



# LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America  
Winter Edition 2023



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Llama Friends!

LANA election results are in. Margaret Drew has been re-elected for another term. Lee Beringsmith was appointed to the remaining open directorship by the LANA BOD during the December meeting. Thank you for continuing your service to the association.

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the dates January 27 - 29, 2023, for LANA's Hobo Classic at the Merced County Fairgrounds. Margaret Drew will be our judge for this fun weekend. LANA's annual membership meeting will be held Saturday evening, January 28th, after dinner. There are special items in the silent auction with proceeds going to the LANA Llama Lifeline. Check your email and the LANA website for more information. If you're unable to attend and would like to bid on these special items, make arrangements with someone for bidding and pick up.

It is with heavy heart to tell you that we lost two members of our llama community, Linda Beringsmith and Theresa Pierce. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends.

See you Hobo weekend.

Wishing you the best in 2023,  
Kathy Nichols  
LANA President

## LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kathy Nichols**  
**President, Newsletter Editor**  
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1-707-234-5510  
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](http://www.lanainfo.org)

## LANA News DISCLAIMER

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## THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

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

Dr. David Anderson, Dr. Kristy Brown, Dr. Rachel Oman, Joy Pedroni, Sue Rich, Audrey Roberson, and Kira Vessels

## Editors Note:

In this issue read about Susan Rich and her youth group's visit to Greg Harford's ranch to learn about packing and the Ccara Llama. Read about what to pack in an emergency camelid kit. Thank you to Dr. Rachel Oman and RMLA for the use of your article on Choke in Llamas and Alpacas. Read about Dr. Anderson's article about Liver Disease. As requested by a LANA member, the calendar of events has been expanded.

Kathy

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW LLAMA SHOW

January 6 - 8, 2023  
Denver, Colorado  
contact: judy.glaser@yahoo.com

## \*2023 LANA HOBO CLASSIC SHOW

January 27-29, 2023  
Merced County Fairground  
Merced, California  
contact: lanaquestions@gmail.com  
www.lanainfo.org

## LANA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In conjunction with the Hobo Classic  
January 28, 2023 (evening)  
Merced County Fairground  
Merced, California

## 2023 SPRING SHOWCASE

Show, Sale & Futurity  
March 24 - 26, 2023  
C Bar C Arena  
Cloverdale, Indiana  
www.ilrsdthegathering.com

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIR AND NATIONAL DATE FESTIVAL

February 17 - 18, 2023  
Riverside County Fairground  
Indio, California  
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com

## LANA SUTTER BUTTE HIKE

April 1, 2023  
Sutter County, California  
contact: lbering@outlook.com

## POPPY FESTIVAL LLAMA SHOW

April 21 -23, 2022  
Lancaster, California  
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com

## \*KIDS & CAMELIDS SHOW

April 22, 2023  
Mares' Nest/Lamarah  
Wilton, California  
contact: susan.rich9631@gmail.com  
www.lanainfo.org

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR LLAMA SHOW

May 6 - 7, 2023  
Pomona, California  
contact: lambedeira@yahoo.com

## \*LANA LLAMPING WEEKEND

June: date TBA  
Black Oak Equestrian Campground  
Sly Park, California  
contact: joy@blackcatllamas.com  
www.lanainfo.org

## 34th ANNUAL COLA LLAMA FESTIVAL

June 2 - 4, 2023  
Prineville, Oregon  
www.centraloregonllamas.com

## ORANGE COUNTY FAIR LLAMA SHOW

July 14 - 16, 2023  
Costa Mesa, California  
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com

## OHIO STATE FAIR

July 20 - 22, 2023  
Columbus, Ohio  
contact: llamadeb@aol.com

## CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

July 27-30, 2023  
Cal Expo  
Sacramento, California  
contact: KathySVA@aol.com

## **AMERICAN RIVER CLEAN-UP**

**September 16, 2023**

**Exact location TBA**

**Sacramento, California**

**contact: lbering@outlook.com ALSA**

## **WESTERN REGIONALS**

September 30 - October 1, 2023

Lancaster, California

contact: labendeira@yayoo.com

## **2023 GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND CHAMPIONS**

Show, Sale & Futurity

October 6 - 8, 2023

Iowa Equestrian Center

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

www.ilrsdthegathering.com

## **GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR**

October 13 - 15, 2023

Perry, Georgia

contact: llamajudge@gmail.com

## **NORTH AMERICAN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW**

November 3 - 5, 2023

Louisville, Kentucky

www.northamericanllamasow.com

### **LANA events in BOLD type**

**\* denotes LANA member discount**

*If you would like your event added to the LANA calendar, contact KathySVA@aol.com*

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



Jono Spelbring  
Suffolk, Virginia  
jon@spelbring.net

Lana Glass  
120 Morris Avenue  
Ranch Apt. B20  
Rockville Centre, New York  
richardcarris@aol.com  
Linkedin: Richard Carris, CPCU

### **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.

# The World of LANA

It's a Family Affair . . .



. . . It's Educational . . .



. . . It's Research . . .



LANA  
is about  
people . . .



. . . and Llamas.

## LANA is about fun!

1-707-234-5510

lanaquestions@gmail.com

www.lanainfo.org

3966 Estate Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688

# LANA HOBO CLASSIC



**ALSA Single Halter & Performance Show**  
**January 28 - 29, 2023**  
**Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced, CA**

**Judge: Margaret Drew, Vacaville, CA**



**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, January 27th

**SHOW SCHEDULE:** **Saturday - January 28th**

**8:00 am** Driving Classes

Exhibitors' Meeting

Performance Classes

**6:00 pm** Hobo Dinner

Annual Membership Meeting

Annual Awards

Introduction of 2023 Board

Dessert Auction

**Sunday - January 29th**

**8:30 am** Showmanship

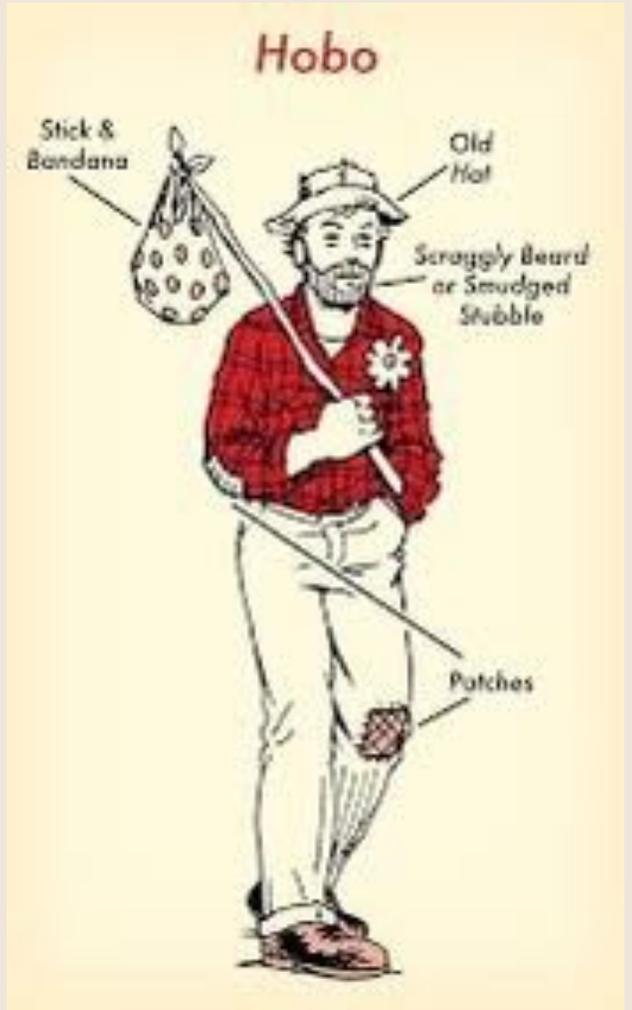
Halter Classes

Best in Show Llama & Alpaca





**NO Groom Show**  
**Relaxed & Casual Atmosphere**  
**Family Friendly**  
**Lots of Fun**  
**Hobo attire suggested**





**Fun Awards**  
**Outstanding Silent Auction**  
**LANA Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Dinner Saturday evening**  
**Dessert Auction**  
  
**COME JOIN THE FUN!**  
  
**Visit LANA's website for registration and info.**

# A 4-H Field Trip to Potato Ranch Llama Packers

by Sue Rich

It was October something when we caravanned up the hill to Sonora, California, to visit the home of Potato Ranch Llama Packers. The “we” is the families affiliated with the Sierra 4-H Llama Project, including three youth handlers. Our goals for the trip included a transfer of ownership for a llama to Audrey Roberson (a junior youth); learning about Ccara llamas, a specialty of Greg and Diana Harford who own the ranch; getting practical tips about packing with llamas; and learning about the business of raising, training and selling Ccara llamas



These photos show Greg handing over the ILR registration papers, and Audrey had done a piece of "Thank You" artwork as well.

Greg Harford was our host for the day. He is a long-time packer who has covered miles and miles of the Pacific Coast Trail. He is connected to other Ccara llama breeders as the gene pool for this specialized llama is fairly shallow, and as such, he is continually negotiating for new llamas to bring into the genealogies of his animals.

Formerly, Greg owned a llama rental business. He maintained a sizable herd of well-trained packers that he would rent out. He had clients from all over the world who would come to his ranch for a three-hour orientation and then leave with Greg's animals in a trailer. These customers were typically former backpacking enthusiasts who either ONE: had young children that necessitated extra baggage and piggyback rides for the kids, resulting in a dramatically reduced ability to carry loaded packs, or TWO: had aged enough that the knees and back weren't as happy to carry the weight they formerly shouldered for such trips.

But Greg loves to backpack himself, and he found his own trips were being limited by the absence of his animals when rented out. So, he closed down that business and began to focus on breeding, training and selling animals designed for extensive trips into the back country.

His ranch has pastures for the females and their youngsters. He has other pastures designated for the males. He calendars the breeding of his animals so that he is at home when delivery time comes. And while he is sure when conception took place, the females are not always true to their due dates. Halters go on animals on their second day on the ground. He utilizes interested young people who work at his ranch to daily put animals through their paces: walking roads by the ranch, navigating simple obstacles, and having feet handled and bodies touched.

Once the animals have reached their full growth and can carry weight, Greg hits the high country. I have seen photos of him with multiple lead lines in each hand trucking down trails at nine thousand feet preparing the animals for their eventual destiny of becoming packing llamas.





He showed us how he uses the light and small feed bags in the back country. He puts rocks in them at night and ties them to the animals so they don't travel too far. He ties up some on a line, but others he keeps secure by using these weighted bags and knowing that they will stay by the rest of the herd.



I have fostered young animals in a partnership with Greg that has allowed me to acquire small animals that have been started very well and then pair them with 4-H participants. These fortunate youth handlers have permission to show, pack, attend Ag Days, and just generally expose the animals to any and all situations. Once the animals are about three years old, Greg calls them home, and their serious training commences. When visiting Greg's ranch this last trip, I was really pleased to have one of the animals that I had fostered approach me for that nose-to-nose greeting that always warms my heart.

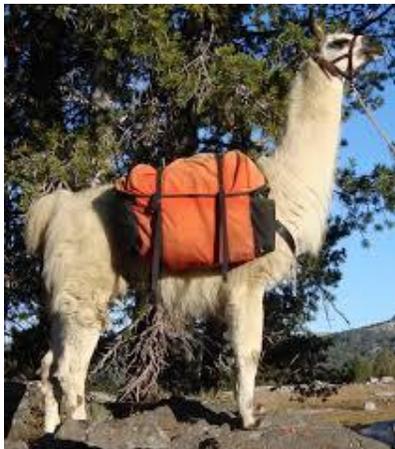


The trip has generated several articles and many photos that you will see in this edition of the LANA newsletter. Our sincere thanks for Greg's trust in allowing us to foster his valuable animals; his willingness to open his ranch for our field trips to youth and their families; and his generosity in sharing what he has learned through his many years of breeding, training, and packing Ccara llamas.

## Ccara Llamas

Kira Vessels Age 12

Sierra 4-H



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 each season.

When packing with Ccara llamas it is important that they have good, strong feet to support extra weight. Breeders look for long legs, high pasterns, and a broad heel. 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 that 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.



<http://www.ccarallama.com/>

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

## Tips for Packing with Llamas

*What age do you start to pack?*

You start to take them on small day hikes when they are about 5-6 months old.

*How old should they be when you start to add weight to the pack?*

You can start adding light weights to the packs at young ages, but it's more important to puff up the pack so it sticks out. If you put too much weight, you can damage the growth plates of young llamas. This can also lead to dropped pasterns.

*What is a good safety tip when hiking?*

When hiking you should never tie the lead line to yourself because if the llama does something silly and runs off, you will go with it and could get hurt.

*What is the most common injury to llamas when hiking?*

The most common injury is poisoning by toxic plants that hide under other plants. If your llama eats one of these poisonous plants, the first sign is that they will try to cough it up. Then, the llama will cough because it is not feeling well. At this point you should give it activated clay or charcoal. Wait for it to pass through their system before starting again.

By Audrey Roberson

Age:9

Sierra 4-H



# Packs and Llama Anatomy

by Sue Rich



Wikipedia Commons

I was trailing along behind the kids in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine when I saw it. The adults were back in a classroom with the annual Cal-ILA meeting going on, and I had volunteered to accompany the 4H participants on a tour, led by members of the Camelid Club on campus. It was right there in the hallway: a skeleton of a llama. And I was flabbergasted.

Who knew, certainly not me, that the vertebrae of a llama had fin-like projections pointing straight up from the spine? These bony blades make no pretense of lying flat. And I got it. I finally understood what all the padding on those llama packs was about. When I got a good look at the spine of this camelid beast of burden, I realized how important it would be to protect those high-rise “fins.”



Of course, Mother Nature takes care of most of that protection. There are muscles and fatty tissue that surround the vertebrae. But if you ever gotten your hands on a thin llama, perhaps an elderly member of the herd, you know that those tissues can recede and leave a decidedly pointed ridge along the spine.

Photo from the Vet Gazette, Oregon State University



Art from God, Juvenile Llama Skeleton

The design of packs, though, should also strive to protect the back by taking the weight and pressure of the payload off of the spine. That is why, when you look closely at a pack, you should see pads and sometimes rolls that redistribute the contact and weight to the barrel of the animal.

With daypacks, meant to carry a minimal load and used routinely in youth pack classes, you find two felted pads on either side of the center seam of the pack. These make contact with the barrel of the animal before the center seam can. There is air time directly under that center line.

With more advanced pack systems, those with saddles and panniers, the design often leaves the back so open that you can see the animal's hide through the rig. One of the reasons it is critical to ensure that the front cinch is tight enough is to guarantee that the weight in the panniers is kept off the dorsal midline of the animal.

Experienced packer and ccara llama breeder and trainer, Greg Harford of Harford Llama Farm, tells the story of being on the John Muir Trail with an experienced packing animal who started to cush. After a time, he realized that this particular animal was shallow enough in the barrel that the pack had shifted while on the trail. Once the weight found the spine, the animal cushed, sending the clear message that it was uncomfortable. Once the pack had been repositioned distributing the weight to its proper place, the animal continued on its way without complaint.

So, the anatomical lesson in all this is: watch where the weight of the pack bears down on the animal's body and ensure that the pack is appropriately padded!



Llama Day Pack



Timberline Llama Pack System

Greg showing the pack systems he uses



Photos taken by Sue at Greg Harford's ranch

# LIVER DISEASE IN CAMELIDS

by David E. Anderson, D.V.M., MS, Diplomate ACVS

College of Veterinary Medicine  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

## PREVENTION OF LIVER DISEASE

I have performed extensive investigations into copper toxicity, mycotoxin, contamination, parasite infestation, water source contamination, and have found that most cases of liver disease can not be readily explained. Therefore, recommendations for prevention are difficult. Probably, the most significant factor in the prevention of liver disease is to prevent sustained stress. I have found that the most severe cases of liver disease have been in camelids suffering severe, long-term stress.

An example would be a llama or alpaca that is acquired in Peru, moved to a quarantine station in Peru, examined and treated several times by veterinarians and animal handlers, moved to a quarantine station in the United States, moved to a farm for sale, sold at auction, moved to the farm of final destination, entered into a new herd to establish a new social hierarchy, and finally entered into the breeding pool. These events occur over approximately 8 to 12 months.

Hepatic lipidosis is the most common consequence even in relatively thin animals. A common misconception is that fatty liver disease is a disease of overweight camelids. I have found that these are the exception, not the rule. To prevent the development of these adverse effects, the environment in which the animals are moved should be as free from stress as possible, animals should be vaccinated with 7-way or 8-way clostridial vaccines, high quality grass hay or grass should be available at all times, and a trace mineral mix should be available.

When I see fatty liver disease occurring in domestic camelids, I believe that the nutritional program should be intensively investigated. If the feed source has changed recently, a feed analysis is indicated to determine if the feed is low in digestible energy. The best indicator of the adequacy of the diet is to analyze mineral content in liver biopsies.

Research done at Ohio State University investigated the effects of repeated liver biopsies. Despite performing biopsies at weekly intervals, no adverse effects were observed (in fact the animals gained an average of five pounds!). However, I recommend whole blood analysis of minerals if the animal in question is pregnant.

Research done at Ohio State has documented that alpacas are quite resistant to fumonisin (type of mycotoxin) intoxication. We fed up to 75 parts per million of fumonisin for up to 30 days with no adverse effects on the serum biochemistry, complete blood cell counts, and liver tissues.

We are continuing to investigate liver disease and nutrition in camelids at Ohio State University. Research is critical to determine the cause of liver disease in these animals because the initial cause is usually past by the time your veterinarian gets involved in the case.

Some very exciting research is being done in the similar areas at Cornell University, Oregon State University, Auburn University, and Colorado State University. Hopefully, we will have better answers for you in coming years!

## CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE

1. Do not change social structure of groups. Leave animals that have established a social order together. Stop all new activity on farm (e.g. show fitting and testing, regrouping for sale, introduction of new animals, removal of animals).
2. Evaluate all feed and water sources. Remove any suspect hay or grain sources (e.g. molded, spoiled, etc.). Clean and sterilize any water containers that appear to contain algae or are not clean. Inspect all water sources for evidence of dead animals, run-off, etc.
3. Obtain samples from all feed and water sources. Have hay and feed analyzed for nutritional values and trace mineral content. Have hay and feed analyzed for aflatoxin and fumonisin mycotoxin. Have water analyzed for mineral content, pH, and bacterial inoculum.
4. Perform liver mineral analysis and intestinal cultures on all animals that die. Perform trace mineral panel and viral profiles on all animals that have blood drawn for any other purpose.
5. Check CBC and serum biochemistry profile on all symptomatic animals to guide additional treatment decisions. May elect to check serum biochemistry profile (the most diagnostic and prognostic testing tool) on all asymptomatic animals (optional: concern is additional stress).
6. Perform complete post-mortem examination of all animals that die. Save necropsy specimens from heart, liver, lung, kidney, C1 content, urine, and aqueous humor for future toxicology as indicated by histopathology.

## TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide low stress environment. See comments above.
2. Provide source of readily available carbohydrates. These include, but are not limited to, glucose and electrolyte enriched

water, dried molasses, sweet feed, and high-quality hay. Continue to provide plain clean water.

3. Provide top-dressing in feed to include vitamin, mineral, bacterial/yeast and methionine supplement.
4. Treat animals symptomatically based on appearance, physical examination, and laboratory test results. Antibiotic, anti-inflammatory, and ulcer therapy are administered on a case-by-case basis. I have had the best success with sodium ceftiofur (Naxcel 2.2 mg/kg, s.c., q24hr), ban amine (1 mg/kg, s.c., q12hrs), and omeprazole (prilosec, 1 mg/kg, p.o., q24 hrs). Avoid any use of steroids.

## PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Maintain low stress environment (sun, shade, ventilation).
2. Ensure proper Clostridial vaccination protocol.
3. Ensure appropriate parasite control strategies.
4. Minimize movement and regrouping of animals.
5. Make long-range plans for animal grouping organization so that repeated changes in group social structure can be avoided (e.g. breeding and sale activities).

reprinted from a previous  
LANA newsletter

# First Aid Kits for Camelids by Dr. Kristy Brown

(originally published LANA News 2004)

I have several first aid kits made up and I'd like to share ideas with you to create your own. I have a standard size toolbox (about 8" high and deep and 18" long) in the back of the truck with emergency supplies while we're "on the road." I like to keep the emergency kit in the truck, not the tack box, so that it is available every time the trailer is hooked up, not just when we're headed for a show. (This box would work for the barn as well). I have a friend that uses the small, flip-top coolers as an emergency kit — anything small enough to store and carry easily, yet large enough to hold a few essentials will work. Bubble wrap sheets work great to wrap around medicine bottles to prevent breakage and are readily available at more office supply stores.

## GENERAL SUPPLIES

**Vetwrap** - To wrap wounds or support joints.

**Diapers** - These work great to place over wounds, they are very absorbent and won't stick to wounds.

**2" PVC Pipe** - Cut length-wise to use as a splint. Cut the pipe as long as will fit in your emergency kit. If you don't have PVX pipe available or can't cut it, the same length of 1 " dowel rod will also work. Keep two pieces of dowel rod in your kit to wrap one on

**Duct tape** - The “miracle bandage.” Duct tape can be used to waterproof a bandage, hold a splint, pull the fiber away from a wound, secure a bandage, and any other creative use you can come up with. This will annoy my husband because he is an HVAC contractor and thinks duct tape is only for one specific use for his sheet metal projects, not an all purpose item.

**Contact lens (sterile saline) solution** - This can be used to rinse out an inflamed eye or a wound. Saline is “tissue friendly” and will flush a wound well without leaving a residue the could prevent your veterinarian from stitching the wound. But the cheap generic bottles and discard them after they are opened.

**Eye Salves** - Keep a couple of tubes of non-steroidal antibiotic salves in your kit. Again, they are safe for a scratch on the eye or to place on superficial wounds. Do not put cream into deep wounds if you can get to a veterinarian within a couple of hours.

**Antibiotic injectable** - Consult with your veterinarian for their favorite drug for your use. I keep both Penicillin (good for wounds) and LA200 (good for respiratory infections) in my travel kit.

**Banamine** - Banamine is good for coli, inflammation and pain. Consult your veterinarian for the appropriate dosage and to dispense an appropriate volume of drug for your use.

**Gastroguard** - This products used to treat ulcers. It is not something to use without your veterinarians approval, but may be appropriate to use on an animal that is tressed while on the road.

**Antihistamine injectable** - Antihistamines can be used for inset bites, make bites, allergic conditions and respiratory conditions.

**Injectable steroid** - This should be used only for snake bites, shock or severe allergic reactions. *Consult your veterinarian.*

**Epinephrine** - Antidote for drug reactions and insect/snake bites. Again, *consult your veterinarian.*

**Vegetable oil** - A pint of vegetable oil is useful for constipation or colic on the road. Vegetable oil has flavor and can be syringed into the animal's mouth, and it will swallow it. Mineral oil has no flavor and is easily aspirated. Again, *consult with your veterinarian* for an appropriate dosage.

**Syringes and needles** - A variety pack. I keep an extra Ziplock for garbage (used needles/syringes). When I empty the used items, I know exactly what I need to restock the kits with.

**Hand towels** - Can be used to support an injured leg or to clean a wound.

**Bottled water** - To give animal to drink or to flush a wound or rehydrate yourself.

**Betadine or Novalsan surgical scrub** - A small shampoo container of either of these fits nicely into a kit and can be used to clean a wound. Your veterinarian can possibly still suture a wound if cleansed with these products because tissue residue is not a concern.

This kit fits easily in a vehicle or a llama pack for use on the trail. You may prefer a backpack or cooler or other container, anything that is easy to grab and run with in an emergency and anything you can easily take on a trail.

# Kids & Camelids Show



**Saturday, April 22, 2023**

**Start Time: 9:00 AM**

**Registration Deadline: Monday April 16**

## 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**

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## **Ask the Vet**

### **Choke in Llamas & Alpacas**

**by Rachel Oman, DVM, MS, DACVIM  
Assistant Professor Colorado State  
University Veterinary Teaching Hospital**

**reprinted with permission from Dr. Rachel Oman  
and the RMLA**

**Why do llamas and alpacas cough or choke? What is the difference between the two? How can I prevent or treat this issue? What are the long-term consequences associated with coughing and/or choking?**

Choke is a common emergency in llamas and alpacas, so it is important to recognize the clinical signs. Choke is the common name for a complete or partial obstruction of the esophagus. Sometimes it is possible to feel an obstruction in the esophagus by running your hand down the animal's neck and feeling for a bulge, but other times the obstruction is so far down the esophagus that one cannot feel it with external palpation.

Animals that become choked are often in distress and the condition can become life-threatening if it persists. Choked animals may show clinical signs that include drooling, coughing, gagging, raising, and lowering the head or extending the neck, open mouth breathing, bloat, or partially chewed feed coming out the nose or mouth. A camelid showing any combination of these signs without resolution within a few minutes should be evaluated for possible esophageal obstruction or choke.

Sometimes camelids will cough or gag while eating without being choked. In these cases, the animal will not be overly distressed and will continue eating and drinking normally after the bout of coughing is over. Simple cases like this may be caused by irritation from dust or a transient esophageal obstruction that the animal was able to relieve without any human intervention.

Complete, persistent obstruction of the esophagus is an emergency. A severe choke makes it impossible for feed or saliva to pass down into the stomach (or first compartment in camelids) and prevents the animal from eructating gas or bringing up a cud. As a result, saliva or feed can collect in the esophagus and the animal may become bloated with gas that is trapped below the obstruction. The choked animal may inadvertently inhale some of the saliva/feed mixture and cause an infection in the lungs called aspiration pneumonia.

An unrelieved choke can also cause damage to the lining of the esophagus where it sits tightly against the esophageal wall. In some cases, the damaged and weakened esophagus can rupture and in other cases a scar can form resulting in a narrowing of the esophagus. This narrowing restricts feed passage and may cause repeated episodes of choke and may eventually lead to a condition called megaesophagus. Animals with megaesophagus have a dilated or expanded esophagus that lacks the tone to help push feed down when they swallow. Affected animals slowly starve because they cannot effectively eat and there is no good treatment for megaesophagus.

Risk factors of developing choke in camelids include eating pelleted feed, eating feed rapidly, and having poor dentition that makes it difficult for them to fully chew their feed before swallowing. Animals that have been choked before may have one or more risk factor and be at risk for developing an esophageal scar with narrowing that makes them more likely to choke again. It is important to have your camelid's teeth checked regularly by your veterinarian during annual examinations, but you should always be vigilant for signs of teeth trouble. These signs can include abnormal chewing pattern, finding partially chewed balls of cud near the feeder, swelling on or around the jaw, weight loss, and poor appetite. Animals that eat pelleted feed and/or are prone to bolting their feed should be given pelleted feed just small handfuls at a time. You can get creative with ways to slow their consumption of the pellets with tricks like placing some rocks in the feeder or putting the pellets on top of hay rather than simply placing them in a dish for easy consumption.

It is important for camelid owners to recognize the signs of choke and be on the lookout during and shortly after feeding. Understand that llamas and alpacas that eat pelleted feed are prone to eating rapidly and those that have bad teeth are at higher risk of choke. Finally, remember that choke is a true medical emergency. If you think your camelid may be choked, contact your veterinarian right away so they can evaluate the situation and safely relieve the esophageal obstruction before it becomes life-threatening.



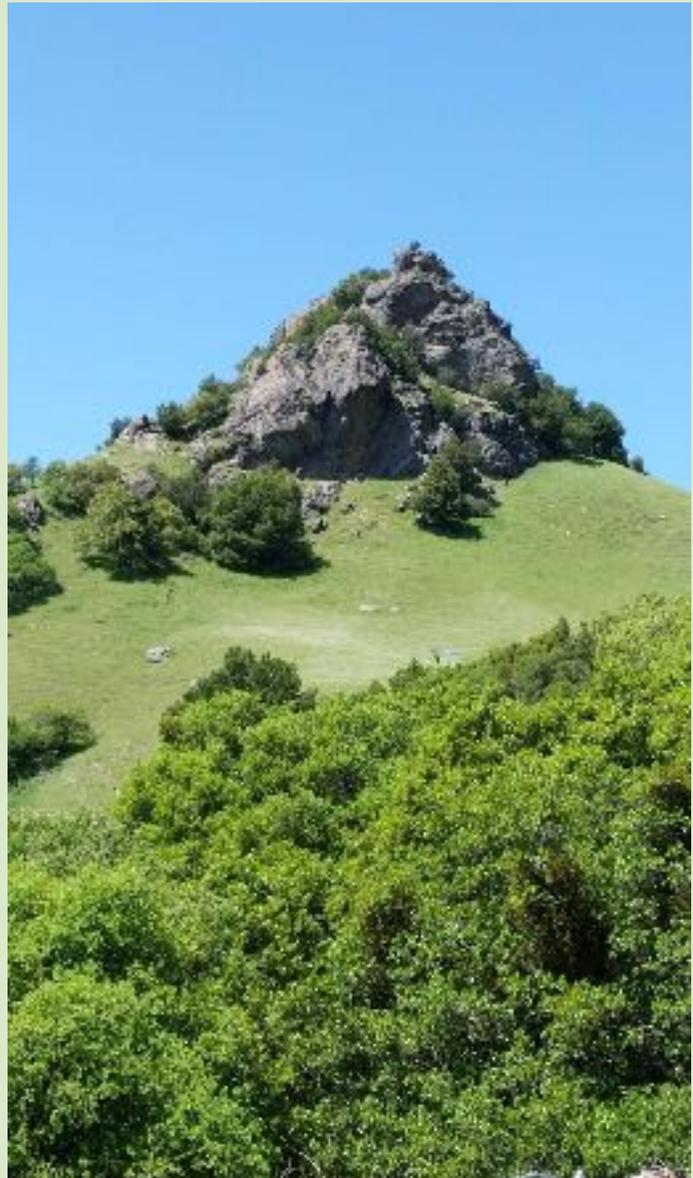


# **LANA**

## **Sutter Butte Hike**

**April 1, 2023**

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



## 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*

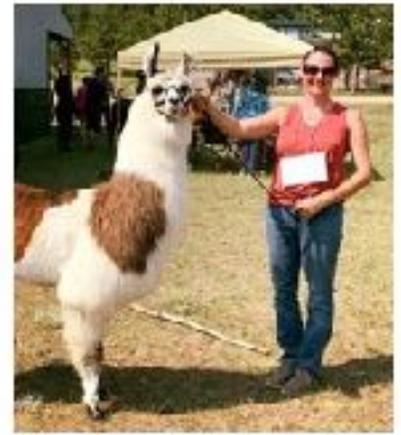
*rdrew76@yahoo.com*

*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**  
Kathy Nichols  
Wilton, California  
SWLC Billy the Kid



# 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 crier (a baby llama or alpaca under six months) should not be revised apart from other llamas or alpacas.

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Standards of Care Committees, June 2005  
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