



LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America
Spring Edition 2026





LANA NEWS

Spring Edition 2026



- 3 LANA Business Office
- 3 Editor's Message
- 4 From the President
- 4 LANA Board of Directors
- 4 LANA's Mission Statement
- 6 Welcome Members
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 8 What's Happening in LANA
- 14 LANA's Hike the Sutter Buttes
- 17 Kids & Camelids Show
- 18 Youth Follow Me Award Winner
- 22 Youth Award of Excellence Winner
- 25 Working Llama Summit
- 30 California State Fair Show
- 34 Friends of LANA Sponsors
- 37 Minimum Standards of Care
- 38 LANA's NOK Wallet Card
- 39 LANA's Membership Information

Featured Articles

9 Stone Ranch Pack Llamas

Nick Stone in Somerset, California

15 LANA Supporting Camelid Research

Update on LANA's research efforts

19 Love...and Loss

A story of two very special llamas

23 These Tails Can Tell Tales

Position of the tail and what it means

26 Lamas at the Library

A Llama and a Guanaco visit their local library

31 Cloverdale Ag Day

Sierra 4-H Llama group goes to school



ON THE COVER
Stone Ranch
Pack Llamas
at the fence

LANA BUSINESS OFFICE

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lanaquestions@gmail.com

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
Instagram @llamaassociationofnorthamerica
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 Leejohnson, Stephanie Pedroni, Cheryl Pflipsen, Susan Rich, Audrey Roberson, Cathy Spalding and Nick Stone

Editor's Message:

When I come across an interesting story or someone taking their animals to a special event, I can't help but feel that those individuals dread hearing from me. They fear that I'll ask for an article for the newsletter. I don't ask for much; just a few paragraphs and some accompanying pictures. I genuinely appreciate the contributions of the authors who have been a part of the *LANA News*, both in the past and present.

Check out Nick Stone's article about how he became interested in llamas and what he's doing with them now.

Read about Audrey Roberson, a LANA youth member, sharing her experience with her 4-H group at an elementary school Ag Day.

Cathy Spalding's article, titled "These Tails Can Tell Tales," explains how an animal can communicate its feelings and intentions by the position of its tail.

Get the latest information about LANA Supporting Camelid Research in Stephanie Pedroni's article.

Enjoy David Leejohnson's article about bringing a young guanaco and llama to the local library.

Cheryl Pflipsen shares her story about the special bond she had with two of her llamas in the article "Love and Loss." Cheryl is the newsletter editor for the Mid West Llama Association's *MWLA News*.

I've received a request from a few readers for grooming articles and information about caring for suri wool (while on the llama). If you have such an article or are interested in writing one, please send it to me at lanaquestions@gmail.com.

If you have a subject in mind for an article or would like to contribute one, I would be delighted to hear from you. Like I mentioned above, just a few paragraphs and a few pictures to go along with it.

Kathy

From the President

It's been a long journey, but the research wheels are finally in motion. Our Vice President, Stephanie Pedroni, will be serving on the North West Camelid Research Committee and the Alpaca Research Foundation Committee. Her role involves reporting to the Board of potential studies to determine funding. The Board will then decide whether to approve the funding. Once the Board makes its decision, Stephanie will promptly inform the respective committees about LANA's choice. Thank you, Stephanie, for representing LANA.

Later this month, Lee Beringsmith will lead the annual Sutter Buttes Hike. If you're interested in attending, see the flyer in this newsletter or check LANA's website for more information.

Also, later this month, the Kids & Camelids Show will take place. Superintendent Susan Rich has a full day planned for the youth. The primary objective of this show is to improve their showmanship and performance skills while having fun. They will receive detailed walkthroughs on how to navigate each obstacle effectively and valuable feedback at the end of their run. There will also be fun activities to keep the youth engaged.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Hobo Show: the show committee, volunteers, sponsors, and exhibitors. It was an incredible show! If you missed it this year, mark your calendars for February 5-7, 2027.

It is with profound sorrow to inform you of the passing of Nina Pedersen. She was a long-time llama owner in Northern California, residing at her ranch, Rainbow Ridge Llama Ranch.

Kathy

LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President, Newsletter Editor

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Vice President, Research, Social Media

Joy Pedroni
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Susan Rich
Secretary, Youth Co-Chair

Eileen Ditsler
Director

Margaret Drew
Director

Emily Muirhead
Director

Cali Roberson
Director, Youth Co-Chair

Cathy Spalding
Advisory Chair

You may contact any of the directors at lanaquestions@gmail.com

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.

Welcome Members

Say Hello to our 2026 Members

Nick Stone
Stone Ranch Pack Llamas
Somerset, California

Elaine Partlow
Golden Feather Farm
Pahoa, Hawaii

Calendar of Events

Bold type denotes LANA sponsored events

*(asterisk) denotes discount for FOL Sponsors and LANA members

HOBO HOOTENANNY LLAMA SHOW

April 11, 2026
Hillsdale Fairgrounds
Hillsdale, Michigan
michiganllama.org

IMAGINOLOGY

April 11 - 12, 2026
Orange County Fairgrounds
Costa Mesa, California
contact: Nik Kieler at 714-708-1619
www.ocfair.com

HAPPY HIPPY LLAMA SHOW 1 & 2

April 17 - 19, 2026
Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center
Gainesville, Georgia
contact: kdevaul2@gmail.com

LANA'S HIKE THE SUTTER BUTTES

April 19, 2026
contact: lbering@outlook.com

SSLA SPRING PACK TRIALS

April 24 - 26, 2026
Dupont State Park
Cedar Mountain, North Carolina
contact: mrc604@tampabay.rr.com
www.ssla.org

CASCADE LLAMA SHOW & SALE

April 24 - 26, 2026
Oregon State Fairgrounds
Salem, Oregon
contact: woollyamigosleader@gmail.com
<https://www.cascadellamashow.com/>

*KIDS & CAMELIDS SHOW

April 25, 2026
Wilton, California
contact: susan.rich9631@gmail.com
www.lanainfo.org

ORVLA CLASSIC SHOW

April 25 - 26, 2026
Coshocton County Fairgrounds
Coshocton, Ohio
contact: janicekschilling@gmail.com
<http://www.orvla.com/>

HEARTLAND LLAMA SHOW

May 1 - 3, 2026
Ellsworth Equestrian Center
Iowa Falls, Iowa
contact: heartlandllamashow@gmail.com

BACK TO BASICS LLAMA SHOW

May 2, 2026
Orleans County Fairgrounds,
Albion, New York
contact: battmichele@yahoo.com

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR

May 9 - 10, 2026
Fairplex
Pomona, California
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com
www.lacountyfair.com

MID-MICHIGAN LLAMA SHOW

May 9 - 10, 2026
Jackson County Fairgrounds
Jackson, Michigan
contact: chrisruemenapp@hotmail.com
michiganllama.org

SCHOOLS OUT LLAMA SHOW 1 & 2

May 22 - 24, 2026
Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center
Gainesville, Georgia
contact: llamajudge@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

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*(asterisk) denotes discount for FOL Sponsors and LANA members

HLAA SPRING SHOW

May 23 - 24, 2026
DeKalb County Fairgrounds
Auburn, Indiana
contact: kelsimatthew@icloud.com
<http://hlaa.us>

NEBRASKA CAMELID CLASSIC

May 23 - 24, 2026
Christensen Field Arena
Fremont, Nebraska
contact: thecsteele@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

June 12 - 15, 2026
Del Mar Fairgrounds
Del Mar, California
sdfair.com

IOWA LLAMA JACKPOT

June 12 - 14, 2026
Linn County Fairgrounds
Central City, Iowa
<https://iowallamajackpot.com>

HAPPY CAMPER LLAMA SHOW

June 19 - 21, 2026
Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch
Estacada, Oregon
contact: columbiarivercamelids@gmail.com
www.columbiarivercamelids.com

WORKING LLAMA SUMMIT

June 19 - 21, 2025
Deer Lodge, Montana
www.ccarallama.com

GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND CHAMPIONS SHOW, SALE & FUTURITY

June 26 - 28, 2026
Iowa Equestrian Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
www.ilrshows.com

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PASTURE SHOW

July 3 - 5, 2026
2bit2 Ranch
Guffey, Colorado

NORTHERN WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

July 7 - 9, 2026
Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds
Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin
nwsfa.com

DARRINGTON FLING

July 10 - 12, 2026
Darrington Rodeo Grounds
Darrington, Washington
contact: darringtonfling@gmail.com

GLACIER CLASSIC

July 10 - 12, 2026
Majestic Valley Arena
Kalispell, Montana
contact: glacierclassicllamashow@gmail.com
contact: partybarnllamafarm@gmail.com

LAMAPALOOZA 2026

July 17 - 19, 2026
Mower County Fairgrounds
Austin, Minnesota
contact: addeslashes@yahoo.com
midwestllamaassociation.my.site.com

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR

July 18 - 19, 2026
Orange County Fair & Events Center
Costa Mesa, California
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com
ocfair.com

OHIO STATE FAIR LLAMA, ALPACA & FIBER SHOW

July 28 - 30, 2026
Ohio Expo Center and State Fairgrounds
Columbus, Ohio
contact: llamadeb@gmail.com
<https://www.ohiostatefair.com>

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

July 30 - August 2, 2026
Cal Expo
Sacramento, California
contact: KathySVA@aol.com
calexpostatefair.com

SONOMA COUNTY FAIR

August 7 - 9, 2026
Sonoma County Fairgrounds
Santa Rosa, California
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com
www.sonomacountyfair.com

ERIE COUNTY FAIR LLAMA SHOW

August 19 - 23, 2026
Erie County Fairgrounds
Hamburg, New York
contact: battmichele@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

Bold type denotes LANA sponsored events
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IOWA STATE FAIR
August 22 - 23, 2026
Iowa State Fairgrounds
Des Moines, Iowa
iowastatefair.org

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
September 2 - 4, 2026
Minnesota State Fairgrounds
St. Paul, Minnesota
mnstatefair.org

LAMAFEST
September 4 - 6, 2026
Lenawee County Fairgrounds
Adrian, Michigan
contact: hartwig@torchlake.com
michiganllama.org

HLAA FALL SHOW &
ALSA REGIONAL
September 18 - 20, 2026
Noble County Fairgrounds
Kendallville, Indiana
contact: kelsimattthew@icloud.com
<http://hlaa.us>

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR OPEN LLAMA/ALPACA
SHOW
September 25 - 26, 2026
Oklahoma City Fairgrounds
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
contact: luckyonyx81@gmail.com

FALLAMAFEST LLAMA SHOW AND EVENT
September 25 - 27, 2026
Fox Hill Equestrian Center
Louviers, Colorado
contact: fallamafest@gmail.com
www.fallamafest.com

FALL HARVEST LLAMA SHOW
September 25 - 27, 2026
Cedar Falls, Iowa
iowalamas.org

ILR-SD JUDGING CLINIC
September 25 - 27, 2026
Woodland, Washington

THE BIG E LLAMA SHOW
October 2 - 4, 2026
Eastern States Exposition
West Springfield, Massachusetts
contact: kewa4@pm.me
www.thebige.com

ALSA GRAND NATIONALS
October 2 - 4, 2026
Iowa Equestrian Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
alsashow.net

***LANA'S FALL FIBER CLINIC**
October 3, 2026
Stonehenge Llama Ranch
Vacaville, California
www.lanainfo.org

GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR
ALSA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
October 16 - 18, 2026
Georgia National Fairgrounds
Perry, Georgia
contact: llamajudge@gmail.com

GALA EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
October 22 - 25, 2026
Hilton in Scranton
Scranton, Pennsylvania
contact: dwr3rr@gmail.com
galaonline.org

SOUTHWEST CAMEL CONFERENCE AND
TRAINING CLINIC
October 23 - 25, 2026
Sandy Valley Ranch
Sandy Valley, Nevada
<https://sandyvalleyranchnv.com>

OREGON FLOCK AND FIBER FESTIVAL
October 30-November 1, 2026

WINTER WONDERLAND LLAMA SHOW 1 & 2
November 20 - 22, 2026
Willow Tree Farms Event Venue
Ringgold, Georgia
contact: llamajudge@gmail.com

***LANA'S 18TH ANNUAL HOBO CLASSIC**
February 5 - 7, 2027
Diamond Bar Arena
Ceres, California
lanainfo.org

MWLA CONFERENCE
February 19 - 20, 2026
Express Suites Riverport Conference & Event
Center
Winona, Minnesota
www.mwla.force.com

What's Happening in LANA

Join us for our annual

Hike the Sutter Buttes



Former LANA Board of Director Lee Beringsmith will lead the hike on Sunday, April 19th. The Sutter Buttes, known as the "World's Smallest Mountain Range," is situated just outside Yuba City, California. Naturally, this hike wouldn't be complete without the company of your sure-footed camelid friends. The group will be treated to breathtaking views of the Sacramento Valley. This is a popular event among UC Davis Veterinary students. Don't forget to bring your lunch, as there will be a lunch break at the top of the hike. For more information and to RSVP, contact Lee at lbering@outlook.com.

LANA to host the

California State Fair Llama & Alpaca Show

The 39th annual show offers 101 classes. Amazing awards: Overall State Fair Champions receive beautiful suede banners. Youth and Open Premier Exhibitors are honored with embroidered awards. Beautiful rosette ribbons and premiums to all Grand and Reserve division winners. Llama and Alpaca Best in Show awarded special rosettes and premiums. This four day event gives exhibitors the opportunity to display their ranch and vie for the Herdsman Award. Evening activities include Lama Limbo, Youth Demonstrations, and Walk-a-Llama/Alpaca. Competition information will be available soon at castatefair.com.



Congratulations to our

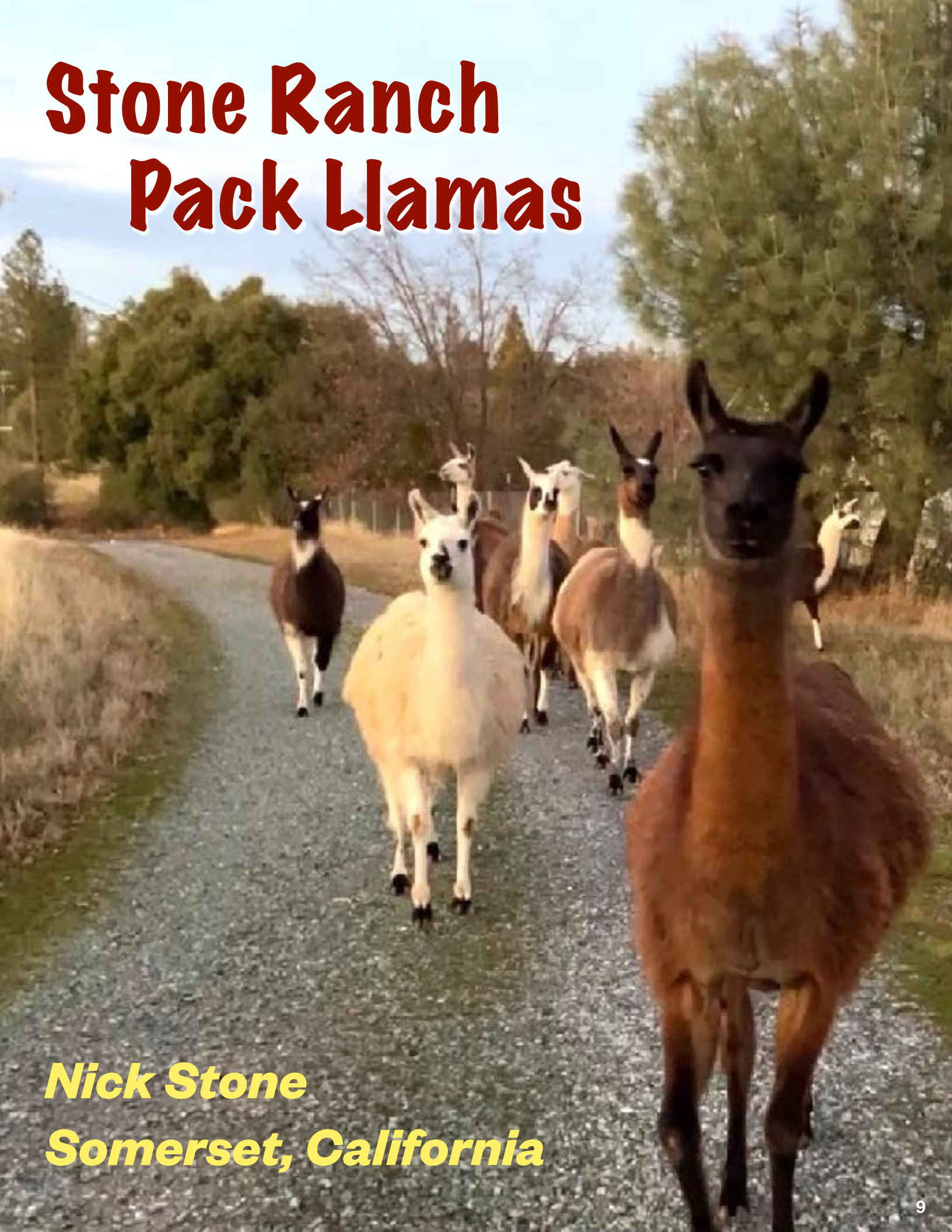
LANA Youth Members

The 2025 ALSA Youth Top 10 List has been released, and we are delighted to see our LANA youth members featured on it. Special kudos to **Easton Kock for placing on every list.**

Congratulations to all the youth members for your achievements! Your effort shows in the results.

Kaycee Lusk (Senior - Obstacle, Pack, PR and Showmanship)
Josselyn Moen (Senior - Obstacle, Pack, PR and Showmanship)
Brooke Moen (Intermediate - Obstacle, Pack PR, and Showmanship)
Audrey Roberson (Intermediate - Pack, PR and Showmanship)
Clayton Kock (Junior - Obstacle, Pack, PR and Showmanship)
Easton Kock (Junior - Youth Judging, Obstacle, Pack, PR and Showmanship)
Sharlotte Myers (Junior - Obstacle)
Charlotte Roberson (Junior - Pack, PR and Showmanship)

Stone Ranch Pack Llamas



Nick Stone
Somerset, California



My Journey Into Pack Llamas

By Nick Stone

Several years ago, I shot an elk with my bow in Wyoming and made a few trips packing it out solo after breaking it down. A few years later, I shot a bear with my bow in Idaho and also packed it out by myself after breaking it down. At the time, I thought there had to be a better way. My wife owned two horses that she used for cutting. There was no way she would let me use them as pack animals—I've never been a really big fan of them. On that trip to Wyoming, I met a man in the backcountry that was using pack goats. At the time, I decided that goats probably weren't the best choice for me due to how clingy they were. I also didn't want to change my fencing or add livestock guardian dogs as we live in a predator-rich environment.

I kept thinking about llamas. Back then, a lot of the bigger, well-known pack llama breeders had animals advertised for \$3,000-\$10,000, or waiting lists to get get them. At the time, I wasn't willing to spend that much for a pair, since most people suggested getting at least two. In 2020, my wife and I bought our dream property in El Dorado County. Shortly after, I was on Facebook and came across a posting for an older pack llama about an hour away. The man posting had included a picture of "Mugsy" packing out an elk rack. I immediately called him and asked a few questions. He said Mugsy was older but would make a good mentor for younger llamas. I think he was asking \$250 for him. I offered him an additional \$50 if he could drop him off the following day, and he agreed.

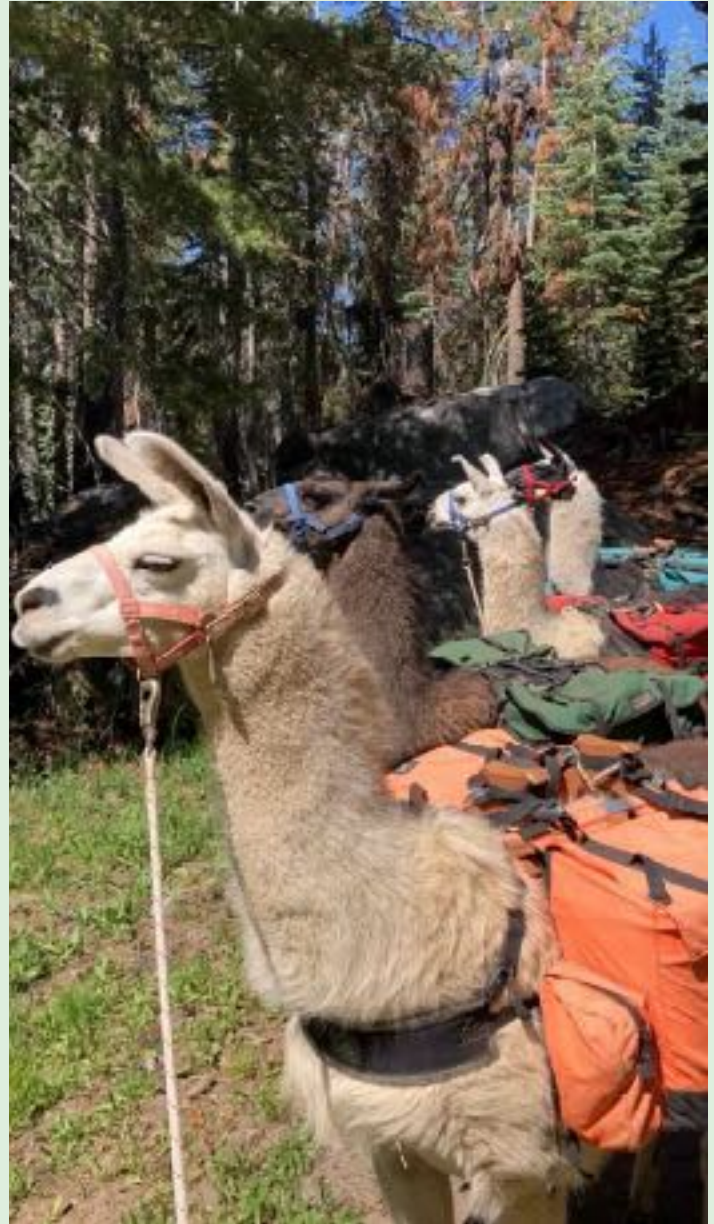
My wife was in the other room but overheard the conversation. I still remember her saying, "Did you just buy a llama over the phone without seeing it?" Yes, I did. I explained to her that it was going to go one of two ways. Either I had just purchased an old llama who would get to live out his days on the property in retirement, or I would fall in love with llamas as pack animals and they would be my new obsession. Probably a week or two after Mugsy got dropped off, my wife and I were headed north to Redding to purchase two more geldings from our now dear friends, Nancy and Robin Hester.

Today our herd stays around 20-25 animals and includes retired, breeding, and future breeding females as well as several males I use for packing, breeding, and future pack prospects. Over the years, we've traveled to Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming on pack trips in wilderness areas as well as to purchase animals and for breeding projects.

I should clarify that when I refer to "we," I generally mean me and the llamas. While I usually do a multi-day trip to Wyoming with a buddy who owns llamas, most of my trips are just me and the llamas. Over the years when telling stories of trips to friends that know I'm usually solo, I've been asked multiple times who I meant when I said "we." I truly view my pack string as partners.

One of my favorite events of the year is the Sutter Buttes hike that Lee Beringsmith puts together with the UC Davis students. I've made a lot of great friends on that hike, and I really like having the opportunity to share my llamas with the vet students. Whenever I have the opportunity, I take my animals to UC Davis for care. We usually make it down a few times a year. Last year, we went there for a few breeding soundness evaluations, dental work, a pre-purchase exam, and gelding of a male. I strive to keep my herd as healthy as possible. It's always nice to see

***"I truly view my
pack string
as partners"***



The boys on a training hike



Upper Left: Boys at the fence

Lower Left: Younger males

Above: Latitudes Al Capone

the students and Dr. Dechant, and I've been nothing but impressed every time.

Maintaining the herd and everything that goes along with it is a never-ending job, but I usually love every second of it. There has been a lot of trial and error in figuring out what infrastructure is best for us. Over the years, I've built multiple shelters and a barn that quickly proved to be too small, as well as experimented with different types of fencing. I'm blessed to have both the physical ability, equipment, and knowledge to complete the majority of these projects myself.

My current preferred interior fencing is 2 7/8 pipe posts and top rail with welded-on clips and five strands of smooth wire. This setup allows for the livestock guardian dogs to travel freely between pastures, while containing llamas. It is functional and visually appealing to me. Last year, I installed several hundred feet of this on my young male pasture. Future construction projects include a 1600 sq. ft. hay barn with a 20 ft. opening to allow for full stacks of hay to be placed in it and reduce labor of stacking, and a 2500 sq. ft. main barn. I'm constantly thinking of ways to reduce labor and maintenance as well as increasing the longevity of infrastructure.



In 2022, we unfortunately lost two males to a mountain lion. I explored options for protection, such as locking them up at night, but decided against it as depredations were also occurring near us during the day. Initially, I was very opposed to livestock guardian dogs because I didn't want to change my perimeter fencing. After doing some extensive research, going to look at over 100 dogs with multiple breeders, I found a lady who offered "rescue" LGDs that were guaranteed. The next day, I started the project of installing several thousand feet of field fencing.



A few weeks later, she delivered two generic, big, white dogs. One had a heart murmur during a vet check-up and was returned; we kept the other one that has proven to be amazing, although her coat was a little long and required more maintenance. Shortly after returning the dog with the heart murmur, I drove to Idaho to pick up an Akbash pup. That pup was placed in a bonding pen with my calmest females. I didn't feel comfortable leaving just one dog and a pup out in a bonding pen to protect the herd from lions, so I spent nearly a year sleeping outside on a cot either in a pasture or in the hay barn to make sure the herd was protected. While I've seen a few lions on cameras around the property, we haven't had any more losses. We also added a third male Akbash pup a few weeks ago. Akbash has become my preferred LGD breed.



Over the years, we've had a lot of ups and downs, learned a lot, and met some wonderful friends. I'm grateful for the people that came before me and produced amazing packers as well as the people who have trusted me to be a steward of the animals they produced. I try to give back whenever possible. We've donated trips to fundraisers and also do volunteer projects whenever the opportunity presents itself, like hauling water for volunteers who replanted trees after a fire. I was contacted by two other agencies from similar projects last year and am hopeful to be able to help them this spring.

At left: Akbash LGDs at work

Stone Ranch Pack Llamas logo art work by Isaiah Stewart

LANA's Hike the Sutter Buttes

April 19, 2026

contact Lee for more info and RSVP

lbering@outlook.com



LANA Supporting Camelid Research

By Stephanie Pedroni



The LANA Board and I are excited to share some updates regarding our mission to support camelid research. After speaking with various camelid-focused researchers, institutions and foundations, I accepted invitations to represent LANA's interests as a member of the Northwest Camelid Foundation (NWCF) Research Committee and the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) Committee.

Northwest Camelid Foundation

The NWCF's mission is to raise funds to "support education and medical research for the health and well-being of camelids worldwide". Founded in 1987, they have a rich history of partnering with Oregon State University's camelid research program. The OSU program has an outstanding reputation for the quality of their camelid research and the valuable opportunity they provide for veterinary students to have hands-on camelid education.



Alpaca Research Foundation

The Alpaca Research Foundation began as a Trust established by the Alpaca Registration BOD in 1997 with the mission of "encouraging and supporting scientific research which benefits the North American alpaca industry." Their primary areas of focus are alpaca health, husbandry, genetics and fiber where they have supported a huge number of highly impactful studies from research institutions across the globe. Some notable outcomes include proper dosage and effectiveness of anti-ulcer medication, characterization of the gene mutation causing grey fiber color, and (most interestingly if I get a vote) identification of a compound in

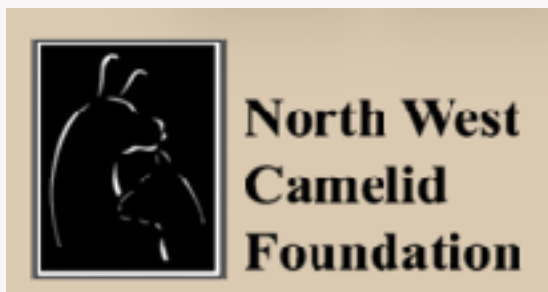


seminal fluid which induces female ovulation (it's not the orgling!).

These key partnerships will provide LANA a comprehensive view of current camelid research and the opportunity to selectively support work that resonates with our core mission and our membership. I anticipate there may be concerns or questions about actively working with a foundation more focused on alpacas. However, since llamas and alpacas are so closely related, nearly all scientific learnings in one further understanding in the other as well. Additionally, with any proposal that NWCF or ARF opts to fund, we have the autonomy to decide whether or not LANA sees value in contributing as well.



In addition to re-invigorating LANA's involvement in camelid research, I view this as a wonderful opportunity to strengthen relationships with these fellow camelid-loving groups, their members and their networks. The ARF is actively receiving research proposal abstracts for review right now and the NWCF will be soliciting proposals in early summer. While you all *eagerly* await my next update (wink), I invite you to explore the foundations' websites to learn a bit more about our new partners.



[Click to go to their website](#)

Kids & Camelids Show



Sat., April 25, 2026

Start Time: 9:00 AM

Registration Deadline: Monday April 20

Location:

**Nichols Ranch
12514 Plum Lane
Wilton, CA 95693**

Go to www.lanainfo.org
for registration forms



Designed for Youth ONLY

No Groom

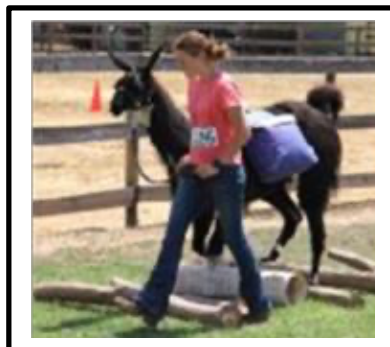
Lots of fun

Performance classes + some fun stuff!!

Part Show - Part Clinic

- Consultations with the judge
- Opportunity to practice on obstacles
- Showmanship clinic and class

Bring friends to play along with you!



Show Superintendent:

Susan Rich

(209) 847-2981

(209) 605-2055

Josselyn Moen

LANA Youth Follow Me Award Winner

Senior Youth Josselyn Moen has been involved with llamas from a young age. She volunteers tirelessly; is always ready to lend a helping hand when there are obstacles to move, unload, or load; and takes on any other needed tasks. Joss proactively takes the initiative to get things done and often assists younger youth. Her positive attitude, enthusiasm, and cheerful demeanor make her a beloved member of the llama community. She is an excellent showman and serves as a great role model to others, youth as well as adults.



Love ... and Loss

By Cheryl Pflipsen

Many of us are animal lovers. We own farms or ranches with outside and indoor animals and livestock, or live in apartments or single-family homes with fish, cats, dogs, or birds. Most of these animals become part of our family, and we gladly take care of them and provide them with a safe home and environment.

But have you ever had that special bond or connection between you and an animal that is so undeniable that it's even hard to explain? It's like they are that "special" one, and they see right into your heart and soul. You know how to read their personalities, and the trust between you and them creates a special bond. Not that you don't love the rest of your critters or herd, it's just that this one animal "gets you."

I have been privileged to have 2 very special animals like that in my lifetime.

The first one was a scrawny little gray and white llama that came from a sales barn when I first started getting into raising llamas and learning about them. He was about 6 months old, no bigger than a small Shetland pony, but he had the most gorgeous brown eyes that looked right at you. I spent \$80 on him. His registered name was Dakota Jack.

He taught me a lot about trust and training: always gentle, friendly, respectful and knew his space. He never wasted an ounce of energy on spitting, rearing, kicking, or jumping around in the chute. One of those llamas you could walk up to in the pasture and give a big hug and kiss to, just because you needed that. He was my go-to animal for every event we did on and

off the farm and my very first obstacle/PR llama. And he built the confidence of three 4-H youth by being leased out through the 4-H llama project. Every kid wanted Dakota because he was so easy.

When Dakota and I started to enter shows and do obstacles and public relations, I was amazed that he followed me everywhere and into everything I asked of him. Stairs, buildings, elevators, tight spaces, noises, water, scary stuff...he looked at it and just followed me like... whatever you want. Thanks to him, we won some beautiful ribbons and placed well at many of our shows. And he made



the shows so easy and exciting. We also did a lot of community events together. Parades, nursing home visits, school visits, marketing events, birthday parties, graduations, the list was endless. Everyone loved him for his calmness and patience and the hugs and kisses he gave out.

Sometimes it felt as if he spoke right to me...

Time to get your halter on so we can go to the nursing home this week.

I'm ready, I will just stand here so you can put my halter on. No need to chase me around the pasture for 10 minutes.

Let's get you brushed and ready to go.

I will stand here for hours if you brush me, do I get a bath today too?

There will be lots of people, and some little kids at this event today.

I've got this, they can crowd and poke at me, I will be gentle with them.

You might need to do a flight of stairs and ride an elevator today at the nursing home.

This will be new for you.

No problem, I will follow you and stand quietly in that small, confined space with you.

His health seemed to decline around age 15. You could start to see the age and aches and pains creeping in. I had him on pasture rest after that, and a favorite part of his days was to be let out of the pasture to wander the yard and find that greenest, sweetest patch of grass or shadiest spot under the trees. No halter, no fences, no stake outs, just freedom.

As animal lovers, we all know the hard decision to have to put an animal down. Living isn't living if an animal is suffering. Dakota Jack made me make one of the hardest decisions I've ever had to, but I could see it in his eyes...*I will be OK, and you will be OK too, but it's time to let me go now.* It took me months to overcome the loss. People would tell me, "it's only an animal," but to me, he was much more than that...

I was never looking for a replacement when Bono came into my life, but for some unknown reason, the whole situation fell into order piece by piece. Bono was a 6-month-old male llama that was for sale from a farm in southern Minnesota. Adorable, of course, chocolate brown with a black face and black legs. (I later learned he was known as a PBL—plain brown llama.) I'd never seen him, but his photos spoke to me, and this was my first-ever, sight-unseen purchase of an animal! When they delivered him, he was more than I imagined. I was



already in love with him.

And in no way was his personality like Dakota's! Bono tested me in every way possible. Spooking on walks at leaves blowing by; having a tantrum in the chute because he didn't want his legs touched; taking 10 minutes trying to catch and halter him; their personalities could not have been more different. But in Bono's own way, he made me practice more patience, and I wanted to spend more time with him. Each session, it seems, just a little bit of progress was made toward trusting each other. I could finally see little areas of improvement and him settling into our routines and him gaining more manners.

Our first show was a disaster. Every llama and everyone and thing in the show ring and at the show was out to get him. He couldn't stand, couldn't be touched. But I knew we could only go up from there. Our second show got a little better. He decided he could stand but not be touched. That was a 50% increase from the last show, and we received our first ribbon in halter. He made me work hard in the ring, but he knew how to look good with direction and subtle cues. Even being a PBL, he was a definite eye catcher.

In August of 2025 at the Minnesota State Fair, Bono and I placed first in Adult Showmanship, second in Non-Breeder 2-year-olds, and Overall Reserve Champion in the Non-Breeder class. I was in shock, excited, and humbled! With so many amazing animals and outstanding show people at this level, never could I have imagined even placing this well in some of these classes!

It all came to an abrupt end on October 13, 2025. A gorgeous, sunny morning when you know something isn't right. Bono spent his last hours lying with the herd along their favorite fence line. It was devastating. Anyone who knows what it is like to take an animal in for a necropsy knows you put yourself on autopilot. And so many "what didn't I do enough of" runs through your mind. Worst of all, guilt sets in. Even knowing the reasons for his passing did not ease the pain or make it go away. He showed no signs of anything being wrong....nothing....ever. But, he had some health issues that he hid well that took its toll quite quickly.

I miss my boys a lot and know they are enjoying the greenest pastures and laziest sunny days in their heavenly pastures. I am beyond thankful for what they taught me and showed me about that special bond between an animal and a person. A little piece of my heart will always be with them...



Brooke Moen

LANA Youth Award of Excellence

Judge Megan Bixler presented Brooke with LANA's Youth Award of Excellence at the Riverside County Fair & Date Festival Show on March 1, 2026, in Indio, California. The judge was impressed with the youth participating in the show and felt Brooke stood out amongst them. The judge was especially impressed with Brooke's willingness to help out whenever needed while having a full show schedule.

These TAILS Can Tell TALES

By Cathy Spalding

Alpacas and llamas are often very expressive in their communication of information to one another — and to humans through body language. By definition, body language is the “the transmission of meaning, feeling, or intent by significance of act or manner” using the body. This language is conveyed through a variety of body positions and behaviors.

Behavior is the very foundation of our communication with one another whether between those who would speak the same language or between those who do not. It is a constant and innate component of our existence whether conscious or unconscious. The way we (and all species) behave — position ourselves — provides information as to how we may be feeling, what we may be thinking and even at times, what we are about to do. Behaviors can reflect whether or not the communication is more internally or externally stimulated. Hundreds of studies and voluminous reports have come forth regarding human behavior and positioning in the attempt to define and qualify appropriate baselines against which might then recognize, define and measure human behavior and positioning “outside” those considered norms. And what of our alpacas and llamas? What are the more appropriate baselines of behavior against which we might recognize something “outside” the norm?

The alpaca and llama body language vocabulary is large. With slight variations or displayed in concert with other behaviors, the expression of a particular behavior might come to mean something entirely different. As “body language” would infer, alpacas and llamas can express with specific parts of their body as well as through the positioning of the whole. An important part of the alpaca and llama body language vocabulary is expressed through the tail.

It is important in our overall interpretation of body language to establish an appropriate

behavioral baseline of language expressed by the tail. By having a baseline, we might then recognize when additional information is coming through. The more normal tail positions most often seen on a day-to-day basis are:

- Loose, relaxed against the body
- Alert, arched
- Flipped over - curled back over the rear onto the back
- Wagging, swishing - excitement, combating flies or other irritant, show of displeasure



Tails in the normal, relaxed position flow softly downward from the rear. Some appear to hang nearly straight down while others may maintain a slight arch. The tail is held loosely, occasionally swishing back and forth, with seemingly little or no muscle tension. A relaxed tail is generally indicative of an overall relaxed mental, emotional and physical state. The tail display in this group of alpacas is quite relaxed.

Tails flipped over the rear are normally an indication of submission, insecurity or uncertainty. Flipped tails may be also asking a question. In this instance, a younger or less dominant male flips his tail back over his rear to signal his non-changing position to a more dominant male. Babies will approach their mothers for nursing with tails flipped. Interestingly, once they begin to nurse the tail will



slowly come back down. Sometimes as alpaca or llama will flip the tail when approaching another animal or human or when another animal or human approaches them. In this instance flipping the tail may have slightly different meanings from insecurity to asking a question depending upon the circumstance.

Both of these babies present a healthy and alert body language stance with ears forward. The white baby is very balanced with his tail in an alert position. The dark baby is less balanced in himself and has placed his tail in a submissive, more uncertain or insecure position. Notice how the body language (including balance) of both these youngsters comes together in telling a tale of what each may be thinking and how each may be feeling.



Alpacas and llamas that are feeling well and balanced mentally, emotionally and physically,

will normally present the above noted tail expressions on a day-to-day basis. By using these behavioral expressions or positioning as a base line, it is much easier to recognize when communications through the tail might be providing additional and more specific information. Additional information may be provided in a tail that is:

- Clamped - tucked under, held tight to the body
- Stiff, immobile
- Continually held in a high arch
- Excessively wagging, swishing or twitching



This llama is clamping her tail holding it tightly against her body. It lacks a “fullness” or depth and appears flattened against the body curving straight down off the rear onto the buttocks. Clamping the tail is generally indicative of an overall tensing throughout the body. Without actually handling the tail, it can sometimes be difficult to distinguish a clamped tail from one that is more relaxed. A clamped tail will feel tightly pressed to the buttocks, stiff with little to no mobility. As part of a number of behavioral indicators, clamping the tail often appears in concert with visible signs of muscle tension in the face.

As the end portion of a long continuous centerline from the back of the head, down the neck following the backbone and off the center of the rear, tails are an important component of the alpaca and llama body. They are an intricate and connected piece of the whole and provide a valuable contribution to the body language vocabulary. If we are listening, those tails can tell quite a tale.

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 - Camelid Veterinarian
- WES HOLMQUIST
 - Ccara Conformation
- DENNIS DUENAS
 - Introduction to Packing



Llamas **AT THE** Library

By David Leejohnson

Linda and I have raised llamas for 35 years or so and, over those years, taken llamas on numerous trips to schools, libraries, outdoor events, parades, retirement homes, and beach cleanups, yet we are always surprised how excited people are simply to see a llama up close. This year, a friend and good neighbor across our fence asked us to bring some llamas to visit the library she manages in our small town, to visit the children's story time hour. This visit was a little bit different, however, because we brought not only a handsome young male llama to the library, but also his buddy, a very curious and relaxed male guanaco who had just joined our llama herd!



Having a large herd of llamas of all shapes and sizes always makes it interesting to choose who you want to take into the public. It was easy this time to choose one of my favorite llamas, a beautiful young male named Magic Argus that we showed at the State Fair this year, who handled the crowds and the noise like a champ. But we decided also to bring a new addition to the herd, a young 16-month-old male guanaco named Chaco, a new addition to our menagerie. While being more aloof as guanacos can be, Chaco had shown himself to be quite adaptable and curious about new situations. We knew he would be a great addition to our educational visit because we could show people a beautiful modern llama and its wild ancestor.

Under a light rain that morning, we loaded the llamas in the trailer. Well, I mean the “llamas”. We pulled the trailer up to the local library and noticed an unusually full parking lot. We left the llamas in the trailer and went inside to scout and plan for our little visit. Our friend Mary Ann and her fellow employees were so excited when we walked in and made a plan for our visit.



As the parking lot filled with more and more children, it seemed like most of the children in Cottonwood under age 8 had decided to tow their parents to the library to meet the llamas. We knew our male llama was going to handle this like a champ, having been to a couple of different events, which as many of you know is a good test of a llama’s sociability and ability to handle crowds and stress. However, we’ve never done a public event with Chaco the guanaco, so we were a little curious how he would handle this because we hadn’t had a test run with him yet. It really was his first foray off the ranch, so we were hoping we had assessed his attitude correctly!



THE
CLIFF AND SHARON
THOMAS
STORYTIME CORNER

Mama llama
grain to grain
Mama llama
grain to grain

The library by this point seemed to be bursting with excited children, and maybe even more excited parents. We unloaded the llamas from the trailer and walked them into the back entrance of the library. Argus and his guanaco buddy Chaco entered the library like it was their hundredth time visiting a public space. Argus was just curious where the treats were going to come from, and Chaco gave a good guanaco indifference vibe. The llamas walked into the story room to little happy shrieks from children and beaming smiles from parents. Linda, having been a storyteller and teacher in the past, knew to bring along plenty of great hands-on items for children to touch, including samples of llama hair, some garments knitted from llama hair, and of course, some favorite children's books about llamas.

It was satisfying to be able to show people a modern llama, and the ancestor of the llamas, and look at their similarities and differences. There were many questions from children about the differences in the two animals. Argus just stood there like a pro while children one by one came up to pet his shoulder, while Chaco, who we didn't allow the children to handle, decided with his guanaco sense of self-preservation that maybe in his nervousness that it was a great time to relieve himself. He and I quickly scurried out the back door to the back lawn so he could have a potty break, but then he walked back in like it was his favorite thing to do!

A couple more questions from the children (and parents), and then it was time to load our llamas back up. It was a fun, successful visit, and we were proud of both boys for showing how pleasant and friendly llamas are. They definitely have more visits in their future as a team showcasing the past and present in llamas.





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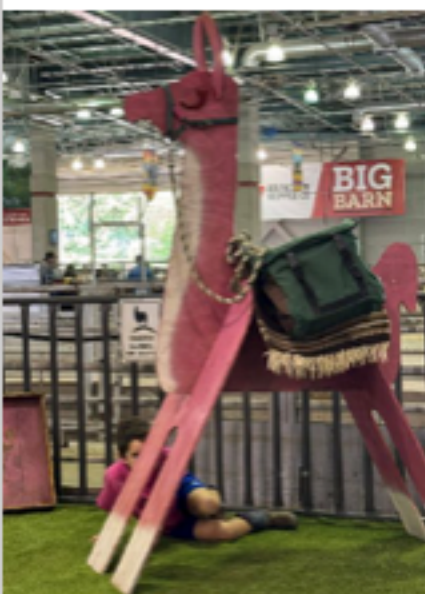
Llama & Alpaca Show

July 30 - August 2, 2026
Cal Expo
Sacramento, California

Judges:

Kim Schechinger
Margaret Drew

Entry deadline:
June 24th



Cloverland Ag Day

By Audrey Roberson

On March 13, 2026, the Sierra 4-H llama group participated in an agricultural day at Cloverland Elementary School in Oakdale, California

An Ag Day is when a school asks a 4-H club, Ag companies, or ranching families to bring their animals or farm equipment to show to the school kids. The back lawn of the school was filled with tractors, branding irons, seed plantings, a bales of hay, horses playing polo, 4-H craft tables, and more. Our llama group brought 3 llamas and 2 alpacas along with some posters for display. We also brought alpaca fiber. Each fiber sample was in a different stage of processing. As the day began, classes came to our station to learn more about llamas and alpacas. They gathered around the pen and asked questions about the llamas and alpacas. Even though we did not take the llamas out of their pen, some lucky kids got to pet them.



Above: Abby with her alpaca, Bailey

Below: Dom with his llama, Big Al

One of the most frequently asked questions was “Do llamas spit?” Some questions that surprised our group include: “Can I ride it?”, “Can I put a saddle on it?”, “Is their spit poisonous?”, and “Why does it have fur?” While these are just silly questions to us, our group did have to answer much more serious questions, which helped us become more proficient in our public speaking skills.

When asked what their favorite part about the Ag Day was, our group said that they liked answering questions, the atmosphere, and





Audrey and Big Al
talking with
the students

showing off their llamas/alpacas. Abigail Booth, who brought her alpaca, said that her favorite part was: “Answering the questions, and I liked practicing putting a halter on him, and showing him.” Charlotte Roberson said her favorite part about the Cloverland Ag Day was the overall atmosphere of the school. She says, “They keep the school really clean, and the kids here are really nice. The kids actually listen to you.” Since Dominic Toste attends Cloverland Elementary, he said that his favorite part was: “I get to show my friends the llamas. How I let them pet the llamas and what I told them about llamas.” Ag Days are important because they help educate the public about agriculture, but they also benefit the people who present. This Ag Day helped our group learn crucial public speaking skills. Not only do Ag Days benefit people, but they also benefit the animals. The animals learn how to tolerate being petted, screamed at, and having long days. Overall, the Cloverland Ag Day was a success.



Cloverdale students petting the llamas



Audrey with Don Pedro on her left, and McClure on her right

Stonehenge Llama Ranch

Margaret & Ralph Drew
Vacaville, California



2025-26 Sierra 4H Llama Project



Thank you to all those in the llama community who support these youth as they work with their animals. Thank you, LANA BOD especially, for being kid focused.

Cali – a thousand thank you's for all that you do and for stepping in
Greg – we appreciate you trusting us with your ccara treasures



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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LANA's Emergency Wallet Card Next of Kin Card & Live Animal Alert

Edited from an article by Cris Jennings

In 1996, LAMA Lifeline was created. It was apparent that rescue was but one role Lifeline needed to include in their new program. Although Lifeline consciously structured itself to respond to llama needs, Lifeline volunteers encountered llama rescue situations where other animals (i.e.: goats, sheep, cats, pigs, and geese) came into play. To the owner needing Lifeline's assistance, these animals' welfare was every bit as important as the llamas. Lifeline learned early on, when one type of animal on a ranch is jeopardized by a ranch emergency, all the animals may all be at risk.

Many of the llama rescue situations Lifeline has been involved with began with some sort of human emergency. Having a plan in place for llama/other animal care in case of emergency allowed owner input and control during the chaos of crisis. Real life crisis, health emergencies and death do happen to people all of the time. Individuals prepare for these events by making wills/living trusts, medical powers of attorney, and dutifully paying insurance premiums; some even insure their llamas. Lifeline realized there was generally nothing in place to

ensure basic everyday needs were met (food, water and animal care) if the owners were suddenly out of the picture and unable to provide or direct ranch coverage during an emergency situation. In response to this need in the llama community, LANA developed an emergency notification card that links Next of Kin contacts with animal care contacts.

The hard facts of life are that no one can predict when a tragedy may strike and human crisis can generate significant chaos to create animal emergencies. Thoughtful preplanning can prevent putting animals at risk and avoid compounding an already difficult situation. The NOK/Live Animal Alert Card is but one practical application of LANA's commitment to the community, the well being of llamas and Lifeline's consulting, networking, education philosophy.

LANA was contacted in December 2024, and asked if LANA still had the NOK cards available. The Board of Directors agreed to create an updated card and make it available to anyone. Please feel free to print this and share with others.

 Llama Association of North America Next of Kin / Live Animal Alert Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone(s): _____ Email: _____ (If am incapacitated or die, please contact those listed on the reverse side of this card.) PLEASE ENSURE SOMEONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WINDING FEEDING AND WATERING OF MY ANIMALS	Next of Kin Contacts Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ Animal Care Contacts Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ Name: _____ Relationship: _____ ph: _____ ☐ # Llamas ☐ # Cows ☐ # Sheep ☐ # Pigs ☐ # Goats ☐ # Dogs ☐ # Geese ☐ # Other
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FOLD HERE

Llama Association of North America

Website: www.lanainfo.org Email: lanquestions@gmail.com



2026 Membership and Donations

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



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.



Your Name:

Your Ranch Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone number(s):

Website:

MEMBERSHIP & Donation OPTIONS

See second page for Descriptions

Membership options:	Fees:	Your 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		
TOTAL:		



LANA Membership, Sponsorship, & Donation Opportunities

2026

Friend of LANA A year-long sponsorship \$250	Discounts for show entries*; 50% fees for clinics & camping; free vendor space at LANA-sponsored events and shows; recognition and ads (website, all newsletters, show programs, and events); US Mailings from LANA; 1 vote per membership for LANA elections; support of your association and its mission
LANA Member \$40	Discounts for show entries*, clinics & camping; listing on LANA website; US mailings from LANA; 1 vote per membership for LANA elections; support of your association and its mission
New LANA Member \$25	Discounted membership fee as a welcome to LANA for first-time members with all the benefits of membership as outlined above for a LANA member: discounts for show entries*, clinics & camping; US mailings from LANA; 1 vote per membership for LANA elections
Youth (19 and under) \$20	Discounted membership fee 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
Youth Club \$35	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; 1 vote for a designated adult; & support of the association's mission
Donation to LANA Lama Lifeline	Lifeline saves camelids in housing crisis. Funds go toward feed, vet care, transportation, and other rescue costs. The LANA Lifeline Committee responds to emergencies and works with other agencies to remove animals when necessary and rehouse them safely.
Donation to Youth Programs	LANA Youth programs include youth only shows, youth classes at shows at discounted rates, specialized clinics for youth, and specific awards for youth.
Donor to General Fund	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.