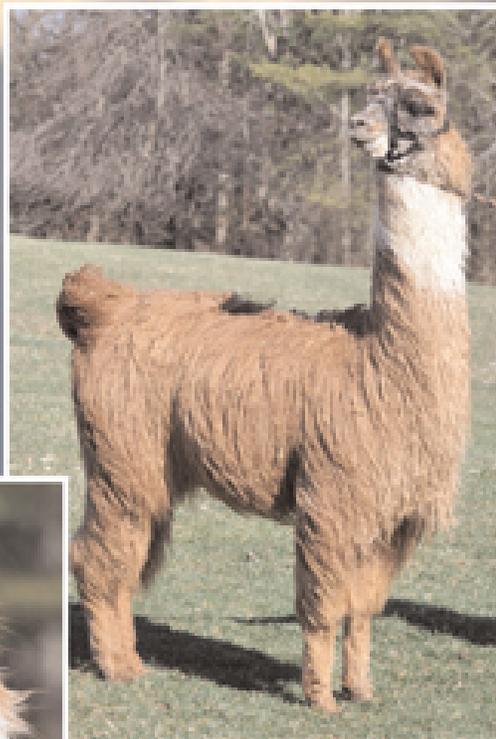
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Consistency, Key In Trailer Training

By John Mallon



Mr. Mallon wrote this article about loading horses into trailers, but Mr. Mallon explains that the information can easily be transferred to llamas.

Some of the most common handler errors I encounter are mistakes that are so common as to be almost universal. Something happened here last week that brought another to the forefront - arrogance. Let me just tell the story, then you can be the judge.

I had taken a friend's three-year old colt in for training: he was "green-broke", meaning that he was able to be saddled and mounted and ridden in one or two gears without much bucking.

He had several issues that needed to be dealt with, one of which was refusing to load into a trailer, which we'll use for our example. (Oh, by the way, please don't be put off because this is a horse and not a "llama" story because it is the human story we'll be discussing here).

How many times have you heard me say that there are lots of ways of doing things? That there is usually more than one "right" way to accomplish something? That's if you think your way is the only way, that you will be severely limit your effectiveness as a trailer/teacher? I think the following example illustrates this point well:

In teaching a horse to load into a trailer, it is generally accepted as fact that it is not very wise to enter the trailer, then ask a 1,100 pound animal to jump in there with us, especially if it is a two horse, side-by-side rig. Makes sense, right?

So, what we do instead is to send the horse in on his own. In other words, we stand at the entrance to the trailer and give the horse a cue to step up and in by himself. It's really pretty simple and something that a horse will learn in a fairly short time, so this is what I did, and, sure enough within 30-35 minutes, this young horse was willingly and calmly stepping in and out of the trailer with a simple verbal cue ("step up")

Now, remember, this colt was afraid of trailers to begin with, and as with most aspects of prey animal learning, he needed to be calm, to feel safe, to trust me, before he would be willing to do something as frightening as climb into a noisy box

We accomplished this through consistency, by giving him the same cue (step up), waiting for the same response (moving forward) and rewarding (good boy) at the appropriate time (as soon as he tried).

It worked and the next day, when we brought him to the trailer again, he walked right in the first time we asked him to. Then we brought him to another trailer, a fully enclosed slant load rig, which was darker and, of course, new to him. He walked right in the first time. I was sure proud of this little guy, overcoming his fear and trying so hard to learn about easy loading and, when my friend called to say that someone was interested in buying the horse, I was looking forward to demonstrating how nicely he loaded. Pretty nice story so far, isn't it? Well, it's about to start going downhill from here...

The prospective buyer arrives at our place a few days later, pulling a little two-horse behind his pickup, ready to take the horse home with him if he likes him. I'll spare you all the details of the test drive and cut to the scene where the man ask, "How's he load?"

Great, say I. "He was having some trouble with it, but he's over it now. Let me show you." and to his trailer he went. I opened the back doors of this rig, brought the colt up and asked him to step in, which he did just beautifully; a rig remember, that he had never seen before. So far so good, but then the man wanted to try it himself, so he took the lead rope, fed it through the front window of the trailer and proceed to start pulling on the poor horse's head,

What do you suppose happened? Right! The horse stood there bracing against the pressure of the halter, not having a clue what was happening. "Why is he refusing?, the man asked. "He's not refusing, he just doesn't understand what is being asked of him...he's only been taught to go in with a verbal cue." "Well, he should go in this way, too", he insisted and kept pulling on the horse's head, accomplishing nothing but confusion for the horse and frustration for himself (and me).

A photograph of a light-colored llama sitting in a muddy puddle. The llama has a speech bubble coming from its mouth. The background is a grassy field with some trees in the distance.

Hillsdale Hobo Hootenanny Show

You MUST come!
But only 'el
nateral, jest as
you is! In all ya
glory, hay & all

Darn it,
a wasted trip
to the Spa

**April 20,
2019**

Hillsdale County Fairgrounds, Hillsdale, MI
Find Entry and Information at
www.Michiganllama.org

“Look”, I suggested. “Why not just use what he knows for now, the, later on, you can teach him any way you’d like?” (I’ve always loaded horses this way - this is how it’s done and so on, and ‘round and round’ we went)

Am I overreacting here? Wouldn’t it make more sense to do it the way the horse understands, if, and not, insist that the horse come around to the man’s way of doing things without a little help? Like maybe teaching the horse first? Well, by the time the man left this willing little colt was no this “stupid idiot”, “you dumb ###**”, and a few other undeserved nicknames and I spent some time apologizing to the horse for the human race before calling my friend and asking her not to sell to this person (she didn’t). I see this kind of thing all the time: people expecting animals to do what the people know, rather than what the animal knows.

Another quick horse story: A friend’s daughter who grew up riding English hunter/jumper’s was visiting shortly after I’d taken in a couple of mustangs to train. She wanted to come to the 60’ round pen to watch me work. The mustang stallion was doing well, responding to verbal cues of walk, trot, and “canter”, and she asked if she might give it a try, as he was pretty different from anything she’d ever worked with before.

We traded places and she gave the traditional English command, “Walk on!” and, of course, the horse just looked at her in confusion. “What’s the matter with him?”, she wanted to know. “Nothing, he just doesn’t understand walk on, so just use walk” “That’s ridiculous! Of course he understands, walk on - all horses do!”

People....go figure! Happy Trails.....

Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, August 2018, Vol XXXIV, Number 3. □

What To Consider When Looking For A Fiber Processor

By Fran Soukup, Sugar River Llamas



There are many things to consider when looking for a fiber processor. I am going to cover the main ones here. You most certainly will have some of your own priorities. I feel that your fiber processor should be like a partner with you. You are sending them your fiber that you are paying them to process. Hopefully, they will treat it with care, as if it was their own.

LOCATION

Most of you are probably not lucky enough to have a fiber mill in your neighborhood. But if you do it would be worth the drive to visit one. You will get a better understanding of the process. And if it fits the criteria that you are looking for in a fiber processor, it sure would be handy and you would save on postage.

In many cases, it is worth exploring shipping options. And, to pack as much fleece in a container as possible. I use clean feedbags, lined with a large plastic bag. Stuff that bag full, compress it, suck out the air (vacuum cleaner with a nylon cover on the hose works well), pack it again. You should be able to get as much as fifty pounds in one bag - but, you need to work at it.

EQUIPMENT

Does the fiber processor have the equipment to provide you the product you need? Not all mills have the same equipment. Do they have a dehairer to remove guard hair? If you want yarn, be sure they have a spinner. If it is felt you are after, you need to see if they can do that. You also need to know if you want needle felted or wet felted felt. Each produces a different type of felt. Do you want the mill to dye your fleece? Maybe you want a finished product. Is that service offered? Some people prefer the output from certain name brand equipment because of the quality of the end product they produce. Check with the fiber mills you are considering, making sure they can provide you with the final product you are looking for. Be sure to consider the size of yarn you are looking for and the size of batts that can be made.

PRICE

Price is also important. When you are checking prices be sure that you are comparing apples to apples. Some mills price everything on incoming weight, some on final product weight. This can make a huge difference. Sheep wool, for instance can lose 50% of its weight in washing.

Llama and alpaca can lose 10% to 20%, although I had one mill return only 50% of the fleece as yarn. Let's look at some examples, based on cost/pound assuming 10% loss during washing and again with carding.

Mill A charges \$6 for washing, based on incoming weight, \$7 for dehairing, based on washed weight, and \$8-\$10 for carding, based on how many runs are needed. You send in 10 pounds of llama fleece. Spinning yarn costs \$25-\$31. Your price for 8 lbs finished yarn is \$398.

Mill B charges \$4 for washing at incoming weight, \$10 dehairing based on washed weight, and \$10 for carding to roving or batts. Spinning yarn is \$25-\$26 finished weight, but does include carding. This gives you \$322 for 8 lb. of finished yarn.

That is a big savings. Mill B looks more expensive at first glance, but came out cheaper in the end. Be sure to read through all the costs and ask the mill if you have any questions. Also, check for discounts for quantities. Some mills offer this option.

HOW FAST CAN I GET IT BACK?

At the time I am writing this, many mills have a six month to one year waiting list, a couple were three months and some were a year. This may be very important to you, so it is ask for an estimate of time to get your fleece back. It will also make a difference what you are having done with it. If time is of the essence, check with several mills until you find the one that works for you. But, also be aware, quick turnaround might also mean the mill is not that busy for a reason. Some very efficient mills allow the farm to reserve a time frame for a small deposit. For long wait times, it might be a good idea to reserve a spot for next year's shearing now.

QUALITY OF PRODUCT

Most of us want the best product we can find and at the best price. If you really want to see what a mill produces, ask for samples. They should be able to provide you with some. Also, talk to others and ask what mills they have used and see if they are happy with the end product. Sometimes people need it fast...and that is what is important to them. Sometimes it is the price that drives people. Or, it could be quality. Like everything else you usually can't have it all. You will have to decide what is important to you and the final product you want.

MISCELLANEOUS

Here are a few other things you may want to consider. Does the mill have a minimum poundage requirement? Some mills will need a minimum of pounds to even start the process for you. I have seen 2 lb., 10 lb., 25 lb., and 100 lb. minimums. Some have no minimums, but will charge you for 1 pound if the weight is under that. Sometimes the fiber length is important. How long is your fiber? Most mills require 2 to 6 inches. Some can process longer amounts, up to 9 or 10 inches. Others will take any length fleece, but will chop it into shorter lengths during the processing (gives a cat hair effect in finished product). If your fiber is long, it would be best to check before you send it in. Other questions to ask: How much experience have you had in processing llama fiber? What kind of soap? Do you add oils? Do you use any chemicals? Do you process suri fleece? Do you blend with other fibers? Ask the mill as many questions as you need to. This is a great way to test their customer service. I hope you all find a mill that works well for you.

Reprinted from the Midwest Llama Association Newsletter, January 2019. □



Color Dancers
Alpacas and Fiber
Cyndi Ernst

(517) 861-9328
CynthiaRErnst@gmail.com
Howell, Michigan 48855

SLR

In situations where the owners are not able to keep or maintain their animals, SELR takes them in and ultimately finds new homes for them. Funded entirely by private donations and adoption fees, SELR assists new owners by providing basic care, information, and connecting them with local “mentors” who are able to provide assistance on a more personal level.

In cases of abuse or neglect by llama/alpaca owners SELR assists local law enforcement and animal control authorities toward the best interest of the animal, which may result in SELR taking possession and placing the llamas in a new home. We also work closely with various animal sanctuaries to ensure that those animals who require lifelong medical care are afforded the attention they need.

When SELR gains possession of animals, they are vetted, trained, gelded if male and placed in pre-screened adoptive homes. Females are placed with a non-breeding contract.

We hope you'll help us save these wonderful llamas that so deserve our respect and care.

www.southeastllamarescue.org

Reprinted from the Midwest Llama Association Newsletter, January 2019. □

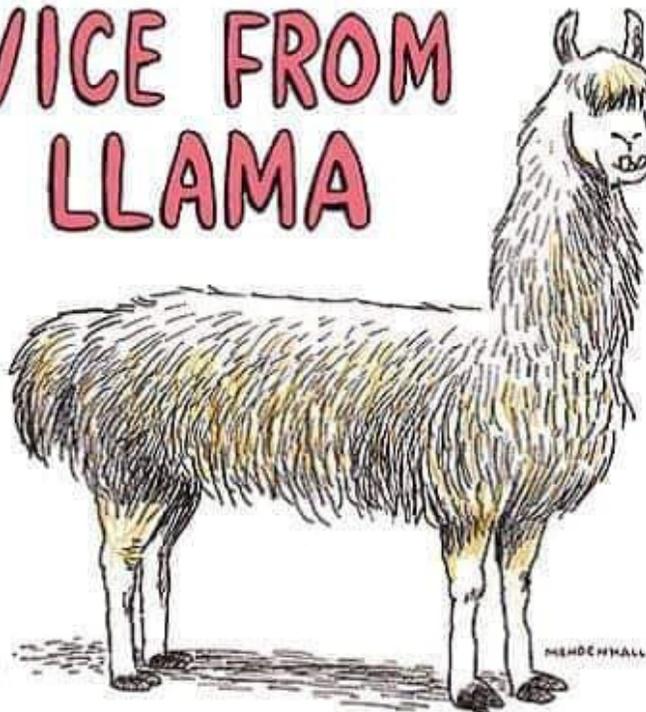


Lofty Pine Argentine Llamas and Alpacas

Deb Yeagle
Owner

2882 C R 82 | Lindsey, Ohio, 43442
Loftypine@yahoo.com | www.debyeagle.teamasea.com

ADVICE FROM A LLAMA



- LLISTEN TO YOUR HEART.
- LLOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE.
- LLET YOUR HAIR DOWN
ONCE IN A WHILE.
- LLEARN TO LLAUGH MORE.
- LLIVE AND LLET LLIVE.
- AND, MOST OF ALL,
- LLOVE LLIFE!

Reprinted from ORVLA Topline, August 2018, Volume 35, Number 3.

Barn Tips

2017 GALA Conference Discussion

Shared By Deb Gaskill



The following are not endorsements from GALA, but member suggestions to consider. - D. Gaskill.

ELECTRICAL

Run extension cords through PVC pipes to protect them.

Replace lighting with LED fluorescent strips or bulbs. Economical and BRIGHT.

ANIMAL CARE

Pet Dremels work well on toenails.

Cowboy Magic and Miracle Groom are great for grooming the llamas.

Use a small drag-along magnet on a pole for picking up nails and metal pieces around the barn/pasture. This is a great idea, especially around an old barn or right after a new roof. Also works well for those staples that fling away as you are putting up fencing.

STALL MATS

Use crusher run gravel under the mats to allow moisture to sink through. Urine gets between the cracks of rubber stall mats. Crusher run is a semi-crushed gravel mix with gravel pieces sized less than 2 inches combined with gravel screenings. Not sure this works for under rubber mats that are laid on wood or concrete, but does for dirt.

Use a C-clamp on mats to help move or carry. Best implement for cutting stall mats is a heavy duty angled utility knife and 2 x 4 blocks. Check out You Tube videos of how to do it.

There are many different pine shavings and pellets which can be used for bedding. A couple that were recommended to check out are EZ Equine wood pellet bedding and Mini Flake bedding that comes in different forms (also good for chickens).

HEATED BUCKETS

Make sure heated buckets are rated in some way UL or CAS rated: UL - Underwriters Laboratories: Underwriters Laboratories ® Inc. (UL) is an independent product safety certification organization that develops standards and test procedures for products, materials, components, assemblies, tools and equipment, chiefly dealing with product safety. UL does not “approve” products. Rather it evaluates products, components, materials and systems for compliance to specific requirements and permits acceptable products to carry a UL certificate mark, as long as they remain compliant with the standards. CSA: Canadian Standards Association: CSA International (Canadian Standards Association) is a provider of product testing and certification services for electrical, mechanical, plumbing, gas and a variety of other products. Recognized in the U.S., Canada, and around the world. CSA’s marks appear on billions of products worldwide. CSA International certification marks indicate that a product, process or service has been tested to a Canadian or U.S. standard and it meets the requirements of an applicable CSA standard or another recognized document used as a basis for certification.

BARN HOSE

Zero-G is a soft, light, but strong hose that is easy to manage even in the cold. Found in most hardware or discount stores.

MAKESHIFT HALTER/LEAD

Keep baling twine from hay bales near your fields/paddocks for easy catches. Can serve as a makeshift halter and lead in a pinch.

FEEDING OLDER ANIMALS

Many older animals have teeth or digestive issues. Some things to add to their feeding regime could be beet pulp, hay extender or a senior mix.

BLOWERS

Check out other brands, however careful to note the power. Some are very strong.

Continued on page 20.

Barn Tips Continued

REPLACEMENT HOSE

Get long enough ones so the motor is far enough away to reduce noise.
Replacement switch/cord: Use a good extension cord.

WATER BUCKET CLEANLINESS

Keep buckets covered during gypsy moth outbreaks. The dropping spoil water quickly.

ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

Leave a map of your property and where animals are suppose to be located just in case they get out and a friendly neighbor assists. Leave a picture book or poster with photos of animals.

Reprinted from ORVLA Topline, February 2018, Volume 35, Number 1. □

Vet Corner

By Dr. Char Arendas, DVM



For this issue, I will recap some of the lectures from the March 2018 Ohio State Camelid Health Conference for Veterinarians. Many familiar faces were to be seen as well as all the big names in the camelid veterinary world. This conference is always a great time with valuable information!

BARBERVAX - DR. ANTOINETTE E. MARSH

We have probably battled *Haemonchus* (barberpole worm) infections in some of our camelids due to dewormer resistance. Well, a new vaccine called Barbervax is now approved for use in sheep and goats in Australia. The vaccine uses part of the parasite's gut membrane as an antigen to elicit an immune response and titers in the vaccinated animal. A study was recently done at the Ohio State in vaccinating alpacas three times, each dose three weeks apart, then challenging them by ingestion of 1,500 *Haemonchus* larvae. Although they observe a dose of vaccine did cause lethargy for 2-3 days, the animals did not go off feed. They all developed titers to *Haemonchus* after vaccination, which did drop over time and was similar to studies in sheep. The study will be published soon, but more studies will be needed to determine the efficacy in field conditions in camelids. Maybe someday this vaccine will make it to the United States for us to use!

GI PARASITE CONTROL - DR. DAVID PUGH

Dr. Pugh discussed some parasite facts and tips on treatment. Our most "at-risk" groups for parasite problems are periparturient females (the few weeks before and after birthing), young animals in their first grazing season, and debilitated animals. Also, he explained how llamas are "browsers" and this puts them at more of a risk than alpacas, who are "grazers". Mainly this is because grazers typically eat low to the ground and are exposed to parasites more frequently, thus their immune systems are not a "naive". Browsers typically eat at taller heights and nibble on other things like trees, leaves, and branches. When pastures are poor and they must graze close to the ground, their immune systems are more naive when they encounter parasites. Dr. Pugh also mentioned some great info on *Haemonchus*. He mentioned that besides llamas, alpacas, sheep and goats, it also infects deer. Also, a single adult female *Haemonchus* worm can lay 5,000 eggs per day!!! Once the eggs exit in our camelid fecal pallets, the larvae require moisture to exit the bean and crawl up the blades of grass. They can travel about 2" a month, which is why short pasture grass is such a risk factor for our animals. Putting animals on a dry lot during wet periods or while waiting for pasture to grow taller can be a useful tool to limit exposure to *Haemonchus*. We also discussed some of the common reasons for the development of resistance to dewormers. One problem is the frequent or unnecessary administration of dewormers, such as "prophylctic deworming". Also, underdoing animals is a big problem this also includes animals spitting out medication. Another issue can be poor pasture management, causing overgrazing, or even poorly-drained wet pastures. Lastly, a lack of

biosecurity in the industry can bring more parasite problems to our farms, such as no quarantining new animals or not checking fecal samples on them before they go in with the rest of the herd. By far though, my favorite advice from Dr. Pugh on parasite control was his response to a question asked about using Diatomaceous Earth (“DE”) as a natural dewormer...”it works great as long as you mix it with moxidectin or levamisole”.

**COMMON HEALTH COMPLAINTS AND DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSES IN CAMELS -
DR. AHMED TIBARY**

We also had a very interesting lecture on the basics of camel medicine. It seems that camels can be a bit of a challenge to work with in the united States, as our camels here are typically very poorly trained and are also typically obese. In the Middle East, camels are typically very well trained to lie down and be worked with on a routine basis. Most camels in the U.S. are mixed breeds of Dromedary camels and apparently the Bactrians are more difficult to work with.

There are over 65 breeds of Dromedary camels, half of which are dairy breeds. Like our llamas and alpacas, camels are a herd animal and isolation from the herd can cause a lot of stress. The typical lifespan varies depending on their use. The oldest racing camel lived to be 32 years, the oldest zoo camel lived to 46 years, but most production camels (dairy) in Africa live 20-25 years. Camels get similar vaccines. They get similar parasites like llamas, but their biggest issue is with whipworms. We also learned of a syndrome that can affect camels called, “Floppy Hump”. I know what you’re thinking, but it’s exactly what it sounds like! Because the humps store fat, it typically happens in animals that have had periods of weight gain and then weight loss - usually older animals. However, once the hump has flopped over, it rarely will stand up again, even if the animal regains the lost weight. This may not seem like a giant issue, but the humps are actually very heavy and the weight of the hump flopped over on its side can actually cause the tissue to die off and become infected. This dead tissue can cause the animal to become septic and it can be a fatal outcome!. Camels are also prone to foreign bodies - they like to eat things like lead ropes and plastic - and they also can get fecoliths (large concretions of feces that cause a blockage). In case you were interested in dairy camels, camel milk is 8x the price of cow milk overseas, but it is even more expensive in the USA. A camel will not milk with a machine until it’s initiated with its calf first. They can lactate for about 18 months, can produce about 25-30 liters per day and must be milked 2-3 times a day. Unfortunately, most female camels won’t cycle during lactation and once pregnant she will dry up at about 60-80 days into her pregnancy.

Reprinted from the ORVLA Topline, May 2018, Volume 35, Number 2. □

**Great Escape
Llamas**

**Gary & Bev Surratt
14919 Burton Rd
Clayton, MI 49235
(517)547-3524**



gasurratt@tc3net.com
show-stud-fiber-guard -soil enhancers

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The following information will comprise your listing in the MLA Directory. *Indicates REQUIRED information.

*LAST NAME

*FIRST NAME

ADDITIONAL NAMES

FARM/BUSINESS NAME

*ADDRESS

*CITY *STATE *ZIP

PHONE FAX

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LLAMA LIVING NEWSLETTER

Online versions, pdf format, and in color are always free. Hard copies are available, for an additional fee of \$12. to your membership fee. Please include check with your membership and check box below.

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Birthdate _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Advertising opportunities are available in both the Membership Directory and the Newsletter.

Check it out at www.michiganllama.org or our Facebook page

For inclusion in the MLA Directory, send this form and check or money order payable to MLA, no later than January 31, 2019 to: MLA Treasurer, Pat Schneeberger, 11389 Broadbent Rd., Lansing, MI 48917. TX (517) 627-6562.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

Have you had a learning experience on your lama farm? Have you discovered a new lama product that has worked wonders on your lamas? Have you found new barn hints that make your and your animal's lives easier? Would you just like to share what is new and happening on your farm?

Why not share that information with the rest of the MLA family? You can write up an article (short or longer) yourself or you can submit the information to the staff at Llama Living and they can write or assist you in composing an article to share your information.

If you can help out other lama owners in raising their animals or just want to share what is happening on your farm, contact the staff at Llama Living at the address below. The deadlines for Llama Living are February 15th, May 15th, August 15th, and November 15th.

The premise of your organization's newsletter is to share information regarding lamas. Please help by doing your part.

Lama Living
c/o Suzanne Hockin Frambes
14775 Peckham Rd.
Albion, MI 49224
GRJax7@springcom.com

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

The opinions and articles in the MLA newsletter, *Llama Living*, are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the MLA or the newsletter editor.

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

Ads and photos may be sent by e-mail as an attachment in PDF format to GRJax7@springcom.com. Ads appearing in the online version only of *Llama Living* will be in color.

All ads submitted must be positive print ready (no film negatives). For compatible advertising sizes, see next column under, "Advertising Rates". Any ad not meeting listed sizes will be adjusted to accommodate the page.

A discount for multiple ad placement is available. A 10% discount is offered on advertising run for a minimum of two or more issues in the same calendar year. This offer is valid for any size ad, but **MUST** be ordered and **PAID** for at the same time to receive the discount.

All current *Llama Living* accounts must be paid in full prior to the placement of future advertising. Send all checks for advertising, made out to the Michigan Llama Association, articles, classified ads, and camera ready advertisements to:

Llama Living
Suzanne Hockin Frambes, Editor
14775 Peckham Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

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