



Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About.....

September 2019

Michigan Llama Association

Vol. 24, Issue 3

**Curious
As To
What Is
Happening?**

**Check
Inside.**



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GRJax7@springcom.com

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Cover photo taken by the Llama Living staff of a llama on Tami and Lloyd Lash's farm.

Michigan Llama Association

Web Site - www.michiganllama.org

Facebook Page - Michigan Llama Association

Bittersweet Farm



**Suzanne Hockin Frambes
Kenneth Frambes**
(517) 857-4626
GRJax7@springcom.com

Michigan Llama Association 2019 MLA Board

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 Douswsma	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	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	517-847-4626
Nomination	Jerry Miller	517-645-2719
Scholarship	Corky Dubois	616-902-2382
Spring Fund Raiser	Annette Aldreich	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

Llama Living Holiday Issue Deadline



November 15, 2019

Don't forget to attend the 2019 MLA Board, General Membership and Election Meeting In November. Information on the meeting is in this issue of Llama Living. There are two new Board of Director members and two new Board members that need to be elected this year. If you cannot attend the meeting, look for your ballot enclosed in the Fall MLA snail mailing.

If you would like to run for the Sectary, Treasurer, or one of the two Board positions, contact Jerry Miller to be included on the ballot.

A Free Opportunity To Promote Yourself!

Do you have lamas, sell lamas, have a lama related business or hobby?

Llama Living is offering a low cost way to promote your farm/lama related business/ lama related hobby.

Even if you just want people to know you are out there and would love to share your lamas, lama experience or just find new lama friends this is an avenue for you.

Llama Living is always looking for local information on lamas. All you have to do to promote your lama connection is to submit an article to Llama Living about your farm. The article can be from a half page up to one page and an jpg/pdf accompanying colored photo(s) is welcome.

Don't worry about your article being perfect. The staff at Llama Living will help you with the editing process.

In exchange Llama Living will offer you a free business card placement in the issue of Llama Living in which your article appears. You can upgrade the size of your ad by deducting the \$5 business card cost from your enlarged ad price. This will be a trial offer for the entire 2020 calendar year.

To submit your article/photo, contact the staff at Llama Living at GRJax7@springcom.com for more information. The deadlines for Llama Living are February 15th, May 15th, August 15th and November 15th.



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November 2, 2019

MLA Annual Membership and Election Meeting

Kiwanis Hall

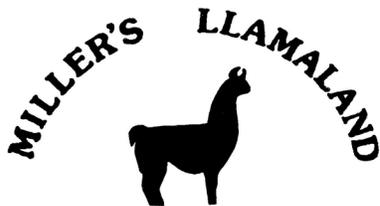
17335 Manitou Beach Road
Addision, MI

Look for the building red roof on the south side of the road.

Potluck at 11:30

Meeting starts 12:30

Watch your mail for updates and ballots!



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

**Great Escape
Llamas**

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



gasurratt@tc3net.com
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MLA Election Time

Each November the MLA holds its elections. This year all Board of Director and Board Member positions are open.

Jerry Miller is the chair of the Nomination Committee and has several positions that need candidates to fill the openings. They are:

**MLA Secretary
MLA Treasurer
MLA Board Members (2 spots open)**

All MLA Board positions are for two year terms. Does two years seem like along time? Think back over the last two years and how quickly they went by.

Both the secretary and treasurer positions have been held by the same people for many years and both ladies are ready for a change. They are both willing and able to help the anyone who takes over the positions in teaching and consulting on the ins and outs of being the MLA Secretary and Treasurer. If you are thinking of running for any of the positions, you can contact the people currently holding these positions with regards to what is required of your time and efforts before you call Jerry and tell him that you would like to run.

Although there are currently candidates running for the other director and board positions, all challengers are welcome on the ballot. If there is any position you are interested in, contact Jerry to place your name on the ballot ASAP.....time is running out.

Jerry Miller - 517.645.2719 - millerlama@aol.com

Calendar Of Events



SEPTEMBER

September 27-28, 2019

Lama Show

Hillsdale County Fair

Hillsdale, MI

Contact Gary and/or Bev Surratt for more information. bgsurratt@tc3net.com or 517.260.0334.

OCTOBER

Fiber Expo (Fall)

October 12-13, 2019

Washtenaw County Fairgrounds

Ann Arbor, MI

For more information go to www.fiberexpo.com

GALA Conference

October 24-27, 2019

The Inn at Reading

Wyomissing, PA

For more information regarding speakers and events contact carol@buckhollowllamas.com or galaonline.org.

NOVEMBER

November 2, 2019

MLA Annual Membership and Election Meeting

Kiwanis Hall

Addison, MI

Potluck at 11:30 - Meeting at 12:30.

November 15, 2019

Deadline for holiday issue of Llama Living.

Send information to Llama Living at GRJax7@springcom.com

DECEMBER



Double Your Pleasure. Double Your Fun!

By Marty McGee Bennett

As much as we may try, one size really does not fit all. One kind of vehicle can't do everything, there are hundreds of breeds of dogs, and I don't think one kind of camelid can do it all either. I think all real camelid enthusiasts need some of each. Alpacas and llamas each have something different and unique to offer and conveniently they are quite easy to manage together. Llamas are absolutely the best pack animals, have unique fiber and are funny and smart, but for quantity and quality you'd be hard pressed to find a wool producer with a more engaging personality than an alpaca. Get some of each species and you have the best of both worlds - you become bi-spec-i-al. For those of you that may be considering branching out, this article is my attempt to contrast and compare the two species from a training and handling point of view. For those of you just starting out and thinking about one or the other, you may have a llama and an alpaca in your future! My intention is to compare llamas and alpacas to each other and I will, but along the way I think it will be useful to compare camelids to species with which many people are more familiar.

Llamas and alpacas are smaller than horses and for that reason it is easier, safer, and more tempting to use force with them than with a horse. Owners of both species use methods on llamas and alpacas they wouldn't think of trying with a larger animal. I have watched in amazement the "football team" method of toenail trimming with llamas and have often witnessed alpacas upended or picked up and moved when they were resistant to initial non-forceful attempts at training. A camelid's smaller size can be deceiving. It can be quite startling to find out that when you truly mix it up with a camelid they are pound for pound much harder to wrestle with than one would think. A camelid's anatomy, specifically their long neck, make them difficult and dangerous (for the animal) to control using the head. The body can be waving around wildly even with the head held firmly in place. Therefore, in order to really control the body you have to hold on to the whole thing....a very tall order. All camelids are extremely supple and athletic and in the case of suri alpacas almost "slippery".

Alpacas, being the smaller of the two species, almost invite a handler to resort to force when faced with resistance. When compared to llamas I have heard alpaca enthusiasts use an alpaca's smaller size as a marketing point when contrasting them with llamas. If an alpaca won't go along with the program, you simply pick them up or lay them down. While this is certainly true and may be physically possible, it may not be the most effective way to end up with an alpaca that enjoys his or her association with people. Picking up a resistant alpaca serves to reinforce their tendency to lie down when uncertain and this can be a difficult habit to break. It is much better not to teach an alpaca to resort to the kushing behavior in the first place. For reasons both ethical and practical learning animal handling skills that work for camelids is key to enjoying both species.

Camelids are often characterized as aloof, eschewing human touch and preferring to remain at arm's length. I disagree. I do find both species to be more like a cat than a dog, but when approached properly are very bit as interesting in a relationship with humans as their feline soulmates. There are cats that will allow almost any indignity, but for the most part one must learn how to approach these aristocrats with respect. Imagine the behavior of a cat that was chased into a corner and grabbed then held on its owner's lap against its will. I would wager a cat living under these conditions would learn to run from the room as the human entered, take refuge under the furniture and perhaps resort to scratching and biting to make an escape. Under these circumstances would it be fair to comment, "OH that is just the way cats are..." when in fact that is not the way cats are. We create much of the undesirable behavior we see in camelids by our actions and then with an arrogance, uniquely human, we characterize their reaction to us as natural camelid behavior - I couldn't disagree more., Camelids are naturally shy, but they can learn to trust and enjoy humans that behave in a trustworthy manner.

Continued on page 10

Marty's Corner Continued

It is critical to organize your barn and pastures so that you can herd animals anywhere you desire efficiently. On the other hand, offering grain to encourage your camelids to come when called and to enter the catch pen willingly is smart management. Once in the catch pen catching your camelid with a wand and a rope rather than cornering and holding them around the neck will result in alpacas and llamas that will be more comfortable in your presence. Using the corner-grab-hold method teaches the animal, be it a llama or alpaca, to maintain an "arms length" attitude.

I use a wand with a clip on the end, along with a rope, to catch alpacas and llamas that are resistant to being caught (almost all of the them). There is no way to evade the wand and rope method, the handler can stay safely away from the hindquarters and the animal feels much safer. I do my best to stay behind the animal's eye as I bring the rope over the head. I bring the rope over the head from rear-to-front, which preserves the animal's escape route to the front.



Keeping the wand, rope and yourself behind the animal's eye.

Large llamas that have learned they can escape from a human by throwing the full weight of the body into the arm will be amazed at the new power of their handler and begin to look at humans with more respect. Lightning fast alpacas are flummoxed by the wand-rope method and quickly lean to settle down and allow human approach. This method also allows a handler to easily work with more than one animal in the catch pen at a time.

One of the basic differences between llamas and alpacas is their reaction to being isolated. I find that alpacas are much more dependent on the presence of the herd. An isolated alpaca will have a very hard time thinking and concentrate solely on escape. It is very difficult to teach an animal when they are unable to think. Working alpacas in groups will help keep the whole group calm, especially the more nervous ones. This generalization about isolation is just that - a generalization. When faced with a very nervous llama that is consumed with escape my first choice is always to provide another llama for company before continuing with my training handling efforts.

Controlling an animal's movement is part of what makes it possible for them to live in our world. Typically, we use the head for control as it provides the greatest leverage and power over the animal's movement. This is another aspect of camelid handling and training that has, in my opinion, suffered from an inattention to a camelid's unique anatomy. A camelid skull is very different both in size and configuration than that of a horse,



Size and shape of a camelid skull.

mule or donkey. Both llamas and alpacas are semi-obligate nasal breathers and cannot sustain themselves by breathing out of their mouth alone. Far too many halters are manufactured with nose-bands that are too small and do not allow the handler to properly place the nose band of the halter well up on the nose bone. Often those halters that do have a nose-band that is large enough do not have a properly proportioned crown piece that will keep the nose-band in place when the halter is used for leading. Nose-bands that can slip down and off a camelid's very short nose bone restrict airflow and will almost routinely create panic.



Pick a halter that does not restrict air flow through the nose.

Once panicked the animal is even more at risk from the ill-fitting halter. An alpaca's smaller size makes him even more vulnerable to a poorly fitting halter. Delicately built and young alpacas are even more at risk. Not all skulls are the same and it is crucial to palpate the nose to see exactly how much bone is available to support the nose band prior to attaching a lead rope to the halter. Because the halter fit is so tricky with alpacas in particular, I find it best to do herd management chores without even putting one on. Organize your property so that animals can be herded to handling areas. Work the animals in small spaces in groups using balancing techniques rather than restraint and a halter shouldn't be necessary.

When a halter is needed I fit it correctly using a three-step procedure. I adjust the nose-band so that it is much larger than I think I need (this requires a halter that is constructed to provide for a large degree of adjustment in the nose-band). Next I snug up the crown piece until it is tight enough to prevent the nose-band from slipping forward and off the bone. Only after I have made this adjustment do I take the extra slack out of the

Continued on page 12

Marty's Corner

Continued

nose-band. Halters adjusted so that the nose-band is further back on the skull, near the hinge of the jaw can be snugger and still be comfortable because there is not as much lateral movement at the hinge of the jaw than forward toward the incisors.



Proper fitting halter.

Halter fit is critical to not only the safety, but the performance of a llama or alpaca. I find that llamas and alpacas perform better and stay calmer when wearing a halter that fits. An alpaca that is asked to wear a halter that is uncomfortable will often begin to exhibit problem behaviors that may not seem to be related to halter fit, such as spitting, laying down, or resistance to catching. Much of the misbehavior evident in the show ring is directly related to improper halter fit and can be greatly improved by paying close attention to this issue.

When it comes to teaching a camelid to lead I find alpacas and llamas differ pretty significantly. Llamas are more independent and are quicker to venture away from the herd and so are more likely to follow the handler. Alpacas on the other hand are more emotionally tied to their herd and so are easily moved around on a lead if they can follow another alpaca. There are times and circumstances when the alpaca must follow a human handler alone and taking an alpaca for a walk - just the two of you - is a great way to forge a bond of trust.



Upward component to the signal to move with alpacas.

Halter fit, how signals are given on the lead along with lead rope placement directly contributes to the tendency of many alpacas to lie down when learning to follow a human on a lead rope. Since alpacas are smaller in stature than llamas there is a higher probability and tendency for the handler to inadvertently include an upward component to the signal to move forward. When the handler pulls forward and up on the lead, the alpaca will normally raise the head and also drop the back. This body stance will tend to lock the pelvis and inhibit forward movement. You can get a feel for what this is like by trying this exercise. Bend at the waist and raise your head and hollow your back (the two tend to go together) now raise your knee. You will probably notice that your balance is affected negatively and you cannot raise your knee very high. Conversely, if you lower your head, round your back and raise your knee you will notice that you have better balance as well as more freedom of movement in your pelvis. While this is certainly not directly applicable to what happens when you lead an animal, I have seen greatly improved performance in both llamas and alpacas when handlers have taken leading pressure off of the head allowing the animal to incline the head slightly forward as he walks.

You will have a higher degree of leading success, particularly with rookies, if you hook your lead rope to the side ring on the nose-band of a halter instead of underneath. This technique tends to inhibit the natural tendency of an untrained alpaca to resist forward signals on the lead by planting his feet and shifting his balance to the rear quarters seemingly growing roots at the same time. It will also give you more ability to steer and more control.



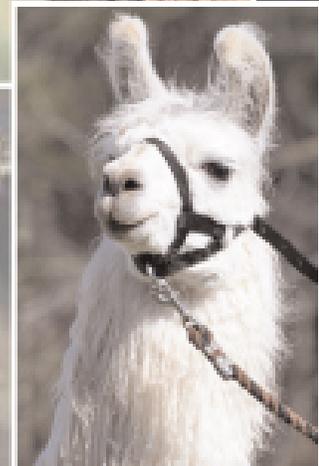
Hooking your lead to the side gives you more success.

Heightened awareness of the type and quality of the signal you give your alpaca will also make a difference to your/his comfort as well as his performance. Striving for light contact (connection) with the lead rope and using a squeezing signal as if you were squeezing a sponge will work much better than either an abrupt tug and release signal or steady pressure. Given the smaller size of alpacas and the sensitivity of both llamas and alpacas, more subtle signals are probably greatly appreciated as well as more effective. Another simple thing to do that will make leading much easier for both of you is to lighten up on the rope and get as far away as you lead rope will allow. Give your camelid more space!

While alpacas and llama differ in many ways both physically and behaviorally using logical handling methods rather than force and encouraging an animal to think rather than react instinctively will work for both llamas and alpacas. Whether you are currently a llama or an alpaca owner get your hands on the other species you may just be bi-spec-ial and not know it. □

Looking for a great new addition to your herd?

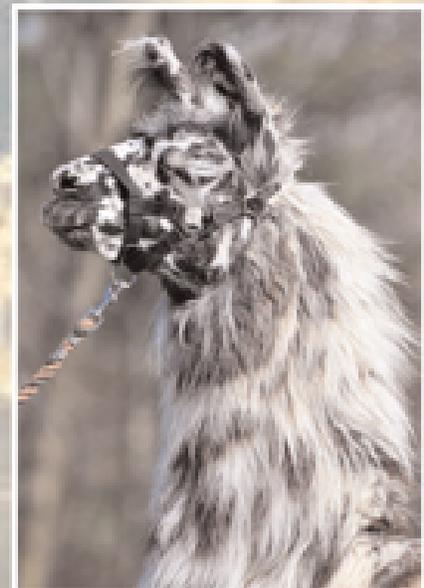
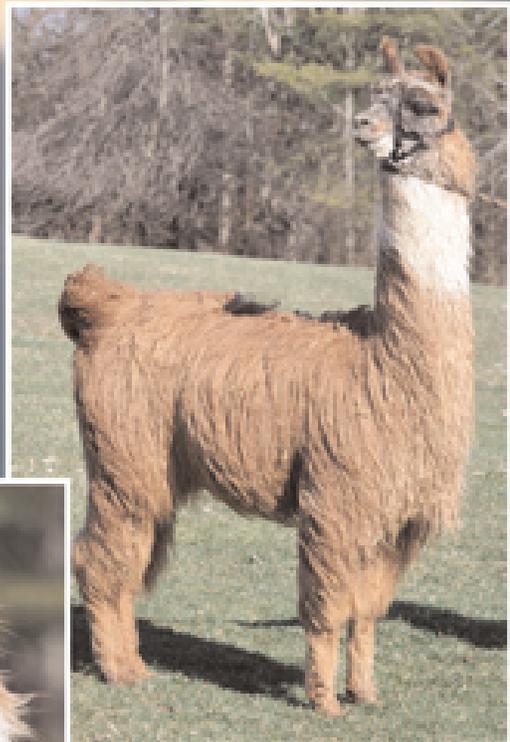
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- Is showing your animal a drama?

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What Do You Do When.....?

By Ron Hinds

It has probably happened to most of us. I know it has happened on our ranch. You have an intact male that got loose in a field with one or more females. Panic sets in. What do I do?

- ◆ Get a can of grain and start shaking it violently to get the male's attention or ...
- ◆ Start chasing him with a halter and lead, or ,,,
- ◆ Send in more intact males to fight with him, or...
- ◆ Wait until the male gets tired and sits down.

Here's a successful plan of action: If any of the females are pregnant,

- ◆ Get the female(s) attention by opening a gate into an empty area so they can run through and then quickly close the gate before the male follows.
- ◆ Wait until the male calms down (no longer chasing the female), then put a halter on him and lead him away.

If the female(s) are not pregnant, with a lead rope and halter in hand, wait until the female sits down for the male, then quickly put the halter on the male and pull him off the female.

Reprinted from the GALA Newsletter, August 2019, Column XXXV, Number 3. □

Camelid Cookies

By Diana Collins

- 1 cup shredded treats (carrots, apples, berries, etc.)
- 1 cup uncooked oatmeal
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 T vegetable oil
- 2 T sugar
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1/4 cup water (add more if mixture seems to dry)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Measure out about a teaspoon of dough and place on a foil covered cookie sheet. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Reprinted from the Missouri Llama Association, December 2013. Submitted by Deb Bozek, Morning Star Alpacas.



How To Contribute To YOUR Newsletter

By Sheila Fugina



Newsletter editors the world over will tell you the hardest, most frustrating part about the job is lack of submissions received from members. All of us look forward to seeing that familiar newsletter in our mailbox as we anticipate a “good read”. If members don’t contribute the content - articles, calendar items, helpful hints, photos, ads - there is no newsletter. An editor edits, which is defined as “to prepare and addition of” or “to direct the publication of”. That doesn’t include writing all the copy or beating the bushes for ads. That’s our job as members of this organization.

Many people aren’t comfortable writing. They don’t know where to start, or they don’t think they have anything worthwhile to say. Others are worried about their spelling, grammar or use of words. Still others feel they are just too busy to set aside any time for contributing to the newsletter. If any of those excuses sound familiar to you, here’s how to get over them.

If you’re not comfortable writing a piece for the newsletter then “talk” it. Tell it to a tape recorder or have your spouse or friend copy down the main points as you tell it to them. We’re not asking for a major epistle, just a short item or two. Once the gist of what you want to say is down on paper (or the computer), then you can play with it and change or refine it.

If you don’t know where to start, just start anywhere. You can always go back and put a beginning on your story. When I worked as a reporter for a daily newspaper, I had to work fast. If I wasn’t sure how to start a piece, I didn’t have the luxury of sitting around until inspiration hit. I just dove into the story and then checked afterwards to see if it had a logical beginning, middle and end. Have a friend read it and give you their reaction. Everyone has something worthwhile to say or share. Maybe it’s a simple trick or two in setting up your barn that makes feeding easier, or a way of handling your animals at shearing time that makes everything less stressful for them and for you. Maybe there’s a special event coming up that you want others to know about, or maybe you attended a great conference and have information you want to share with others. Everyone has a fun llama or alpaca story they tell their friends - why not write it down for the newsletter so others may enjoy it too?

If you’re worried about your spelling, grammar or use of words, have your spouse or a friend read your copy with a critical eye (there’s no more critical eye than that of a spouse). Though computers can be helpful with some spelling errors, beware of totally relying on spell check features. The computer won’t catch words that are spelled correctly, but not used properly. Ask the editor to proof or clean up your copy if you’d like. As editor on a variety of magazines and publications over the years, it was my job to edit articles and make them read well. Most editors will be happy to do this.

You don’t have enough time? Certainly over the course of a year you can manage to submit one item to the newsletter. If every member submitted only one item a year, the editor of a quarterly newsletter would be awash with material for publication. Just put it on your calendar and follow through. If you have the time or inclination to contribute more than one piece, all the better. Consider it your responsibility to your organization, just like paying your membership dues.

Think about advertising in the newsletter. Promote your stud, highlight animals or equipment for sale, and keep your newsletter solvent at the same time. Encourage others to advertise, not just members, but also business and services that might benefit from advertising to our members. Business card ads and classified ads are inexpensive and larger sizes in our newsletter are very reasonable. If you aren’t sure how to put together a camera-ready ad, ask a computer literate friend for help.

Our newsletter is the one single piece of communication we can count on to reach every member on a regular ongoing basis with news and information about our organization, as well as items of concern throughout our region. Not everyone attends all of our meetings and conferences, nor can we count on everyone receiving our organization’s e-mail communications. Our newsletter is one of the most important membership benefits we receive. And that includes “giving to” the newsletter as well as “taking from” it.

Reprinted from the Missouri Llama Association, December 2013. Originally printed in The Missouri Llama Association Newsletter, December 2013. □

Getting Better Show Results

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 that? 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 the 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.

Here 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 you 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 of 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 well stocked with your favorite 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 bottle 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 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 you 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 of uneven fiber when you shear? 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 ready as well as a rag to wipe away 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 minutes a day, three times a week can make a big difference to your llama's success. Llamas 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 dragged on the halter can very well mean the difference of placing high or low.

Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, February 2019, Vol. XXXV, Number 1. Originally printed in LANA News, Spring Edition 2018. □

What About The Animals?

In the Event of Accident, Disability or Death

By Christine Stull, Southeast Llama Rescue



If one day you were no longer able to care for your camelid, who would take over the responsibility? Caring for camelids requires appropriate facilities and some degree of experience. This is usually a far more complex scenario than finding someone to keep your dog or cat.

This might be a temporary situation or a permanent one. Regardless, you need to have a plan in place so your animals will not go without care for even a single day. Below is a high level guide to making the necessary arrangements

Please note: This is a high level guide intended to cover all possibilities. SELR does not have the capability as an organization to provide temporary care. If animals are surrendered to SELR, the arrangement is facilitated via a legally binding contract (SELR Surrender Form) which transfers ownership of the animal(s) to SELR in order to facilitate permanent placement into screened homes. This form can be completed and signed with a copy held by both parties until it needs to be initiated. In that case, a yearly review is necessary so that when the time comes for the transfer of animals, we can plan appropriately to secure the necessary foster space.

Standard SELF surrender forms can be downloaded from the web site www.southeastllamarescue.org. For forms specific to 6 or more animals, contact your closest Coordinator or the SELR Facebook page to have a "Large Herd Surrender Form" sent to you.

STEP ONE

Prepare an inventory and identify permanent or interim caregivers. Every animal owner should maintain documentation that lists individual animals, the address where they are located (if not your home address) and contact information for interim or permanent caregivers. You are welcome to utilize SELR's standard Surrender Form for less than six animals to create your inventory or, in the case of a larger number of animals, the "Large Herd Surrender Form" may better suffice for this purpose as it provides a more condensed format which you can modify as desired.

Interim caregivers are those who would be willing to care for your animals in the hours, days or weeks after an emergency which results in your unexpected absence. You should identify at least two interim caregivers.

Provide these caregivers with the location of your camelid profile information (if you are using a livestock management application make sure they have all access codes!), the name of your veterinarian and information about the long-term provisions you have made for your llamas and/or alpacas. Identify a date each year that is meaningful to you such as your birthday or a holiday, when you will revisit your selection of caregivers as well as the inventory of animals currently on the property.

It's also a good time to bring associated medical records up to date as well, note any ongoing medical issues or medications, special supplements, etc. Emergency caregivers should also know how to contact each other, the feed store you normal buy from and the products you use. Animals in stressful circumstances don't need a sudden change of food if it can be avoided!

STEP TWO

Prepare a Written Long-Term Plan for your animals. It is important to have a formal written plan detailing how you want your animals to be cared for in your absence. This plan should be formalized in a will, trust or other legal document. Legally animals are considered personal property and therefore, if they are not included in the estate planning process, they could be taken to an auction (particularly if livestock), given away to uneducated parties who will not care for them appropriately or even euthanized. Your estate plan should include, at a minimum, the following documents with mention of provisions for your animal in each:

Durable powers of attorney for financial matters.

Durable powers of attorney for health matters.

Last will and testament and trusts.

PERMANENT CAREGIVERS

The first step in making any plan is to identify options for permanent caregivers for your animals. Consider friends and family members who know your animals and understand the responsibility of caring for them. You must also decide if your animals must stay together or could be placed in separate locations. It is important to have alternate caregivers identified in case your first choice is unavailable.

Another option is to ask a rescue organization, such as SELR, to find a new home for your animals. This should be discussed in advance with the organization and specific instructions written into your estate plan. If you are considering designating SELR as the permanent caregiver, the inclusion of completed SELR surrender forms is very helpful in ensuring we are able to act within the time frames necessary and position ourselves to provide the necessary care which may be required by senior and/or compromised animals.

Medical records, even if very basic, help tremendously. If animals are transitioned to SELR among the very first things we do are body score and check eye membranes (FAMACHA). Then, unless the animal is visibly compromised, we provide a CDT shot, initiate Meningeal worm prevention (injectable Ivermectin), run a fecal test and worm appropriately. Depending on the location of the foster and/or adoptive home, we will often administer a rabies shot as well. Avoiding unnecessary meds, procedures and associated costs are preferable, but we will err on the side of caution if we have no medical history to reference.

It is important to have someone designated to make funds available to provide for the care of your animals when permanent caregivers are being identified. You cannot leave property to your animal - funding must be directed to the interim or permanent caregiver. SELR is an all volunteer rescue organization funded solely by donations and adoption fees. While we are always working to find surrendered animals just the right home, costs associated with feed and supplementation during the time applicants are undergoing our screening process, addressing any veterinary issues which may crop up, as well as transportation to new homes for numerous animals could stress our resources beyond a reasonable point and render us unable to accept other surrenders for a significant period of time.

OPTIONS

INFORMAL AGREEMENTS

Many times the above arrangements can be accomplished via informal agreements which do not require the assistance of an attorney. Generally, informal agreements which do not require the assistance of an attorney. Generally, informal agreements include all arrangements for the care of your animals. Although they are not legally enforceable if you have a viable candidate to “take over” the care of your animals, this might be the perfect arrangement.

A “pre-surrender” arrangement with SELR would fall into this category although once the owner or their designee confirms the transfer by signing, the surrender contract is considered to be a legally binding contract transferring ownership to SELR. Without the transfer of ownership we cannot remove animals from the premises, provide any necessary veterinary care (including the gelding of all intact males as per our policy) or ultimately place them in pre-screened homes. An agreement of this nature may also be referred to as a “Legacy Arrangement”.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Powers of attorney, which authorize someone else to conduct some or all of your affairs while you are alive, have become a standard planning device. Such documents can be written to take effect upon your physical or mental incapacity. It is important to include animals in these powers of attorney to authorize payments for care, including food, veterinary care, grooming, etc. These documents should also address where your animals are to be housed depending on whether you are at home and in the event you must be moved to a hospital or nursing facility.

Transports of large herds can be costly, time consuming and often cumbersome. Some owners choose to designate “pools” of animals with specific designations to aid in the decision of who should be moved out first or who can stay in their home environment with perhaps minimal care. For example: Older and compromised animals requiring supplementation or other close supervision: Pregnant/nursing animals: Animals which are tightly bonded and should stay together wherever that location might be; Animals which CANNOT be placed together for various reasons, usually due to aggression.

Continued on page 22

What About The Animals?

Continued

Powers of attorney should also give your designee the ability to make critical decisions about your animal's medical care.

Remember, while a durable power of attorney can be used to designate someone to make decisions regarding the care of your camelids should you be unable, the person will only have the ability to make decisions about your animals during your lifetime. Consequently, you still need to consider a permanent arrangement for their future care.

WILLS

Although a will is a necessary part of any estate plan, it has drawbacks when it comes to providing for your animals. A will takes effect only upon your death and will not be probated and formally recognized by a court for days or even weeks later. Should a dispute arise, such as a conflict among beneficiaries, the final settlement of your property, including your animals, may be prolonged.

However, it remains important that your wishes for your animals be expressed in your will. This should include the identification of your pre-determined care givers as well as alternates. Your will should also provide detailed instructions about the establishment of sufficient funds to provide for all animal-related care expenses. Your executor or other identified individual should be given flexibility to make alternate arrangements if your original instructions cannot be honored.

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION

A Letter of Instruction can be used to designate a future caregiver for your animal(s) and to leave specific guidelines for their care when you are gone. While it is a flexible way to document arrangements for care, it has limitations. For example, it does not have the same effect as other legal documents and, if included as a supplement to a will, its implementation only takes effect upon actual administration of the estate.

TRUSTS

A stronger, more complicated, and more expensive legal option is to create a "Pet Trust". With a pet trust you can leave your animal(s), money, and a legal obligation to care for them. If the caretaker fails to follow your instructions, he or she can be sued.

There are three main parties to a pet trust: the Settlor (owner) who establishes the trust, the Trustee or person who holds legal title to the trust property (usually cash), and the Beneficiary for which the trust is established (the identified animal). The funds can be distributed in any increments and time line as specified in the trust. The Trustee oversees the distribution of funds while another person (or entity, such as SELR) may be named as caretaker who actually manages the day to day care of the animal(s). In the case of SELR, that would extend until the llama/alpaca has been permanently placed into a new home.

The Trustee has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure the caretaker is following through with his or her obligations to care for the animals included in the trust. The trust remains in effect until the animal dies, or in the case of a herd, the last animal dies. Usually this includes animals transferred in utero so potentially, planning should consider that this could be 20+ years.

In the past, when owners tried to leave money to their animals in a "trust", the trust failed because "pets" were considered personal property and, as such, could not receive money via a trust nor be a beneficiary to the trust. Things started to change in the 1990's when the Uniform Probate Code (UPC) allowed the creation of pet trusts, followed by the Uniform Trust Code (UTC) making honorary trusts for pets enforceable. Now all 50 states plus the District of Columbia have a pet trust law. Minnesota was the last state to enact a pet trust law in 2016.

Unlike a will, a trust can provide for your animals immediately and can apply in the event of illness, incapacity or death. You determine when your trust becomes effective and specify a trustee to control distribution of the funds. Typically a trustee will hold property, usually cash, for the benefit of your animals. Payments to a designated caregiver will be made on a regular basis. The trust, depending on state law, will continue for the life of the pet or a specified number or years. There is specific wording that can be included to address longer lived animals such as camelids and equines. Trusts are a more reliable vehicle for ensuring your wishes for your animals will be followed.

NOTE 1: Some states impose funding limits for pet trusts that permit the court to reduce and/or redirect trust property determined to be in excess of the intended use set forth in the trust instrument. Please consult your states full pet trust statute or a state's licensed attorney for further information.

NOTE 2: Establishing a pet trust can be far more expensive than other alternatives. It is critical, however, that you utilize the services of someone who is very experienced in this area to ensure that the trust is viable and will withstand any possible legal challenges.

When setting up a trust, in addition to having trustees and caregivers identified, you will also need the following information: A method of adequately identifying your animals, such as microchips. While often helpful, pictures are not a reliable method of identification, especially in solid colored animals; A way for your trustee to regularly validate the care provided to your animals is the case of animals surrendered to SELR, this would extend up until the point where animals are permanently placed (i.e. adopted); A reasonable estimate of annual expenses. A fee to be paid for the administration of the trust. A plan for the final disposition of your animal. In the case of livestock, most do not go to this degree of specificity; A named beneficiary should there be funds remaining in the trust after the animal's death. These funds are often donated to SELR for the use in supporting other needy animals.

Trusts can be funded in a number of ways, such as direct transfer of money or property, life insurance, funds from the property in your estate, annuities or similar retirement accounts.

Advantages to using a pet trust: They create a legal obligation to care for your animal(s); They provide accountability for the money that you leave the caretaker; They allow you to set up a care taking plan that will take effect if you become incapacitated.

Disadvantages to using a pet trust: They are expensive; They can be inflexible in some instances if circumstances change after your death; They are likely to be more planning and structure than you need if you trust your named caretaker.

This would serve as a guide towards making decisions regarding your herd and is not a substitution for legal advice. As always, consult an attorney with regards to legal documents and the best way to proceed.

Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, February 2018, Volume XXXV, Number 1.

For more information about the Southeast Llama Rescue see their web site at www.southeastllamarescue.org. □



Color Dancers

Alpacas and Fiber
Cyndi Ernst

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

Lifting The Down Llama

By Dr. Char Arendas, DVM

If you have camelids, at one point or another you are probably going to have a “down” animal. It could happen for a variety of reasons: meningial worm, injury, severe anemia, or other illnesses. Many of these animals may never get back up. However, the sooner you can get them lifted, the better the chance for recovery.

We were recently given a human medical lift by a good friend. It is also known as a “Hoyer” lift. We were quite skeptical at first if this was going to be useful for a down camelid. It had lived in our garage for several months, until one day a friend had a “down” llama. We thought, let’s give this thing a try.

The lift itself is quite simply designed. It can be taken apart into several pieces for easier storage. There are two legs on the floor which can be spread apart by using a handle for more stability or to accommodate a wider/larger animal. The arm which holds the patient sling is attached to a small hydraulic lift which can be easily pumped up to lift or slowly lowered to the ground. Plus, the whole unit is on wheels, so once the animal is “up”, you can push the unit slowly along the floor to help them take some steps.

Just looking at the lift, we could tell this would probably work well for a smaller llama, but were unsure if it would suffice in this particular case. The llama we were working with was a larger (height and also he was chunky). We did not use the Velcro human “sling” that came with the lift, as it didn’t seem like it would fit a llama properly/securely. Instead, we used the Belly Sling sold by Useful Llama Items along with some alligator straps.

We placed the belly sling under the llama’s chest and we were able to attach the sling handles to the hooks in the Hoyer arm lift. We placed the belly sling under the llama’s chest and we were able to attach the sling handles to the hooks in the Hoyer arm lift. When we tried to lift him with just this, we ended up lifting his back legs as he face planted because of the belly band sliding backwards under his groin. So, we used some alligator straps running from the sling handles around the front of his neck/chest to prevent it from slipping. This solved the problem! When we lifted him this time, he lifted quite nicely. He was able to stretch his legs and place his feet on the ground. After a few minutes, we pushed the lift slowly to help him take a few steps. Sometimes you had to adjust the height up or down to get him to bear a little weight on his feet. All in all, this was a great tool to try and rehabilitate this guy. In the past we’ve used chain block lifts attached to overhead beams in the barn, but sometimes an animal will go down in an area where it may not be possible to use that or maybe you are unable to move/drag them to your hospital stall.

I would encourage anyone to look for these hydraulic medical Hoyer lifts used at auctions or garage sales. In just a quick online search, I found some for sale for \$200-\$300 on eBay with free shipping! You can also find them outfitted with electric lifts, although the hydraulic hand pump is honestly very easy to use and does not require great strength whatsoever. I would definitely recommend lifting a llama as a 2 person job - you never know when an animal can spook or attempt to move quickly. The last thing you need to happen is to injure yourself or the llama any more than he already is.

Reprinted from Topline, ORVLA, August 2019, Volume 36, Number 3. □



HOYER
LIFT



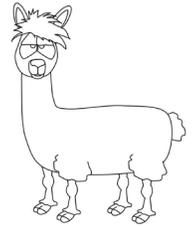
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Bored Llamas Are Ba-a-ad Llamas

By Deb Gaskill



MLA Editor's Note: Although winter is on our doorstep, this article lets us know what to look forward to in a few months. Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, February 2019, Volume XXXV, Number 1.

How are your llamas surviving the winter? Here in the Midwest where the phrase “polar vortex” is becoming part of our daily lexicon, mine are bored.

And when they're bored, they're bad. Very, very bad.

When the first polar vortex hit us, with eight inches of snow and quarter inch of ice, we do what reasonable llama owners do, we shut them in the barn, turn on the heaters, plug in heated buckets, and where necessary, put coats on our older animals.

The first few days were fine. They ate their hay. They drank their water and lounged around.

Then, about the third day, boredom set in inside the girls' stall.

In the mornings, I would come out to the barn to find a rousing game of halter toss had happen overnight, a sort of stall-wide rave, where halters were picked off the rack on the front of the stall and tossed allover, them stomped into the floor. For some reason, the leads aren't as interesting and get left alone. I also found the cria weighing sling stomped into the ground along with a couple gate straps I wasn't using.

Now, I usually give my daily halters a good wash every spring, just before show season starts.

Before opening the door at the end of the first vortex, I needed to do two loads of nylon halters. I hope they had a good time.

Another fun overnight game was called Knock the Feeder Off the Wall. The winner successfully knocks as many feeders off as possible and fills them with beans. The more beans, the more points apparently. That means for several days in a row, I'm also hauling nasty feeders into the house to be washed.

Thirty below wind chills aren't fun to start with - hauling dirt barn stuff back and forth doesn't make it any easier.

From the feeders and halters, the girls progressed to pulling the switches on the heaters and unplugging anything they could get hold of - which meant frozen buckets and no heat.

C'mon, girls - really? Do I need to get ya'll iPads and a Netflix account?

The boys, on the other side of the barn were not a problem - and haven't been. Halters get left alone. Buckets stay plugged in and feeders don't move. I imagined each of them as a sort of camelid Mr. Bennett, from Jane Austen's, *Pride and Prejudice*, looking up placidly from whatever book they are reading to watch the females in their lives dither about.

Actually, the boy's door to the outside froze shut and they had to wait a couple days longer to see the sunshine. Again, the reaction was, “OK. Sure. Whatever.”

The final straw was when the girls figured out how to stick their heads through the slats on the gates and lift the locked gates off the pins. They managed to enjoy about ten pounds of grain and destroy three or four bales of hay. (Not to worry: we figured out how to stop that shenanigan from happening again!)

But, still, as soon as the wind chill disappeared, you bet this gal was forcing the girls' stall door open: “Everybody! Outside!

Our second polar vortex occurred while I was in Tucson and my poor husband was left alone at the farm. While he preemptively moved the halters and removed the feeders during the day, a series of selfies back and forth between us let me know it wasn't any easier for him.

For example: A picture of me standing (in shorts) by a saguaro cactus was answered by a picture of a geriatric llama in a coat and the caption, “It's cold here.”

A picture of me with the Catalina Mountains in the background, hiking through the desert was met with the same geriatric llama, now clad in two coats, “It's going to hit -30 tonight”.

Continued on page 27.

MICHIGAN



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

Check it out at www.michiganllama.org or the MLA Facebook page.

For inclusion in the MLA Directory, send this form and check or money order. payable to the MLA Treasurer, Pat Schneeberger, 11389 Broadbent Rd., Lansing, MI 48917. TX (517) 627-6562.

Bored Llamas Are Ba-a-ad Llamas

Continued

A text message from me saying, “I’m at the Sonoran Desert Museum! It’s so beautiful here!” Received the reply, “I’m on the tractor, plowing six inches of snow so I can get to work”

“Maybe you ought to stop sending that stuff to Greg”, my girlfriend says, as we order another round of margaritas.

“Yeah, maybe I should. No wait - look at that sunset! Just one more picture.”

Here’s hoping spring comes soon. ☐



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MICHIGAN



LAMA
ASSOCIATION

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
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Albion, MI 49224

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