



# Llama Living

Hear What All The Humming Is About....

March 2021

Michigan Llama Association

Volume 26, Issue 1



**Show season begins again!**

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Llama Living



GRJax7@springcom.com

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## Michigan Llama Association

Web Site - [www.michiganllama.org](http://www.michiganllama.org)  
Facebook Page - Michigan Llama Association



Suzanne Hockin Frambes  
Kenneth Frambes  
(517) 857-4626

# Michigan Llama Association 2021 MLA Board

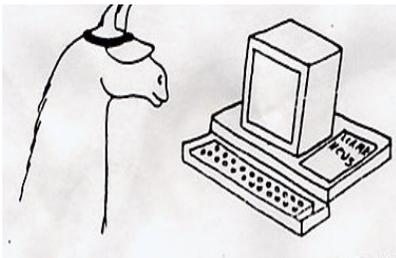
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Vice President .....	Gary Surratt .....	517-457-3524
Secretary .....	Sheila Miller .....	517-645-2719
Treasurer .....	Pat Schneeberger .....	517-627-6562
Youth Representative	VACANT	
Immediate Past Member	VACANT	

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Year one of two .....	Dave Thompson .....	989-856-3461
Year one of two .....	Bev Surratt .....	574-606-6138
Year two of two .....	Bev Souva .....	626-902-2382
Year two of two .....	Tim Douswma .....	574-606-6182

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Lamafest .....	Corky Dubois .....	616-902-2382
Library .....	Gary/Bev Surratt .....	517-457-3524
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Membership .....	Pat Schneeberger .....	517-627-6562
Mid Michigan Show .....	Dave Thompson .....	616-902-2382
Newsletter .....	Suzanne Hockin Frambes .....	517-857-4626
Nomination .....	Jerry Miller .....	517-645-2719
Scholarship .....	Corky Dubois .....	616-902-2382
Spring Fund Raiser .....	Annette Aldrich .....	517-675-7705
Youth Fund Raiser	INACTIVE	
Web Master .....	Lifelines Media	
Michigan Fiber Industry		
Coalition .....	Sheila Miller .....	517-645-2719



**Next  
Llama Living  
Deadline**

**May 15, 2021**

*Is there a position/committee listed above that looks interesting to you? Contact Corky Dubois for more information as to how you can contribute.*

*There are many other volunteer opportunities available in the MLA that need workers or maybe you have an idea that you would like to share. Again, call Corky with your idea.*

★ *New* ★ Version 2021 ★ *New* ★

# Mid-Michigan I & II Llama Show Hillsdale County Fairgrounds

Hillsdale

Michigan

An MLA Event

May 8 & 9, 2021

**Double Halter  
Double Showmanship  
Single Performance**  
[www.michiganllama.org](http://www.michiganllama.org)  
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egflamas@  
yahoo.com**

## Michigan Llama Association Library

The pandemic has put all of us in a position where we are spending more time at home looking for something to do. You talk to your friends and many seem to be putting this time at home to good use and then you look at what you are doing - binge watching TV, eating too much,..... NOW is the time to investing your time in learning about your llamas and alpacas and the MLA library has just what you need!

Gary and Bev Surratt have run the MLA library for many years and have acquired quite a collection of educational and recreational reading and visual information for you to check out for FREE. Take advantage of this resource available to all MLA members by contacting Bev or Gary to see if they have what you are looking for or just what they have available. You can contact Bev and Gary at [gasurratt@tc3net.com](mailto:gasurratt@tc3net.com) or (517) 547-3624.

Call them today and do something constructive during this period of our lives!



# MLA Spring Fund Raiser

May 8, 2021

## MLA Mid Michigan Show

The Mid Michigan Show is on again for 2021 and the MLA Spring Fund raiser will be right there to offer drawings and silent auction lama related items!

The show location has been changed from the Eaton County Fairgrounds in Charlotte, MI to the Hillsdale County Fairgrounds in Hillsdale, MI. The fund raiser tables will be next to the show ring so be sure to stop by, look at the great items, and try your luck.

Annette Aldrich will be running the fund raiser again this year so it is sure to be something special. All lama related items are welcome and you can get them to Annette before May 8th or bring them to the show as early in the morning as possible. If you can relate your item to lamas, Annette will accept it. Use your imagination! All proceeds go towards the publication of your newsletter, Llama Living.

*For more information contact Annette Aldrich at (517) 675-7705 or e-mail her at [raaldrich@tds.net](mailto:raaldrich@tds.net)*



## Taking Stock

March is right around the corner so now is the time to take stock of what you need for the warmer weather. Are your shearing blades sharpened? Do fences need repairing? Have you ordered your hay for the new year?

Spring always sneaks up on us with so many things to do and us just wanting to go outside and relax. Planning ahead makes that a little more realistic.



# Non-healing Wounds and Cancer

By Niki Kuklenski, NKK Llamas

As camelids age, we provide various things to comfort them and keep them going. They are living longer with improved feeding programs, blankets, teeth floating and more. Because of this, I would venture many owners see their animals experience cancer if they don't die of natural causes.

One of the things I have seen is squamous cell cancers which originate from a wound or scar.

My experience started with a friend of mine who had a llama with an open wound on her stifle. The initial veterinarian assessment was a severe fly strike. After months of treating it with no change in the wound, it was finally determined to be cancer. The female was euthanized after six months of various treatment methods. This was my first experience seeing an open wound that would not heal. This girl was 20 when she died.

Fast forward several years. Our herd matriarch, who was 26 years old, suddenly had an open wound between her front legs on her chest. My husband had noticed some blood on the rubber mats and upon further inspection discovered her open wound. We treated it daily and it finally closed up. We thought she was healed and considered our treatment a success. One night a few months later, while feeding, my husband called to tell me that she was down and not only that, once he removed her blanket he found the wound bloody and open again. At this point when I went out and we both spent time with her, we knew this was the end.

The wound had come back with a vengeance and there was no way she was going to recover. We called the vet out and he confirmed our diagnosis. She had cancer and it was at the point of no return, we had her euthanized.

After these incidents I discussed with my veterinarian about the fact that we had now seen numerous animals with open draining wounds that would not heal. They always seemed to be on a joint or area that is hard to heal.

The vet pointed out that cancer is what gets all older animals if they don't get slaughtered or put down before they are elderly. With the advent of better care, food and veterinary services, llamas and alpacas are living far longer than they ever used to. Because of all this, we now see a fair amount of animals with cancer.

An October 1997 article in the Canadian Veterinary Journal describes such a cancer. Neoplasms, or abnormal growth, associated with scars and chronic ulcers are well-documented for humans, and comprise approximately two percent of all human skin cancers. Abnormal growths on scar tissue is also well documented in veterinary literature, with cases in dogs, horses and cattle documents authors Kathleen Rogers, George Barrington and Steven M. Parish wrote.

Reports of neoplasia in camelids are uncommon, with only eight reports in the last 25 years, at the time of the article's publication. While other cancers have been reported, squamous cell carcinoma associated with wound scarring has not been described before.

In August 2014, our best packer female was covered in maggots. When we had bought her originally many years before, she had a crusty growth on her back right on the spine. She had always loved having this particular spot scratched and rubbed. My veterinarian looked at this growth on several occasions and finally just removed it in 2012 and had it biopsied. The biopsy came back negative for anything and eventually the growth grew back. The growth returned and removed again in 2013. Finally in 2014, another doctor friend thought it should be taken off too and removed it again. But this time it did not heal as it had before and instead stayed open and draining.

By March 2015 the following year, she had another maggot outbreak. The vet determined it was a squamous cell carcinoma originating from a cutaneous scar on the llama and removed it.

We improvised a system of cleaning the wound, putting medicated gauze pads on her back, then covered that with a cotton side down doggie piddle pad (that you use for puppies) and duct taped down the corners. This allowed her to be outside in the nice weather with her baby without the threat of flies getting onto her wound. Our system has worked well and prevented future maggot outbreaks. We changed the bandages about every two days.

By Fall 2015, this wound had grown up again and had to be removed and burned. During this process another sore was discovered and the initial wound had spread. The vet informed us that there was nothing else he

could do for her. Up to this point, the female had done well and kept weight on and even finished nursing her baby. We kept her comfortable until we could no longer maintain a quality of life for her.

Rogers, Barrington and Parrish write that while squamous cell carcinoma are locally invasive, but may metastasize to the lymph nodes. Any wound, scar, or skin abnormality should be monitored and biopsy specimens should be obtained for examination. Early definitive diagnosis and treatment may improve prognosis by avoiding spread into other organs.

#### RESOURCES:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1576865/?page=1>.

*Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, Nov. 2020, Vol. XXXVI, No. 4. □*

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## Life With Older Llamas

By Sheila Fugina, Shady Ridge Farm

We lost two of our older girls this past summer, a friend lost her 17-year-old stud this fall, and another friend has lost several of her senior llamas over the past couple of years. Senior caretakers with senior llamas - it could be a depressing scenario, but it doesn't have to be.

Over the years these dear old friends have given us companionship, babies, fiber, memories - a myriad of wonderful gifts - and we owe them the gift of comfortable senior living right through to the end. And, like us, they need regular check-ups and healthy diets. One of the biggest concerns with aging llamas is their teeth. For some reason I sometimes forget to check my llamas' teeth on a regular basis even though I've dealt with a variety of tooth issues over the years. Maybe it's because it's not quite as easy as body scoring or other routine health checks.

A few years ago I noticed a couple of older girls getting a bit thin and another who was "only" 12 even thinner. Suspecting teeth issues, I scheduled my vet for a dental day and we checked four females (one 18 years old, two 15 years and the youngest one 12). Two hours later we had pulled teeth, filed teeth and made plans for future dental work on the 12-year-old who had a mouth with problems beyond getting older.

I couldn't believe what an amazing difference those two hours made in the comfort level of the four girls. It was easy to notice the difference in the way they ate and the way they chewed their cud - their increased gusto at the feeders was a delight to watch because it was so different from the way they acted only a few days ago when mealtime was simply a nonevent. It definitely improved their quality of life and perhaps it extended their lives as well. Two of the four females needed a change in their diets too, because their teeth no longer enabled them to get what they needed from the hay. Your vet should be able to help you figure out a diet that meets the nutritional needs of your llamas as well as their ability to chew.

Shearing is another area of special concern for older llamas. Their fiber doesn't grow back as quickly as when they were younger, so I usually hand shear my senior llamas because it always allows more control in the length of the fiber. I only take off what they really need to keep cool in the summer. I also have blankets at the ready for winter in case they're needed. Being a frugal sort, I have thrift store assortment of wraps and straps to keep the seniors cozy and stylish when our Wisconsin winters are particularly brutal.

Something that has bothered me since we first got into llamas is when owners breed older females in order to sell them. I saw it early on when some of the breeders with big name studs bred them to their old girls so they could sell them to newbies and others who wanted a "Super Stud" cria, but couldn't afford pricey bred females. Some older females might be in good physical shape for their age and able to carry a cria safely to full term (though certainly not as easily as in their prime), but breeding an 18-year-old female is pretty much NOT a good idea no

*Continued on page 20*



# Millennium Magic Spring Fling

By Tami Lash



Kick off your 2021 show season in Southern Michigan on April 10-11, 2021 with an ALSA & ILR-SD Dual sanctioned, dual shows. The show begins Saturday morning with a 8:00 a.m. exhibitor's meeting with the show starting immediately after. Sunday will have the same schedule - exhibitors meeting at 8:00 a.m. with the show to follow.

This year a silky halter division is being added. A great food truck and tack shop will be on the grounds during the show. This year there will be 71 classes, 3 sub junior classes, 4 BOS awards, ribbons for 1-6 places, and 1st place champion prizes.

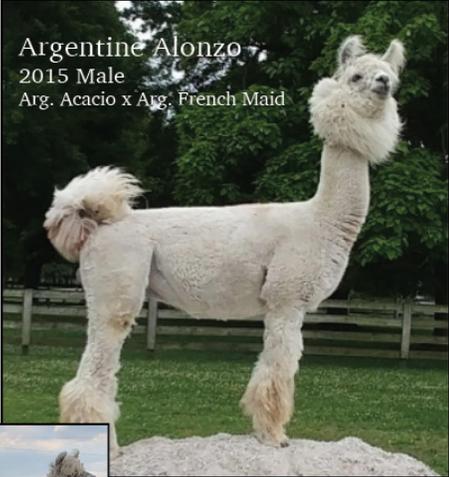
The entry deadline is April 1, 2021. For more information regarding the event and/or register for the show contact Tami Lash 517-467-2709 or Uniqueanimal@aol.com. ☐





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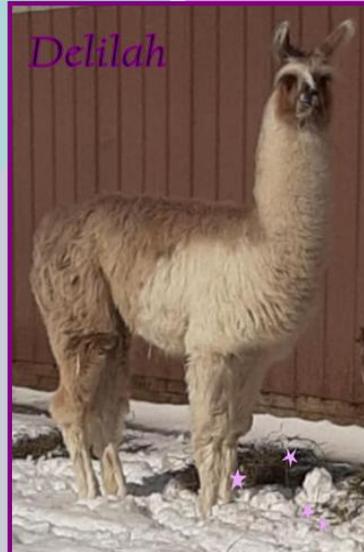
Shimmer & Miracle



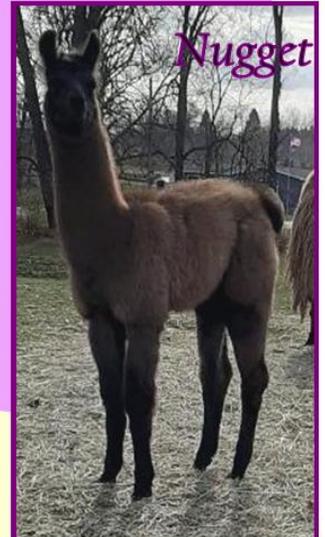
Electra



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 LUA Ultimate Status)



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Lloyd & Tami Lash ~ (517) 467-2709 ~ Manitou Beach, MI

# Marty's Corner



*Editor's Note: Spring 2021 is a busy time for Marty this year so she gave us permission to run a few of her short articles regarding llama training originally printed in her newsletter.*

## Getting Ready

- 1 - Scour the earth for lightweight 9' long 5' high camelid panels! You can never have enough and the more you have, the more likely you will be to set up appropriate antecedent arrangements such as lane ways for lead training or a really good set up for shearing.
- 2 - Analyze your hay. Too many camelid owners feed pellets because they want to make sure their animals are getting the right nutrition and don't know what the hay is providing. Analyze your hay and balance your ration accordingly. Unless your animals are performing at a high level (bred female nursing a cria or a very busy breeding male) most of the time a good quality forage is enough. But whatever feeding philosophy you adhere to, knowing what your forage contains is a good thing!
- 3 - Make sure your halters fit ALL the time! It is very easy to collect a rag tag bunch of halters and use them without paying much attention to halter fit. Even if you are just walking your animals from the barn to the pasture, you never know when you animal might spook. A bad experience with a halter cutting off the airway can create months of rehabilitation work.
- 4 - Vow to never grab your animal around the neck ever again. Make using a catch pen the most basic of handling promises. Learning to use balancing techniques takes some practice...deciding to use a catch pen each and every time you work with an animal takes only an instant and makes a world of difference.
- 5 - If you don't know how to spin, join a spinning guild and learn how to spin. If you have llamas or alpacas knowing something about the stuff they produce makes sense. You will have a greater appreciation for the whole animal.
- 6 - If you don't own one, make this the year you get a platform scale. Weighing your animals is THE best way to save money on vet bills! If you are raising baby camelids, it is so much better to teach them right from the beginning to walk across a scale following their mother. Picking up llama and alpaca babies to weight them is scary and means you have to spend time teaching them not to be afraid. It is so much easier to simply behave ALWAYS in a way that is not frightening. The babies are eventually going to have to learn to walk across a scale anyway, why not begin that way?
- 7 - If you only have llamas OR alpacas make this the year to learn about the other species! Make friends with someone who raises llamas if you are an alpaca enthusiast or vice versa. It makes so much sense for all of us to play and work together. Joint shows, conferences, clinics and meetings that involve both types of animals serve everyone's interest.
- 8 - Make this the year to sharpen you saw! Come to a clinic or come back and learn all new stuff!

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## Training Tip: Being Creative Your Antecedent Arrangement

In the old days I thought animal training was simply repetition with very little room for creativity. Nothing could be further from the truth! Problem solving whether or not it is teaching a new skill or setting up your farm is an amazingly creative process. For this tip I am focusing on "braining" out your set-up (hereafter referred to as your antecedent arrangement). None of us have the perfect set or at least very few AND even if you do, the composition of your herd changes...perhaps you get a new male or an animal gets sick or a friend asks you to board some animals....you get the picture....things change. Being creative and flexible is key to a functional antecedent arrangement.

When training and handling animals there are lots of things that we cannot control. It only makes sense to control what we can. Everyone has heard the maxim, “Set yourself up for success”! Truer words were never spoken when it comes to working with animals. In most other pursuits the variables do not have a mind of their own! If you decide not to bother with a proper set up, things will take longer, but that isn’t the half of it! If you decide it isn’t worth the expense and time to go buy a snow shovel and use a posthole digger instead, you will waste a lot of time. But at least you aren’t teaching the post hole digger how to be difficult when you decide to use it for digging post holes. In the case of animals, work in a set up that is inadequate and you are almost certainly going to teach your animals problematic behaviors - behaviors you are stuck with until you take even more time to do some re-training.

I use to say, before I knew the right terminology, “I always set things up so that what I want is the most likely thing to happen”. Now I know that phrase is “lay speak” for having a proper antecedent arrangement. There are two ways to affect behavior: 1) providing a consequence AFTER the behavior that the animal will work to get OR far easier 2) set up the front end so that the behavior you desire is the behavior most likely to happen. The following are some examples of the pitfalls of improper tools and set up.

- ◆ Trying to herd animals without lane ways and wands: Teaches animals to ignore your arms, out run you and run to the farthest place in the pasture.
- ◆ Not using a catch pen at all or using one that is too big: Teaches animals how strong you are NOT, teaches them to throw their weight into your arms and break away, teaches escape and evasion behavior and possibly that they can jump out of the pen
- ◆ Picking up babies to weigh them instead of creating a walk over weighing station: Picking up babies is scary for them! You will teach them to run from you and fight your arms. Then you must spend time convincing them you really aren’t scary.
- ◆ Teaching animals to lead without a lane way and a lead that is too short: Leaving the safety of a catch pen without a lane way gives you no alternative but to hold on when the animal does the natural thing and tries to run away. Behaviors learned including flipping, cushioning, bucking, spitting and freezing and/or planting. Four catch pens with an aisle way along the side of the pen. We put three animals in each of the two middle pens. Halter the animal to be trained leaving two back in the pen (it is not good leaving just one animal in a pen). Bring the trainee out into a long narrow lane way and with a 17 foot lead you can give the animal student plenty of distance from you and, if necessary, give more line if the animal needs it. The animals along the side of the lane way provided support and allowed the trainee to follow the handler without leaving the safety of the others. Animals along the side of the lane way are much better than animals at either end. Teaching a camelid to lead by heading directly toward a pen full of animals is not really teaching the animal to follow you, but rather to run to the safety of the other animals. This often teaches the animal to attempt to run past you to get to the other animals. □

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### **Training Tip: Evaluating a Trainer or Training Advice**

When evaluating a Trainer and Training Advice.....ask yourself these questions.

- 1 -Is what the trainer doing actually working? Or are you being told it is working? If you turned the sound down or put your fingers in your ears and just watched what was going on how would you feel and what would you think about what you were watching? I have watched many trainers or training videos in which the trainer is pointing out progress that I can’t see or an outcome that is not apparent to me. If you are watching a training video of any kind, turning the sound down can be a valuable technique for assessing the method.
- 2 -Is the trainer doing what he says he is doing? They may not necessarily be trying to trick you. They may not know that what they are saying and doing are not the same. I have heard trainers talk about creating trust when dragging the animal over obstacles. If trust is being created, it is surely not in the trainer. Many trainers confuse “Flooding” with “Systematic Desensitization”. When I wrote the Camelid Companions I had heard so many other trainers describing what they did as “systematic desensitization” that I was adamant that I wasn’t doing

*Continued on page 12*

# Marty's Corner

## Continued

that. In fact, what the other trainers were doing was flooding. Flooding is presenting the ENTIRE stimulus (halter, approach of human, picking up foot to trim the toenail, etc.) all at once and not stopping until the animal quits struggling. Systematic Desensitization is introducing the stimulus in the smallest possible increment that the animal can accept without fear and then building gradually to the full stimulus. Linda Tellington-Jones describes this process as "chunking it down".

- 3 - Could you do what he is teaching? There is a difference between a technique that is easily learned with a reasonable investment of time and one that requires years of practice to be able to pull off. Does the technique require skills you could never possess? For example to be successful with the technique would you require strength, stamina or coordination that would be beyond your ability AND if you are not comfortable with the technique you will probably never be able to be truly good at it.
- 4 - Would you feel comfortable doing it? Watching a training technique should not make your stomach hurt. When a trainer tells you that you must harden your heart I think it is time for a gut check and a new approach.
- 5 - If you were the animal, what might you be learning? If the trainer is chasing the head around with a halter is the animal learning to evade the halter or accept it?
- 6 - What does the trainer do if what he is doing isn't working? It is not uncommon for trainers to begin with a technique that you could get behind, but what does the trainer do if this technique doesn't work? Does he blame the animal? Does he keep repeating the same thing over and over getting the same bad result? It is easy to be nice when everything is going well. What does the trainer do when things aren't going well? Chunk it down? Offer a break or continue to push the animal so that he can feel successful?

Many thanks to TTouch Instructor, Robyn Hood, for her knowlege, inspiration and expertise.

For more information about training llamas check out the Camelidynamics web site at [www.camelidynamics.com](http://www.camelidynamics.com)

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Gert & Maria Kronenberg



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- 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?

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- 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.

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For a list of Marty's 2021 inics, go to [www.camelidynamics.com](http://www.camelidynamics.com) and click on **LEARN HOW**.

# MLA Board of Directors Meeting

December 5, 2020

The MLA Board of Directors virtual Zoom meeting was held December 5, 2020. President, Corky Dubois, presided and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. BOD members joining the call were Bev and Gary Surratt, Dave Thompson, Patricia Scheneberger, Sheila Miller, Bev Souva and Tim Douwsma. Members, Tricia Schneeberger, Nel Vickers, Denise Fehrenbach, Deb Yeagle, Nanette Michaels and Jack and Donna Bowman also called in. Guest speaker, Matthias Truttman, speaking on the University of Michigan study of nanoparticle production, gave his presentation via Zoom. *(Notes from Mr. Truttman's speech are included on page 15 of Llama Living).*

Pat Schneeberger had forwarded a copy of her financial report to members of the Board. There is one bill to be paid yet and she has one membership renewal to deposit. We had a loss of \$4,097.91 making a balance of \$18,491.65. Bev Souva made a motion to approve the financial report. Sheila Miller seconded and the motion passed.

Pat reported that Theo Savage, one of the Eaton County Fairgrounds managers, passed away with Covid-19. He has helped us with reserving the fairgrounds for many years. Tricia Scheneberger said that she would send a sympathy card to the family.

Renee Hobbins was not able to join the meeting, but Corky reported that she has merchandise left over from last year for sale. She had a logo ready for the 2020 Lamafest that will now be used for 2021.

The Michigan and Events billing arrived for 2021. It is \$125 yearly and covers a listing for Lamafest on the pamphlets distributed free at Michigan Welcome Centers along the Michigan highways. It was suggested other social media may do the same for less money. Bev Souva made a motion that was seconded by Bev Surratt to not renew and explore other possibilities. The motion was passed. Cynthia Ernst and Denise Fehrenbach both presented options for Lamafest advertisements at llama shows and other venues.

NEW BUSINESS: 2021 show dates: March Madness in Ohio, April 9-11 or sometime during the 3rd week of April. Hillsdale Hobo: The money we paid for 2020 has been credited for 2021 with the possible date of April 9-11, 2021 or a weekend in May depending on when they may have other events planned. Hoosier Llama Association has a Fiber Conference scheduled the 3rd weekend in May. The Heartland Llama Show is scheduled May 1, 2021 in Iowa. Lamafest, Labor Day Weekend, September 3-5. The judges from 2020 said they would judge the 2021 show. If Covid-19 rules are still being enforced, sanitizing the facility would fall on us and that may be a factor whether or not to have the show.

Update on how the web site is progressing was given by Corky. Congratulations to Denise Fehrenbach for the nice job holding clinics this past year.

Matthias Truttman presented a program about nanoparticle production and using blood from llamas and alpacas. He is interested in finding farms that would allow blood to be drawn by his group. Copies of his presentation are available from Corky, the MLA website, Facebook and in this issue of Llama Living.

The issues of discussion of liability insurance for shows, whether to have double shows or single shows will be held later.

The meeting was adjourned. ☐

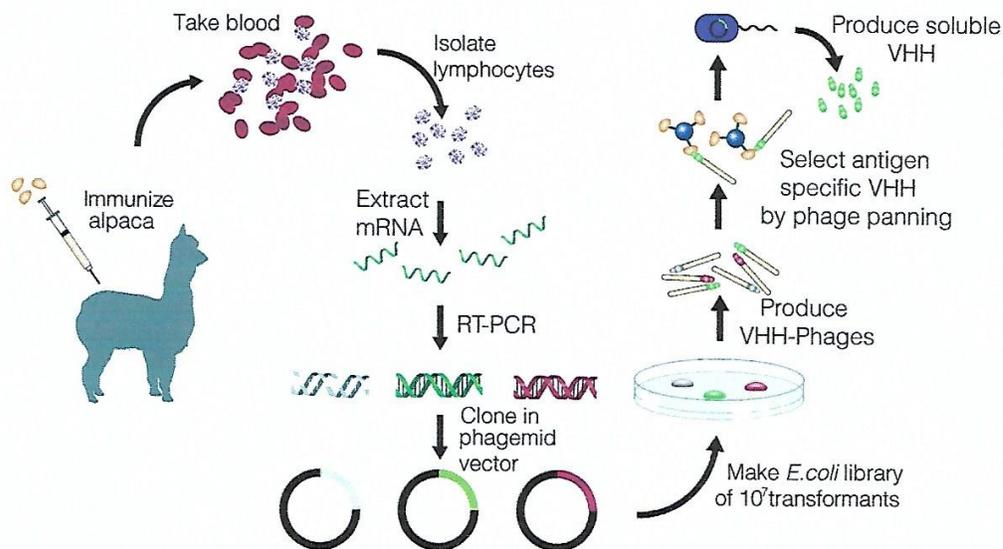


# Llama/Alpaca-derived Nanobodies

By Matthias C. Truttmann, Ph.D., Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology,  
University of Michigan Medical School

An Alpaca nanobody Neutralizes SARS-CoV-2 by blocking receptor interaction.

## Nanobody generation process



Schmidt *et al.*, (2016) Nat Microbiol.

**Our Goal:** Find interested llama/alpaca owner(s) to collaborate with. The goal is to generate novel nanobodies to better understand and potentially treat human diseases.

**Our Plan:** Immunize llamas/alpacas with proteins of interest to eventually harvest a blood sample for nanobody generation.

### Detailed Plan

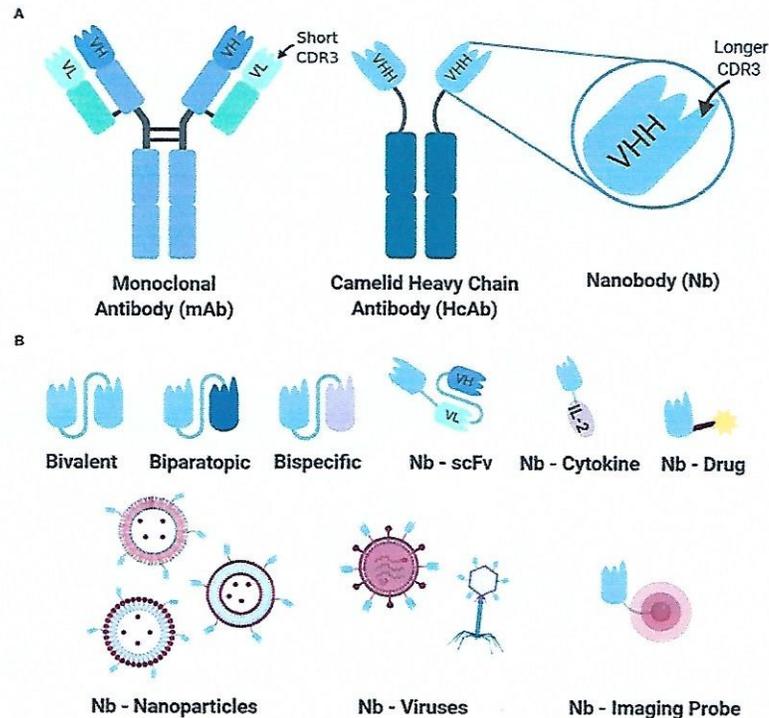
- ◆ 3ml injections (1.5ml protein, 1.5ml adjuvant) on either the left or the right flank.
- ◆ A total of six injections, one every two weeks.
- ◆ In weeks 1, 2, 4 and 6 proteins and adjuvant will be mixed at a 1:1 ratio and injected as a mixture (3 ml total).
- ◆ In weeks 3 and 5, proteins and adjuvants will be injected in the same flank, but as independent 1.5ml injections.
- ◆ 4-5 days after the last injection, 100ml of blood will be collected to extract and process B cells.
- ◆ All injections should be done on the same flank.

*Continued on page 16*

# Llama/Alpaca-Derived Nanobodies

## Continued

### Introduction: Nanobodies and nanobody applications



### Questions and Answers Important For Owners

- ◆ What kind of llamas are we looking for? Old/young, male/female? Juvenile and adult animals of either sex are fine.
- ◆ Will you come to the farm to do injections, blood draws, etc.? Yes. We work closely with ULAM (Dr. Brooke Pallas), the UM veterinary department. ULAM veterinarians will administer all injections and draw blood at the end.
- ◆ What are possible adverse effects? The laboratory of Dr. Ploegh has participated in >20 alpaca immunizations and the worst observed adverse effect was localized inflammation/lymph node swelling at the site of the injections (similar to what often happens if you receive a vaccine).
- ◆ What is the goal of the nanobody study? We will immunize with a mixture of up to 8 proteins at once to generate nanobodies against several proteins from the same batch of blood. We have done up to 5,000 proteins at once in the past (Ploegh lab, immunizations with total cell lysates) and retrieved functional nanobodies from the obtained samples.

**Interested? Questions? Please contact us!**

Matthias C. Truttmann, Ph D  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Molecular & Integrative Physiology  
109 Zina Pitcher Place, SPC 2200  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2200  
(617) 501-9327  
mtruttm@med.umich.edu

# Calendar Of Events



## MARCH

## APRIL

### **Millennium Magic Spring Fling**

**April 10-11, 2021**

Onsted, MI

For more information see the article in this issue of Llama Living or contact Tami Lash at [uniqueanimal@aol.com](mailto:uniqueanimal@aol.com) or (517) 467-2709

### **Daffodil Llama Show**

**April 24, 2021**

Coshocton County Fairgrounds

Coshocton, OH

[www.orvla.com](http://www.orvla.com) for more information

## MAY

### **Mid Michigan Show**

**May 8-9, 2021**

Hillsdale Fairgrounds

Hillsdale, MI

For more information see article in this issue of Llama Living

### **Fiber Conference**

**May 14-16, 2021**

Boone County Fairgrounds

Lebanon, IN

Contact Deb Yeagle for more information at (419) 680-1186 or [loftypine@yahoo.com](mailto:loftypine@yahoo.com)

**May 15, 2021**

*Deadline for articles and advertising in Llama Living*

### **Parasite Clinic with Dr. Pam Walker**

**May 22-23, 2021**

Fehrenbach Farms

Ewart, MI

For more information contact Denise Fehrenbach at [denise@fehrenbachfarms.com](mailto:denise@fehrenbachfarms.com) or (231) 590-8549

*Continued on page 18*

# Calendar of Events

## Continued

### JUNE

### JULY

### AUGUST

**August 15, 2021**

*Deadline for articles and advertising in Llama Living*

#### **Michigan Fiber Festival**

**August 18-22, 2021** - Workshops

**August 20-22, 2021** - Vendors

**August 21-22, 2021** - Special Events

Allegan County Fairgrounds

Allegan, MI

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Lamafest**

**September 3-5, 2021**

MSU Pavilion

East Lansing, MI

Contact Corky Dubois for more information (616) 902-2382 or egflamas@yahoo.com

### OCTOBER

### NOVEMBER

**November 15, 2021**

*Deadline for articles and advertising in the holiday issue of Llama Living*

#### **MLA Annual Board/Membership Meeting**

Date and location yet to be determined.

### DECEMBER

## Great Escape Llamas

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

[gasurratt@tc3net.com](mailto:gasurratt@tc3net.com)

show-stud-fiber-guard -soil enhancers



## *Alpacas At Hickory Grove*

Alpacas, Fiber, Art

Cyndi Ernst  
(517) 861-9328  
[CynthiaRErnst@gmail.com](mailto:CynthiaRErnst@gmail.com)  
Howell, Michigan 48855

## *From The Archives*

### Triplets in a Llama

A two year old llama female was bred and conceived from a single breeding. This was her first pregnancy. In July 1996, she aborted twins. The fetuses were judged to be approximately eight months of age. A normal placenta was expelled by the female within a few hours. She was examined vaginally and found to be healthy, however, three days of Naxel injections were given as a preventive against infection. Since the owner did not wish to have a summer cria, they didn't persist with the breeding. On September 25th, she was introduced to a male and gave such a violent refusal that the owners accepted her decision even though they felt she should be open. On September 25, 1996 this female delivered a full-term, normal healthy, female cria.

The only possible explanation for this unique circumstance is that the female conceived triplets. Likely the twins were situated in the right horn in a common placenta. The sex of the twins was not recorded. The female cria was likely in the left horn in her own placenta which was not damaged when the twins were aborted. The pregnancy progressed to a normal delivery.

This case is of interest on a couple of counts. First, to the author's knowledge, this is the first report of triplets in a South American camelid. Second, the abortion of a fetus (in this case two), with the remaining fetus progressing to a normal delivery is likewise reported for the first time in a camelid. However, the later phenomenon is reported in other species.

The attending veterinarian was Dr. Stephen C. Talbot, Minden, Nevada. The case was reported to the author by the owners, Dick and Carolyn Denning, Gardnerville, Nevada on September 29, 1996. Reported by Murray E Fowler, DVM, Davis, California.

*Reprinted from Llamas Magazine (no longer published), Jan/Feb 1997. □*

## Older Llamas

### Continued

matter what shape she's in. The ability to provide adequate nutrition for herself and an unborn cria, plus produce a good supply of milk once the baby is born, is certainly not the norm for an old girl.

The practice of breeding older females just prior to putting them on a sales list still goes on. I've gotten frantic calls from new owners of senior llamas who need help with a newborn cria because the mother died giving birth or the mother had absolutely no milk to give the new baby (For some reason the seller doesn't seem to return their calls.) Even if they manage to have an old female provide them with a healthy baby, it's likely the last one she'll ever have. Now they have an old llama to care for that they've only owned for a year.

What happens when an old llama dies, what do you do with the body? We bury our llamas when they die, we have a connection with them that prompts us to handle their bodies that way. We learn early on to have a hole ready ahead of time when they happen to die in February. The grave site is tucked safely in a grove of trees where no one can accidentally slip into it. Some people in our area used to call a renderer when their llamas died until a year or so ago when it was no longer legal to do so. It's good to know what the rules are in your area and be prepared ahead of time so you have a plan on how to handle the bodies of your animals.

Having older llamas is certainly not all gloom and doom. Our senior llamas have a connection with us, a sort of mutual admiration society, if you will, that the younger ones haven't yet developed. We read each other's thoughts and can enjoy just hanging out being quiet together.

Though we've downsized as we ourselves have become "more senior", I still like to breed for one or two babies a year. It's an important part of my life and also adds energy to the herd. I've watched older females join in the fun as young ones suddenly race and leap for the sheer joy of it - maybe not as fast or as high as the youngsters, but with every bit as much joy. It puts a spring in my step too.

*Reprinted from The GALA Newsletter, November 2020, Vol. XXXVI, No. 4. □*

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## Camelid Rescue Remains An Important Issue

By Sheila Fugina

A number of years ago I wrote an article titled, "Rescue is Not a Four-Letter Word", and I could easily title this piece, "Rescue is Still Not a Four-Letter Word". While some aspects of camelid rescue and re-homing efforts have changed, many others have not. One thing that sadly hasn't changed is the need for it - the need for rescue and re-homing is definitely still with those of us in the camelid community.

When I first got involved with rescue efforts many years ago, most of the cases involved llamas. The pendulum has since swung to the alpaca side as owners found their investment dollars drifting away, but llamas are by no means out of the picture. At the same time, camelid organizations have changed. Many associations have disbanded or combined with other groups and, for what ever reason, many owners choose not to join any camelid association at all. (That's a separate issue that camelid organizations really need to tackle.)

One thing that hasn't changed is the need for camelid organizations and owners to accept the responsibility to be involved with rescue efforts. I personally feel every camelid owner should be involved with rescue and re-homing at some level - contributing dollars, volunteering to help rescue groups, adopting a llama or alpaca needing a new home, whatever the owner feels able to do. For those who breed camelids, it's a no brainer. We who create new little llamas and alpacas to add to the camelid pool at large haven an even greater responsibility to be involved.

Some breeders feel that helping camelids in need somehow affects their own bottom line that providing aid to these llamas and alpacas they are hurting their own sales efforts. That is simply not the case. They want to distance themselves from the whole idea of rescue and re-homing because it has nothing to do with them or with their animals. That, too, is simply not the case. Ask those whose personal worlds have collapsed because an

unforeseen catastrophe changed the course of their lives and thus of their animals. None of us can predict the future.

Llamas and alpacas are not in need of rescue or re-homing because they have done something wrong. Sometimes their owners have committed a wrong, though, by abusing, neglecting or abandoning the camelids in their care. Other owners who would like to do right by their animals have gotten into tough life situations due to death, illness or other conditions out of their control. To ignore any of these camelids in need would be to ignore our charge as animal caretakers.

At any one time the camelid rescue herd (for want of a better term) is made up of animals with a wide variety of ages, physical descriptions and personality types. Some look like candidates for the Island of Misfit Camelids, while some could win blue ribbons in a show ring. To those who work in rescue, it makes no difference - they are all treated with kindness and care. They are dewormed, sheared, gelded, whatever is needed, before being adopted. Even with donations of time, transportation, hay and supplies, there is still a need for dollars to meet these needs.

In addition to donating funds to rescue efforts, camelid organizations are in a great position to provide llama and alpaca education to both owners and the general public. Not all camelid welfare problems are caused by willful mistreatment, neglect and abandonment of the animals, many problems are caused simply by ignorance of the needs of llamas and alpacas. While ultimately it is the responsibility of sellers to provide this information to owners, that doesn't always happen. Camelid organizations (and there are fewer of them all the time) need to help these owners get the education they need.

Many animal owners forget to make provisions for their four-footed friends in the even the owner dies before the animals do. Rescue groups often deal with the results of such forgetfulness. I used to make a presentation on "Estate Planning for Your Animals" at some of our area camelid conference and I was amazed at how many owners hadn't included even simple provisions for their llamas and alpacas in their wills. It doesn't need to be complicated and it may vary widely from person to person. You need to name a contact for immediate needs - food, water, shelter, etc. - and one or more contacts responsible for the placement or sale of the animals over the ongoing weeks. If all owners made such provisions, it would nip many rescue situations in the bud.

I'll get off my soapbox now, at least for the time being, and wish you and your animals well as you adjust your lives to cope with the fallout from the Corona virus. May llamas (and one alpaca) lower my blood pressure and keep me grounded at times like these. I wish the same for you.

*Reprinted from The GALA NEWSLETTER, Vol. XXXVI, No. 2, May 2020. □*



## MLA Treasurer's Report

### Summary Balance Sheet As of December 1, 2020



#### ASSETS

##### Current Assets

Checking/Savings	\$18,681.65
Accounts Receivable	<u>\$-190.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$18,491.65</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$18,491.65</b>

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

##### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	<u>\$-150.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$-150.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$-150.00
Equity	<u>\$18,641.65</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$18,491.65</b>

MICHIGAN



LAMA  
ASSOCIATION

## 2021 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 Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

WEB SITE ADDRESS . \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIALTIES \_\_\_\_\_

### LLAMA LIVING NEWSLETTER

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

\_\_\_ NEW MEMBERSHIP (\$25)

\_\_\_ RENEWAL (\$25)

\_\_\_ FARM/FAMILY(\$25)

\_\_\_ VET/VET STUDENT (\$15)

\_\_\_ YOUTH MEMBERSHIP (\$15)

\_\_\_ 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](http://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, 2021 to: MLA Treasurer, Pat Schneeberger, 11389 Broadbent Rd., Lansing, MI 48917. TX (517) 627-6562.***

*Hey Students  
Want some free money?*



**APPLY FOR MLA SCHOLARSHIP**  
**(2) \$1000.00 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED EACH YEAR**  
**get info and read all about it**  
**[www.Michiganllama.org](http://www.Michiganllama.org)**  
**Deadline July 1**

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**Advertisers in this issue of Llama Living**

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<b><u>FARM</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Alpacas at Hickory Grove .....	19
Bittersweet Farm .....	3
Camelidynamics .....	13
Great Escape Llamas .....	19
Lash's Unique Animals .....	9
Lofty Pine Argentine Llama Ranch .....	8
Miller LlamaLand .....	12
Thekbusch Farm .....	12

**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 printready (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**

**ADVERTISING RATES**

**PRICING**

<b>Half Page Back Cover</b> (horizontal 4-3/4 x 6-3/4)	\$55
<b>Full Page</b> (9-1/2 x 6-3/4)	\$40
<b>Half Page</b> (vertical 3-1/4 x 9-1/2) (horizontal 4-3/4 x 6-3/4)	\$25
<b>Quarter Page</b> (4-3/4 x 3-1/4)	\$15
<b>Business Card</b>	\$ 5
<b>Insert</b> (8-1/2 x 11) ( <i>Check for number required</i> )	\$70

**Classified Ads** - A minimum of \$5 for up to six lines. \$1 for each additional line.

## Llama Living

c/o Suzanne Hockin Frambes  
14775 Peckham Rd.  
Albion, MI 49224

*Return Service Requested*

**TO:**

