



Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About...

June 2020

Michigan Llama Association

Volume 25, Issue 2



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25 Years

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GRJax7@springcom.com

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Michigan Llama Association

Web Site - www.michiganllama.org
Facebook Page - Michigan Llama Association

Cover artwork graciously provided by Renee` Hobbins, Animal Tracks Farm

Bittersweet Farm



Suzanne Hockin Frambes
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Youth Fund Raiser	INACTIVE	
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Michigan Fiber Industry Coalition	Sheila Miller	517-645-2719

**Next
Llama Living
Deadline**

**August 15,
2020**

**Summer's
Here.**

**Don't forget
to shear!**

If you would like to fill any of the vacant positions or join a committee, contact Corky Dubois for information.



Calendar Of Events



All cancellations/rescheduling listed are correct on Memorial Day, 2020. Be sure to check an event prior to attending to see if it has been changed due to Covid-19.

JUNE

June 6-7, 2020

**Allen County Open
Allen County Fairgrounds
Fort Wayne, IN**

*Decision as to whether or not this event needs to be rescheduled will be determined by June 1st.
For more information see their Facebook page.*

June 6-7, 2020

**Tip of the Mitt Fiber Fair
Emmet County Fairgrounds
Petoskey, MI**

This event has been cancelled for 2020 due to Covid-19.

June 13-14, 2020

**John Mallon Level 1 Clinic
John Mallon Jackpot Obstacle Clinic
Fehrenbach Farm
Ewart, MI**

This clinic has been cancelled for 2020.

June 26-28, 2020

The Gathering
A final decision has not been made regarding this event taking place. Keep checking the ILR web site.

JULY

July 18, 2020

**Dr. Norm Evan's Nutrition, Skin Parasites, Repro & Genetic Clinic
Kettenum Center
Tustin, MI**

This event has been cancelled for 2020. A rescheduling date in 2021 TBA.

Contact Denise Fehrenbach at Denise@frehrenbachfarms.com

July 29 - August 9, 2020

**Ohio State Fair
Columbus, OH**

The Ohio State Fair has been cancelled for 2020.

AUGUST

August 4, 2020

**Fulton County Fair
Wauseon, OH**

For more information see the ORVLA web site or the Fulton County Fair Facebook page.

August 7-9, 2020

**Indiana State Fair
Indianapolis, IN**

For more information see the fair web site

August 12-16, 2020

**Michigan Fiber Festival
Allegan County Fairgrounds,
Allegan, MI**

*Workshops with vendor days on Friday and Saturday.
For more information go to their web site.*

August 15, 2020

Deadline for Llama Living

SEPTEMBER

September 5-6, 2020

**Lamafest
MSU Pavilion
East Lansing, MI**

For more information see the article in this issue of Llama Living, the MLA web site or Corky Dubois and Dave Thompson at egflamas@yahoo.com

September

Basic Llama/Alpaca Training with Mary Jo Miller
Fehrenbach Farms
Ewart, MI

Class is limited to 25 people and is a reschedule from earlier this spring. Contact Denise Fehrenbach at Denise@fehrenchbachfarms.com for more information and specific date.

September

Llama/Alpaca Performance Training With Mary Jo Miller
Fehrenbach Farms
Ewart, MI

Class is limited to 25 people and is a reschedule from earlier this spring. Contact Denise Fehrenbach at Denise@fehrenchbachfarms.com for more information and specific date.

OCTOBER

October 10-11, 2020
Fiber Expo
Washtenaw Farm Council
Ann Arbor, MI
Info: info@fiberexpo.com

NOVEMBER

November 15, 2020
Deadline for the holiday issue of Llama Living

NOVEMBER
MLA Board and Election Meeting
Date, time and place not available as of this printing.

DECEMBER

2021

May 22-23, 2021
Dr. Walker Parasite Clinic
Kettenum Center
Tustin, MI

This event was rescheduled from May of 2020.
Limited number of openings.
Contact Denise Fehrenbach at Denise@fehrenchbachfarms.com

Whether taking care of humans in health care facilities, taking care of our families at home or our four legged friends in the barn during this difficult time.....





CAMELIDynamics

**Sane, Safe Science Based Solutions!
Understand the Nature of the Beast**

- Does your llama or alpaca plant his feet and refuse to come forward?
- Are you having trouble trimming toenails?
- Is teaching your llama or alpaca to lead like flying a kite or dragging an anvil?
- Is showing your animal a drama?

Camelidynamics is:

- Empowering
- Uses the most positive, least intrusive methods
- Relies on an understanding of behavior and balance, NOT restraint and force
- Is a method that will work for you regardless of your physical ability.

Camelidynamics offers:

- The CAMELIDynamics Guild - online forum moderated by Marty, biweekly newsletter and training tip, and supportive online community
- Innovative, thoughtfully designed equipment made in the USA.
- Online Courses-self paced video lessons
- Hands On Courses:



For a list of Marty's 2020 clinics go to www.camelidynamics.com and click on LEARN HOW.

Marty's Corner



By Marty McGee Bennett

We never know what affect we will have on people...good and bad. Our behavior is like a rock thrown into a pond. The ripples keep on going and going. Often we never know what impact we have on the lives of others. I am fortunate that I often hear from people who feel the ripple and share their experience with me. What follows is a letter from Tania Husak, a veterinarian from the Czech Republic who heard about my book and later bought it from a breeder and CAMELIDynamics enthusiast in New Zealand. It is a wonderful story full of serendipity and humans and animals learning together.

Tania writes: *Thanks to you, it all started years ago when I worked as a Small Animal's vet in New Zealand and decided to study the course about Alpaca. At that time I had no idea what Alpaca is! Our first lecture mentioned your book for those who want to understand the animals a bit better. That is something what I always want so I order the book and was contacted by Vicky Tribe who persuaded me to come to Christchurch for the 2 days course of Camelidynamics. So I did and on my second day there was complicated birth on the farm and me the only vet available. By using my knowledge from dogs and cats (and a bit of sheep) I managed to deliver healthy cria, lovely female who was called Tania after me! And it was my first veterinary experience and it was the start of my BIG LOVE for Camelids!*

Thanks to your course I started to approach them differently, with love and understanding. That was something what was not included in our Veterinary course. And millions of thanks for that Marty as all the time on both sides of the world I am finding that this approach is the BEST.

Just a little story to confirm the above and to amuse you. I am now more and more often called to Zoo gardens as advisor especially in the area of nutrition of all camelids. This case was a baby camel who lost his mum, was reared from the age of 5 days, and I was helping by advise on the phone. Now he was 5 months old and I was asked to come and see him, to collect blood, etc. When I arrived I was told "He is now a big boy, 120 kg, it will be big fight! We have 4 strong keepers ready to help you, but it might not be enough."

Well, I came ready with all my syringes, etc.. and what I have seen was very frightened camel indeed. But he was willing to be haltered from his keeper so I said, "Let us try to be nice". I was quietly talking to him, then touching the neck, stroking him asking quietly the keeper to put his palm down the neck to occlude the vein and then I said, "Jerry, it will prick" and I inserted the needle. Jerry squeaked and jumped a bit, but then was standing still. I was talking to him and slowly withdrawing as much blood as I need. And when we finished I had 2 rewards: Jerry came to me and put his head on my shoulder as saying, "Thank you!" and those strong zoo keepers who were ready for big fight with a camel and happy there was none! They asked me, "Could you come and collect our blood when we have next medical as you are gentle!". All that thanks to you, Marty. THANKS!

Continued on page 8



Tania working with Jerry.



Tania and friends working with Jerry.

Marty's Corner Continued

Tania's experience with this young camel and the reaction of the keepers is typical of so many owners that shake their heads in amazement when their wild child stands quietly for haltering or an injection. I can remember vividly the wrestling matches I had with my llamas in the early days. I began with the assumption that there was no way that my llama could stand quietly for an ultrasound or routine injections. Based on this premise I started the process with some sort of restraint.

In my experience when it comes to introducing a new procedure, there are three kinds of camelids.

- 1 - The animal that is basically trusting and not very reactive. When restrained these animals give up quickly, don't fight much, and will generally accept procedures easily, regardless of how the process is introduced.
- 2 - The animal that begins with a typical attitude of suspicion about anything new. These animals object to restraint, but stay present and quickly figure out creative ways to avoid a procedure that is being forced on them. Often these creative measures are quite difficult to deal with leading to more restraint and more counter measures.
- 3 - Animals that are incredibly sensitive to restraint. When restrained these animals will fight as if their very life depended on it and won't give up. They are so out of their minds with fear about restraint that they aren't present to find out what the procedure is!

The first type of animal will emerge from all kinds of unfortunate training and handling experiences without too much in the way of difficult learned behaviors. Because they don't fight first. These animals don't learn how strong they are and how capable of successful resistance they can be. They don't fight so they don't create frightening situations for themselves that lead to the creation of future difficult behaviors.

The second type of animal when educated with systematic desensitization will quickly become trusting. With forceful handling they will quickly learn just exactly what you wish they didn't know - this is that they have a lot of successful options for resisting things that are frightening. These animals will figure out all kinds of clever ways to thwart a human agenda that they find frightening. You see a lot of these animals in the show ring. As they see the judge approach, they launch themselves away from the handler. They can also be the animal who sees the toenail nippers and lays down immediately tucking their legs so tightly in the center of their body that you cannot pry them out.

The third type of camelid is the one that can exhibit a miraculous turn around in behavior - and there are a lot of them out there. These animals are described as crazy, nutty, completely unreasonable and names I can't say in this column. What makes these animals so amazing is that when you skip restraint and use balancing techniques instead, they become completely reasonable as if by magic. The issue for these animals is the restraint itself. From the animal's point of view, the procedure - whatever it is - pales in comparison to being restrained. What seems to me miraculous is that despite having a number of horrible experiences with handlers and handlings these animals will cooperate immediately when they are not restrained. My theory about this is that these animals are so terrified of being restrained that they don't really process or remember the actual procedure itself so they have essentially no recollection of anything except the restraint. So...when humans don't begin with restraint, this type of animal can remain calm in the face of the procedure.

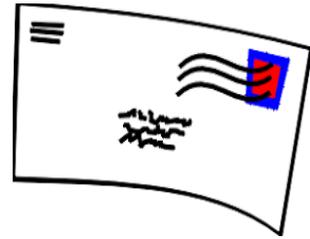
I have a very personal experience with one of these animals. Many of you have met and worked with her... Dracaena. At the ripe old age of 16 and, after 15 excruciating experiences being shorn, 4 of them with me - peeing, pooping, screaming, vomiting, we decided to try shearing without restraint. She stood quietly and politely with absolutely no restraint while being shorn from stem to stern.

I have experience over and over again how working in a catch pen, offering an escape route, allowing an animal to move within a small area and offering breaks can seem to be a miracle. ☐



Letter To The MLA

April 13, 2020



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your tax deductible contribution in the amount of \$50.00 in memory of Glen Unzicker. Honoring the legacy of someone through a charitable gift allows their life to be honored in a way that continues to impact the future. It's a wonderful tribute.

Thanks to your help, we provided services to a record-breaking number of animals in the last year and our services continue to grow. Your donation will help us to secure not only the supplies and resources needed to sustain them, but also the loving care and support needed until we can find them a forever home. Your kindness is greatly appreciated,

Sincerely,

Rob LaRoy, Executive Director, Humane Society of Elkhart County Indiana. □

CONGRATULATIONS!

Please join us in congratulating , MLA member, Cooper Sims of Carmel, Indiana. He has achieved the status of becoming an Ultimate Youth!

Cooper gained this level of achievement by earning Six Showmanship First Places, Six Obstacle First Places and Two pack or Two Public Relations First Places.



Glen Unzicker Memorial Tree Fund Raiser

Glen Unzicker was a major force in the llama community. Glen and Margo founded the Llama 4-H Club in Goshen, IN and was their leader for 24 years. In addition to being the superintendent of the Hobo Hootenanny Show (Hillsdale, MI) for many years, he was also the announcer at many llama shows. We all knew Glen was announcing when you hear, "Chop, Chop. Let's get in the ring!"

The Friends of Glen Unzicker are raising funds to plant a tree in his memory at the Hillsdale Fairgrounds. Please send your donations to: Bev Surratt, 14919 Burton Rd., Clayton, MI 49235. □



Jerry & Sheila Miller
4705 Llama Lane, Pottersville, 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
show-stud-fiber-guard -soil enhancers

The Importance of a Good Dental Float

By Niki Kuklenski, JNK Llamas

In the horse world, routine dental care is a part of ownership. Horses frequently have their teeth floated in order to keep them healthy and eating properly (floating a horse's teeth means to file or rasp their teeth to make the chewing surfaces relatively flat or smooth). In more recent years, more veterinarians are becoming comfortable and adapt at dental work on camelids.

I receive calls all the time from owners who aren't sure why all of a sudden their llama or alpaca is not eating much, losing weight or leaving wads of chewed up hay around. With the advent of better dental care techniques, camelids are living longer and requiring more routine care on items like teeth floating.

As llama (or alpaca) owners it has always been an old wives tale that if you touch a camelid's jaw or teeth, you will break their jaw. Because of this, many owners have left their animals to live with rotten or uneven teeth that should have been addressed.

The results of this can be seen when animals have chewing issues and start to lose weight. Over the years, I have seen a lot of good animals eventually die because of the inability of antibiotics to resolve the dental infection or the animals not being able to process food properly to maintain their weight.

So how can you tell your animal has an issue? Most people frequently notice this when the animal begins to quid their hay (<https://horseandfoals.com/quidding-in-horses/>) which results in slimy chewed up wads of hay around the feeding area. What they do is chew on a mouthful of hay until it gets wadded up. Once it's wadded, they don't want to chew on it anymore and they roll it out of the side of their mouth. An unusual or sudden loss of weight can be a result of dental challenges. Foul smelling breath can indicate a rotten tooth as well.

Usually, the uneven wave of the teeth causes the animal to not be able to properly chew and process their food. The animal starts to compensate by chewing differently or packing cud in the sore spot. Properly performed teeth floating levels the teeth and allows the animal to process their feed again.

I have seen llamas as young as 8 need this procedure. Most seem to need it during 13-16 years of age. I have also had animals that never did need it through their lifetime.

Dental extractions frequently are difficult for many veterinarians. Some have heard the rumor of broken jaws and are too intimidated to remove teeth. Things have improved in recent years and there are more veterinarians that are competent enough to perform this type of work.

My veterinarian is adept at giving a mild sedative and using a speculum to pry the mouth open safely. They then use a specialized light to view the back of the mouth where the teeth are located. At this point they can see/smell any rotten teeth and view/feel if there are uneven spots that need to be addressed.

If there are teeth to extract, the vet will remove them. Almost always, the animal is eating normally after an hour or so. If there are waves, sharp points or other dental issues they will file those down to make it more even. Good dental care is humane prevention to having bigger issues down the road.

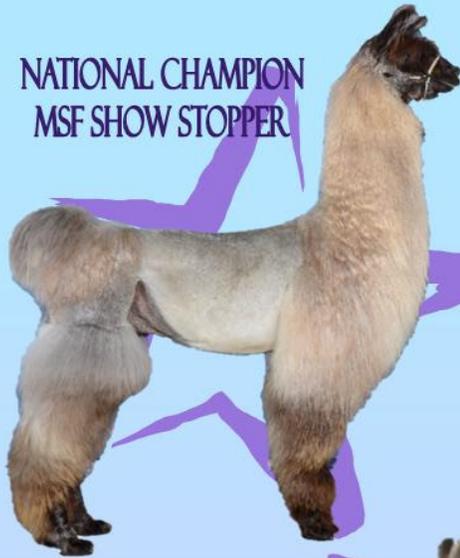
If you are unsure of how to find a veterinarian who can address your dental needs for your animal, you might consider networking with other camelid owners to find one or pair your veterinarian up with a currently experienced veterinarian out of your area. You can also contact the closest veterinary teaching college near you and inquire if they have experience in this area. A good competent veterinarian with dental experience is invaluable to your routine care of your animals.

*Definition of floating from www.cowboyway.com/What/TeethFloating.htm.

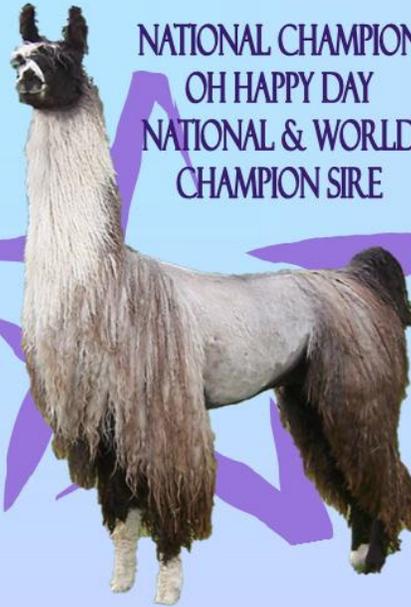
Reprinted from *The GALA Newsletter*, May 2020. Volume XXXVI, Number 2. □

Continuing our tradition of High Standards National Champion Herd Sires

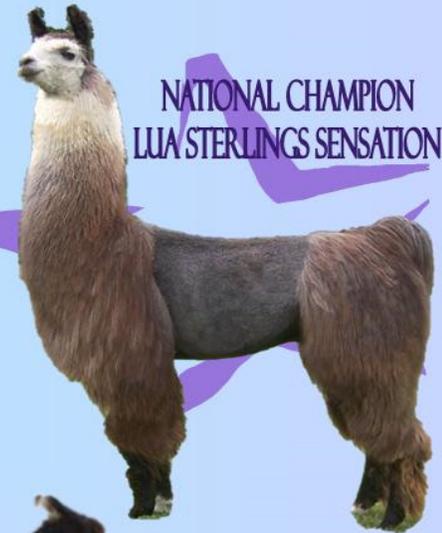
NATIONAL CHAMPION
MSF SHOW STOPPER



NATIONAL CHAMPION
OH HAPPY DAY
NATIONAL & WORLD
CHAMPION SIRE



NATIONAL CHAMPION
LUA STERLINGS SENSATION



NATIONAL CHAMPION
LUA WAVES OF PRAYER



NATIONAL CHAMPION
DDHS SEBASTIAN



Producing
CHAMPIONS
from
CHAMPIONS

*In Production Champion & Champion Producing daughters of
WLK Heat Wave, Hard Rock's Bravado & Star Status Symbol*

NATIONAL & WORLD
CHAMPION SIRE



NATIONAL & WORLD
CHAMPION SIRE



NATIONAL & WORLD
CHAMPION SIRE



Lloyd & Tami Lash 517.467.2709 Manitou Beach, Mi

In the Breeding Pen & in the Show Ring!

at work *Siring Champion Offspring!*



LUA SHOWSTOPPER JR.

(MSF SHOWSTOPPER X LUA MY DARLIN STATUS)

JR. IS ROYALLY BRED AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE

LUA SHOWSTOPPER'S SPIRIT
(MSF SHOWSTOPPER X LUA WAVES OF EXCITEMENT)

SPIRIT IS ROYALLY BRED
AND AVAILABLE FOR SALE



CHAMPION bred offspring AVAILABLE POWER IN THE BLOOD ~ SELECT MALE SALE



LUA ShowStopper's Image
(MSF Show Stopper x
LUA Waves Of Blessings)



LUA Notably Happy
(Oh Happy Day
x BKL Angel)



LUA Sebastians Prayer
(DDH's Sebastian x
Hwin Of Dakota Ridge)



LUA Sterling's Blue Silver
(LUA Sterling's Sensation
x Ollendick Farm's Shaelyn)



LUA Happy Warrior
(Oh Happy Day
x HF Valerie)

A Cut Above



2020 - In the midst of a pandemic.....



Lash's Unique Animals



Fehrenbach Farms



Lofty Pine Argentine Llamas



Lofty Pine Argentine Llamas



Lofty Pine Argentine Llamas

....spring brings new beginnings!



Lash's Unique Animals



Lash's Unique Animals



Lash's Unique Animals



Lash's Unique Animals



Lash's Unique Animals



Lash's Unique Animals



Lash's Unique Animals

Spring Means Shearing School

By Linda Taggart

Too Cool For Wool

For many, finding a shearer is a very stressful part of raising fiber animals like alpacas. Finding one whose schedule will match with yours, who will care for your animals (and your fiber!) the same way you will, and who knows what they're doing is a challenge. Then there's the cost. If you only have a couple alpacas it can be expensive to pay a setup fee just to have them do three animals.

One solution is to learn to shear yourself. Shearing is vitally important! Not only do you get the wonderful fiber, but it's a health issue. Unshorn alpacas can overheat in the summer, have matting that impedes movement, and it can cause skin lesions where the fleece mats or pulls from the weight. Even for older animals whose fleece won't get turned into yarn or other items, shearing is still critical to their well-being.

I was thrilled when I saw that Sarah Donohoe of Long Acres Alpacas and Carol Howard of Cinco C's Alpacas were hosting a shearing school this past May. The weekend started with a presentation describing the process and talking about the equipment. There were multiple brands of shearers to handle so we could try them all and see how they were different and which we preferred. We learned how to change out the combs and cutters and how to adjust them so they would cut cleanly.

Next we learned the pattern to take off the fleece. You want to get the largest amount of prime fiber (aka the blanket which is the part of the fleece that comes from the barrel or torso of the animal). Sarah explained that long strokes were important. It feels natural to take lots of short little cuts, but that's how you get "second cuts", short little pieces that make lumps in your yarn and you increase the risk of injuring the animal. A smooth, even stroke keeps the shearing blades steady along the animal instead of jabbing at them.

Then we moved to the barn and brought in the animals. Witnessing alpacas shearing for the first time is somewhat traumatic for the viewer! Unlike sheep, alpacas can't be picked up and moved around for shearing. Instead they are stretched out on the floor with ropes (or attached to a table and stretched out with ropes). It looks like the poor animals are being tortured, but that couldn't be farther from the truth! Stretching them out like that immobilizes the alpaca so they can't struggle and hurt themselves or the shearer. The process by a trained, experienced shearer, takes 5 to 10 minutes and the alpaca is back up and goes along as if nothing untoward happened. It's also the perfect opportunity to trim toenails (and even teeth for those intact males whose fighting teeth need ground down). *{MLA Editor's Note: Llamas are shorn standing up - not put on the floor or table and can be done using one or two people.}*

The first cut with shearers was pretty scary for me. This heavy, loud machine that could badly injure my beloved alpacas, if I messed up was really intimidating. But after watching Sarah demonstrate and some of the other students go first, I picked up the sharer and gave it a go...and it worked! The first one I sheared looked pretty rough. There were tufts of fleece left on him, lots of second cuts, and distinct lines you could see where I sheared one cut line at a slightly different height than the line next to it. But we both survived my first attempt with minimal drama.

One of the biggest differences I've found between shearing sheep and alpacas is the number of people required. Sheep shearing, when it comes down to it, can be done with one person. Oh, it'd take a lot longer and be a pain in the tuchus, but it's possible. Alpacas require three people minimum including the shearer and four or five is better. Most tellingly, the assistants need to be as familiar with the process and as skilled as the shearer. You need to be able to attach the ropes properly, then have someone to work the ropes at the right speed, while a couple of people help lower the animal to the ground safely. Moving the animal as the shearer works takes practice and strong muscles, plus you need someone to deal with the fleece as it comes off the animal. Those helping need to be able to anticipate the shearer's movements and help when needed while also staying well away from the blades of the shearer. It's an intricate dance that takes practice.

I'm really glad I took this class. Whether I end up shearing on my own or continuing to hire in, I understand the process in a way I didn't before. I can better evaluate the shearers that I hire and better communicate with them. I also learned how to handle my alpacas during shearing as I could tell from the shearer's perspective what it's like to have an unruly animal or a too-handsy helper. I learned a lot in this class!

Reprinted from the GALA Newsletter, May 2020, Volume XXXVI, Number 2. □

Shearing During A Pandemic

Dear Readers,

We are currently in unprecedented times and everything is different. This includes shearing day. It's a no-brainer that we're not inviting the public to our farms for shearing day, but what else can we do to keep ourselves and our helpers safe during this pandemic?

- ◆ Don't have anyone attend who isn't directly involved in animal handling or shearing. This is not the time to have your kids hanging out or friends coming over to chat while you work
- ◆ Do not shake hands or hug the people who come to shear or assist.
- ◆ Have your animals ready to go - halter and pen your animals in a small space to ensure quick turn-around on each animal.
- ◆ Wait until the shearer and helper are done with the animal and have stepped back before you go in to grab the fleece. Shearer should wait until fleece collector has stepped back before moving in for the next animal.
- ◆ Have hand sanitizer and or hand washing stations available. Use liberally.
- ◆ Do not have a communal meal. Make sure you practice social distancing during meal times or other breaks. Have boxed meals ready for your shearing team so no one is sharing dishes. Do not share water bottles or other drinking vessels, either.
- ◆ Disinfect all equipment between farms if you're going from one place to another. This includes harnesses, shearing equipment, mats, etc.
- ◆ If possible pay electronically or by check.
- ◆ Wear gloves. If you don't have nitrile gloves, even work gloves can help keep containment down and will help you remember not to touch your face.
- ◆ Wear masks - even simple cotton masks. Remember my mask protects you - your mask protects me.

These are hard changes to make - people may have trouble finding a shearer or may have no one to assist with fiber processing after it's shared. Shearing may go more slowly than usual and put a lot more work on fewer shoulders. And we definitely miss the friends who we may only see once or twice a year. But we will get through this. One thing we farmers know is that you have to adapt to changing situations. We'll adapt and we'll get through it knowing our extra effort can save lives - maybe even our own!

Reprinted from the GALA Newsletter, May 2020, Volume XXXVI, Number 2. □



The Importance of Farm Quarantine Procedures

By Niki Kuklenski, NJK Llamas

In this time of social distancing, “quarantine” is the word on every one’s lips. As livestock owners and breeders, it should be a word we use all the time.

On farms, animals come and go quite frequently. They are sold, purchased, sent for breeding, arrive for breeding and more. Anytime you bring in new animals or send your animals elsewhere, you are potentially exposing your herd to a myriad of outside problems.

I often explain to new owners the importance of a quarantine period prior to incorporating new animals into their herd. Frequently, either they don’t remember or fully comprehend the reality of what happens when a new animal brings something onto your farm.

On our farm we are always very careful to only add animals from farms that are fairly clean and reputable. While anybody can have parasite issues, you are more likely to pick them up from farms that cut corners and have dirty management practices. Even with this policy, we do have an intake procedure we use on all animals that are added to our herd.

It is essential to quarantine new animals that come onto your property. A precursory examine can yield obvious things like mange, lice, weight issues, foot rot, etc. At this time too, it is wise to pull a fecal sample for a veterinary analysis unless you have had formal training to do your own. After assessing and treating/calling the vet for any obvious issues, the new arrival should be moved to a quarantine area or sacrifice area that is not used by your current animals or near where they are located. Usually this area is smaller and easy to decontaminate or treat after the animal is out of quarantine.

Most parasites run the full cycle every 21 days according to my veterinarian. So during this time of quarantine the animals should be observed for further issues including stress, eating enough, etc. Stress can cause a parasite outbreak and moving to a new facility can trigger this issue. At the end of 21 days another visual exam should be performed and a fecal check should be repeated. At this time, if all appears okay and the fecal comes back clean, you are probably safe adding the new arrival into your herd. This process should be closely supervised by a competent veterinarian who is familiar with your farm.

There are many aspects of adding a new animal that can be problematic if you do not have some sort of intake process. Livestock graze and when they do, some species will graze where they defecate. If you bring in animals that have a parasite issue, it can infect your healthy animals. Some parasites take many years to eradicate once they are in your soil and with your animals grazing and re-depositing the parasites, it can end up being a nightmare for management.

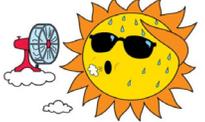
When you have parasite issues in your herd, you can not only have possible damage to fiber, meat, etc., but you can lose the animals you are raising. Bringing in an already contaminated animal can cause a great expense to your herd too. Having to treat one animal is a lot easier and cheaper than treating a whole herd! Throwing new animals in with your herd without quarantine can be costly on many levels.

Over the years, I have seen many situations arise from absence of a new animal intake process. Protecting your existing herd and investment is essential to raising a healthy product. When building or setting up a new farm, I would highly encourage you set up your quarantine area as part of your farm layout. It is also especially helpful to consult your local veterinarian on procedures regarding the intake of your animals. Depending on where you live, will depend on your potential issues. Good luck and happy farming!

Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, May 2020, Volume XXXVI, Number 2. □



Hot Weather Tips

By Carol Reigh 

I know that we are all scrambling to try to keep our animals comfortable and ALIVE in this heat. Here are a few suggestions that I have.

1. If you need to re-shear, go ahead, they will have enough re-growth for the winter. I just re-sheared an animal today.
2. Be sure that the fans are low to the ground to cool their bellies.
3. Hose their bellies and legs and let them stand in front of fans.
4. Vet wrap their tails so the air can get to their bellies.
5. Use electrolytes in a water bucket. Have plain water available too.
6. Be sure they have minerals.
7. If you feed grain, feed it at night cause that creates a higher body temperature while digesting.
8. If you have a wading pool for them to kush in, be sure to change the water often and keep it out of the sun, the UV rays create the heat.
9. Do not do any activities with them in this heat. Just let them be lazy and relax.
10. Put a soaker hose out in a shady area for them to kush on top of.
11. Use a sprinkler that shoots a water up only two or three feet so they can go over and stand over it and get their bellies wet. Again, this should be in the shade. It also waters your grass.
12. I have even gotten a chunk of dry ice and had them cut it into smaller slab and put the slabs in mesh bags and I hang them behind the fans so the air being drawn over the dry ice is cooled.

OK, those are my suggestions. For yourself, go to the grocery store and cool off!

Reprinted from The Lama Letter, August 2013, Volume XVIII, Number 3. □

Lamafest Update

We remain optimistic that Lamafest 2020 will be held.

**MSU Pavilion, East Lansing, MI
September 4-6**

Lamafest is a double ILR-SD and ALSA sanctioned event. We are planning some wonderful fun classes, great performance courses, and shopping opportunities.

Please keep watching MLA's Facebook page and the web site for updates. Contact Corky at egflamas@yahoo.com or 616-2382 with questions.

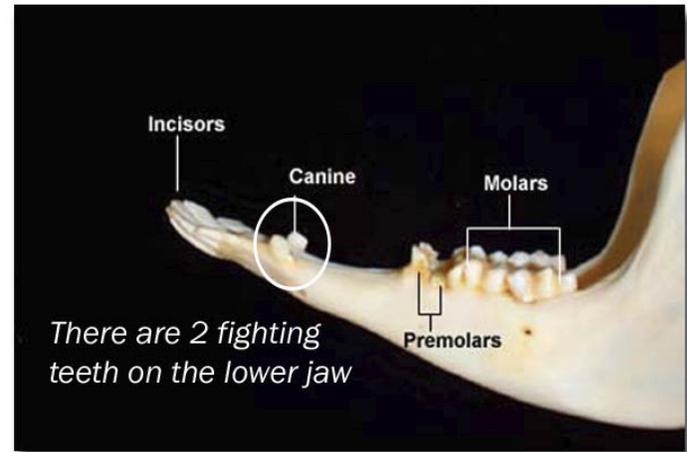
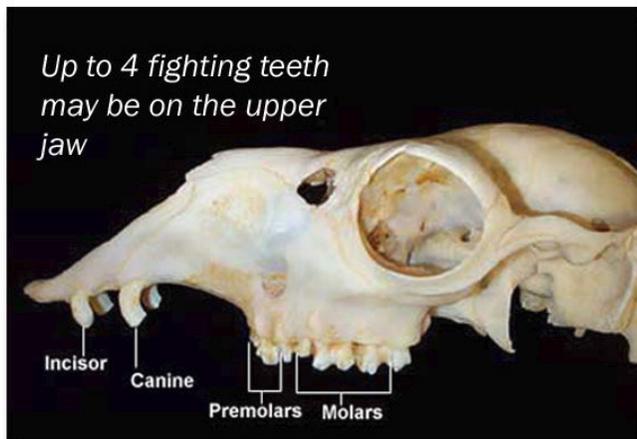


Removing Male Fighting Teeth

Author Unknown

Reprinted from *The GALA Newsletter*, May 2020, Volume XXXVI, Number 2.

Graphic courtesy of Dr. Andy Neihaus and the International Camelid Institute.



Photos courtesy of: Colorado State University

1. All males should be checked for fighting teeth starting at age 18 months. When they do appear, it is advisable to remove them at least yearly as they can cause trauma to other animals or their handlers. Although not as common, females can also develop these teeth and they can be removed in the same manner.
2. The procedure is done using obstetrical wire (aka “o.b.” or “giggly” wire) and handles that hold the wire at each end. Both wire and handles are readily available at farm supply stores or veterinary supply sites online.
3. Be sure to have a second person hold the animal’s head as still as possible and pull the tip back to avoid cutting it with the wire. Place an approximately 18-in length of wire in the handles; place the wire behind the hook of the tooth, immediately below the gum line, such that when cutting is started only the tooth is contacted by the wire. Pull taut with the handles and use long, steady strokes until the tooth “pops” off. Some resistance from the animal can actually be a help in keeping the wire tight as you pull back and forth. Repeat the process on all the fighting teeth, which may be as many as three on each side of the mouth.
4. Do not be alarmed if a small amount of blood is visible at the gum line - this not uncommon and will resolve itself within a few minutes.
5. Review the video at icinfo.vet.ohio-state.edu. If you have questions on any of the above or are unsure or unable to perform this procedure, contact your veterinarian for assistance. In some cases, sedation of the animal makes the procedure much easier.

Reprinted from *The GALA Newsletter*, May 2020, Volume XXXVI, Number 2.

MLA Editor’s note: *If this is your first time removing teeth, it would be wise to have your veterinarian or an well experienced llama owner who has successfully removed fighting teeth demonstrate the procedure before you try it on your own.* □

Llama Antibodies Could Prevent Flu

By James Gallagher, BBC Health and Science Correspondent

MLA Editor: This article was printed in The GALA Newsletter, December 2018, Volume XXXIV, Number 4 with permission. I find this particularly interesting seeing what we are all experiencing today.

Scientists in the U.S. have recruited an unlikely ally in their efforts to develop a new flu treatment. Llamas have been used to produce a new anti-body therapy that has the potential to work against all types of flu, including new pandemics.

Influenza is the ultimate shape-shifter, constantly mutating its appearance to evade our immune system.

That is why a new flu jab is needed each winter and why the vaccine sometimes misses the mark.

That's where the llama, better known for its wool comes in. The animals produce incredibly tiny antibodies in comparison to our own. Antibodies are weapons of the immune system and they bind to the proteins that stick out from the surface of a virus.

Human antibodies tend to attack the tips of those proteins, but that's the part influenza mutates most readily. Llama antibodies use their size advantage to wriggle a little bit deeper and attack the parts that flu cannot change.

The team at the Scripps Institute in California infected llamas with multiple types of flu to provoke an immune response. They then scoured llama blood for the most potent antibodies that could attack a wide range of flu strains. They picked four and then set about building their own synthetic antibody that used elements from each. It was tested on mice, which were given deadly doses of influenza.

Prof. Ian Wilson, one of the researchers, told the BBC's Science in Action: "It's very effective, there were 60 different viruses that were used in the challenge and only one wasn't neutralized and that's a virus that doesn't infect humans. "The goal here is to provide something that would work from season to season, and also protect you from possible pandemics should they emerge." The work, published in the journal, Science, is very early stage research and the team want to do more tests before starting human trials.

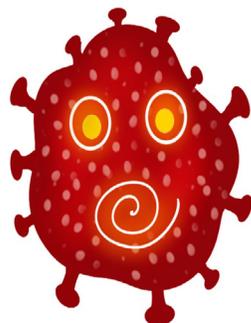
HOLY GRAIL

The researchers tried two approaches to giving the animals the antibody. The first was to inject them with the antibodies and the second was a type of gene therapy.

The genetic instructions for making the antibody were packaged up inside a harmless virus, which was then used to infect the noses of mice. The cells in the linings of the nose then started making the flue-killing antibody. An additional advantage of this approach is that it could work in the elderly. The older you are, the worse your immune system gets and the less effective the seasonal flu vaccine becomes.

But the llama inspired approach does not need to train the immune system. Prof Jonathan Ball, from the University of Nottingham, told the BBC: "Having a treatment that can work across a range of different strains of virus is highly sought after. It's the Holy Grain of influenza. "There will be an appetite, but it depends how well these things work, how easy it is to produce and how costly it will be."

For more information visit: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-460-78989>. □





2020 MLA Membership Application

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

*E-MAIL

WEB SITE ADDRESS

SPECIALTIES

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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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEWMEMBERSHIP (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FARM/FAMILY (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> VET/VET STUDENT (\$15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH MEMBERSHIP (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> HARD COPY OF LLAMA LIVING (\$12) |
| 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, 2020 to: MLA Treasurer, Pat Schneeberger, 11389 Broadbent Rd., Lansing, MI 48917. TX (517) 627-6562.



Image free on internet from Uplash.

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Lash's Unique Animals	12-13
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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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Half Page Back Cover (horizontal 4-3/4 x 6-3/4)	\$55
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