



# LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America  
Spring Edition 2023



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sitting in my office with a cup of coffee enjoying the sunrise. The sunshine is coming through the blinds and the warmth of the sun feels comforting. It gives me hope that there is light, no pun intended, at the end of this miserable tunnel called winter. The weather has been brutal these past few months. My community, like many others, suffered the worst storms that I've ever experienced causing severe flooding, damage from powerful winds and power outages. Some of you are experiencing record snow fall. I hope you and your animals were and continue to be safe. Like you, I am looking forward to spring and putting this awful winter behind.

I have been a member of LANA since 1996. I joined a few months after getting my first two llamas. I've enjoyed participating in many Expos, shows, parades, clinics and a Llamping weekend. Through those many years, I have made some great friends, learned valuable information and shared fun experiences with my llamas. If you aren't already a member, consider joining LANA and support a great organization.

Your LANA Board of Directors continue to be busy planning activities for you to enjoy this year. Most recently, Board of Director Lee Beringsmith organized the well-attended Sutter Butte Hike. Some of the events coming up soon are the Kids & Camelids Youth Show and a shearing and herd health clinic. Check the Calendar of Events, you might find something that strikes your fancy. If you have an idea for an event, feel free to send us an email. Your input is appreciated.

Stay safe and take care,

Kathy Nichols  
LANA President





## LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Visit LANA at: [www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)

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## THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

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

Lee Beringsmith, Mary Cantrell, Pedro Carreño, Bobra Goldsmith, Sandy Mubarak, Joy Pedroni, Stephanie Pedroni, Susan Rich, Cindy Corey Rodriguez, and EstherSue Sykes

### Editor's Note:

In this newsletter, please enjoy the articles about the LANA Butte Hike with great pictures, a youth group's visit to 4R Llama Ranch, and the latest on Llarry Not a Llama. With shearing season approaching, read the articles and check out the diagram on shearing styles. Learn how to train your animal for willingness and cooperation. Know which essential minerals are necessary in the camelid diet.

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter, contact [KathySVA@aol.com](mailto:KathySVA@aol.com) or the LANA office.

*Kathy*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 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

## LANA Youth Writing & Art Contest

**Deadline: May 1, 2023**  
contact: susan.rich9631@gmail.com  
www.lanainfo.org

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR LLAMA SHOW

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

## LANA SHEARING & HERD HEALTH CLINIC

**May 13, 2023**  
**Stonehenge Llamas**  
**Vacaville, California**  
contact: joy@blackcatllamas.com  
www.lanainfo.org  
**FREE**

## 34th ANNUAL COLA LLAMA FESTIVAL

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

## \*LANA LLAMPING WEEKEND

**June 9 - 11, 2023**  
**Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground**  
**Oroville, California**  
contact: joy@blackcatllamas.com  
www.lanainfo.org

## ESTES PARK WOOL MARKET LLAMA SHOW - SILVER and GOLD

June 10 - 11, 2023  
Estes Park Event Complex  
Estes Park, Colorado  
contact: talltaillamasa@gmail.com  
www.estesparkeventcomplex.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  
www.calexpostatefair.com

**Bold type** denotes LANA sponsored events  
\* (asterik) denotes discount for LANA members

If you have an event you would like added to the Calendar of Events,  
please contact: lanaquestions@gmail.com or KathySVA@aol.com

## CALENDAR continued

### AMERICAN RIVER CLEAN-UP

September 16, 2023

Exact location TBA

Sacramento, California

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

### ALSA WESTERN REGIONALS

September 30 - October 1, 2023

Lancaster, California

contact: [labendeira@yahoo.com](mailto:labendeira@yahoo.com)

### 2023 GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND CHAMPIONS

Show, Sale & Futurity

October 6 - 8, 2023

Iowa Equestrian Center

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

[www.ilrsdthegathering.com](http://www.ilrsdthegathering.com)

### GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR

October 13 - 15, 2023

Perry, Georgia

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

### NORTH AMERICAN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

November 3 - 5, 2023

Louisville, Kentucky

[www.northamericanllamasow.com](http://www.northamericanllamasow.com)

LANA events in **BOLD** type

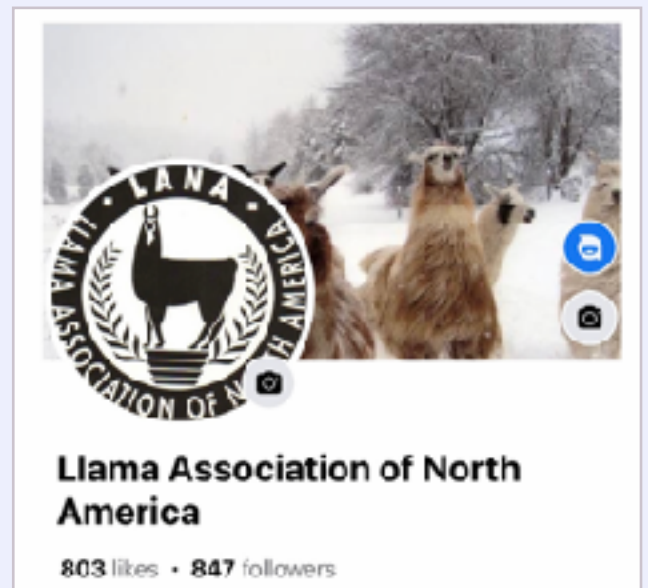
\* denotes LANA member discount

## LANA has an instagram account!

You can follow LANA  
@llamaassociationofnorthamerica



## We're on Facebook too!



### 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 NEW MEMBERS

Steven McFarland  
Happy Homestead Llamas  
Magalia, California



*Want to learn More about  
Llamas?*



Join **LANA...**



Research  
Education  
Communication

**Llama Association of North America**

*It's all about llamas, alpacas, and people  
It's all about fun!*

# 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**

**(209) 605-2055**



# LLAMAS HIKE THE BUTTES

by Stephanie Pedroni

On April 1st, LANA hosted our annual Llama Hike in the Sutter Buttes. Every year we invite vet students from UC Davis to come join us with some of our llamas for a day hike, and the turn out this year was spectacular! I think the final count ended up at 13 vehicles, 18 vet students, 1 vet (our very favorite Dr. Julie Dechant), 1 professor, 5 llama folks, 11 llamas, and over 40 people in total. Whew! It was wonderful to see so many fresh faces and watch all the students turn in to giddy little kids as the llamas hopped out of trailers, vans and minivans. We had both seasoned and new llama people as well; veteran Buttes hikers included Lee Beringsmith (our organizer), Mike Kane and Greg Sykes, while Nick Stone joined us for the first time bringing five of his very well-behaved pack llamas.



After a quick caravan from the 76 Station down the road, we met up with our generous host, Bo, who is just about the friendliest person you'll ever meet. Once everyone was ready, Bo kicked things off leading us along their pastures of goats, past the most beautiful and iconic white house, and through the pasture of cows. The cows wanted nothing to do with a gaggle of 40 people accompanied by a bunch of weird woolly beasts, and took off, often looking back over their shoulders to see if we were still "chasing" them and mooing in protest.









Shortly after, we hit the first of several steep inclines and I think both llamas and people welcomed the frequent pauses to catch our breath and take pictures of the stunning views.







The weather this year was pretty spectacular; cool in the shade, warm in the sun, and just enough breeze to be refreshing as we all warmed up from hiking. Nothing at all like the “Hurricane Hike” from last year where we literally battled against gusts up to 60 mph! All the recent rain had created a few muddy spots along the hike and some of the students were woefully unprepared, ending up with wet socks and mud colored shoes. The greatest part is that no one cared a bit. They were too thrilled to be leading llamas to be upset. Another silver lining, is the the rains have created a stunning green landscape topped with huge blooms of purple, pink and white wildflowers which was such a treat.









About halfway through the 7.5 mile hike, we reached our lunch spot. Mike and I tethered our llamas in a stand of trees with a few pellets served up on frisbees as a treat, while Lee and Nick took advantage of some fence posts to tie out their crew. Most people spread out on the various boulders to relax and eat lunch, while Nick pulled out and assembled a reclining camp chair from one of his packs and took a quick snooze. You can spot a professional packer when you see one, lol!







After lunch we started back down the mountain with many vet students calling dibs and swapping who got to walk which llama. One watchful vet student came over just as I was getting my llamas ready to head out, asking if I needed any help and then slipping in that he was really hoping to walk Sno. Well played sir! It's so rewarding to watch people be truly enamored with these animals that we love so much.







With last year's winds no one was in the mood to stop and explore so close to getting back down to the respite of our cars. So, a new experience for me this year was stopping at what remains of an encampment built by Major General John C Fremont and his expedition while marching from Klamath Lake to Sonoma during the Bear Flag Uprising which resulted in the acquisition of California from Mexico. You can still see remains of a few hand-laid stone walls and Bo has found metal ox shoes and shoeing nails at the site. John C. Fremont was also the founder of the Californian Republican Party and ran for the 1856 Presidential election against James Buchanan. Everyone jumped right in and led their llamas all through the site, checking it out. What a cool piece of history!







As the afternoon drew to a close, students eagerly helped us take off packs and got in some last minute group photos before heading home. I hit the road pleasantly tired with a grin on my face and two very tired llamas who have been actively avoiding me ever since, ha!! I am so grateful to both Lee for organizing this wonderful annual event and to Bo for generously welcoming us on to her private land each year. It's such a wonderful opportunity to expose future vets to llamas, but it's also incredibly rejuvenating to spend time in such a beautiful place, and honestly, just a whole lot of fun! We hope you'll join us in early April next year — stay tuned for the actual date early next year.



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# LANA

*Youth Writing  
&  
Art Contest*

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*LANA invites youth members of all ages to submit an article on any camelid-related topic of interest to the youth. Younger members (11 years and younger) are also invited to submit a piece of original artwork.*

*Written pieces should be 1000 words or less with four pictures or less. If completed on the computer, written pieces should be written in Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced, with the author's name on each page in the header. Pictures or scanned artwork should be submitted as .jpeg files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. The content should be the original work of the youth. Written pieces and scanned artwork should be submitted electronically to Sue Rich at [susan.rich9631@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rich9631@gmail.com).*

*One winner from each of the four age categories (sub-junior; junior; intermediate; and senior) may be selected twice a year.*

**Submission due: May 1st**

**November 1st**

*Winners will receive a \$25 cash prize and written pieces and artwork will be published in the LANA Newsletter and posted on the LANA website.*



# **SHEARING FOR COMFORT AND SHOW**

**BY CYNDY COREY RODRIGUEZ**

**AND ESTHERSUE SYKES**

## **HEALTH**

The number one reason to shear all llamas is to keep your animals comfortable and healthy. Shearing is a must for any llama in a climate which can have several hot and humid days. It is important to shear the body starting at the arm pits and ending with the flank area. Shearing too close can result in sunburn. A daily slathering of sunscreen is recommended until the fiber grows out a bit. This is especially true of white or pink skinned llamas.

## **MEASURE TWICE, CUT ONCE**

Start out slowly. A basic barrel cut is your first choice. This is the prime fiber for use as well as the most important area to shear for keeping the llama cool. If you are going to use this fiber try not to have second cuts to the length. Stand back and evaluate.

## **EVALUATE YOUR LLAMA**

Put your hands on, have another person lead and stand your animal. Watch them in the field. Look at the top line, length of neck, tail set and leg conformation. All of these factors will have a play in the type of cut you give your llama.

## **DIFFERENT CUTS**

Make adjustments for length of neck, not so straight top line or low tail set. Use thinning shears for minor adjustments to fiber thickness and blending. Think of your llama's comfort and possibly add a neck strip. You can lengthen the neck by shearing up close to the base of the neck. You don't want to shear clear to the tail if the animal has a low rail set. You can shorten the back by not shearing too far forward or back.

When getting ready to shear, be sure your shears are sharp and that you have extra blades and Blade Wash. There are several kinds of shears including scissors, cordless shears, large animal clippers and smaller electric clippers. It helps to blow your llama out before you begin clipping.

This will help keep your shears from getting dull too quickly and will open the fiber so that it is easier to get to the base of the coat. Some people like to leave quite a bit of fiber length. This is best achieved by using scissors and smoothing with electric shears. Starting at the arm pit area where there is very little fiber, shear a strip up to the top line of the back. Follow the line of the shoulder. You can feel the bone. Next, following the line of the hip, shear a strip from the flank to the top of the hip bone. Now you can take out everything else in the middle without fear of cutting too deeply into the fiber on the haunch or neck. With electric shears it is easiest to cut at the skin line. This makes a nice clean look and you don't have to worry about getting it even.



Dirty and hot blades are your worst enemy. Hot shears can burn your llama leaving scarring and do not cut well, neither do dirty shears. Regularly dip the running blades in to a plastic cup of Blade Wash. You can get this at most feed stores or tack shops. After running your blades in the Blade Wash, be sure to wipe them dry with a Terry towel. Do not try to dry them while they are running if you are using sheep shear blades. These will cut you. Any other blades can be dried while they are running.



# SPRING FIBER HARVEST PREPARATION

BY SANDY MUBARAK

Probably the most discouraging part of teaching Harvesting For End Use and Grading For End Use is getting the owner to see the importance of pre-harvest preparation through the entire growing year. There is a general lack of good pre-shearing preparation which often greatly affects the quality and value of the shorn fleece.

All through the year, and especially as fiber harvest time approaches, we should begin preparations to maximize the quality of the fiber our animals have been producing for us all year. Walk through your herd and take a long look at each of your animals. What kind of genetics is in the background of each animal? Is it fine, coarse, underdown and hair equally as fine or will guard hairs have to be removed.

This will determine whether you brush, strip, hand or electric shear. What do you want to do with that wool? Sweater or hat maybe? What else is growing on that animal? Twigs, moss, dust or sand? Parasites? We can vastly improve what isn't genetically determined by improving environment, nutrition, pasture, contamination prevention, proper bedding, eliminating plastic and foreign material contamination, avoiding seed heads in feed, proper parasite control, keeping stress to a minimum by regular handling and expecting your animal to tolerate you in their personal space. In your pastures, watch for seed and weed contamination and eliminate it from your pasture as soon as you see it, before it gets out of hand. Has your fiber been damaged due to excessive grooming, sun, weather, water damage?





Plan your shearing area well. Arrange now for bright light, good air circulation without wind to carry away your wool, clean and re-cleanable floors, sorting and storage containers and labeling supplies, shearing record forms, etc. Sufficient minimal restraint to safely shear without injury to llama or shearer are also of prime importance. Loose in corral, tied, cross-tied, restraint chute all may be choices for different animals in the same herd or even the same animal in different moods.



Collect and inspect for good repair, all grooming and shearing equipment. Are your shears sharp? Do you have spare blades, clipper lube, clipper oil, etc.? Parts need time to arrive if they need to be ordered.

Try to see the importance of pre-harvest preparation through the entire growing year. There is a general lack of good pre-shearing preparation which often greatly affects the quality and value of the shorn fleece. If you keep your pastures and animals uncontaminated and take the above suggestion seriously, you will be ready to shear and use or market your freshly shorn fleeces for optimum harvest value.

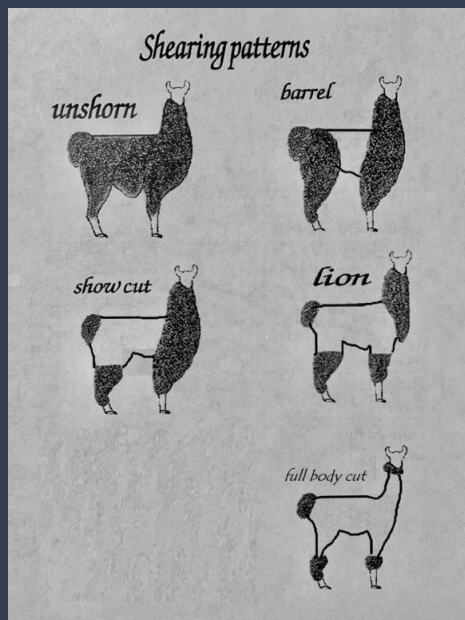
# SHEARING CLINIC

May 13, 2023

Stonehenge Llama Ranch  
Vacaville, CA

LANA Members - Free  
Non-Members - Free

Shearing our camelids is important for their health and well-being. We offer this clinic at no charge to encourage owners to learn how to give their llamas the necessary health care.



We will be demonstrating various shearing patterns, what kind of shears, blades and accessories to use and where to get them. Bring a llama and get hands on experience with an experienced shearer to guide you.

- ~ Shearing
- ~ Toenail Trimming
- ~ Deworming & Inoculations

Go to [www.lanainfo.org/forms-docs](http://www.lanainfo.org/forms-docs)  
To download the registration form



# LLAMPING AT LAKE OROVILLE

June 9-10-11, 2023

## Loafer Creek Campground

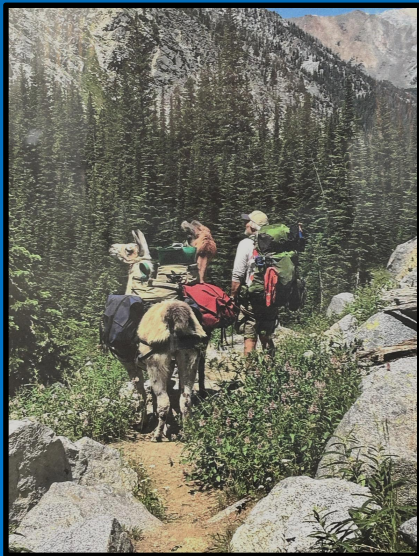
Loafer Creek Road (off Hwy 162)  
Oroville, CA 95966

LANA Members - \$125

Non-Members - \$150

### Cost includes:

- 2 nights camping
- 1 corral per campsite
- Saturday night dinner
- Hiking with llamas mini-clinic



Bring the family, some friends and your llamas for a weekend of Llamping! (that's camping with llamas ;) There are toilets and showers. RV's are fine but there are NO hookups. Generators are allowed between certain hours.

- ~ Enjoy a hike along the lake with lunch carried by your llamas
- ~ Party on Saturday night with a delicious dinner prepared campfire style
- ~ Learn a few things about hiking with llamas
- ~ Go swimming in the lake
- ~ Join us and have a great time!

Go to [www.lanainfo.org/forms-docs](http://www.lanainfo.org/forms-docs)  
To download the registration form





# TRAINING LLAMAS FOR WILLING COOPERATION

## Practical Principles and Techniques

by Bobra Goldsmith

Nothing is more delightful than a well-trained llama who is interested and willing to undertake whatever activities you ask him to do. Whether it is something as simple as taking a walk or visiting a school, going on a lengthy pack trip, a drive around your neighborhood, or to a llama show, the cheerful, willing llama proves to be a true companion. He shows best what the relationship between humans and llamas can be. How can we foster and develop this willing cooperation? Through understanding the llamas nature, or psychology, and be applying appropriate techniques in training and in handling.

While every llama has his own personality, it also exhibits to some degree the nature we associate with all llamas. I see llamas' basic nature as very intelligent, curious, extremely observant and somewhat independent, like cats, it is often said. In addition, it seems clear that they treasure their freedom of movement within their own domain. They are not particularly fearful, at least compared with some other animals. They are playful and sometimes quite physical in their dealing with each other. But their highly developed body language is their primary means of communication among themselves and with humans. Most seem to have a cheerful attitude towards life.

### **Trust and Confidence**

When we ask a llama to participate in some activity with us, such as packing, driving, or PR work, we are to an extent, imposing our desires on him. He might well prefer to sit at home admiring his llama ladies, wrestle with his buddies or do whatever else suits his llama fancy. But if we, in training, play upon the llama's innate curiosity and powers of observation, he can learn that there is a whole range of fun and interesting experiences open to him, which come in the company of his human. Llamas who participate regularly in human-inspired activities with other llamas, such as group packing or driving, develop a sense of comradeship with those llamas, even though they may not live together at home and may even be from a different farm. And yet the company of another llama is not essential for the llama to enjoy himself. How often we find with our young trainees that just going for a walk with a human is a wonderful adventure. It becomes an opportunity for discovery, and they love it.



This is the attitude we want to preserve, as the llama learns further that sometimes these adventures involve real work, or physical effort, and yes, even discipline. These lessons begin in the earliest days of basic training. By offering the trainee a series of small challenges, by showing him, with much encouragement and praise, that he can master these, the llama learns two things which overreach the individual lessons:

- 1) He can trust you when you ask him to do something new
- 2) He gains confidence in his own physical ability to do these things you ask of him

### **Avoid Boredom**

As the llama progresses and we ask more and more of him, we must be careful of several things. Repetition is, of course, important to the learning process. But llamas learn so quickly that we must not use so much repetition in the lessons that boredom sets in, for this leads to unwillingness and balkiness. It is often best to end a lesson at the point where the llama has just grasped the new idea or action, perhaps even just short of perfection in some instances. Usually at the next session you find that the lessons have been learned, and a brief review of them solidifies the llama's understanding. The action then still seems fresh to him, he is not bored and will go on to something either new or familiar with a good attitude. In fact, once a llama has learned something, broadening his experience by having him perform in varied circumstances is far superior to having him simply repeat the action over and over in totally confined, familiar surroundings at home.



How can we guard against boredom in training our llamas? The best way seems to strike a balance between the repetition which leads to discipline and perfection in performance and going out and doing something which is fun. This is not to say that the latter kinds of activities do not still afford opportunities for learning and discipline. It does not mean, either that for the fun activities we need to find a totally new route to follow each time. Repeating a familiar route can be both fun and interesting for our trainee, and at the same time its very familiarity gives the llama a sense of security and knowledge of the routing involved in the activity.



Let me cite the case of my first driving llama, Squire. When he had progressed to the point where he could be driven on local, residential streets (with an assistant alone), we would drive a particular route two or three times a week for practicing and conditioning. It was about a mile out and a mile back, with small variations possible. We encountered joggers, bicyclists, traffic, dogs and horses. As Squire became familiar with this route, he remained observant of things he saw regularly as well as the new things. Before long I found that he was watching for the noisy dog who always barked at him from behind a fence, for the two large friendly dogs who would stand up against their fence wagging their tails at us, for the cat often huddled on its porch. If these familiar things did not appear, Squire would look around as if to say, "Well, where is that cat?" Or "Where is that old dog who is usually just lolling in his driveway?" As many times as we repeated that route, Squire remained cheerful about the outing. Because of the routine, he knew that when he had completed the route, he would go home and have his rewards...his grain snack, and best of all, freedom in his pasture.

### **Physical Condition and Comfort**

Thinking Safety...making sure that nothing in the training or living situation will cause harm or pain to our llamas...should become entirely automatic with us. Equipment must fit well and cause no discomfort.

Factors which greatly affect the llama's willingness and cheerful attitude are his physical condition and comfort, which are intimately connected with his mental state. We must always consider whether our llama is physically up to what we are about to ask him to do. If the llama is young, is he physically mature enough to accomplish the task? For a mature llama the question is whether his build and current physical condition is adequate to the challenge. In either case, it is psychologically discouraging to a trainee, if we ask him to do things beyond what is reasonably comfortable for him physically. For example, to take a yearling llama along on a five mile trek with mature packers, thinking that he will gain experience and learn about packing, may have a thoroughly negative effect on the youngster. Even though he is not carrying anything, he can get very tired. Without any prior experience, he has no idea when his fatigue will end. He is very likely to become discouraged, unwilling and balky. This kind of challenge is too big for him. He is neither physically nor psychologically prepared for it. There is a pattern to the activity of packing, and he has no sense of it yet.

By contrast, when llamas who are physically mature enough are introduced to packing properly, they are taken on day hikes of increasing length and difficulty. They quickly learn the pattern and we might imagine that they understand it something like this: "Well, we take a ride to this place, my pack is loaded and put on, we walk on a trail that climbs a little, really different tasty plants now and then. Sometimes we have to cross a stream or a bridge. While our people eat lunch we get to eat a lot, or rest if we want. Later we turn around and amble back to the trailer. It always seems like home, for there's always hay for each one of us. We get our backs brushed and fluffed after the packs are off. Then we ride home and get turned out in our pasture, and that's the best part."

When the packer trainees graduate to overnight trips, the time in camp becomes the reward at the end of the day. The pattern is similar to the day hike except that each llama has his own area limited by his stake line. He has his grain, water, grass, a place to roll and relax. With a few repetitions of this type of experience, the pack llama learns the pattern of pack trips. He



knows that throughout the day's march there will be some easy parts, some difficult parts where he will have to work hard, and there are new sights to see. But he also know that at the end of the da e will have his reward. That the well-trained, experienced packer really does understand this pattern is shown in their willingness to go the extra mile, carry an extra load when necessary...and do it cheerfully. In addition, it seems clear that llamas get some enjoyment from their packing experiences, as long as they are physically comfortable.

In principle, then, if we want to preserve out llamas' cheerful and willing attitude, we must be sensitive to their mental and physical development and offer them incremental challenges which are suitable to their current state. We must avoid the kind of repetition which leads to boredom, disinterest and unwillingness. It seems best with llamas to strike a balance between receptive practice, which leads to discipline and perfection, and the stimulation of going out and doing something different and interesting.



### **Training Techniques...The Light Hand**

In the actual handling of our llamas with halter and lead rope, almost nothing is more important than developing a feel for what I call the "Light Hand" technique. This is the technique advocated by every good trainer, often expressed as "pull and release" or "tug and release," When llamas, are trained from the very beginning with this technique and are handled regularly with it, the normal result is that they go where you carry their rope. They don't "argue" with, and no heavy-handed pulling is necessary. This is because, by using a light hand, the llama becomes sensitive to such slight signals that it seems as if none are necessary. The light hand is so important, that I will say this, if it isn't already automatic in your handling of your llamas, then you should consciously practice it until it is. Again, it is a technique to be used not only during basic training but constantly thereafter, if you want a llama who is responsible and pleasant to manage.

### **Praise and Encouragement**

Llamas respond very well to verbal praise combined with a firm but gentle massage of stroking on the neck. It provides reassurance and encouragement when they are slightly nervous about a new challenge presented to them. If the technique of praises used right from the first lesson of contact with humans, the trainee feels secure during subsequent challenges and soon develops a solid trust in the handler and confidence that he can do what is asked.



## Reading the Llama's Expression

When presenting the trainee with a new challenge such as stepping onto a bridge or loading into a vehicle, give him the time to look at the obstacle before asking him to move forward. Face the llama and carefully observe his expression. By watching his eyes you can see what is attracting his attention. Especially when faced with a new kind of space, like a trailer or porch, most trainees truly “explore” the whole interior from ceiling to floor with their eyes, noticing objects and assessing the situation. Only when their attention turns away from the new object because they have finished examining it should they be asked to come forward. When they place their front feet onto the new surface, don't hurry them, and give them much praise and encouragement. They will quickly feel the they are alright in that situation.

## Insistence and Discipline

There are certain moments in training when the trainer must be firm and insist that the trainee complete some action and when the llama may need a bit of physical help. These moments occur when a slightly timid trainee has a new action partly underway and feels uncertain about whether he can proceed, or he is physically unsure of how to accomplish the act. It also occurs in the case of a spoiled llama who has not had his attention focused and has a habit of arguing and pulling away. This is *not* a matter of the trainer gritting his/her teeth in the attitude “By Gummy, you're going to do this now or else!” This is *not* bullying the llama, roughing him up, or forcing him when he is unprepared to take the next step.



A good example is the situation where the trainee is being asked to step onto a bridge which is flat on the ground. He now has two front feet on the bridge and is willing to stand there and is being praised. He is fairly at ease, but when asked to move forward and step on with his back feet, he just pulls to the side to avoid the move. This is when the trainer must hold his lead firmly under the chin, preventing the llama from stepping off the bridge with the front feet. Praise for keeping the front feet on the bridge is followed by a small pull-release command to come forward a step at a time until it is necessary for the llama to place a back foot or two on the bridge. Praise again at that point and holding steady soon teaches the trainee that he is alright in that position AND that he is obliged to do what was asked. This is where discipline enters the picture.

Llamas do have a certain logical trait which can be either a help or a hindrance in training. When first asked to jump a log or walk on a flat bridge, the llama's attitude may be, "Why should I go over that when I can just as well go around?" That same logic helps when teaching a driving llama the signals for turning. If we give the trainee the signals for turning as he goes around some substantial obstacle, the association of the signals and the action seem quite natural, or "logical" to him. Llamas learn by doing, which is partly why they learn so fast when we insist they accomplish some act.

The discipline which comes from our insisting that the trainee jump the log or walk on the bridge is essential, if we are to have a cooperative, and even a safely manageable, llama. For example, when we have taught the llama to walk on a bridge flat on the ground, then on the bridge with one end raised on a bale of hay, then with both ends raised, he is far better equipped to cross a bridge over a roaring stream five or ten feet down, or jumps a log on the trail where he does not have the option of going around. The disciplined llama will not stand there and say, "I can't." He will do the reasonable thing we ask of him willingly and naturally. He may, when necessary, do some difficult and seemingly unreasonable things with an aplomb which astonishes us afresh and deepens our appreciation of this wonderful animal.

In sum, to train for this kind of willing cooperative llama:

Think safety and comfort

Lead with a light hand

Understand and be guided by your llama's physical and mental state

Present him with a series of suitable incremental challenges

Give much praise and encouragement

Insist appropriately, when necessary, for discipline

Reward

ENJOY HAPPY WELL-TRAINED LLAMAS!



Reprinted from a previous LANA Newsletter



# LLAMA LEARNING AT LISA'S

BY Susan RICH

**“I am a butt girl, myself.”** Pretty much that is how our day started in mid-March when we, the Sierra 4-H Llama Project members and moms, went for a llama learning session at the 4R Llama Ranch of the very hospitable and gracious Lisa Labendeira. We went with the express purpose of learning more about conformation, but we learned so much more.

**“Color and heads,”** said Lisa, “that’s pretty much what people see first when they look at llamas.” And I confess, that was exactly where I went when I saw two of her little boys pastured with their mothers and other mama-baby combos. One was a lovely silver, apricot colored guy and the other a black blanketed, white with black spots, appaloosa. Lisa explained that she really liked to look at the back end of animals instead. And the conformation lesson commenced.

In profile, Lisa looks for a lower case **h**, with the neck and back in proportion.

From the head on view, she explained that legs should be in a straight line from shoulder to foot.



Teeth are certainly an important part of any animal’s conformation in that they have incredible impact on that animal’s ability to eat, grind efficiently, chew the cud, and maintain a healthy nutritional intake. So, each of the little baby boys had his time in the dental chair. With each successful catch of a youngster, Lisa patiently allowed each girl to feel the fiber and to see the difference in locks and density. Next, each little guy had the opportunity to open wide, and we took a look at the teeth and how the upper and lowers met. A conversation followed about work with “floating” the back molars, as is done with horses, and possible dental work to correct overlapping teeth.



Probably, the most dramatic lesson in conformation came when Lisa paired each of the 4-H girls with a yearling male and sent them, one by one, up the hill a ways. The first “runway” walk had the 4-Her lead the animal casually, informally, almost a follow-me-on-a-trail lead so we could watch in profile. The next run of the same animal and same girl with instruction to hold the lead lie up and move the animal out, showed how much more impressive that animal appeared to be when led forward assertively, authoritatively. Each of the llama boys stood taller and gained “presence.”





Because I have never had females, none of these 4-Hers had ever seen pregnant, soon to be mothers, nor newborn crias. In the maternity ward at Lisa's place, a mother stood with a one-day old baby, and we talked about gestation, birthing, assisting with difficult births, and nutrition for lactating mothers. Given her expertise and experience, Lisa has become a midwife of sorts, and friends in the llama community often send their expecting mothers to Lisa's place for the birthing.

The last stop of the day found us in Lisa's sewing room with two large, all metal industrial machines dedicated to the creation of llama packs — the saddles and panniers.

We left Lisa's place that afternoon, knowing we could stay all day and into the night in order to glean more from this generous lady. A huge thank you from the Sierra 4-H Llama Project to Lisa Labendeira!





Kira Vessels:  
“It was fascinating to identify the different fiber types on the cria at Lisa’s ranch.”



Charlotte Roberson:  
“I loved seeing all the babies. My favorite was the black and white spotted one because it was so feisty and cute.”

Audrey Roberson:  
“It was fascinating learning about how the different cria’s teeth were lined up.”





# STONEHENGE CLIPPER SHARPENING



Master Blade Wright  
Ralph Drew

*Have your blades sharpened by fiber people*

*Super Fast turn around*

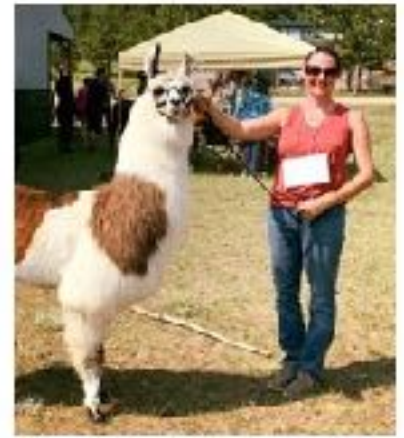
*rdrew76@yahoo.com*

*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*



## 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.





# LAMARAH

Wilton, California  
Kathy Nichols





# Llarry Not A Llama

## The Epilogue

by Stephanie Pedroni

Last summer the LANA Newsletter featured a story about Llarry Not A Llama. In case you missed it, it turns out that Llarry the Llama was in fact a alpaca whose owner had passed away and desperately needed a new home. With a team effort from Joy Pedroni, myself, Margaret Drew, LANA Lifeline and Jerry Kimbro, Llarry was removed from a bad situation, sheared for the first time in several years, checked out for a clean bill of health, neutered and has been temporarily housed ever since.

I am thrilled to report that Llarry has found his new forever home!!

Late last year, Lisa Labendeira connected me with a newly retired couple that were looking for a few alpacas to be pasture pets and interact with their young grandchildren. They had been planning this for years and finally moved to a place with a bit of land and a small shelter. While shopping around for some animals, Mary and her husband set about building the Taj Mahal for alpacas complete with a nice cozy barn, some great shady trees, perhaps the sturdiest fence I've ever seen, and a seeded grass pasture complete with in ground sprinklers. It sounded like an amazing retirement home for any alpaca, and Joy and I immediately thought of Llarry.





Mary fell in love with Larry's beautiful butterscotch color and chill personality right away and the rest is history! He's now living the good life in his forever home with two girlfriends that have formed a great little herd. Mary texts often with questions, updates and photos, and I'm 100% confident that he's in amazing hands.

Gotta love a happy ending!





# **The Components of Life**

## **Minerals and What They Do**

The major minerals in livestock are calcium, phosphorous, sodium, chlorine and potassium. An essential mineral performs specific functions in the body and must be supplied in the diet. Too much or too little of any one may be harmful or even dangerous. Check with your vet to determine which supplements to use at your farm.

### **Calcium (Ca) and Phosphorous (P)**

Calcium and Phosphorous are the most abundant minerals found in the animal. Both are found in teeth and bones. Calcium is necessary for blood clotting and muscle contraction, as well as for the function of numerous biochemical reactions in the body. All biochemical reactions, which allow the energy in food to be utilized by animals, require phosphorus.

### **Vitamin D**

Vitamin D levels are essential to the absorption and deposition of Calcium. Excessive magnesium (mg) decreases absorption, replaces calcium in the notes and increases calcium excretion. Excess calcium and magnesium causes a decrease in the absorption of calcium. Research has shown that females over the age of eight usually need a calcium increase of 30% to 35% to maintain a balanced diet.

### **Sodium (Na) and Chlorine (Cl)**

Sodium and Chlorine are found together as Sodium Chloride (NaCl or common salt) and serve to maintain proper acidity levels in the body fluid and pressure in the cells. A sodium deficiency can result in reduced growth, eye disturbances, and reproductive impairments (delayed sexual maturity in females and infertility in males).

### **Potassium (K)**

Potassium, like sodium, serves to maintain proper acidity levels in body fluids and pressure in the cells. It is also required in a number of enzyme reactions in carbohydrate metabolism and protein synthesis.

### **Trace Minerals**

Trace Minerals are listed below and supplementation is not an easy matter. They are required in only very small amounts. Some of those fed in excess may cause a deficiency in others.

### **Magnesium (Mg)**

Magnesium is necessary for utilization of energy in the body and for bone growth. An excess in magnesium upsets calcium and phosphorus metabolism.

### **Sulfur (S)**

Sulfur is a component of body protein, some vitamins and several hormones. It is involved in protein, fat and carbohydrate metabolism as well as blood clotting and the maintenance of proper fluid acidity.

### **Zinc (Zc)**

Zinc affects growth rate, skin condition, reproduction, skeletal development and the utilization of protein, carbohydrates and fat in the body. Deficiency can result in poor hair development and slipping of wool along with rough, scaly or thickened skin.

### **Copper (Cu)**

Copper deficiency can result in anemia, de-pigmentation in the hair, infertility, cardiac failure, lameness, joint swelling and bone fragility. Excess molybdenum and selenite inhibit copper utilization and storage. Toxicity has much the same symptoms as deficiency.

### **Molybdenum (Mo)**

Molybdenum forms an essential part of some enzymes. It may also have a stimulating effect in fiber digesting micro-organisms in the rumen. Excessive quantities may cause a copper deficiency.

### **Selenium (Se)**

Selenium is often a major deficiency in llamas. However, in some regions there is a surplus of selenium in the soil. Selenium deficiency results in lower fertility, an increase in retained placenta, weak crias and white muscle disease.

### **Magnesium (Mg)**

Magnesium is needed for bone formation, growth and reproduction. Magnesium is also essential for utilization of carbohydrates.

### **Iodine (I) and Cobalt (Co)**

Iodine and Cobalt are needed in trace amounts. Iodine is needed for the thyroid glands, which influence metabolism of the body. Cobalt is necessary for micro-organisms in the rumen to synthesize Vitamin B12.



# California STATE FAIR



## Llama & Alpaca Show

July 28-31, 2023

Cal Expo

Sacramento, California

Judge Tracy Weaver

ALSA Sanctioned

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

show contact [KathySVA@aol.com](mailto:KathySVA@aol.com)



# 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 apart from other llamas or alpacas.

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Standards of Care Committees, June 2005  
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