



# LANA NEWS



Llama Association of North America  
Fall Edition 2023



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lama Friends,

Happy Fall y'all. I know there's some of you who couldn't wait to get your Pumpkin Spice fix. Enjoy!

BOD Lee Beringsmith coordinated with LANA and the American River Parkway Foundation organizing volunteers and their llamas for the Great American River Clean Up. Handlers picked up garbage and filled their panniers while their llamas packed it to a general pick-up site. Good training and PR for a good cause.

BOD Margaret Drew taught another fabulous felting clinic at her Stonehenge Llama Ranch. People learned a new-to-them felting technique. Everyone loved it and I am eagerly looking forward to her next felting clinic.

Elections for the 2024 LANA BOD are around the corner. A term is for three years and there are two positions open. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please turn in your candidate's statement to [lanquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanquestions@gmail.com) by November 30th.

Also around the corner is LANA's Hobo Classic. This is our 15th year putting on this show. To celebrate our anniversary, we are offering a special price package. We will again have a separate silent auction table with higher end items for LANA Lama Lifeline. If you have something you would like to donate, whether for the special table or the regular silent auction, please bring it to the show. LANA appreciates your generosity.

LANA's Annual Awards will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting at the Hobo Show in February. If you know of someone who meets the criteria, please email their name(s) to LANA with a statement of why they are deserving of the recognition.

Congratulations to the Youth Essay and Art Contest Winners. Thank you for entering your work. The next contest deadline is May 1st.

December 9th is National Llama Day. What are your plans to celebrate this special day?

Take care,  
Kathy Nichols  
LANA President

## LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Please contact the LANA Business Office for Member Services, Advertisements, Event Calendar updates, and any llama-, alpaca-, or LANA-related questions you may have.

Visit LANA at: [www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)  
Instagram @llamassociationofnorthamerica  
Facebook Llama Association of North America

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## THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

**Thank you** to the following for their contribution to this newsletter:

David Anderson DVM, Julia Farias, Joy Pedroni, Stephanie Pedroni, Audrey Roberson, Cali Roberson, Charlotte Roberson, Susan Rich, Kathy Stanko, and Kira Vessels

## Editors Note:

**Renew your membership and continue to support LANA, a great organization. Not a member yet, then what are you waiting for? Join! A membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter or on LANA's website. Get involved! Your organization is only as strong as those willing to volunteer and participate.**

**Great articles and great pictures in this newsletter. Thank you to the youth participants in LANA's Essay and Art Contest. And thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter as well as previously published ones. Without you, there would be no newsletter. Have a story you would like to share? Send it to me at [KathySVA@aol.com](mailto:KathySVA@aol.com)**

*Kathy*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### LANA CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS DUE

November 30, 2023

email: [lamaquestions.com](mailto:lamaquestions.com)

### NATIONAL LLAMA DAY

December 9, 2023

### \*LANA HOBO CLASSIC SHOW

February 3 - 4, 2024

Merced County Fairgrounds

Merced, California

contact: [lanaquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanaquestions@gmail.com)

### AN AFTERNOON WITH GEORGE

March 23, 2024

Llamas of Circle Home

Sonora, California

Free

RSVP: [lanaquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanaquestions@gmail.com)

[www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)

### LANA BUTTE HIKE

April 7, 2024

contact: [lbering@outlook.com](mailto:lbering@outlook.com)

### \*KIDS & CAMELIDS SHOW

April 13, 2024

Mares' Nest/Lamarah

Wilton, California

contact: [lanaquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanaquestions@gmail.com)

**Bold type** denotes LANA sponsored events

\* (asterik) denotes discount for LANA members



## Give the Gift of LANA

Looking for that perfect gift for your llama friends?

With the Holidays just around the corner, consider a membership to LANA.

A membership gift is a thoughtful way to thank those who buy animals from you, especially first-time owners.

New membership is \$25

A membership to LANA supports their mission and events.

Members receive discounts to:

Shows

Clinics

Llamping Weekend

Membership is January 1st - December 31st  
Membership form at the end of this newsletter

### Mission Statement:

Established in 1981, the Llama Association of North America (LANA), serves the camelid community by sponsoring medical research specific to llamas and alpacas; providing current and accurate information about camelid health and care; advocating for pro-camelid legislation and access to public lands; encouraging, educating and mentoring camelid enthusiasts of all ages in their interactions with camelids; supporting rescue for camelids in distress; and hosting a variety of activities including youth programs, hiking trips, shows, parades, fiber clinics, educational events and more.





# LANA Board of Directors Elections

**There are two positions open in 2024**

**The term is for three years**

**Must be a current member**

If you are interested in serving LANA as a Board of Director, please submit your candidate's statement by **November 30th** to Sue Rich at: [lanaquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanaquestions@gmail.com)

Your organization is only as strong as those willing to volunteer and participate.



# LANA'S ANNUAL AWARDS

Awards will be presented at LANA's Annual Membership Meeting Saturday evening at the Hobo Classic Show in Merced, California. If you think there is someone who meets the following criteria, send their name a statement why that person is deserving of that honor.

## LANA AWARDS GUIDELINES AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Number of Awards:** An individual may receive each award only once. (Past recipients can be found on the LANA website)
2. **Award Criteria Considerations:** The nominee for any award is recognized and respected by peers or the community at large for any combination of the activities below.  
The nominee has:
  - a) made contributions relevant to the award level through active participation, advocacy, or leadership in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the organization.
  - b) demonstrated creativity, innovation, intellectual or moral courage, team building or leadership skills
  - c) had a positive impact on the quality of life of lamas, the community or lama owners.
  - d) fostered cooperation and mutual support among peers, organization or lama community at large.
  - e) contributed to public understanding or support for lamas
  - f) written, published, or produced articles in the newsletter, publications or on the web significantly contributing to LANA's Mission statement
  - g) been active with related groups resulting in a partnering to achieve goals or sharing knowledge with other groups.
  - h) been active in promoting and disseminating information development or utilization lamas within the philosophy of LANA.
  - i) been a LANA ambassador, promoting LANA and service programs.
  - j) active in community or public service advancing benefits to camelids or the community.
  - k) contributed to or enhanced LANA programs, mission statement or goals by
    - 1) sponsoring, participating in, or guiding medical research specific to llamas and alpacas.
    - 2) providing current and accurate information about camelid health and care
    - 3) advocating for pro-camelid legislation and access to public lands
    - 4) encouraging, educating, and mentoring camelid enthusiasts of all ages with their interactions with camelids.
    - 5) supporting rescue for camelids in distress.
    - 6) hosting or supporting activities including youth programs, hiking trips, shows, parades, fiber clinics, educational events and more.

### **3. LANA Awards**

- a. Follow Me – Adult (may be awarded for a single achievement or several impacting actions)**
  - 1. Is supportive of lamas in word and deed.**
  - 2. Volunteers time, energy and resources.**
  - 3. Sets a service and leadership example for others to follow.**
  
- b. Follow Me – Youth**
  - 1. Is involved in lama events and youth lama programs.**
  - 2. Serves as a leader and mentor to other youth.**
  - 3. Provides community service with a willing spirit.**
  - 4. Works hard and challenges his/her peers to emulate the example set.**
  
- c. Humm Dinger**
  - 1. Has demonstrated a long-term commitment to lamas.**
  - 2. Embodies the mission statement of LANA.**
  - 3. Demonstrates exceptional commitment, service and support of the lama community.**
  - 4. Positively impacts the lama community.**
  
- d. Lifetime Achievement (not necessarily awarded every year)**
  - 1. Has provided a lengthy bank of service and commitment.**
  - 2. Has positively impacted the entire lama community.**

### **4. Selection and Award Process:**

- a) The BOD will consider and make selections for the Follow Me Adult and Youth, Humm Dinger, and Lifetime Achievement Award by December of each year. Not all awards will necessarily be determined for each year.**
- b) The BOD will commission the creation of awards and determine how and when they are to be awarded. They may be awarded at an event or via hand delivery or via US Mail.**
  - a. Award write ups will be assigned to BOD members for reading during presentations or for providing a written statement to the awardees if it is not possible to make a presentation in person.**
  - b. Awards article will be prepared for LANA newsletter and included on the website's list of previous award winners.**

Revised: October 21, 2021

# AGRITOURISM AND WHAT IT CAN MEAN FOR YOU

## BY KATHY STANKO

My explorations into agritourism on the web led me in many interesting directions. This industry is growing.

From the Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

*Agritourism - Any activity carried out on a farm or ranch that allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming, ranching, historic, cultural, harvest-your-own activities, or natural activities, or natural activities and attractions.*

I expect that many of us are engaged in agritourism, but we have not labeled it as such. For example, at our ranch, friends come out with trailers or trash bags to collect llama beans for their gardens. They always ask what we charge and we always say “whatever you want to pay” so it is more like a donation. While they are here they always ask questions about llamas and we educate.

We could also charge for the several ranch visits we have each year from people who want to see the llamas. We usually spend several hours with each group. Among RMLA members, I do know of several who charge for farm visits or ranch tours. And, perhaps you lease your packers to people for their trips. All of these examples are Agritourism. By labeling what you are already doing as ‘agritourism,’ you could reach a larger group of people outside of our industry, and perhaps increase your income.

Click [here](#) to read an article from the U.S Department of Agriculture about the growth and importance of Agritourism. Additionally, the links below will connect you to other agritourism resources.

- The California AgritourismUSDA News e-newsletter, produced by the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP) Agritourism Program <https://sarep.ucdavis.edu/sustainable-ag/agritoursm>
- In Colorado try starting with this link <https://www.coloradoagritourismassociation.org/>
- [Harvest Host](#) can help you bring travelers to your ranch or farm.
- This link connects you to a database for state-by-state look at the [rules and regulations](#) regarding this industry.

It is the new name for what many of us have been doing for years. Perhaps by re-labelling what we are already doing, we can expand our market and the camelid industry as a whole.



Introducing an exchange student from Japan to the world of camelids.



# Great American River Clean-Up

## by Cali Roberson

We know that our llamas are designed to be a beast of burden, so it is a great privilege to put their design to use by serving the community. In September, LANA Board of Directors member Lee Beringsmith organized a group of volunteers and their llamas to assist with the Great American River Clean Up (GARCU) in Sacramento, CA. The GARCU is hosted by the American River Parkway Foundation who states, “cleanups are essential to removing trash and debris from the Parkway, allowing the environment to heal itself and preventing trash and debris from entering the ecosystem and the waterways.” Since 1983 this nonprofit group has been dedicated to the conservation of the American River Parkway through clean-ups, trail maintenance, invasive plant management, and educational programs. This is no small task when you learn how immense the American River Parkway actually is.



Planning for the American River Parkway began as early as 1915 with city planner John Nolen submitting a plan that called for a continuous park along the American River called the “American River Parkway.” In 1960, Sacramento County began acquiring the land needed with the last acquisition occurring in 2008. The main trail that spans the 32-mile length of the parkway, the Jedediah Smith Memorial trail, was recognized as a national trail in 1974. In total, the park maintains 82 miles of trails that wind over its 4,800 acres. The parkway encompasses the area from the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers at Discovery Park to the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, with the last 10 miles from the hatchery to Folsom Dam being Federal land. It is estimated that 8 million people visit annually to walk, bike, horseback ride, kayak, boat, fish, and enjoy the scenery.

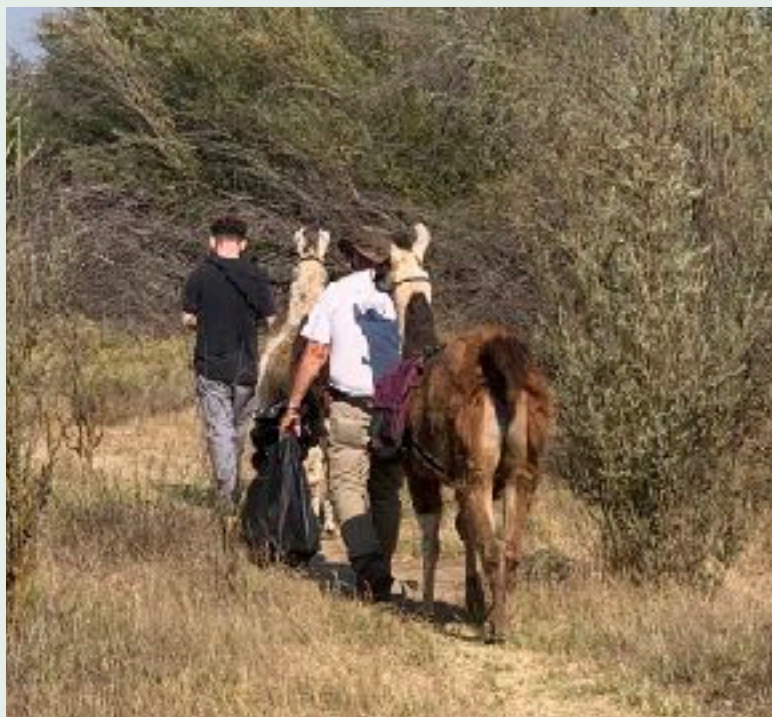


During the GARCUCU, volunteer groups meet up at different locations depending on the size of their group. Lee Beringsmith and the LANA group gathered with dozens of other volunteers at the 444-acre River Bend Park. Lee brought his daughter Honey and her son Bradley. They brought two llamas, Pandora and Kitzi. LANA President Kathy Nichols brought Billy for his first trip off the ranch in several years. LANA Vice President Stephanie Pedroni came in her van with the sturdy Sno. The Roberson family of Charlotte, Audrey, and myself arrived with our three youngsters; McClure, Don Pedro, and Shasta.

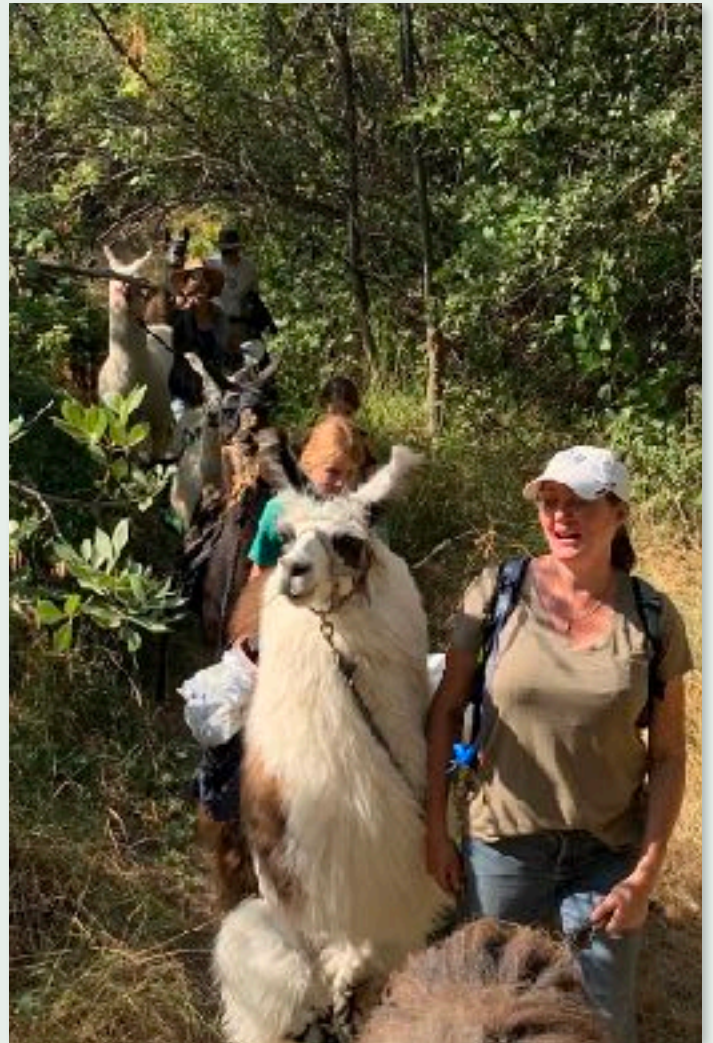




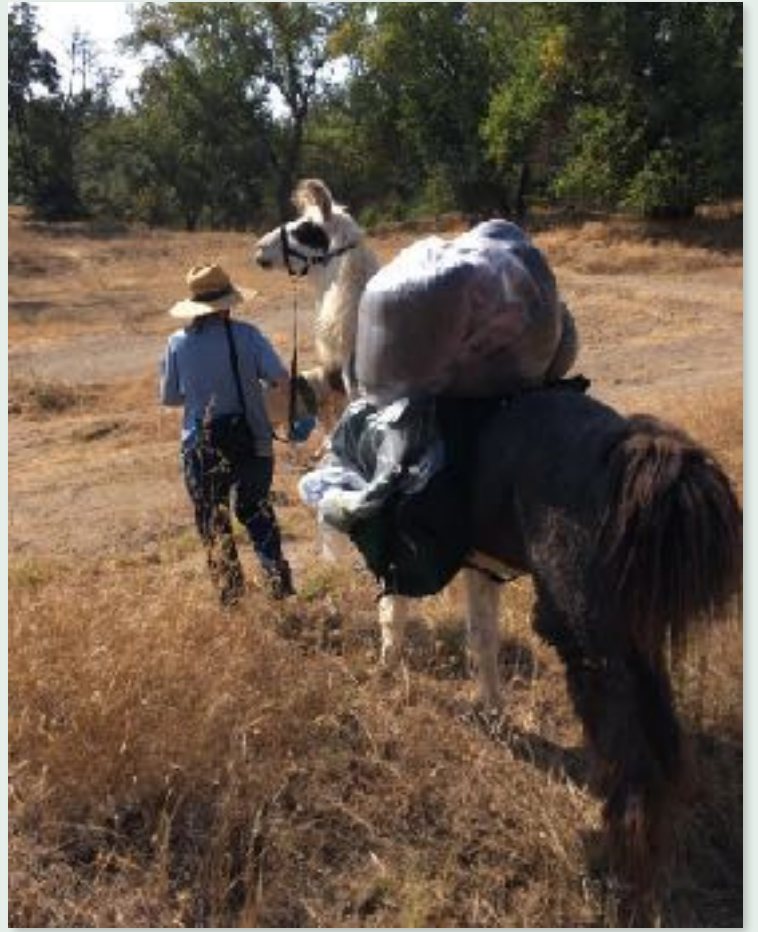
The llama partners that were in attendance ran the gamut from young and inexperienced yearlings to seasoned veterans. For the veterans, it was a nice change of scenery. They showed the youngsters how to navigate water crossings and narrow trails overhung with branches. They also shouldered the heaviest loads. (Even if some of that load was a collection of notable rocks.) For the youngsters, there were nearly infinite training opportunities. They navigated changing terrain: sand, loose river rocks, deadfalls, grassy areas dotted with shrubs, and paved, busy roads. Their friends would disappear around a bend and test their willingness to be alone. By the end of the day all of them were comfortable with their handlers stuffing all kinds of strange things into their packs.















Strange things were indeed found! It was a slow start as we worked out from our starting point. When we departed from the park, we were part of a large group of volunteers that each had trash bags in hand. Since we had llamas to carry our trash, we lined their panniers with empty bags. In the beginning, we mostly picked up small bits of trash and cans. Our team split up and began working in areas off the beaten path. The further off-trail we went, the more we found. Lee and his group's top finds were an old pair of underwear and a rusty frying pan. We saw an ottoman but didn't think we could pack that out. Our group came across several cardboard boxes that contained a variety of trash and a smelly, deteriorating, sleeping bag. We were able to roll up the sleeping bag into a larger trash bag and put it on top of Billy's back. He made our group look as if we'd been picking up trash all week as he packed his tottering load back to the park.

The walk back to the park was also an excellent public relations opportunity. Hundreds of people use the parkway daily for bicycling and walking. Passersby shouted the familiar question: "llama or alpaca?" While many zoomed by giving a friendly wave, there were many that stopped to talk. It was great to have full packs of trash to show the public how our llamas can use their natural talents for public service. Stephanie and Sno with her luxurious, lofty, locks were the stars of more than a few selfies. At the park we unloaded our haul and said our goodbyes. We are already looking forward to helping with this event again next year.



# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BY JULIA FARIAS

The sensual beauty of our Indian summer has put me in a reflective mood. It is one last gentle reminder of how wondrous a day can be. Any day now, the cold deathlike hibernation of winter will be here. And long before I am tired of the few stray snowflakes that make their way to Texas Hill County, spring will be raucously erupting in a parade of buds and flowers and greenery.

So give me just a little of your time and let's decide where we are going with these llamas.

I have loved animals all of my life. They were always what I could count on to love me back, without any conditions attached. I come from a family of farmers. People who depend on the land for their livelihood. What about you? How did you arrive at this point in your journey? Llama love and such.

I have a sister who has loved llamas all her life. How did she single out llamas for such adulation as a child? Even being spat upon by a zoo llama didn't diminish her blind love for this beautiful animal.

A lot of animals live at my house. Something like 3 dogs, 13 cats, a pig or two, a horse, lots of chickens and over 20 some llamas.

I am constantly learning from my llamas. My llamas have shown me that they all have a place within the herd. They have jobs, like nursemaid, guardian, maiden (being the lowest on the female pecking order at my house), adored cria, stud in training and more. My studs have the job of genetic selection. This is very evident each time we have an "event" and the stud males manage to get close enough to argue, spit and fight.

Though we have taken our animals out of their natural habitat, they still have the needs of thousands of years of genetic selection.

Llamas are intelligent, gentle animals. They learn by successive approximation (incremental steps). They are hardy and capable of surviving in very harsh climates. They are sensitive to heat and humidity and internalize stress, which can cause ulcers. They are a mass of contradictions.

What are we doing here?

So how do you figure out how to treat your animals? Do you Tteam train or Malonize? What level of interaction do you practice with your herd in birthing, dying and daily life?

Those of us who endure the Texas heat hear too many stories of llamas that were lost to heat stress. It is heartbreaking that so many of these were preventable. There are many wonderful vets out there that are just now about llamas. Those of us who have been around the pasture need to help educate the new owners and vets about llamas. Many of us have found out the hard way that llamas are unique and you cannot translate your horse, goat, sheep or cattle skills to this animal and expect that they will operate in the same fashion.

There are constantly large and small breeders entering and exiting the business for various reasons. There are the unfortunate llamas that have been mistreated that are “dumped: at auctions. There are stories of a nationally known breeder selling off 50 females known to have produced Choanal Artesia at a Texas auction house. There are even those misguided individuals who are (cringe) eating llamas.

I used to work for a horse trainer. He’s in his 70’s and still in the business. I am forever indebted to him for the knowledge that he shared with me. I will never forget what he told me about people and their view of their own limited knowledge. “When you hear someone say horse, they are about to give their opinion, which based upon their own experience. Most people are limited to the experience they’ve had in their backyard. his limit on their experience does not diminish their opinion or the accuracy or the validity of their opinion. The people worth listening to have exposure to many animals, extensive education in their field and concern for the animals in their care.”

In my opinion

So what I share with you is my opinion. It is drawn from my experience in life and the llama business. It is subject to my own personal biases. So, please, pardon my ramblings. but seemed like a good time to fess up.

And while the subject is on the floor, I may as well tell you that I am not the “best” salesperson. I will give you my honest opinion, which may not help me make a sale. I will never pressure a buyer, because I don’t believe that people make their best decisions under pressure. I want the purchase of a llama to be a well thought out decision, not a hurried one.

I have removed a dam and sire of nationally advertised bloodlines from my breeding herd when their offspring had a serious genetic defect. I paid over \$12,500 for these two animals. They are still at our place and they are part of the family. My principles have cost me plenty.

There is a market out there for every animal. The trick is to recognize what their market is. Only the best animals should be candidates for the breeders market. There is tremendous demand for pets, wool, packers and guard llamas. The price of llamas is now affordable enough that people can own the without feeling compelled to enter the breeding business.

In my opinion, pet owners are going to be the largest segment of sales. It is time for each of us to honestly assess our herd and decide what is the best use of each animal. The days of breeding everything with a uterus are gone. Let’s breed the best and make sure that the rest have good homes. We always talk about the multiple uses of llamas. It is time to put it into practice.



# LANA HOBO CLASSIC



**LANA's 15th HOBO Anniversary**  
**ALSA Single Halter & Performance Show**  
**February 2 - 4, 2024**  
**Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced, CA**

**Judge: Ana Reese, Seguin, Texas**



**SHOW SUPERINTENDENT:** Kathy Nichols

**SHOW SECRETARY:** Joy Pedroni

**FACILITY:** Merced County Fairgrounds  
900 Martin Luther King Jr Way  
Merced, CA 95341

**ARRIVAL:** Arrival time for all exhibitors is  
anytime on Friday, February 2nd

**SHOW SCHEDULE:** **Saturday - February 3rd**

**8:00 am** Driving Classes

Exhibitors' Meeting

Performance Classes

**6:00 pm** Hobo Dinner

Annual Membership Meeting

Annual Awards

Introduction of 2024 Board

Dessert Auction

**Sunday - February 4th**

**8:30 am** Showmanship

Halter Classes

Best in Show Llama & Alpaca



# In Honor of Francis of Assisi: The Blessing of the Animals

by Susan Rich

In the small courtyard of St. Matthias Anglican Church, on an overcast day in late September, we gathered: one purebred German Shorthair in his prime in the back row, an elderly Lab in a nearby chair, two smaller mixed breeds stationed on the covered walkway to the right, one Terrier lounging near the south wall, Dolly the three-legged dog way up in the front, and two classic, light wool llamas. Oh, and, secondarily, all the participants brought their humans as well.



October 4th is the Feast Day for Saint Francis of Assisi in the liturgical calendar; and many Catholic, Episcopal and Anglican Churches hold a Blessing of the Animals event on or near that date. As it turns out, this is an annual event for the St. Matthias congregation in Oakdale, California.

I spotted the marquis in front of the church a few weeks beforehand, and I thought, “What a golden opportunity? Great PR experience for the animals, great PR for the public about llamas, and a reason to do a little grooming.”

**I called the church, as I am not a congregant, asked for Father John and started the conversation off with:**

**“I see from your marquis that you are holding a Blessing of the Animals.”**

**He replied that indeed the church was going to do just that.**

**“How would you feel about me brining some llamas?” I asked.**

**He answered enthusiastically, noting that the normal attendees were dogs. He would love to have some llamas. Once, he told me, he had been invited to a local ranch to bless a zonkey (yes, you are reading that right: part zebra = part donkey), but he had never had anything at the event other than dogs. Cats were typically disdainful of the opportunity. And it could be a loud, raucous affair, he warned. So, we looked over the courtyard and talked about where I might put in some panels and I committed to bringing two yearling**





Rain threatened that afternoon, but the clouds never let loose. In the shaded end of the narrow courtyard, I used four panels to establish a small corral and put in both Kern and Short Stop before any other arrivals could create a chaotic and potentially nerve-racking entrance for these youngsters. We set up in what turned out to be the front of the venue. Complete in his vestment robes, Father John conducted the ceremony right in front of the small enclosure, much to the interest of the occupants.



Text from the Book of Genesis focused on the creation of animals, two appropriate hymns referencing God's creatures, and then the animal-by-animal blessing with the sprinkling of holy water composed the thirty-minute ceremony.







The llamas were gentlemen throughout; and the electronic keyboard and speakers, both in close proximity, did not bother the boys. The dogs were surprisingly quiet but still warranted the full alert common to llamas when in the presence of this species of pet. The canines didn't bark at the llamas, and the camelids didn't alert on the dogs. No one spat at anyone else. There was peace in the courtyard. The boys didn't duck or seem bothered when Father John let loose with the holy water. With the official ceremony concluded, the visiting began. Several people brought their dogs closer for a better sniff - from both parties. Putting grain in the hands of curious children (and adults) guaranteed some close-up interaction.





**Father John's three little girls were particularly taken with the llama boys. One asked her dad earnestly, "Daddy, can we get one?" with the imploring eyes that daughters save for the finely tuned manipulation of their fathers. Immune, her dad emphatically replied, "Absolutely not."**

**The Blessing of the Animals brought another local event onto the list of potential activities for our 4-H group. We caused a happy stir with our more exotic participants, made some new fans for our llamas, put our boys into a new environment with some unique features, and sailed through it all smoothly.**

**It was a great day for all, and we left feeling ... well, blessed.**



# Trouble Shooting Nutrition for Camelids

by David Anderson DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS College of Veterinary Medicine, Ohio State University

## Factors Affecting Nutrition

Too often, nutrition is equaled with feed alone. Little though may be applied to the following:

- Type of Feed: grain, pellets, hay, grass, water
- How it is Fed: individual feeder, free choice, trough
- How it is stored: molds spoilage
- Animal's Access to Feed: feeding hierarchy
- Utilization of Feed: fine ground versus roughage

Llamas and alpacas are particularly susceptible to these factors because of their social structure and the lack of livestock experience of many owners.

## Management Factors

Management, or more specifically, human factors, are important to proper nutrition in camelids. Human factors include obtaining a diet that is useful to the animal, proper storage of the feed, making the feed available to all animals, feeding an appropriate amount, providing proper feeding areas and monitoring quality and consistency of the feed. This includes pasture and water management.

Camelids must have unlimited access to clean, fresh water. Stagnant ponds or water troughs that are seldom cleaned may result in consumption of contaminated water (e.g. blue green algae, high minerals) or decreased water consumption because it is not potable.

Access to pasture, hay and supplemental feed sources must be done in a way that all camelids have equal access to the feed.

Often, a thin animal is unable to compete with dominant members of the herd for feed. Adequate feeding space is important.

An example of poor feeding management

is a herd of 40 alpacas offered hay and a pelleted supplement in a 20 foot long single sided feeding trough.

Camelids are competitive feeders and will eat based on a social hierarchy. This competition may result in only one alpaca eating for each four feet of feed trough space. Therefore, this herd may experience three waves of eating.

They include 1) Dominant animals competing for the highest quality feed, 2) Middle hierarchy alpacas eating the remaining high quality feed and, 3) Submissive alpacas either not eating from the trough or eating the residual, stem-like particles left over from the rest of the herd.

I have investigated situations and have found that body condition scores of the camelids were clustered in three groups: fat (BCS=8), ideal (BCS=5-6), then (BCS=3). The ideal BCS can be reached by either increasing trough space or by separating these animals into groups based on their BCS, the later being a better option in my opinion.

## Animal Factors

Animal factors focus mainly on the social structure of the herd and changes in the social structure as discussed above, but, individual animal problems do occur.

The most frustrating llamas and alpacas are those animals that remain thin (BCS=1) despite adequate access to pasture, hay and supplemental feeds. Often these animals have a history of excessive supplementation of concentrated feeds in an attempt to achieve weight gain.

I have been concerned that this method of feeding may cause a decrease in digestion efficiency, sub-clinical acidosis of the fore stomach, and aggravate the nutritional

problem. Therefore, my recommendation to these owners has been to lessen concentrated feedings, offer free choice high quality hay, and re-establish fore stomach bacterial population by transfaunation or by feeding a commercial bacterial inoculant.

If an individual persistently remains separated from the herd during feedings, separate the animal into a small group of submissive animals and feed them individually.

### **Feed Factors**

Feed factors are interrelated with human and animal factors. The feed must be appropriately processed, stored, and offered in adequate amounts. It must be made available to all members of the herd. I have seen liver problems in llamas and alpacas that may have been related to molds, but we have been unable to document this as a problem.

In fact, we performed a feeding study and found that alpacas could eat up to 15ppm Fumonisin B1 grain supplement for 30 days without complication.

Copper toxicity and copper deficiency have been documented. Camelids are equally susceptible to thiamin deficiency or inhibition compared with other small ruminants. Use caution — extremes of either high or low trace mineral offerings should be avoided.

### **Assessment of Nutrition Status & Animal Well Being**

Assessment of adequacy of nutrition in camelids is complicated by the limited information specific to llamas and alpacas. When performing an initial investigation into nutrition on a camelid farm I prefer to have all sources of nutrient intake analyzed: water, grass, hay, feed supplement and trace mineral mix.

I also have blood mineral analysis performed and give the owner the option of liver mineral analysis. If I suspect there is a

problem or have documented a problem in any herd member, then I strongly encourage the owners to have liver mineral analysis done.

Liver mineral analysis is easily performed through the skin using a special needle.

Our nutrition studies at Ohio State have shown that liver analyses are superior to blood in the assessment of trace mineral status.

I limit liver biopsies to males, gelding and non-pregnant females older than six months.

At least five animals should be sampled in order to determine the trend. Differences in liver mineral content may be seen between males and females. Larger farms may find annual or semi-annual blood mineral analysis advantageous to monitor consistency of nutrition availability.

I prefer to obtain samples in the late winter or early spring and again, in the later summer or autumn. The late winter analysis gives me a better impression of how the animals are doing after a prolonged period of nutrition that has a limited that has a limited grass base. Conversely the fall analysis sample allows evaluation of the total diet including grass.

### **Summary**

Nutrition programs should be tailored to the local geography. Management practices are tailored to local issues and these influence feeding practices. Camelids in Ohio are highly unlikely to prosper based on nutrition practices tailored to Arizona!

*reprinted from a previous  
LANA newsletter*





# **LANA Sutter Butte Hike**

**April 6, 2024**

**contact: Lee at  
lbering@outlook.com  
for meeting location  
and time**





# FELTING FUN

by Kathy Nichols

LANA held a fiber clinic on November 4th at BOD Margaret Drew's ranch in Vacaville, California. Yummy breakfast goodies awaited our arrival and were thoroughly enjoyed. People visited and caught up with each other as we settled in to our work stations. A good time is guaranteed when you're with your llama friends.

Margaret and Giovanna Sensi-Isolani were the instructors for the 12 people (3 kids and 9 adults) who attended. Our project was wet felting a bowl or basket. We were shown finished projects to get an idea of the intended outcome. Some of the participants attended previous felting clinics; some were newbies. Everyone was eager to start.



We were shown how to layer the fiber on a round resist (thick sturdy plastic) making sure to extend the fiber beyond the edge of the resist. Wet it with sudsy water, lay bubble wrap on it and rub which causes it to felt. Flip the resist over and fold over the extended fiber, layer, spray sudsy water, bubble wrap, rub and repeat.







Starting the felting process over the resist



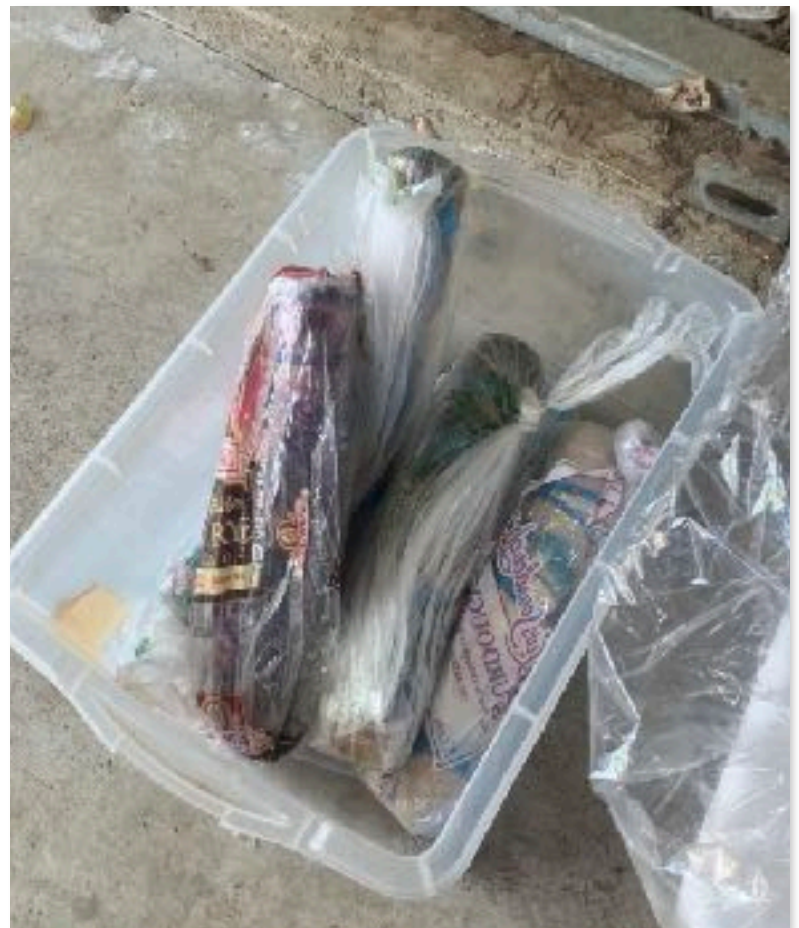




We each took turns using a palm sander which furthered the felting process. Once the projects were checked, colored fiber could be added. More spraying and rubbing to felt in the colored addition.



The instructors carefully wrapped and rolled the projects in saran wrap. We secured our creations with many rubber bands, then they were each sealed in a plastic bag. While we enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch, the fiber projects were taking a spin in the dryer set with no heat on fluff.







Projects were removed from the plastic and laid out. It was interesting to see the different color combinations the participants used.

Then the big decision....where to cut the hole. Depending on how we wanted the finished design, a hole was cut just large enough to insert a heavy-duty latex balloon or a small inflatable beach ball. We wrapped our projects in netting and bounced and rolled them in a bowl for more felting and to smooth out the seams. When the projects got the "OK," the balloon or ball was removed and Voila — a finished project.







# Kids & Camelids Show



**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

**Start Time: 9:00 AM**

**Registration deadline: April 6, 2024**

## Location:

Nichols Ranch  
12514 Plum Lane  
Wilton, CA 95693

Go to [www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)  
for registration forms



Designed for Youth

No Groom

Lots of fun

Three performance classes + some fun stuff!!

Part Show - Part Clinic

- Consultations with the judge
- Opportunity to practice on obstacles
- Art station

Bring non-4H friends along to play along with you!



**Show Superintendent:**

**Susan Rich**

**(209) 847-2981**

**(209) 605-2055**





# **LANA Youth Essay and Art Contest Winners**



**Intermediate Essay Winner  
Kira Vessels  
“Ccara Llamas”**



**Junior Essay Winner  
Audrey Roberson  
“Regionals”**



**Junior Art Winner  
Charlotte Roberson  
“King of the Mountain”**

# Ccara Llamas

by Kira Vessels

Age 12

Around six thousand years ago, Ccara llamas, also known as the "working llama" or the "Classic", were domesticated from their close relatives, the Guanaco, and used by native people of South America as pack animals. Their Camelid ancestors inhabited the Andes mountains as far back as three million years ago giving them an innate ability to scale mountains and difficult terrain. Today they can be found throughout North America and Canada, most commonly in herds of at least two, in the high country on difficult trails with packs draped over each side.

These specific llamas earn their nickname, "beasts of burden" from their ability to carry heavy loads of cargo and goods in specifically designed packs for human benefit. While on a long-range packing trip, llamas can carry up to 40 pounds in each of their panniers for a total of 80 pounds or less; however, "on shorter trips, they can carry a total weight of 90-100 pounds" - Greg Harford. Most pack llamas travel 700-1,000 miles (about the distance from Florida to New York City) each season.

When packing with Ccara llamas they must have good, strong feet to support extra weight. Breeders look for long legs, high pasterns, and broad heels. Small, fragile feet are undesirable when breeding Ccara llamas. Typically, these llamas have soft, padded feet while other pack animals, such as mules or horses, are hooved. One hooved animal can cause more damage along a trail than fifteen llamas would. Llama's split toes allow for effective gripping ability making these sure-footed mammals ideal for all terrains. As most mammals do, llamas age, and one sure sign of aging can be found in the dropping of their pasterns which can result in their fetlock joint touching the ground when they walk causing pain and a refusal to move around much. Ensuring they are not too weighted down with their packs will provide longevity for these camelids.

Ccaras have two coats: an under and an outer coat. Their undercoat is a very soft fiber that is sometimes used to make clothing while their outer coat consists of strong, coarse guard hair that is sometimes used to make woven lead lines. Ccara llamas do not need to be shorn and only require monthly grooming. As adults, they develop a mane down the back of their necks and lose some of the softer fiber along the sides of their necks. They do not have unique coloring patterns however, their coloring is very similar to the Guanaco who typically have Appaloosa spots consisting of black, white, or red-brown spots.

The temperament of Ccara llamas adds to their overall desire for packers and serious trail goers as they have an agreeable nature and require minimal work along difficult trails and terrains. With their long and lean structures, split toes, natural athletic ability, and effortlessly graceful strides, these 'beasts of burden' are the ideal packing animals and make excellent companions along the trail.

## Bibliography

Llama Glama Gazette. (2017, September 16). *What Exactly is A Ccara Llama?* New Zealand Llama

Association. <https://llamas.org.nz/2017/09/16/what-exactly-is-a-ccara-llama/>

Wittwer, J. (2021, April 8). *What is a Ccara Llama?* Backcountry Logistics. <https://rentpackllamas.com/ccara-llama/>

# Regionals

by Audrey Roberson

Age 10

As we pulled into the fairgrounds, I embraced the sights. To the left of me I saw a wide gravel parking lot with one row full of trucks. On the other side was a field full of desert shrubs. I refocused myself and started to put on my shoes.

“We’re here! Yaaay!” my little sister Charlotte yelled.

Everybody did something to show that they were excited too. Mrs. Stephanie skillfully parked us in the gravel parking lot. We all grabbed something and headed towards our spot in the back of the barns. We unpacked and Mrs. Stephanie made us burgers for dinner. The wind howled that night. I woke up to the sound of rustling, but it was just everybody waking up. When we got the barns, I went straight to my llama McClure.

“Hi buddy!” I said kindly to him. He just looked at me with wide eyes then put his head in the hay bag.

“Some of the adults are showing. I think it would be a good idea if we went and watched them” Mrs. Joy recommended.

When we got there, we met a girl named Kennedy. She showed us that there were two Great Horned Owls in the rafters. I looked up and saw brown feathers and claws gripping the rafter.

“Don’t look up with your mouth open!” teased a lady sitting next to us.

I quickly shut my mouth. Charlotte looked up and drew circles directly below the owls.

“Nobody go in this” Charlotte declared, pointing toward a circle drawn in the dirt.

“Great idea. I think we should go put the packs on because it is almost time for you guys to show” Mrs. Joy stated.



“Jr. Walk through!” somebody called us from the arena.

The judge walked us through the course. We had obstacles resembling things you would find on a hike. I repeated the course in my head while I ran. I untied my llama and rushed to the arena. As I watched it seemed to go by so quickly. When I entered the arena full of obstacles, my heart raced. I remembered to keep a J shaped lead line and walk at an even pace. My first obstacle was step overs.

“Step” I said calmly and slowly.

THUNK. I flinched as the bar fell over, but I kept walking. The second obstacle was a weave. I walked carefully, checking to see if I had left enough room for my llama to fit through the poles with his pack. McClure stood still for the bell in pack and followed me almost perfectly through the duck under. McClure jumped off the bridge midway, and the deadfall and divided walk weren't the best. My last obstacle was a tie up. I knew McClure wouldn't misbehave on this and I was right. Mrs. Stephanie met me at the gate.

“Great job!” she beamed.

We led my llama to his pen and took the pack off. I wandered to Mrs. Joy so I could sit with her.

“You were great!” Mrs. Joy was excited that I had done well.

“Yeah,” I said even though I didn't think so.

“Jr. Walk through!” the judge called.

“Alright this is PR class. You all know that PR means public relations, right?” the judge asked.

“Now go get your llamas!” the judge said excitedly.

When it was my turn, I opened the gate remembering to keep my hand on it. I walked over to the change of pace thinking it was going to be great, but I dragged McClure, trying to make sure that he didn't run away. I was hopeful about the next obstacle since we'd practiced putting his front feet in a tire for months. When I walked up to it, he put his feet in immediately. Our last obstacle was backing through tables.

“You were awesome! Great job on the backing” complimented Mrs. Joy.

We put McClure away and returned to watch others show. It wasn't long until they called us to the ring again. When I entered, I went over the ladder steps listening for the tick of my llama's feet. We walked over the teeter totter and when I stepped over the middle, it tipped, and McClure walked confidently down the other side. I went to the ramps and McClure jumped off midway, so I pushed him back on. The next obstacles went well as McClure backed and cleared jumps. He wasn't as good as he usually is for the trailer load. I stared at the ground as I walked out.

“Awesome! Now we can have dinner!” Mrs. Stephanie said excitedly.

After putting my llama away, I found the dining area and filled up my plate. Then filled up my stomach,

“Hey, go get your clipboards for youth judge” Mrs. Joy told me.

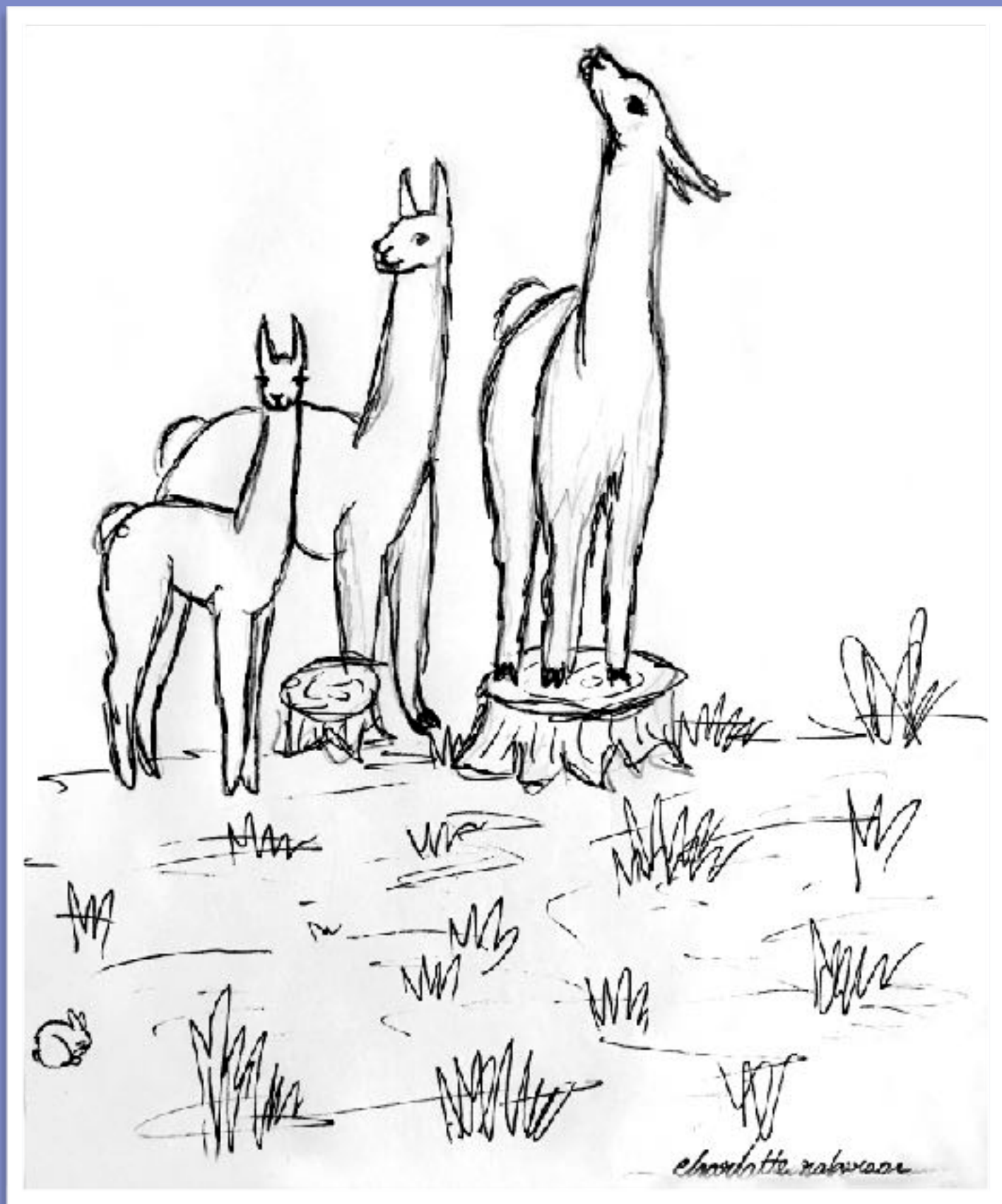
We gathered to go through all the rules. Our first class to judge was a performance class. One was easy because she missed an obstacle. The others were not as easy to judge. Next was showmanship. I paid attention to the person not the animal which was hard. The hardest was halter because all the llamas were cute. When we were finished, we left for the RV. I didn't notice the wind that night.

The following morning was showmanship and halter. When I entered the ring, I lifted my arm so McClure would raise his head. I smiled like I had the best llama in the world. We walked in circles then lined up, switching sides as the judge walked around me. When I got called up to talk to the judge, I answered her questions confidently. Later, everybody gathered to collect their show cards and ribbons.

“Alright. Let's go pack up,” Mrs. Joy said.

We loaded the RV and dumped our poop collections in the trash. After we were arranged in the RV we began the long trip home. We listened to music all the way.





**KING OF THE MOUNTAIN**

**Charlotte Roberson**

**Age 9**

**Pen and ink**

## Sierra 4-H Llama Project Turlock Christian FFA Club



**Kira Vessels** is a 12 year old intermediate youth showing PRL Beau, on loan from Greg and Diana Harford's Potato Ranch Llamas.



**Joseph Kuykendall** is a 15 year old senior youth involved in Turlock Christian's FFA program, showing McShaggy's El Tam, a gift from Arleen McCombs.



**Emily Muirhead**, a former 4-H'er, helps youth and is returning to the show ring.



**Audrey Roberson** is a 10 year old junior showing PRL McClure in her second year as a youth handler.



# STONEHENGE CLIPPER SHARPENING



Master Blade Wright  
Ralph Drew

*Have your blades sharpened by fiber people*

*Super Fast turn around*

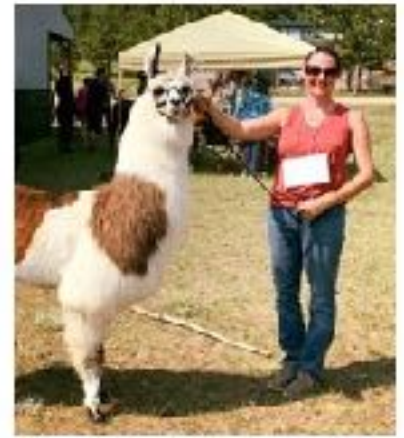
*rdrew76@yahoo.com*

*707-430-3452*

*ship usps priority mail*

*7621 Clement Road*

*Vacaville CA 95688*



# Black Cat Llamas

JOY PEDRONI & STEPHANIE PEDRONI



LOCATED IN VACAVILLE, CA, WE ARE LLAMA ENTHUSIASTS THAT ENJOY:

- *Competing with our small herd*
  - *Hiking with our animals*
- *Doing educational & fun public events*
- *Creating & selling llama related crafts*





# LAMARAH

Wilton, California  
Kathy Nichols



# Minimum Standards of Care for Llamas and Alpacas

Minimum Standards of Care are mandatory to llama and alpaca survival and humane treatment. These are the most basic requirements that all llamas and alpacas must have for physical well-being and, as such, define minimum requirements for animal control officers and government officials investigating questionable llama and alpaca care situations.

1. **WATER:** Animals should have continuous access to potable drinking water.
2. **NUTRITIONAL:** Animals should have nourishment adequate to sustain life and health.
3. **SHELTER:** Animals should have natural or man-made shelter that enables them to find relief from extreme weather conditions. The sheltered area must allow for the ability to stand, lie down, rest and reasonably move about.
4. **MOBILITY:** Animals should have a living area through which they can move freely and exercise independently
5. **NEGLECT:** Animals should have a physical appearance free from signs of serious neglect. Signs of serious neglect may include such things as crippled ambulation due to severely curled toenails, ingrown halters, or living conditions not meeting the minimums listed above.
6. **SAFETY:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from injury or death within their defined living environment and/or when traveling.
7. **CRUELTY:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from cruel treatment and actions that endanger life or health or cause avoidable suffering.
8. **SOCIALIZING:** Llamas and alpacas are herd animals and should not live alone without a companion animal. A cria (a baby llama or alpaca under six months) should not be removed or apart from other llamas or alpacas.

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Standards of Care Committees, June 2005  
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# Llama Association of North America

## 2024 Membership and Donations

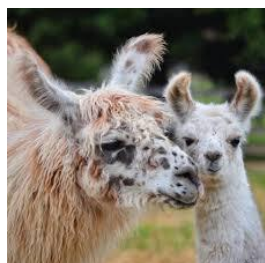
Website: [www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)

Email: [lanquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanquestions@gmail.com)

Membership: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31

Please send all completed applications and checks, made out to LANA, to:

**LANA, c/o Joy Pedroni**  
**3966 Estate Drive**  
**Vacaville, CA 95688**



### On-line membership directory

Tell us what you want:

#### Please check one:

- Include me & my contact info (phone number, US Mailing address, email address, and website)
- Include me & my contact info: phone number, email address, and website BUT no US mailing address
- Include me and my email address only
- Include me and my phone number only
- Include me and my US Mailing address only
- Include my name but no contact info
- Don't include my name or info



### MEMBERSHIP & Donation OPTIONS

See second page for Descriptions

Membership options:	Fees	Your membership choices
Friend of LANA	\$250	
LANA Member	\$40	
New LANA Member	\$25	
Youth (19 and under)	\$20	
Youth Club	\$35	
Donor: LANA Lama Lifeline		
Donor: Youth programs		
Donor: Gen. Fund		
<b>TOTAL:</b>		

#### AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR IN THE DIRECTORY:

NAME:

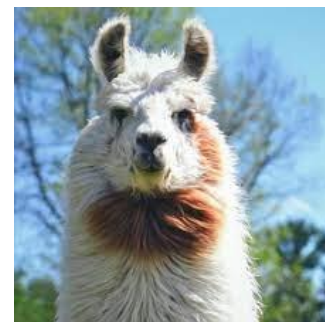
RANCH NAME & ADDRESS:

EMAIL:

PHONE number(s):

Website:

**LANA MISSION STATEMENT:** ESTABLISHED in 1981, the Llama Association of North America (LANA), serves the camelid community by sponsoring medical research specific to llamas and alpacas; providing current and accurate information about camelid health and care; advocating for pro-camelid legislation and access to public lands; encouraging, educating and mentoring camelid enthusiasts of all ages in their interactions with camelids; supporting rescue for camelids in distress; and hosting a variety of activities including youth programs, hiking trips, shows, parades, fiber clinics, educational events and more.



# LANA Membership & Donation Opportunities 2024

<b>Friend of LANA</b> <b>A year-long sponsorship</b> <b>\$250</b>	Discounts for show entries + 1 free class/show; 50% fees for clinics & camping; free vendor space at LANA-sponsored events and shows; recognition and ads (website, all newsletters, show programs, banner at shows and events); US Mailings from LANA; 1 vote per membership for LANA elections; support of your association and its mission
<b>LANA Member</b> <b>\$40</b>	Discounts for show entries, clinics & camping; listing on LANA website; US mailings from LANA; business card ad in one 2023 newsletter of your choice, 1 vote per membership for LANA elections; support of your association and its mission
<b>New LANA Member</b> <b>\$25</b>	Discounted membership fees as a welcome to LANA for first-time members with all the benefits of membership: discounts for show entries clinics & camping, US mailings from LANA, 1 vote per membership for LANA elections
<b>Youth</b> <b>(19 and under)</b> <b>\$20</b>	Discounted membership fees to youth, discounts for show entries, clinics & camping, US mailings from LANA specifically for youth events and opportunities, and support for your association and its mission
<b>Youth Club</b> <b>\$35</b>	Group membership for established youth clubs (4H, FFA, etc.) for which each club youth receives discounts for show entries, clinics and camping, US mailings from LANA, and support of the association and its mission
<b>Donation to LANA</b> <b>Lama Lifeline</b>	Lifeline saves camelids in housing crisis. Funds go toward feed, vet care, transportation, and other rescue costs. LANA Lifeline Committee responds to emergencies and works with other agencies to remove animals when necessary and rehouse them safely.
<b>Donation to Youth</b> <b>Programs</b>	LANA Youth programs include youth only shows, youth classes at shows, specialized clinics for youth, and specific awards for youth.
<b>Donor to General</b> <b>Fund</b>	LANA funds are used to sanction and provide resources for shows; purchase awards; and support clinics, camping trips, parades, etc

**Please note:** California State Fair is excluded from any benefits as LANA serves as a host for the show only and is not a sponsor.