





A publication of the Alpaca & Llama Show Association

www.ALSAShow.org

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The views expressed herein are those of the authors. Before undertaking any new regime with your llamas, you should always consult with your veterinarian. Only they can tell you what

is best for your situation. We invite submission for unpaid articles and photographs.

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The Spring Showring cover
Photo taken by Katrina Capasso
Dakota Ridge Farm
Ballston Spa, New York





Photo Figment Ranch Llamas by Lynn Napoleon

Letter From The Editor......

When I first entered the lama community, I was told, "If you are going to be involved with Ilamas you need to join the Alpaca & Llama Show Association. I did and have been a proud member ever since.

ALSA is the original show association that has been serving the lama community for over 20 years.

Your membership offers you many benefits

- 1. You may run for the Board of Directors.
- 2. You are a voting member.
- 3. You can gain lifetime points for your animals by placing them in ALSA Sanctioned shows.
- 4. All ALSA youth members will have placements recorded for awards and be eligible for such awards and scholarships.
- 5. You may participate in ALSA Regional and National Shows.
- 6. You have access to the ALSA website, www.alsashow.net, where you will find upcoming shows, show results, board minutes, handbook updates and other members.
- 7. You will show under well-trained judges that adhere to ALSA's standards. You will receive a virtual copy of the Showring Magazine.

Some reasons I hear as too why they haven't joined or renewed their membership:

- 1. I don't show anymore.
- 2. My kids are grown
- 3. I just have pet lamas for fun.
- 4. I sold all my lamas.
- 5. It costs too much.
- 6. My son/daughter have already gotten a scholarship.
- 7. My one membership will not make a difference.
- 8. I am mad at one of the members.
- 9. I only have alpacas.
- 10. I only am interested in fiber.

"Why Join?" -- You may ask why YOU should become a member:

- 1. My membership dues help fund the mere existence of ALSA and camelids!
- 2. I am PROUD to be a MEMBER!
- 3. Earn awards and recognition for your llamas and alpacas!
- 4. Help someone else's children get a scholarship!
- 5. Help to educate the public about the latest lama information!
- 6. Share the latest training and showing information!
- 7. Information about the show dates and winners!
- 8. Meet new lama friends!
- 9. Promote and sell alpacas and llamas!
- 10. Share the latest fiber information!

Thanking you in advance.

Ruby Herron Editor ALSA Showring Magazine



Letter From The President:

With the coming of Spring comes the start of the ALSA show year. Over the next month, the show season will be in full swing all around the country. I don't know about you, but going to the first show of the season really gets me excited to see all the wonderful llama people I missed over the winter. Spring shows are a great time to catch up, dust off those showing cobwebs and maybe even groom a llama or two.

ALSA has exciting things in store for our members in 2015:

- Grand Nationals planning is fully underway and we can't wait to share the events being set up just for you. Go win those Grands and Reserves and join us for the festivities; you really won't want to miss it!
- For the first time, alpacas from all over the nation will have the opportunity to compete in Alpaca Halter classes at Grand Nationals. We welcome our Alpaca friends to the 2015 ALSA Grand National Championship show.
- We already have four regional shows on the schedule (Western, Rocky Mountain, Central, Southeast), but let's not stop there. We could really use some volunteers in the other regions to help the membership realize Regional Championships in their own area.
- The Board has entered into a trial period for 2015, dropping the number required in Grand and Reserve Champion Divisions from 6 to 5. This puts ALSA in line with most of the livestock community.
- We have a big election scheduled the end of May, so be sure to check your email for ballot information.

Keep watching those e-blasts; and we hope to see you all at the next show! Thank you for being an ALSA member.

Kitty Tuck-Kampel
Kitty Tuck-Hampel

ALSA President



Photo by Michael Hampel

Letter From The Vice President:

As the ALSA Board of Directors Elections come closer, I would like to ask all of our members to please vote. Read the statements of candidacy and think about what these individuals stand for and how they will represent you as elected Board Officials. ALSA is a very special organization filled with very special and hard working people. We are lucky to have so many willing to serve on our committees. When I was elected to serve the membership as a Board of Directors member, I was very honored. It has meant so much to me to be able to work hard for all of you.



With the installation of new Board Members, we will also be selecting some new committee chairs and committee members, please consider volunteering. Your opinions are important to the future of ALSA. What you think really does make a difference. It is your input and suggestions that help us make the right decisions for our membership and keep us moving in a forward direction. Please don't hesitate to call on one of us if you are interested in being a part of a committee.

I am excited about the upcoming clinics we have to offer to our members. It is wonderful to see so many getting involved in the judging aspect of ALSA. We have a fabulous pool of judges and it just continues to grow! Thank you to all our judges, our instructors and our judges committee members for all your hard work!

Now with the warm weather coming, take the opportunity to get out there on those beautiful spring days and just go for a walk and enjoy your llamas. They will love it as much as you do!

Wishing you all laughter, love and llamas,

Susan Leslie

ALSA BOD Vice President

Office Talk

Hello everyone.

I hope you all are doing well! I do get to hear from many of you from all over the United States! What wonderful stories and experiences you all have – thank you for sharing!

I wanted to thank each of the adult members that renewed their ALSA membership by the Day of Record, April 1, 2015. Each membership that did renew their membership by the Day of Record will be eligible to vote in this year's General Election. (Of course, LIFETIME members are eligible to vote. You will each receive an email letting you know how our voting process will work for the General Election, and for the election of Board of Directors for 2015. You can visit the ALSA website to learn more about this election. Please follow this link:

http://www.alsashow.net/election.html

Another bit of news is the availability of the 19th Edition ALSA Handbook. Each member is entitled to receive a FREE printed copy. (please, one handbook per household) The LIFETIME members are being asked to contact the ALSA office to verify their address. (LIFETIME members, you will not receive a handbook unless this is done – we haven't heard from some of you, LIFETIME members, for a very long time – you could have moved – or you don't want or need a handbook!) The 19th Edition ALSA

Handbook is on the ALSA website here: http://www.alsashow.net/handbook.html Thank you all for understanding this process!

Now, down to the office business ... please find the minutes from the January 2015, February 2015, and March 2015 minutes on the ALSA website here: http://www.alsashow.net/minutes.html (The minutes will help you see many facts, but here is the current scoop.......)

- As of today, April 9, 2015, we have
 416 members. (last year at this
 Showring Edition we had 419 members)
- Shows are being posted in a timely manner once the ALSA office receives
 the information from the show
 superintendents. If you do not see
 your particular show results, they
 have probably not been given to
 the ALSA office yet..... But rest assured, they will be there soon!

- Please feel free to contact the ALSA office to check on this!
- The show results are found directly on the ALSA website under the Show Results here: www.alsashow.org or you may follow this link: http://www.alsashow.org/webshow findByYear.asp?year=2015
- (shows prior to 2015 are also found on the website or follow this link: http://www.alsashow.net/results.html

I would like to address the issuing of Award Certificates. There have been many certificates sent, but I'm sure that some of you were missed and that is not acceptable, we want you all to have them! Please contact the ALSA office and let's make sure you have what you need and deserve. (I am also speaking to the youth members!)

I would also like to invite everyone to attend the 2015 18th Annual ALSA Grand National in Park City Kansas on Thursday, October 22, 2015 – Sunday, October 25, 2015. Please visit the ALSA website to learn more about this prestigious event and how to qualify to compete:

http://www.alsashow.net/national.html
New this year is the addition of ALPACA
HALTER. There is NO qualification for you
to compete in this division! Please see the
ALSA website or call the ALSA office for any
explanation, etc.!

Even if you or your animal is not qualified to compete in the 2015 18th Annual ALSA Grand National, please know you are welcome to come, relax, watch,

eat, shop, and enjoy in the fellowship!

And the last bit of information is concerning the ALSA website. Inside the ALSA site is everything you will need to know or wish to see from the current Handbook to your memberships to your animal's points and other important information. May I please ask that if you see ANYTHING that needs to be updated on the website, or is not working correctly, to let me know! I can only fix something if I know about it! We would like to make sure that everything is in order and easily accessible for you to enjoy and be successful with your showing! I have realized that some of you did not know what was available for you to see on the ALSA website. It would be great if we had a "tutorial" that would help you navigate around the site but there is just too much information and methods to see it to do this. I will be more than happy to help you go through the site. I will talk to you on the telephone while you are on your computer. Just contact me and let's do it together! It will be like having ALSA website 101, right?:)

So in closing, I hope to see many of you at the ALSA shows!

Good luck to you all!



Your Executive Secretary of the Alpaca Llama Show Association 281-516-1442 Ilamas@alsashow.org



Barber's pole worm in alpacas Jane Vaughan BVSc PhD MACVSc

The gastrointestinal parasite *Haemonchus spp*. is better known as the barber's pole worm (BPW) because the adult female worm has a white tubular uterus that winds around the blood-filled tubular gut, giving the look of a barber's pole (Figure 1). Yes, this parasite is a blood sucker of domestic livestock, causing anaemia and illthrift and can kill alpacas (and sheep, cattle and goats) quickly and in high numbers.



Figure 1. Adult female barber's pole worms (photo: CSIRO Australia)

BPW is usually associated with prolonged warm, moist conditions so is rarely seen in winter unless it is mild and is traditionally seen in wet summers. Bear in mind that BPW is widespread across farms, and waits for ideal conditions to rear its ugly head. Just because you have never had it diagnosed on your farm before, do not assume it does not exist on your farm. Alpacas are bought and sold and agisted all over the countryside and take their parasites with them too.

Lifecycle

Adult BPW are located in the third stomach compartment (C3) of the alpaca. They attach to the lining of the stomach and suck blood. Female BPW lay massive numbers of eggs every day (up to 10,000), which pass out in the alpaca's faeces (Figure 2). In mild-warm, moist conditions, the eggs hatch out in the faeces and live on bacteria in the faeces as they moult from the first larval stage, L1, to the second, L2. Larvae develop to the infective stage (L3) over 7 days under ideal condition (but may take up to 5 weeks) and migrate out of the faecal pellets after heavy dew or rain. Infective larvae move up leaf blades in films of moisture in warm weather and are ingested during grazing. The larvae continue development as they pass through the first two compartments of the stomach, and arrive at C3 as an immature worm. They attach to the lining of C3, and suck blood. When they reach sexual maturity they mate and begin laying eggs. It takes 21-28 days from the time an alpaca eats infective larvae until those BPW begin laying eggs.

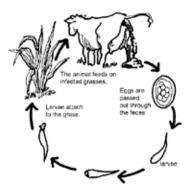


Figure 2. Lifecycle of barber's pole worm is similar in alpacas, cattle, sheep and goats.

Clinical signs

Because BPW are such prolific egg layers, livestock can ingest massive numbers of larvae from the pasture and be found suddenly dead in the paddock. Other alpacas in the group will be ill-thrifty and exhibit sudden weightloss (what has your regular body condition scoring told you about the herd?) and severe anaemia (have a look at mucus membranes in mouth, vulva, and around the eyes for pale colour). Some alpacas have been described as having "bottle jaw" where the skin under the jaw becomes oedematous and swollen because the animal is hypoproteinaemic (low blood proteins, so plasma oozes out of the blood vessels into the skin). Note that if drench resistance exists on your farm, you will see these clinical signs despite having drenched recently.

To get an idea of how voracious these worms are, BPW suck approximately 0.05 mL blood per day in sheep. Therefore an animal carrying 2000 worms loses 100 mL blood per day so it will only take 10 days for the BPW to consume a litre of blood and a 50 kg sheep only has around 4 litres of blood. A sheep this heavily infected would have a worm egg count of 10,000 eggs per gram.

Diagnosis

- 1. Dead alpacas. It is important to look for BPW in the correct place! Adult and larval forms of BPW are found in the third compartment of the stomach not the small intestine. Adult female worms are 20-30 mm long, quite fine and have the characteristic red and white stripes, males are about 15 mm long and larvae are smaller. They are all attached to the lining of C3 in large numbers (because they have killed the alpaca).
- 2. Faeces. Fresh samples of faeces should be collected directly from the rectum of approximately 10 alpacas in each mob using a gloved finger. 10-15 faecal pellets should be collected from each animal and placed into separate freezer bags. Air should be excluded from the bag and bags placed into the refrigerator and kept cool during shipment to the laboratory. Collect samples early in the week so they do not get lost in transit over the weekend. Do not freeze faeces. Alternatively, move alpacas to a communal dung pile and hold them there for 10-15 minutes then collect warm samples from the dung pile in a similar fashion. Most strongyle worms, such as Ostertagia spp. and Trichostrongylus spp. lay 10's to 100's of eggs per gram of faeces. BPW lay 1000's to 10,000's eggs per gram of faeces.

BPW eggs look similar to other strongyle eggs found in alpacas (Figure 3). If egg counts are very high, it is a fair assumption BPW is involved. If counts are in their 100's, then the only definitive method of diagnosis is to ask the laboratory to perform worm egg incubation, larval culture and identification.



Figure 3. Strongyle eggs.

Sometimes alpacas will pick up massive numbers of larvae from the pasture and die before larval forms of BPW have had time to mature and begin egg laying in C3. Worm egg counts may be zero or low, but diagnosis will be made at autopsy by the presence of larvae in C3. If worm egg counts are low, and larval BPW is suspected, it is possible to test faeces for occult blood in the faeces using tests such as Occultest ® or Hematest ® as larvae are 'messy feeders' and spill blood into the gut of the host.

Treatment

Been 'saving that drench for an important event'? Been avoiding overuse of drenches to reduce the risk of causing drench resistance? I hope so. This is the time to use your effective drench! Do not delay once a diagnosis has been confirmed or you will lose more animals.

There are many different drenches available to use against BPW. There are:

- (a) narrow spectrum drenches that target BPW
- (b) broad spectrum drenches that kill BPW and other worms in the gastrointestinal system
- (c) short-acting drenches
- (d) long-acting drenches

It is essential that you select a drench in consultation with your veterinarian that is effective and will perform the job you require. That is, the selected drench will kill the worms you are targetting and that the parasites are not resistant to the active ingredient from over-use of the drench.

Effective **short-acting drenches** basically eliminate the worm burden in the alpaca on the day of drenching. Animals continue to pick up more infective larva with every mouthful, but they do not start re-infecting the pasture with worm eggs for another 21-28 days (the period it takes for the ingested larvae to mature, mate and start laying eggs) so become re-infected quickly if you are unable to drench and move onto a 'clean' paddock. The definition of a clean paddock is one that has been rested completely for more than 3 months or has had a crop/hay recently harvested. Most alpaca farms do not have 'clean' paddocks once BPW infection is established – assume there is BPW in every mob on the property.

With the advent of **long acting drenches** in the ivermectin family (macrocyclic lactones, MLs) you are able to use injectable drench in this family that will kill the current burden of worms and keep killing ingested larvae for approximately 2-4 weeks, depending on the actual drench used. You are therefore able to protect the herd for 4-8 weeks (as it takes worms another 21-28 days to start laying eggs), which allows you to sort out paddocks, perform worm egg counts to monitor, and also, move into the cooler weather of autumn. Cooler environmental temperatures will kill larvae on the pasture. It is standard practice in camelids to administer drenches in the ivermectin family at 1.5 times the cattle dose stated on the packet. It is recommended to use injectable drenches over pour-on or oral drenches in alpacas to make sure they are receiving the active ingredient.

Before you treat your animals, carefully read the directions for use of the selected drench. Shake the container so the drench is mixed evenly. Make sure you weigh some of the largest animals in the group and treat to the heaviest in the mob so that no animal is under-dosed. If the group has a wide range of weights, divide into lighter and heavier mobs so the smaller animals are not overdosed. Calculate the correct dose. Ensure drenching equipment, delivered via both injectable and oral routes, is calibrated to deliver the correct dose (and check throughout the day). Ensure drench is not spilled during drenching. If you are using an oral drench, place the drench gun over the back of the tongue and allow time for the alpaca to swallow. If injecting, place the needle subcutaneously. Do not hold drenched animals off water for too long after treatment.

Remember that no drugs are registered for use in alpacas and you should work in close consultation with your local veterinarian to obtain appropriate information about off-label use of drenches.

Prevention

1. Monitor worm burdens regularly in your herd by collecting fresh faeces and testing for worm egg output in the herd. Worm egg counts are given as a measure of numbers of parasite eggs per gram of faeces. The animals most at risk with gastrointestinal parasitism are the late pregnant females, lactating females with crias at foot, and recently weaned stock. Parasites in C3 are able to detect when livestock are about to give birth through hormonal changes in the pregnant female, and start producing

many more eggs per gram than in non-pregnant females. The pasture then becomes heavily contaminated and newly born cria are then exposed to the worms on the pasture as they start grazing. Beware of BPW though as it may strike males and non-lactating females as well.

- 2. There is only one routine drench that should be performed on any farm and that is to crias at the time of weaning. You should not routinely drench the herd "twice a year" or "at shearing" just because someone told you to! Never wean crias onto a pasture that has had heavily pregnant and/or lactating females with crias at foot grazing on it in the last year (yes, year!) otherwise you will put them on a contaminated pasture at high risk of parasitism. Plan your weaning paddock a year in advance so that after they have been drenched, they can be placed onto a 'clean' paddock.
- 3. You should also monitor for drench resistance (where a drench is no longer effective at killing more than 95 % of worms in the gastrointestinal tract) by collecting faeces from alpacas 10-12 days after drenching. There should be greater than 95 % reduction in worm egg count between pre- and post-drench worm egg counts if the drench is effective. You will need to perform a Worm Egg Count Reduction Test if drench resistance is suspected.

It is possible to perform your own worm egg counts. You will need a microscope, egg counting chamber, graduated beakers, pipettes and saturated salt solution. Training courses are run intermittently by your local department of agriculture or local veterinarian.

- 4. There is now a test in Australia, called the 'Haemonchus Dipstick Test', that allows farmers to test sheep faeces for blood on farm. The test has not been validated for use in alpacas to date. The test is conducted in separate mobs on faeces pooled from fresh faecal samples (1 pellet from each of 20 individuals) collected from the ground (NOT from the rectum as this collection method may result in blood in the sample). The dipstick test involves diluting faeces with water and boiling it. The test takes about 30 minutes and changes colour according to the amount of blood in the faeces. The more worms in C3, the more blood in the faeces and the higher the reading on the dipstick. The test is intended for use as another tool in the farmer's decision-making process as to when to drench for BPW. The test can be used weekly in high-risk periods and less frequently (say, monthly) when conditions for BPW are less favourable. It is important to note that the test measures blood in the faeces and not actual worm numbers so results should be interpreted with reference to previous dipstick tests, faecal egg counts and other relevant information such as paddock records and grazing management.
- 5. Selection of animals with innate resistance to parasites (known as 'host resistance') has been undertaken in sheep for many years. It is possible to perform worm egg counts at weaning (and therefore before they have been drenched for worms) and select sires with the lowest worm egg counts at weaning. These animals will pass on the trait of having lower worm egg counts in their offspring.

Crosshide Leather



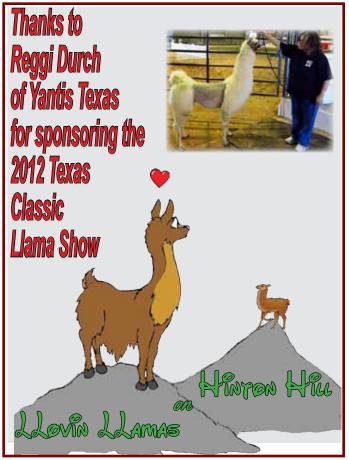






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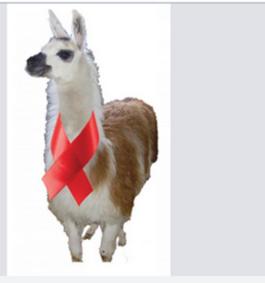


Source: PLOS

Most vaccines work by inducing an immune response characterized by neutralizing antibodies against the respective pathogen. An effective HIV vaccine has remained elusive so far, but researchers have continued to make progress, often employing innovative methods. A study published on December 18th in PLOS Pathogens reports that a combination of antibodies from llamas can neutralize (destroy) a wide range of circulating HIV viruses.

After initial disappointment that HIV vaccine candidates were unable to elicit neutralizing antibodies, researchers found that some HIV-infected individuals did produce such antibodies. The current challenge is therefore to find safe and effective vaccine formulations (as opposed to HIV infection) that trigger the development of neutralizing antibodies that can recognize and prevent infection with all or most circulating HIV subtypes.

Many known neutralizing antibodies are directed against a specific part of the virus



Llamas contribute to the fight against AIDS.

Credit: Nika Stropakke, CC-BY

that binds to the CD4 receptor on the human target cells, and structural biology studies indicated that the site is a narrow groove. Antibodies in most mammals are relatively large proteins made up of two copies of two different individual parts (or chains), and bulkiness might be one reason why neutralizing antibodies are rare. Llamas are a notable exception: besides the common four-chantibodies they also produce smaller ones made up of only two of the four chains. Robin Weiss, an HIV expert, and Theo Verrips, Laura MCCOV (WORKING WITH EVERS AT UNIVERSITY College London, OK) led an international group of researchers to test immunization protocols and the resulting immune response in llamas. Having previously identified one particular HIV neutralizing llama antibody, this study the researchers immunized two additional llamas and identified a total of three new neutralizing antibodies. The four HIV neutralizing llama antibodies target different parts of the CD4-binding site of the virus, and the researchers could show that when u combination, rather than interfering with each other, they are more potent and can neutralize all of the 60 different HIV strains tests

To understand how the llama immunization--which included two sets of four sequential vaccine injections per animal--worked, the researchers sequenced many copies of antibody-coding genes from blood cells collected after the first set of immunizations and a further four rounds of vaccination. They also looked at the "naïve" antibody repertoire from seven llamas that had not been vaccinat The results suggest that the neutralizing antibodies were not part of the pre-immunization repertoire, nor were they detectable after first vaccination round. Rather, they were generated as immune cells repeatedly encountered the vaccine and responded by maturi specific antibodies that can recognize it.

While it is encouraging that broadly neutralizing antibodies were found in all of the immunized llamas, they are present only at low concentrations in the blood, and so fail to meet the goal for a protective HIV vaccine. Nonetheless, the researchers conclude that I llama model has allowed them to examine the generation of four broadly neutralizing antibodies induced by vaccination, which has been possible in any other species. Their results, they say, "show that immunization can induce potent and

Story Source:

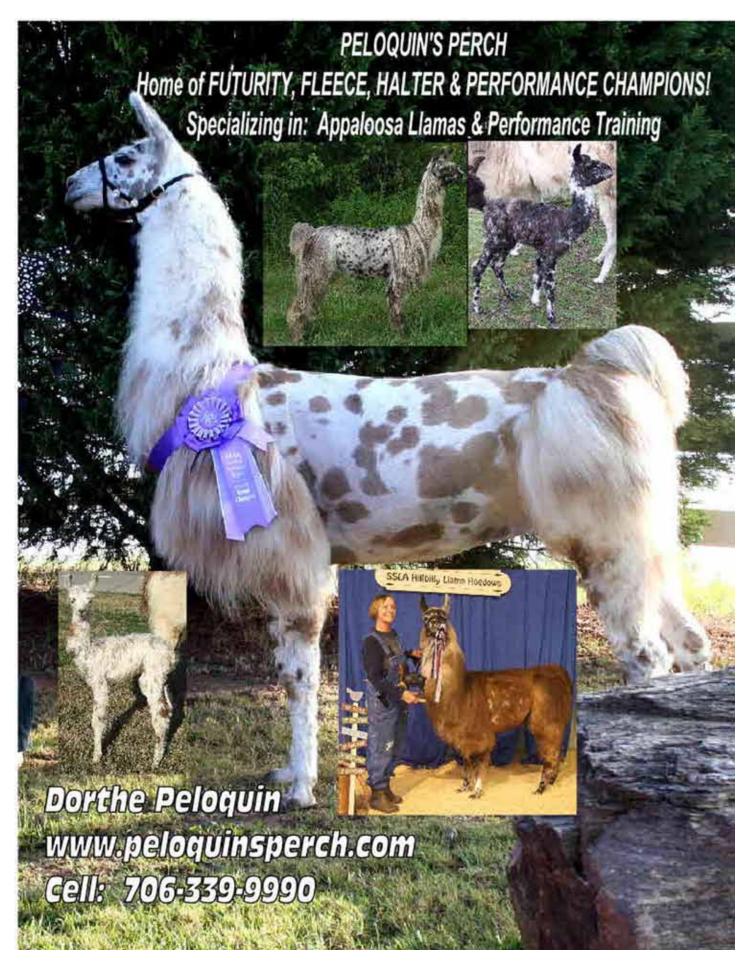
The above story is based on materials provided by PLOS. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.

Journal Reference:

 Laura E. Mccoy, Lucy Rutten, Dan Frampton, Ian Anderson, Luke Granger, Rachael Bashford-Rogers, Gillian Dekkers, Nika M. Strokappe. Michael S. Seaman. Willie Koh. Vanina Grippo. Alexander Kliche. Theo Verrips. L. 1. Robin A. Weiss. Molecular Cite This Page:
 S. December 18.2

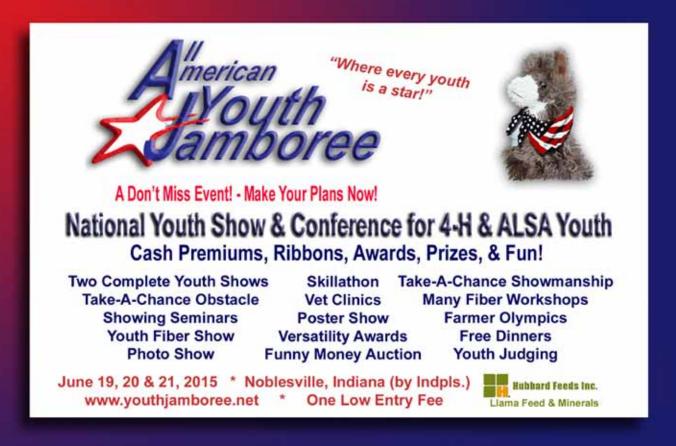
MLA APA Chicago

PLOS. "How Ilamas' unusual antibodies might help in the fight against HIV/AIDS." ScienceDaily, ScienceDaily, 18 December 20 www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141218141002.htm.



Stevens Llama Tique and Suri Alpacas





What About That Fiber? Part One

It is always amazing to me that many breeders of fiber animals do not knit, spin, weave, or market their fleeces. Evaluation and preparation of your llama fleece is essential to marketing and selling it. Nationally, cottage industry arts such as spinning, knitting, and weaving are guite popular.

Prior to shearing, proper evaluation of your fleece allows you to determine the target market for that fleece. Finer fleeces can be used for clothing and luxury garments. Other fibers might be better used for rugs, felting projects, and other items of this nature. The llama should be evaluated prior to shearing on the barrel and upper hip area (on both sides) to determine consistency (does the fleece have consistent fineness throughout those areas?), fineness (is the diameter of the fiber follicles consistently smaller?), density (is there a lot of this fiber?) and luster (is the fiber shiny and bright?). Once you have all of these things assessed, you can begin preparing your fleece for harvesting.



As a hand spinner and knitter, I prefer to prepare my fleece on the animal rather than having to pick, remove débris, and wash it after shearing. I find that my customers will pay top dollar for a fleece that is pristine and can be

spun right out of the bag. I begin this process by brushing and blowing all debris, matting, and other issues out of the fleece. This is followed by washing the llama using minimal shampoo/cleaner and never spraying the fleece after rinsing with any products. The llama is allowed to dry in a clean area overnight to make sure any and all moisture is out of the fleece.



On the following day, I start the shearing process. I get a large clear garbage sack and label it with the date and animal name. The bag is then put into a collapsible bucket. I usually have a second bag labeled with the same information ready for the neck, front shoulder and lower hip area fiber (this is also labeled as a secondary shearing bag). When shearing, I start with the topline and throw that first strip of fiber away as it is usually damaged, weathered etc. As I start to shear, I go in a right to left horizontal motion to minimize second cuts (small cuts that are from going over an area that has already been sheared). I do this working on the barrel area first and moving downward toward the bottom of the barrel. While shearing, I carefully move each row of fiber into my bag and glance for second cuts, debris and other foreign materials. I do not worry about going back over the sheared areas to clean it up, until I am completely done harvesting my useable fiber. I also stop when I reach the lower barrel as the belly wool is too damaged to save and use.



* During this process, I may leave a dollop (fiber swatch on the middle barrel of both sides of the animal) for walking fleece competitions. It should be located about 3 inches down from the spine and in the middle of the barrel area of the llama. They should be sheared into a teardrop shape.

After the barrel is removed, I begin working on the upper hip and tail area. Sometimes this area is too damaged to utilize for fiber arts, prior assessment will have determined how much of this is useable and worth saving. Once these areas are assessed, sheared and bagged up, I shear the neck, front shoulder and lower legs if I plan on removing all fiber on that particular animal. These areas go into the second bag I labeled. Following this, I go over what I have sheared and clean it up and check the lines of my haircut.

Usually, when you take a little more effort to assess and clean your llama prior to shearing, you will be able to target your market and sell your fleece. Hand spinners are drawn to a clean, well skirted and beautiful fine fleece. I usually sell my own fleeces for anywhere from \$40-100 dollars a fleece. My sales are based on quality, not weight of the fleece. Preparation and quality are essential to selling your fiber.

Watch for our next article on, "How to Market That Fiber."

Niki Kuklenski and her husband Jeff are very involved with all aspects of owning llamas. They have owned two ALSA Elite Champions, several ALSA/ILR Performance and Halter Champions, 2003 ALSA National Performance Champion and the 2011 ILR Gathering of Friends Advanced Performance, Adult Showmanship and Pleasure Driving Champion. Additionally, they have two Delta Society Therapy Llamas. Niki is an ALSA/ILR Judge and middle & high school substitute teacher. Niki and Jeff drive, show, pack, therapy work and educate with their llamas. Niki's passion is llama history and memorabilia.

She spends most of her free time tracking down old pictures and lama owners to help preserve our industry's history. http://www.nas.com/~jnkllamas jnkllamas@nas.com 360-592-2603

A.L.S.A. SANCTIONED

OKLAHOMA HEARTLAND YOUTH LLAMA SHOW

May 2, 2015

CANADIAN COUNTY 4-H BARN 220 N. COUNTRY CLUB RD EL RENO, OK

> Superintendent Joy Swihart 264 NE 70TH ST Blanchard, Ok 73010 (405)387-9413 Judge – TBA

2015 Because of the Economy Pasture Show - BLACK 2015 Because of the Economy Pasture Show - BLUE 2015 Because of the Economy Pasture Show - PERFORMANCE

This Double Show will be held RAIN OR SHINE ALSA sanctioned in accordance with the 19th Edition ALSA Handbook.

SUPERINTENDENTS Bob Burton, 2bit2ranch@gmail.com 7/19-355-9355
LOCATION: 54/15 County Road 59 Florissant, CO 80816
REGISTRATION: Registration due-by June 30, 2015
JUDGES: Bill Feick Black Show
Cheryl Juntilla Blue Show
Barbara Harris Pasture Performance
FEES: Halter fee \$30.00 for Double Show and \$10.00 ALSA Fee
Performance and Youth, flat fee \$20 & ALSA fee \$5 (NO OTHER FEES!)
First through Second Place Ribbons, Grand's and Reserves
NOTE: Management has the right to combine classes if necessary.
Five (5) needed to make a division but we want more.
Get and Produce need three (3) and four

Remember: Dress Comfortably and come to have fun!
Llamas and Exhibitors come as you are ! "No Grooming"
Come prepared. We are in Colorado! BYO - Everything Don't forget chairs
If you can, please bring drinks We will have community tubs for all exhibitors.

• You can camp in the pasture - no hookups. • We can provide water for the animals.

(4) for second place to qualify; there must be at least four (4) entries in the class.

Saturday night after the show will be a pot luck dinner. The main course will be provided. Please bring a side.
We will have a gas grill that may be used.
Breakfast and Lunch will be available.

Hemorrhagic Disease in Llamas – the Silent Killer.

Those of us involved in the llama community and pack with llamas have an appreciation of what llamas are capable of and what they can do for us. At the very least there is an appreciation of the fact that were it not for them, we'd likely be enjoying the great outdoors much less than we do. If done right, the llamas get considerable enjoyment out of it too. This mutual enjoyment relies greatly on the relationships cultivated between human and camelid hiking companions. Some relationships are casual and while the llamas will do the work asked of them they may really have a take-it-or-leave-it attitude to accompanying us and if given the choice would be just as content to stay home. Such is not always the case.

My first pack llama was <u>Peppercorn</u>, an ILR registered intact male. Whenever I started our modified 17 passenger van he would run to the gate anxious to go someplace. If he saw me



approach the pasture with his halter and lead he would run to meet me and all I had to do was hold it out and he would shove his nose in, excited to go somewhere or do something. All I then had to do was open the gate, open the van doors, and he would jump in ready to go. Being a speed freak, loving to run as fast as he could just for sport, even the ride itself was great fun – so much so he wouldn't ever cush. It would be rather unwise for me to roll down a window if the barrier net was not up to keep him confined in the rear as he would stretch his neck out the window like a dog, enjoying the wind in his face. This could be a little distracting to other motorists. The driver's window could be especially problematic as a 310 pound drooling lap llama is really not all that cuddly. Absent an open window, he'd have his face in the windshield taking it all in – hence, the barrier for safety reasons.

Peppercorn became our Boy Scout patrol mascot – yes, the llama patrol (with llama badges to prove it). He accompanied us on camping/hiking trips and would stick with the boys wherever

we went, taking care to keep track of where everyone was so nobody would be left behind. In camp he would hang out, explore, keep watch, and we would all have a wonderful time as one big happy herd.

This was in my early and less informed days of llamas and we unknowingly had a severe and invisible endophyte problem on our newly acquired ranch. Receiving the heaviest exposure it took its toll on Peppercorn's body and his health deteriorated – aging at an accelerated pace and having to be retired at an early age. Although I didn't have him necropsied when he passed away a few years later, his gaunt appearance and rapid weight loss despite a rich diet had me suspecting he was succumbing to cancer. Sadly, there was nothing I could do to undo the damage once I figured out and remedied the endophyte problem. All I could do was make him as comfortable as possible.

We are a rescue ranch and are not actively breeding, but partly out of a desire to perpetuate what I could of Peppercorn I bred him to one of our special girls, our ranch poster-llama and driver Morning Sunshine, who clearly had a particular fondness for him and he for her. From that pairing we received a 35 pound chip off the old block, King Asher. Possessing Peppercorn's disposition and growing into a tall, 380 pound strapping adolescent (pictured above), he assumed the lead pack duties. Sharing his sire's love for adventure he was a joy to take on pack trips, also sticking with me wherever the trail took us. Well... with one exception. Once he was casually grazing in camp and it so happened he was behind a bush when nature called and I walked up the trail a short ways for a potty break, not thinking to make sure he saw where I was going (usually they don't miss a thing). He didn't notice me leave, but suddenly realized I was gone. Fearing I had left him behind, he took off back down the trail. I returned to discover him absent. Not having seen him go up the trail, I trotted down the forested trail and called him. Coming around a bend a short distance away I looked to my right to see him about fifty yards up a smooth steep rock hill, standing on the peak I assume to search all around for me. I'm sure he heard me calling him and approaching, but rather than hastily coming back down to rejoin me he instead just stood there looking at me like, why did you do that?! Yes, that was terribly inconsiderate of me. I had to call him down a couple of times before he accepted my apology and followed me back to camp.

Like our herd Matriarch, Dazy May, King Asher played a big part in my realization and appreciation of just how smart and emotional llamas can be, and is felt especially keenly once a close friendship and bond is cultivated. I've written of some of these flashes of insight in the past, posting the particularly humorous events on our website. It's frequently noted how llamas can learn complex skills on their own, often simply through observation, such as opening gate latches, but the stories I have related reveal the more sophisticated abstract thinking and problem solving they can exhibit. This includes Dazy's incredibly clever way to permanently solve the treat-robber dilemma. http://www.rattlesnakeridgeranch.com/dazy.htm

Sadly, the end of July Dazy May suddenly developed diarrhea with no parasites or coccidia indicated in fecal exam. I treated the symptom with kaolin+pectin thinking it was maybe just an upset tummy from something she ate. We left the following day for our annual rendezvous and she was found dead the next morning by a ranch hand, so no necropsy was performed as we had planned upon her demise due to her unique medical history, leaving us with an unresolved long

running mystery. At age 23 we attributed the death to old age and mourned her loss, ignorant of what was to follow.

Life went on as it must, as hectic as ever...

King Asher displayed a knack for finding common ground with others he especially liked. "Llama or Dog" is an example, telling of his reaching out to a particular canine of ours. At the same time he was not one to hold back on his feelings if slighted. "Gone Ape" tells of his stunningly creative way of getting my attention when he felt I was neglecting him during a vehicle breakdown. http://www.rattlesnakeridgeranch.com/asher.htm

While King Asher and I made many enjoyable excursions together, receiving his Master Pack Llama certification from the Pack Llama Trial Association along the way, I continually felt that we were both being shortchanged. My jobs typically don't allow me to get away more than a couple of times each summer, having to put in long hours in between those few breaks. Each year I vow to get out more the next, but so far it's just not happened.

This became especially poignant and regretful one day in September, about a month after Dazy's demise. A typical Sunday afternoon found most of the girls and King Asher parked in front of their respective fans, keeping cool and seeking refuge from the pesky houseflies that had become more numerous of late. I thought it a little unusual for Asher to be cushed in front of his fan as he doesn't typically do that even on a hot day, but figured it was the flies. I checked on him a little while later just to be sure and found he was still there. That's really not Asher. He doesn't ever stay in one spot for long, always staying active during the day. I went up to him and very gently encouraged him to get up but he wouldn't. He had no interest in food. Despite his normal appearance in the morning, something was now seriously wrong. I began taking vitals while Gayle contacted the local vet for an emergency farm call. I ran a quick fecal analysis and found nothing. Temperature was normal but respiration seemed a little strained. He didn't feel bloated.

The vet headed our way as soon as the call was made and arrived in about a half hour. Blood chemistry was essentially normal. Asher began mouth breathing at times. Choke was suspect so the throat was inspected and a tube inserted with nothing evident. Meanwhile, a vicious thunderstorm was passing directly overhead. It got dark and suddenly 80mph winds and torrential rain erupted. Lighting was striking nearby all around us from the clouds straight to the ground, with bright flashes and thunderous booms. One of our 60' tall willow trees came crashing to the ground, uprooting part of our perimeter fence and blocking the main road. Antibiotic, banamine and mild sedative was administered but with no clear cause for his behavior we all thought it best under the circumstances to transport him immediately to Washington State University-Pullman veterinary teaching hospital for more thorough evaluation via an emergency summons.

With the van opened Asher got up and willingly followed me there even as horrible as he felt, loading easily. Once in the van we raced for Pullman while they prepared for our arrival, following the thunderstorm as it moved northeast. Still not yet fully appreciating the seriousness of the situation but not wanting to take any chances with Asher, we arrived in record time despite the treacherous weather, about two and a half hours. He was cushed most of the time, but as we

pulled into the WSU campus he got up and stretched his head towards the front of the van over the barrier with mouth open and gasping. It's said that camelids have few muscles in the face and consequently aside from a slight worry wrinkle under the eye can't express emotion through their face. I can testify that his was an expression of panic, as though to exclaim, "Help me!" whereupon he spun around and collapsed on his side, expelling a firm meringue-like foam from his lungs.

He died.

His death hit me like a punch to the gut. Months later it's still hard to walk past his empty paddock without that powerfully vibrant and energetic presence.

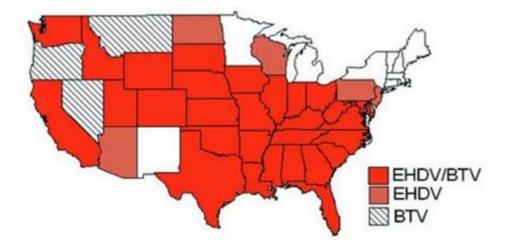
A few days after his death the necropsy results revealed the cause. The obvious asphyxiation that killed him was due to a silent and stealthy assassin. There is a class of arboviral diseases known as hemorrhagic. A human/primate version in the news in recent years is Ebola, found in Africa, though the disease is not new. Other more contagious hemorrhagic viruses affecting mostly ruminants have found their way out of Africa, such as African horse sickness virus (AHSV), equine encephalosis virus (EEV), epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV), and bluetongue virus (BTV). The latter is what killed Asher (BTV-11). They all have similar hideous symptoms, with varied severity and species susceptibility. These diseases are much more widespread and prevalent in the United States and elsewhere around the world than most people realize. Many "mysterious" illnesses or deaths are caused by them, with little warning and often going undiagnosed.

In our herd of twenty-four llamas, beginning with Dazy May, we lost four llamas in the span of about a month. Five more tested positive for the disease but survived, some spending time at WSU-Pullman. Spread by a Culicoides biting midge, the range of these insects is expanding. Other arboviral diseases are expanding as well, such as West Nile virus, and African species of mosquitoes that can carry yellow and dengue fever are spreading in California this year. These mosquitoes are aggressive and aren't deterred by the daytime heat and sun.

WSU-Pullman dispatched a field disease investigative unit to gather data on our herd and others in Eastern Washington, identifying other ranches with recent BTV deaths.

Measures need to be taken to protect your animals from the fate ours and many others have suffered from this often unrecognized cause of serious illness and death. To this end, I have written an article to share what I have learned about the disease and what can be done to minimize exposure risk. Please take the time to read it online at http://www.rattlesnakeridgeranch.com/documents/Bluetongue_disease.pdf or from http://www.rattlesnakeridgeranch.com click on Llama Care.

Rattlesnake Ridge Ranch Pasco, Washington, USA



Distribution in 2007

Send mail to RRR with questions or comments about this web site. Best viewed at 1024 X 768 or higher resolution.

Last modified: 25 Jul 2014



Asher



Dazy



Pepper



Owner/Beginning/Advanced Level ALSA Llama Fleece Judging Clinic July 17, 18 & 19, 2015

Hosts: Margaret & Ralph Drew - Stonehenge Llama Ranch 7621 Clement Road, Vacaville, CA 95688 Phone (707) 249-0707, Email: llamaspn@castles.com

Instructor: Maryan Baker, ALSA Llama Fleece Judge Phone (951) 685-6778, Email: llamamaryan@charter.net

Application Deadline: July 11, 2015

Nearest Airport: Sacramento International Airport (SMF) There are numerous local hotels. We are compiling a list and will email to attendees.

This ALSA Sanctioned Clinic is for ALSA Apprentice Llama Fleece Judges who have (1) passed a Beginning Llama Fleece Judging Clinic and (2) completed required apprenticeship shows.

This ALSA Sanctioned Clinic is also open to ALSA Members interested in entering the ALSA Llama Fleece Judging Program.

All three days of the Clinic are required for above. The Beginning and Advanced Clinic Fee includes ALSA Clinic Manual, review of ALSA 19th Edition Handbook, Instruction of essential fleece information; Shorn Fleece, Walking Fleece and Finished Products. The Clinic will also include testing and final examination(s) including oral reasons.

This Clinic is also open on Saturday, July 18th as a (1) day fleece information and training clinic to owners and breeders interested in learning more about llama fiber. Those entering the (1) day Clinic will receive educational information, but will not participate in the testing process.

*Detailed information will be sent via email upon receipt of your application and fees. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at the clinic and is included in the clinic fee.

Beginning/ Advanced Llama Fleed	e Judging Clinic	@ \$300.00	
Owner/ Breeders Fleece Informat	ion Day Clinic	@ 75.00	
Names(s)			
Ranch/ Farm			
Address			
City/ State/Zip			
Home Phone	Fax	Cell	
Email			

Make Checks and Credit Card information payable to ALSA – Mail or Fax this form to: ALSA Office: 17102 Mueschke Road, Cypress, Texas 77433

ALSA Office Phone: 281 516-1442 Office Fax: 281 516-1449 Email: llamas@alsashow.net



JUDGES CLINIC

Alpaca and Llama Show Association, Inc. (ALSA) OWNERS/BEGINNING/ADVANCED Llama Halter, 25 shorn alpaca May 29-31, 2015: LaVernia, Texas

may 25 02, 2020 Saverma, venas
Application Deadline: May 18, 2015
Instructor: Hank Kauffman
Clinic Hosts: Leslie Lane Farm Location: Susan Leslie, 4317 FM 539, LaVernia, TX., Phone 830-401-0819 Email: leslielanellamas@gmail.com
Host Hotel: Comfort Inn, 3013 N. Highway 123 Bypass, Seguin, TX 78155 Phone is 830-372-3990 You must ask for the ALSA Alpaca Llama Show assoc. in order to access the rooms and rates for this block. Last day to reserve rooms is May 19th, the rooms will be released to public on May 20th.
1. Arriving Airport: San Antonio, TX. Susan can work with the folks in airport pickup, etc. Depending on number of people, we can work out rides, etc.
This Llama/Alpaca Judges Clinic is open to ALSA members interested in Beginning Llama Halter Judging or Advanced Llama Halter Judging. Breeders may come for the first one and 1/2 days for a lesser fee. The clinic will cover two and one half intense days of instruction, judging, and testing in two parts. Participants are expected to successfully complete the minimum requirements in both areas of the program for certification.
Llama Judges Clinic will cover the following: * Review of Current ALSA Handbook, Classes, Ethics, Rules, Judging Criteria * Llama Halter Judging * Performance, showmanship, youth judging, shorn alpaca, oral reasons * Testing and Evaluating of Judges
Please bring your halter/performance judges manual and your current 19th edition ALSA Handbook. Please let Hank know if you do not have the manual and if you need a Handbook you will have to purchase it from the office.
I am attending the Clinic as: (check applicable) ALSA Llama Judge Beginning Auditing (with Permission) \$300.00 ALSA Llama Judge Advanced Auditing (with Permission \$300.00 Owner/Breeder \$150.00 This fee includes the manual, lectures, work with animals and one lunch. There will be no refunds after receiving the clinic packet; however fees can apply toward another clinic.
Name(s):
Ranch/Farm:
Address:
City:Zip:
Home Phone: ()Fax: ()Email:

For further information contact: Hank Kauffman 740-398-8128

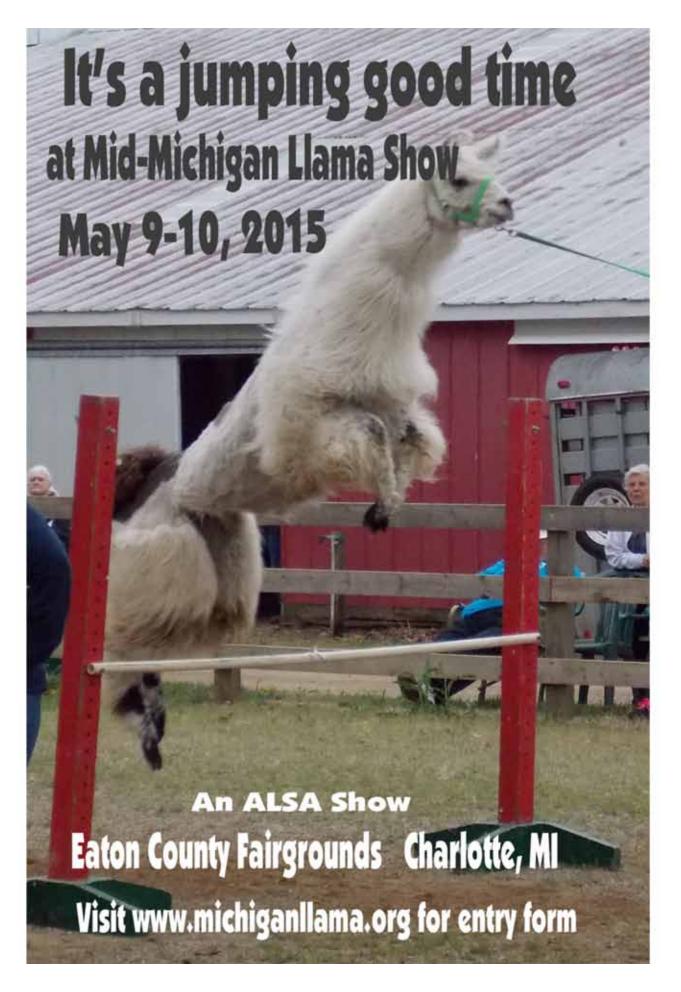
Make checks payable to ALSA - Mail or Fax this form to: ALSA Office, 17102 Mueschke Rd. Cypress, TX, 77433.

If you wish to pay by credit card, call the ALSA office: 281-516-1442.



"Dreams Do Come True"

Photo by Amandah Johnson, Figment Ranch, Cypress, Texas





Camels are making a return to policing, with the NSW Police Force today announcing a trial to use the 'ships of the desert' for patrolling remote outback areas of the state, as well as select locations along the coast.

The four-legged animals have a long association with policing in Australia, being first used by the SA Police in 1881, and ending with the last 'camel mountie' patrol taking place in the Northern Territory during the mid-1950s.

According to Inspector Tom Lawrence of the NSW Police Force, the use of camels for select patrol duties makes perfect sense:

"Camels are superbly adapted to the harsh environmental conditions found in some parts New South Wales. They are able to stand extremes of heat and cold, and can go without food and water for days on end if need be. The female camels can even supply milk if it came down to a survival situation," said Inspector Lawrence.

There are however some drawbacks, with special attention required to tame the animals' sometimes antisocial nature.



"Spitting has been an issue," said Inspector Lawrence. "However we demand that our four-legged companions display the same standards that we expect from the public, so we have had to give them additional training to address that".

Ten camels will be initially strolled out across the state, with coastal zones also being included due to the need to patrol long, remote stretches of beach.

The trial commences today, 1 April 2015.

Woodstock Llama Show!

Presented by Team Jorjio

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015

Location: Friant, CA (just north of Fresno)

Judge: Cathie Kindler

Show Superintendent: DeeAnn Forrester

Breakout your tie dye & peace signs and harness up your flower power for this awesome ALSA Performance Show including youth classes, driving classes, and extra groovy fun classes!!

Enter your animals in as many classes as they are eligible for one great low price!

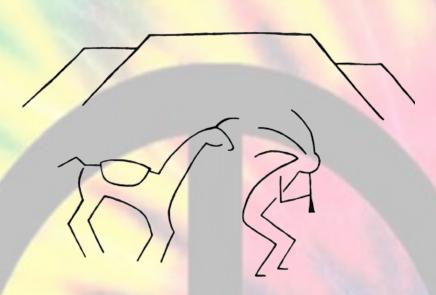
Non-youth - \$25 per animal + \$5 ALSA fee Youth - \$15 per animal + \$5 ALSA fee Sub-Junior Youth Obstacle Class - \$5 "Greener than Grass" Obstacle Class - \$5 Driving Clinic April 24-26 - FREE!!

Self pen, stake out, or show out of your trailer at no charge!

Or stall in the common pens for \$5 per head!

Lunch provided! Complimentary snacks and beverages throughout the day!

More details at WWW. Team Jorjio. Com



Please Join Us for a Weekend of

"Peace, Love and Lamas

at the Grand Mesa and Kokopelli Classics
May 16 and 17, 2015
At the Mesa County Fairgrounds in Grand Junction, Colorado

Two Full Shows in One Weekend!

Offering: Llama and Alpaca Halter,
Walking Fiber and Shorn Fleece Classes;
Novice, Advanced, and Master Llama Performance Divisions;
Open Alpaca Performance;
Youth Showmanship, Performance and Judging;
Obstacle and Pleasure Driving; and lots of just-for-fun stuff.

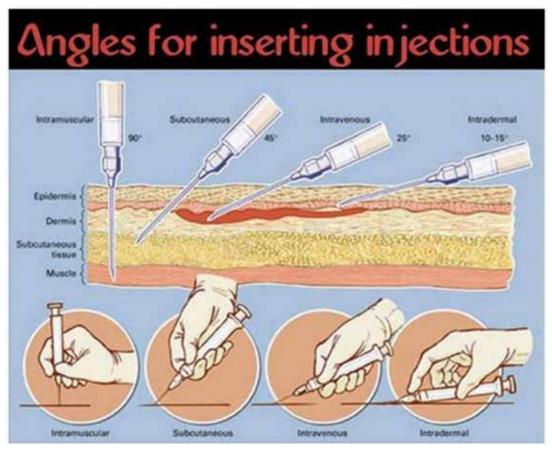
Judges:

Halter and Performance -- Wally Baker & Mike Swanson Fleece -- Maryan Baker

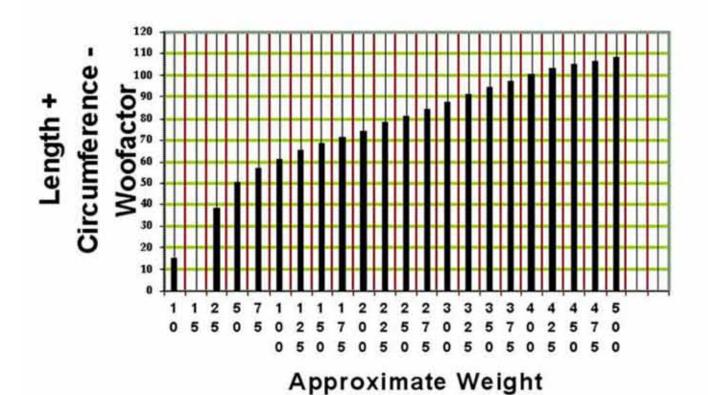
Information Packets and Entry Forms will be sent via e-mail. To make sure you are on the mailing list, please contact

Cheryl Juntilla at cajwdj@aol.com, or call 970-640-8028.

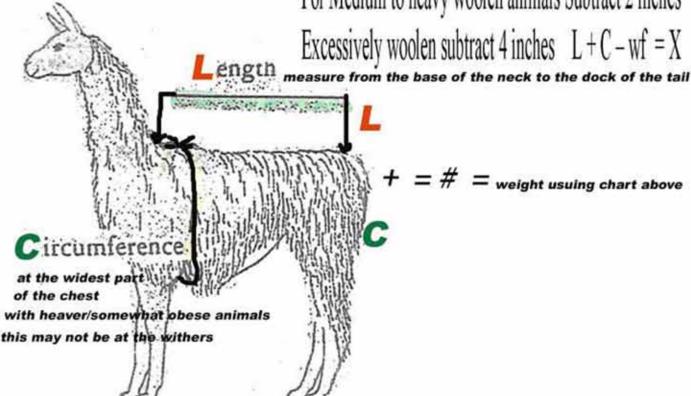




Ilama Weight Chart



For Medium to heavy woolen animals Subtract 2 inches





Princess Emily Steals The Show

With all the spunk of a girl several years her senior, 4-year-old Emily Carter, Rogersville, holds her own in a conversation and in the show ring.

Emily's parents, Chris and Venesa Carter, have been in the llama industry for 14 years. Venesa said she raised and showed horses when she was younger. After being introduced to llamas through some friends, she wanted to try her hand at guiding the five to six-foot-tall animal around the show ring.

"I had always liked them and wanted a couple of them," explained Venesa. "With my horse background, it just sort of fit." Throughout the years, the Carters have participated in shows all over the Midwest. As soon as Emily could walk, she joined in and took the lead rope.



Emily and her llama, Jake, participate in sub-junior shows, typically for ages 7 and younger. Emily said her favorite shows are the costume classes, where she and Jake get to dress up.

Chris and Venesa chose Jake for Emily because of his smaller size and good disposition. "He always had a really good personality, so I could tell early on that he was going to work out well for her," said Venesa of the nearly 2-year-old Jake.



The Carters travel for shows in the spring and fall, due to llamas' intolerance to heat. "Heat is the No. 1 killer of llamas, so you have to shear their wool each year," said Venesa.

Llamas are native to South America and are primarily used for meat. In the United States, however, they are more often used as pets or guard animals. Venesa said some llamas are used for an exotic meat market, but her llamas are primarily for show stock, pets or guardians. She also said she sells some of the wool for various uses.

"Llamas have a natural dislike for canines," explained Venesa, as to why llamas are used as guard animals. "They work well with goats and sheep."

"They are like cats, they are very curious and very calm," said Venesa.

Learn more about llamas and the Carter's llama farm at www.crivenllamafarm.com.

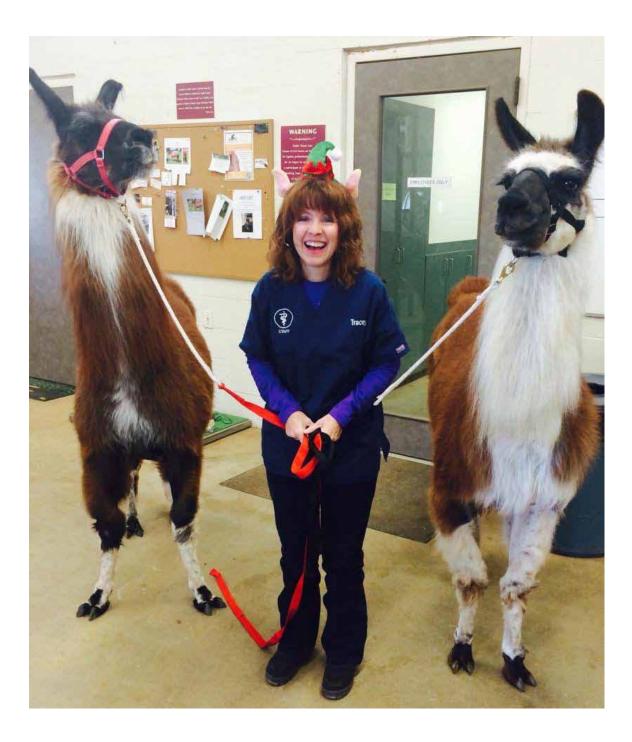
By: Missy Pickel, education reporter missyp@marshfieldmail.com - Follow Missy on Twitter @MissyPickel

Photos by Chris and Venesa Carter

You want me to guard what!



Christmas Eve At The Vet



Crystal (left) and Mandy Conyngham (right) enjoy a visit with Medical Records specialist Tracey at the Sunset Canyon Veterinary Clinic on Christmas Eve 2014 morning. The llama girls are quite interested when they first see Tracey's holiday headband, this year elf ears and cap. We always take the llamas in for their annual physical and shots that day since the clinic usually is not too busy. Not so this year - we got the last parking place in the lot!





March 10th, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/3_10_2015_BOD_Minutes.pdf

February 10 & 11, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/BOD_Minutes_February_10_11_2015%20.pdf

January 13th, 2015

http://www.alsashow.net/1-13-15%20BOD%20MinutesFinal.pdf

December 9th, 2014

http://www.alsashow.net/12_9_2014_BOD_Meeting_Minutes.pdf

ALSA Showring Magazine Rates & Specs

The ALSA Showring Magazine is a quarterly on line publication.

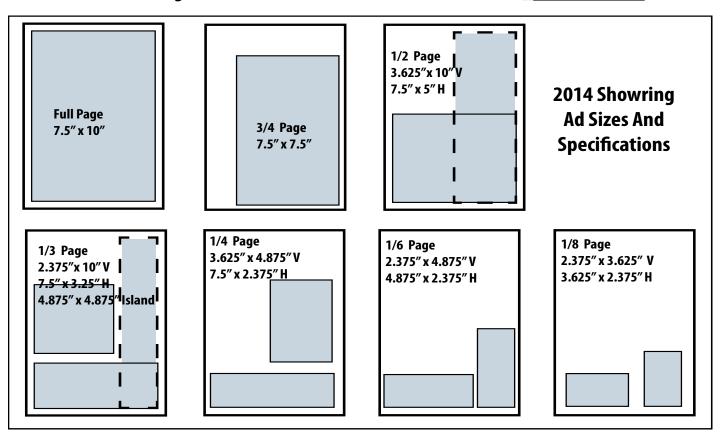
ISSUE PUBLICATION DATE

Spring March Summer June

Fall September Winter December

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE:

Rates:	Members	Non-Members
Full Page	\$100.00	\$110.00
3/4 Page	\$75.00	\$85.00
<u> 1/2 Page</u>	\$50.00	\$60.00
1/3 Page	\$33.00	\$43.00
1/4 Page	\$25.00	\$35.00
1/6 Page	\$15.00	\$25.00
1/8 Page	\$10.00	\$20.00



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The Showring editor and the ALSA Board of Directors reserve the right to refuse any ad.

