



LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America
Fall Edition 2025



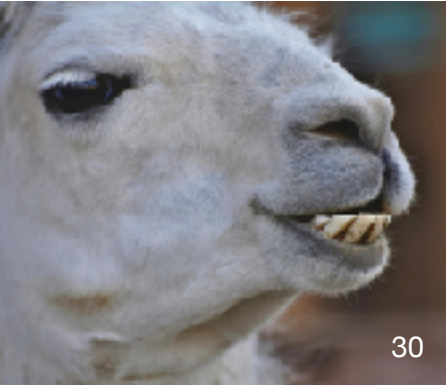


LANA NEWS

Fall Edition 2025



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Clara Brown
Windrift Llamas
Santa Rosa,
California

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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
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THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

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

Clara Brown, Eileen Ditsler, Lisa Labendeira, Rachel Lyons, DVM, Susan Rich, Cathy Spalding and Kathy Stanko

Editor's Message:

I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy Mother Nature's beautiful display of fall colors where you live.

In this newsletter, you'll find LANA's annual Youth Writing & Art Contest entries. Take a moment to appreciate the creative achievements of these young talents and recognize their hard work.

Last month, Margaret Drew hosted LANA's Fall Felting Clinic. There are many pictures of the participants' artistic endeavors along with a brief write up.

Cathy Spalding's article, titled "Taking Your Cue From Llamas and Alpacas," was previously featured in a LANA newsletter. Her articles provide timeless information that encourages us to observe our herds with keen attention.

"Planning Your Llamas' Future," a thoughtful article by Kathy Stanko, serves as a reminder to make necessary preparations for our beloved animals when we are no longer able to. Previously published in the *RMLA Newsletter*, thank you for your permission to reprint your article.

Another reprint from the *RMLA Newsletter* is the article titled "Do You Know What's In Your Llama's Mouth" from their Ask The CSU Vet Team Series. This article, written by Rachel Lyons, DVM, delves into dental issues in camelids.

LANA member Clara Brown of Windrift Llamas in Santa Rosa, California, shares her journey about how she got started in llamas.

As always, at the end of these newsletters, you'll find LANA's Next of Kin Wallet Card. Print it out, fill it out, and keep it with you. It's just in case anything unexpected happens, your animals can be taken care of.

Also, at the end of this newsletter, you'll find LANA's 2026 Membership Information. If you're not a member yet, we highly encourage you to join to support LANA's activities throughout the year, get discounts at shows and clinics, and have a say in our decisions (voting rights). If you're already a member, we'd love to have you continue and rejoin us!

Kathy

From the President

As you'll read in various sections of this newsletter, LANA has secured a new venue for our Hobo Classic Show. Those of you who have organized "stand-alone" shows know that finding a suitable location can be challenging. LANA board member Cali Roberson knew of an arena from her horse show days. She and board member Susan Rich met with the owner, visited the arena, took pictures, and shared them with the board members. Last month, I met Cali at the Diamond Bar Arena to look it over. It's a large facility with multiple outdoor arenas and an indoor arena we were interested in. This is the first time a llama event will be held there. The owner is very accommodating, which makes us feel like this is a good fit for our show. Show information is on the LANA website.

Thank you, BOD Margaret Drew, for hosting LANA's Fall Felting Clinic. The needle felting projects were fun and I can easily say, "A good time was had by all."

The LANA Youth Writing & Art contest, organized by BOD Susan Rich, saw an impressive increase in entries this year, more than doubling the number of submissions compared to last year. We are optimistic that this growing interest will continue. Thank you, Susan, for your continued dedication and commitment to LANA's youth program.

Have a wonderful Holiday season and see you next year.

Kathy

LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cali Roberson
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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.

Calendar of Events

Bold type denotes LANA sponsored events
*(asterisk) denotes discount for FOL Sponsors or LANA members

LANA'S NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK

January 1, 2026
Lagoon
Vacaville, California
contact:
www.lanainfo.org

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

January 23 - 24, 2026
National Western Complex
Denver, Colorado
<https://nationalwestern.com>

LANA's 17th ANNUAL HOBO CLASSIC

January 30 - February 1, 2026
Diamond Bar Arena
Ceres, California
contact: lanquestions@gmail.com
www.lanainfo.org

2026 WILD WEST ALPACA SHOW

GOLDEN WEST ALPACA EXPO
February 27 - March 1, 2026
Cal Expo
Sacramento, California
calpacaevents.com

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FAIR & DATE FESTIVAL

February 28 - March 1, 2026
Riverside County Fairgrounds
Indio, California
www.datefest.org

SPRING SHOWCASE

March 20 - 22, 2026
C Bar C Arena
Cloverdale, Indiana
www.ilrshows.com

IMAGINOLOGY

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

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR

May 9 - 10, 2026
Fairplex
Pomona, California
www.lacountyfair.com

HAPPY CAMPER LLAMA SHOW

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

GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND CHAMPIONS

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

GLACIER CLASSIC

July 10 - 12, 2026
Kalispell, Montana
contact: glacierclassicllamashow@gmail.com

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR

July 18 - 19, 2026
Orange County Fair & Events Center
Costa Mesa, California
ocfair.com

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

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

What's Happening in LANA

Join us for a

New Year's Day Walk

How about a fun and unique way to kick off the new year? Join LANA at Lagoon Valley Park in Vacaville, California, for a day filled with friends and llamas! Take a leisurely stroll around the lagoon and admire the wildlife. Afterward, we'll have a potluck picnic lunch. It'll be a great opportunity to catch up and share exciting plans for the new year. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information. Contact Stephanie to RSVP at stephaniepedroni@gmail.com.



We're excited to announce that the

17th Annual Hobo Classic Show

will be at a new venue



Mark your calendars and save the date! Our 17th Annual Hobo Classic Show is January 30 - February 1, 2026, at the Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, California. We're excited to announce that we're at a brand-new venue this year. And speaking of new, we've added a new class - short stack pack. LANA is happy to welcome Kohl Yankowsky from Washington as our judge. All the show details, including the show packet, entry forms, vendor application, sponsorship information, and silent auction tags, are available on LANA's website. We can't wait to see you there for a weekend of fun and entertainment. And remember, it's a no groom show!

The Youth Award of Excellence

will continue for 2026

LANA's Board of Directors has unanimously voted to continue the Youth Award of Excellence Program for the upcoming year. The award, a medallion, may be presented to a selected youth who exemplifies certain criteria: good sportsmanship, encourages peers and adults, participates in planned youth activities and "spur of the moment" activities, willingness to help show staff and exhibitors, and demeanor as youth representatives of the llama community.



Windrift Llamas
Clara Brown
Santa Rosa, California





My Journey Into the World of Llamas

By Clara Brown

My journey with llamas began in 2017 after attending the Hobo Show in Turlock. I had always admired these animals from afar, but seeing them up close changed everything. I was instantly captivated. At the time, I found myself drawn to the smaller, more compact llamas—they seemed easier to handle given my stature. Two llamas in particular stuck with me: a juvenile named “Toasty,” and a pair of smaller llamas brought by Arleen McCombs.

Once I got home, I began calling around to find a llama of my own. My first was Majestic, from Arleen McCombs of McShaggy Ranch. Coming from the dog show world, it didn’t take long for me to realize I wanted more than just one companion llama—I wanted to breed them and enter the show world. To do that, I knew I needed a mentor.

Skansen Llamas was nearby, and I already knew of their top-winning Giant Schnauzers. When I reached out to Maria, she told me very clearly that before I considered expanding my herd, I needed to be able to halter, unhalter, and handle llamas confidently—and do so daily. I told her, half laughing and half serious, “I don’t have time to dabble. I want to breed responsibly and produce quality show animals.” I asked if she would mentor me. She sternly said no, so I asked who might.

That’s how I met Lisa Labendeira. Lisa agreed to take me under her wing, and I spent three days at her home in Madera for an intensive crash course in llama husbandry. With her guidance, my adventure truly began.

By 2019, my herd had grown to six females and two males. I traveled as far as Washington and Oregon to find the right foundation animals, including a female with a female cria by side from Brenda Treibel (Bee's Llamas) and a pregnant female from Linda Boyd (Silver Knoll Llamas). I use the herd identifier Windrift, the same name as my top winning Tibetan Spaniels and Australian Shepherds. In April 2020, my first Windrift cria was born. Over the years, my "eye" for llamas has evolved, and that growth is reflected in my breeding program. One proud milestone was breeding and showing Windrift's Full Tilt Infrared to a Best in Show win at the LA County Fair—an unforgettable highlight!



But what I enjoy most about llamas isn't just the breeding, showing, or even the animals themselves—it's the people. Lisa and I have become close friends, even traveling together to dog shows on the East Coast, where we also toured several major llama ranches. Through llamas, I've been welcomed into a community of warm, friendly, and passionate individuals. Whether I win or lose in the ring, the camaraderie and connection keep me coming back.

Left: Clara and Lisa Labendeira on their East Coast trip

Lower Left: Talk of the Town NF

Lower Right: Windrift's Tumalo Petalpalooza





Windrift's Full Tilt Infrared
Best In Show
2022 Los Angeles County Fair



START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT,
JOIN LANA FOR A NEW YEAR HIKE!!



Thursday, January 1, 2026 – 10am
Lagoon Valley Park
100 Pena Adobe Road, Vacaville

Come join us for an easy 3-mile hike around the lagoon followed by a potluck picnic lunch.

Don't have a llama to walk? We've got plenty!

Large, open equestrian parking lot available for \$5/day.
Bring a card to use at the kiosk.

RSVP via stephaniepedroni@gmail.com for detailed directions, loaner llamas & food coordination

LANA's

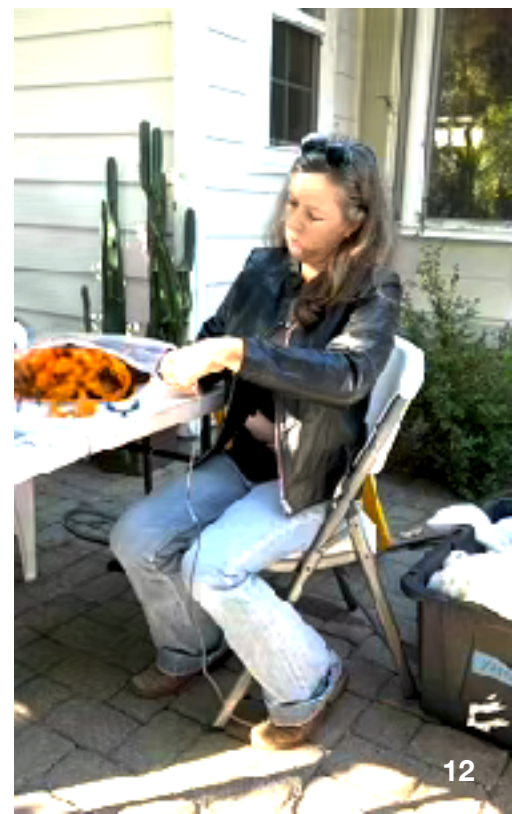
fall

Felting Clinic



On November 1st, LANA had their Fall Felting Clinic with seven adults and two youth in attendance. Margaret Drew was our instructor and host at her Stonehenge Llama Ranch in Vacaville. As we said our “hellos” and settled in, we grabbed something warm to drink and a tasty goodie.

The weather was perfect to work outdoors. Tables, chairs, and all the materials were set up in the front yard. Joy and Stephanie brought some material to share, including small bags of colored wool that were perfect size for many projects.



Margaret showed us how to make a wire frame and the steps to make an animal figurine.

Two participants decided to give it a try. They made a European hare and a horse, and their projects turned out nicely.



Pam, brought a project from home she wanted to work on, a crocheted market bag.



There were many other needle felting projects to choose from, including felting designs on dryer balls, felting on zippered bags, and crafting designs on pre-felted flat pieces cut to our desired size.

Mid afternoon, we took a break and enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch. The group agreed that Margaret's Mac n' Cheese was the absolute best we've ever had!

After lunch, we continued working on our projects. The girls, Audrey and Charlotte, with their agile hands, were quick to make all sorts of projects. It was fun to watch them create.

It was a wonderful day. We had a great time catching up with our friends and learning something new. Thanks to Margaret for organizing the event.





LANA'S HOBO CLASSIC

17TH ANNUAL

JAN. 30th - FEB. 1st, 2026

DIAMOND BAR ARENA

6055 Central Avenue

Ceres, CA



+
We're excited about our new venue!

+
ALSA Single Halter & Performance Show
Judge: Kohl Yankowsky, Washington

GET READY FOR A FUN WEEKEND!

Large Covered Arena with nice footing. Self-penning or Stalls (limited number). We've added Short Stack Pack. Pack Courses will be outside on an Horse Trail Course (weather permitting). Llama & Alpaca Best in Show. Special Price Packages. And remember, it's a **NO GROOM** show.

Enjoy the new Hobo Village set up which will host all your favorite Hobo Activities: Dinner Saturday Evening, Silent Auction, Entertaining Dessert Auction, Annual Membership Meeting, Annual Awards, and Fun Contests

Show packet, registration and other information available on LANA's website: www.lanainfo.org

Taking Your Cues from Alpacas and Llamas

By Cathy Spalding

Alpacas and llamas are keen observers of their environment and in constant communication, in one form or another, with each other as well as with their human caretakers. They communicate individually as they feel and see from their own perspective. They communicate together as a group or entire herd. Noted experts have spent considerable time studying the behaviors of the guanaco and vicuña, and the possible evolutions of specific communication — observing them wild and untamed in their natural environments in South America. By contrast, the alpaca and llama have always been subject to human management and have never been wild. There is no knowledge of the existence of a renegade herd turned wild — having somehow separated from human management. Though no expert feels certain of the



exact origins of either the alpaca or llama, they are genetically considered to be some combination of their wild cousins, including perhaps even ones that may now be extinct. It is theorized that this long evolution of domestication for the alpaca and llama includes behavioral adaptations as a result of their “forever” human management.

It is relatively easy by comparison to study a group in the wild, in their natural environment, than to study a group within an endless combination of domestic environments. The size, terrain, and climate of the environment combined with the unique qualities and styles of their human management can be a vastly different experience from one herd to the next. It would be rare that an alpaca or llama could become a member of any herd based solely on the decisions made by the herd group, much less have control of their wanderings beyond the fenced boundaries of their caretakers’ domain. We all adapt as best we might to our surroundings, our environments. Few behavioral studies have been conducted for the domesticated alpaca and llama, though certainly much information is drawn from their wild cousins. A good bit of what we know today has also come from our own personal observations.

A general understanding of your particular herd dynamics is very useful as an indicator of the overall general health and well being of your animals. It is important to know your animals as a herd as well as individuals. What are their normal groupings? Are some close pasture buddies while others many not get along well?



Are some at one feeding station and never at another? Is anyone a loner? What is the seeming social hierarchy? Who would seem to rule the pastures, and who might seem to be clinging to their last social rung? What is the normal activity for the alpaca or llama holding those positions, and what is the normal activity for those occupying the rungs in between? Who stands guard — are there several?

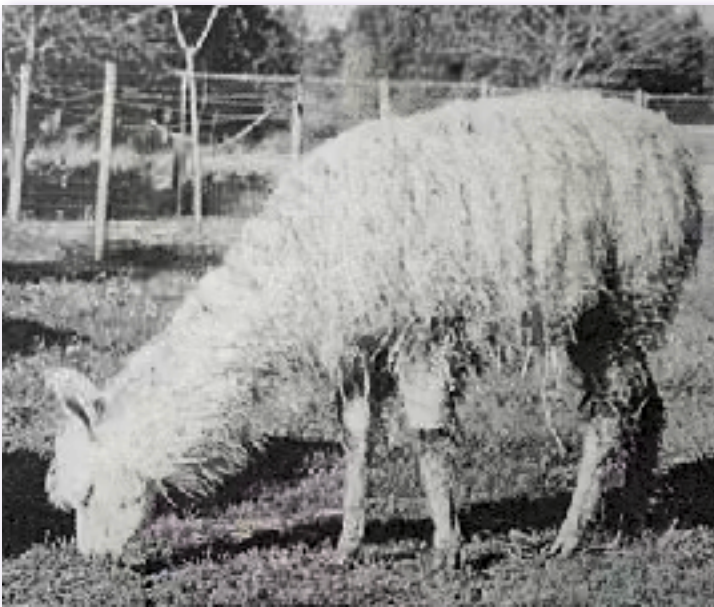
A general knowledge of your particular herd dynamics can lend information— provide a cue — that something may require further investigation. Is one who is not a loner suddenly off by itself? Is the herd queen suddenly seen to be weaker receiving spit from much more neutral herd members and backing away? Is the entire herd up and about grazing in the morning sun while one remains kushed in a shelter? Even more subtle, is the entire herd grazing and only one is kushed — kushed right there amidst the group?

This herd is grazing with only one llama kushed. It is a gorgeous day, and all seems right tight the world. Seeing this positioning from a distance, it is easy to assume that she is simply resting...enjoy the sun. She's right there with the group, but simply kushed. Though her neck in the photo is a bit forward, it would seem her facial expressions appear normal. Her ears are up and alert, and she appears interested in her surroundings. The cue in this instance, however, is that she would be kushed at all when the entirety of the herd is up and grazing. Acting upon this subtle cue to investigate further, we go out to the field and get her to rise. Taking a closer look will help us determine whether she is fine or whether there might be a potential problem.



Once up, it is clear that something may not be well with this llama. Her overall body stance is somewhat out of balance and hunched. Her eyes are not as bright and alert as we had first thought. Her ears are held at half-mast, and she does not hold her neck upright. Her facial muscles are tense, and she seems to keep her head lower than normal. Then she begins to graze.

Or does she? It appears she would like to, but is simply nosing the ground. Her face remains tense, pulling back her lower lip somewhat. Her eyes are dull and partially closed. This llama is not feeling well.



An often-repeated phrase throughout both the alpaca and llama community is: “They are so stoic. Once they show that they are ill, they are *really* ill.”

Gaining a better understanding of their many subtle behavioral cues adds an important dimension to our skills as herd managers and trainers. The above behavior — only one kushed while the rest are grazing — was our cue to simply explore further.

Does what we see, or think we see, mean that it is? Perhaps ... and then again,

perhaps not. Behavioral cues can mean different things at different times, though they should always give us cause to pause and consider the possibilities. It is important to consider the positioning and surrounding circumstances in which particular cues are noted. At one time, a combination of cues can lead us to explore health issues. Exhibited in a different context, many of those same cues can mean something else entirely. Know your herd as a group and as individuals. What is normal behavior for one may be an indicator to explore further in another.

Planning Your Llamas' Future

By Kathy Stanko

Have you noticed that life is moving fast? And with this speed, changes seem to be happening more frequently. Often, these changes are unexpected life changes such as long-term health issues or financial difficulties. Do you have a plan for your llamas' future should an unexpected change happen in your life?

For starters, as my husband and I are up there in age, we stopped breeding a number of years ago. We re-homed a few and acquired a few rescues. But we have now stopped that as well. We try to keep in mind how long llamas can live and balance that with our health and finances and with our love of llamas. Being a responsible owner is important to us. At present we have a nice healthy aging herd. We are content with this and know that we are doing the best for all.

The pets-in-wills-fact sheet from The Humane Society of the United States provides a starting place for making a plan to provide for one's animals when the unexpected happens. I have listed some major points for which all responsible animal owners should consider.





- ❖ Find at least two responsible friends or relatives who agree to serve as temporary emergency caregivers in the event that something unexpected happens to you. Provide them with keys to your home, feeding and care instructions, the name of your veterinarian, and information about the permanent care provisions you have made for your animals.
- ❖ Make sure your neighbors, friends, and relatives know how many animals you have and the names and contact numbers of the individuals who have agreed to serve as emergency caregivers. Emergency caregivers should also know how to contact each other.
- ❖ Carry a wallet "alert card" that lists the names and phone numbers of your emergency animal caregivers.
- ❖ Consider a formal arrangement with the short term and long term caregivers and the executor or personal representative of your will so that your wishes for your animals are fulfilled.
- ❖ Consider authorizing your executor to expend funds from your estate for the temporary care of your animals as well as for the costs of looking for a new home and transporting the animals to it.
- ❖ If you are considering entrusting the care of your animals to an organization, do some research first and try to make a visit.
- ❖ Before making formal arrangements to provide for the long-term care of your animals, seek help from professionals who can guide you in preparing the legal documents that can protect your interests and those of your animals.

Reprinted with permission from the author
Article originally appeared in the RMLA Newsletter

This Year's LANA Youth Art and Writing Contest

By Susan Rich, Youth Co-Chair

Let me start by saying, "Woo hoo!!" And then ask: What happened?" Suddenly, this year, we experienced a surge of submissions. We have had this contest in place for years, and, I guess, the word has gotten out. Last year, in November of 2024, we had three submissions, comprised of two pieces of art and one piece of writing. The year before also saw three submissions but this time with the numbers flip flopped: two written pieces and one piece of artwork. But this year, this year: eight! I say it again: EIGHT entries! We had the majority of them in the form of art and then the remainder as pieces of writing.

First, thank you to all the adults who informed the youth and encouraged them to participate and then ensured that the submissions made it to our inbox by the deadline. Second, kudos to all the youth who submitted. There is a lot of talent out there in our youth, and it feels really good to celebrate that with this contest.

The submitters who find their way to the Hobo Show at the end of January, beginning of February, will be honored in person during the show. The cash prizes will be handed out so that youth may participate in the auction held at the show, and certificates will celebrate their achievements during the Annual LANA Members Meeting, held Saturday night, Jan. 31, 2026.

The youth who submitted but are unable to attend the meeting will receive their awards and certificates through the US Mail shortly after the show.

Congratulations to all the youth who submitted. Enjoy reading and looking at their work as they are featured in this edition. Remember that this is an annual contest. Perhaps there are youth working with alpaca and llamas in your sphere of influence who could be encouraged to submit come November 1 of 2026. Please keep your eye out for next year's potential awardees and encourage them to participate.

Name	Division/Age	Art or Writing	Description/Title
Victoria Alvarenga	Senior - 16	Writing	Essay: "Llama Fiber"
Alexandria Foster	Intermediate - 13	Writing	Essay: "Llamas through History"
Ben Foster	Sub-Junior - 6	Writing	Poem: "I Love Llama Kisses"
Danielle Chourbagi	Senior - 18	Art	Pencil Sketch: untitled
Alexandria Foster	Intermediate - 13	Art	Pencil Sketch: "Levi's Llama"
Charlotte Roberson	Junior - 11	Art	Marker art: "On a Hill"
Georgie Aguilar	Junior (Special Needs) - 8	Art	Colored Pencil: "Me and My Llama Billy"
Ben Foster	Sub-Junior - 6	Art	Watercolor: untitled



Llama Fiber

Victoria Alvarenga, age 16

What are llama fibers used for?

Like alpaca, angora, mohair and cashmere, llama fiber is a specialty fiber. Used for spinning, felting, knitting and weaving, it can also be blended imaginatively with other fibers. Because llamas do not produce lanolin (as sheep do), their fiber has a silky hand. Llama fiber is a hollow, lanolin-free, and hypoallergenic hair that is warm, lightweight, and silky, making it ideal for high-quality garments, yarn, and weaving. It comes in two main types: a soft, fine undercoat (down) for luxurious garments and coarse, heavier guard hair for items like rope. While excellent on its own for things like weaving, the fiber can be blended with about 20% sheep wool to add elasticity and memory for knitting. The story of llama fiber in North America is an interesting one. The current enthusiasm for llamas in general began in the late 1970s. At that time, most llamas were large with a pack-style frame and a short-wool double coat. A double coat is very practical for a packer. The coarse outer guard hair helps tremendously to shed rain and debris. The downy undercoat molts annually leaving the llama light fibered for the warm summer months with enough re-growth for winter comfort

3 Types of Fibers:

LIGHT WOOL, PACK STYLE LLAMAS:

These llamas are certainly the lowest maintenance of all. They also have an undeserved reputation for having poor quality fiber. I disagree. Most light woolled llamas have a soft downy undercoat with lots of crimp. It makes a great knitting yarn where lightness, loft and elasticity are desired. There is likely to be little to no luster. The drawback is the guard hair. If the llama is shorn, all of the guard hair is harvested along with the undercoat. If left in the fleece, it will cause the yarn to be quite prickly and uninviting. For this reason, harvesting the wool by brushing the llama when molting is preferable. The guard hair does not molt so only a little will be collected, much like the hair we find in our own hairbrushes. Brushing also serves to harvest the full length of wool the llama grows. The llama will provide the break in the wool, you need merely remove it from their body. If you shear, the chances of your clippers cutting at the same point as the natural break are very small. The result can be very short, unusable fiber. The final argument in favor of brushing out the undercoat is the thrill of seeing your llama standing in the sunshine on a windy day with its lustrous guard hair blowing in the breeze.

HEAVY WOOL LLAMAS:

Heavy wool llamas typically do not molt well. There may or may not be some shedding in particular on the neck, upper legs and shoulders. Guard hair can be anywhere from very prevalent and coarse to so soft and fine as to be virtually nonexistent, requiring magnification to distinguish it. Crimp and fineness of the wool is equally variable and some llamas may have a light, mellow glow to their wool. Use of this wool will vary with the specific characteristics. It may make a fine knitting yarn for light, lofty items or be better reserved for items where drape is a more important consideration, or be reserved for weaving. Harvesting will need to be accomplished by shearing. If guard hair needs to be removed to suit the intended purpose, it can be accomplished without too much difficulty, especially if the fleece can be kept at least somewhat intact during shearing and handling.

SILKY/SURI LLAMAS:

Silky/Suri fiber llamas are the most recent type to appear on the scene. The fiber is more hair-like, straighter and more lustrous than that of woolled llamas. The Suri style hangs in distinct locks that curl into soft ringlets while silky lack the distinctive lock architecture. The fiber ranges from quite coarse to extremely soft and fine. Like Suri alpaca, it is best suited for weaving or lace knitting of lightweight items where drape is an asset and elasticity is unnecessary.



Llamas Through History

By Alexandria Foster, age 13

Agua Dulce, California

A long time ago, camelids, the animal family that includes camels, alpacas, llamas, guanacos, and vicuñas, originated in North America. Over many years, the ancestors of llamas gradually migrated south into South America, where they adapted to life in the high mountain regions of the Andes. These ancient llamas were hardy animals, perfectly suited for the cold temperatures, rocky terrain, and steep slopes of the Andean mountains.

Around five thousand years ago, people living in the Peruvian Andes became the first to domesticate llamas. These animals were extremely valuable to early civilizations because they provided wool for clothing, meat for food, and fuel from their dried droppings. Llamas were also used as pack animals to transport goods, such as grains, pottery, and tools, across the rugged terrain of the Andes. Their ability to carry heavy loads over long distances made them essential for trade between villages and mountain communities.

By around 600 C.E., llamas were being herded throughout Peru and Ecuador. They became an important part of daily life and were essential for both survival and economic activity. During the 1400s and 1500s, llamas thrived under the Inca Empire. The Inca relied heavily on llamas not only for transportation, clothing, and food but also for religious ceremonies and offerings to the gods. Llamas held cultural and spiritual significance, and images of these animals were often included in Incan art and textiles.

However, between 1519 and 1521, the Spanish Conquest brought great changes to South America. Many llamas were killed, and European diseases caused their populations to decline dramatically. Despite this, llamas continued to be used by the people of the Andes as a vital source of wool, meat, and transportation. They remained an integral part of Andean life, even as European influences began to change the landscape, agriculture, and culture of the region.

In the 1800s and early 1900s, llamas were gradually replaced by carriages, horses, and motorized vehicles for long-distance travel. Still, they remained an important part of life in the Andes Mountains. Wealthy individuals, such as William Randolph Hearst, began purchasing llamas for private estates, zoos, and public exhibitions. They were also introduced to circuses and county fairs across North America, where their unique appearance and gentle temperament made them popular with audiences of all ages.

By the year 2000, llamas had grown in popularity once again. This time, they were increasingly kept as pets, farm animals, and even therapy animals in North America and other parts of the world. Today, llamas are admired not only for their strength and usefulness but also for their gentle and friendly nature, intelligence, and ability to bond with humans. Many people keep llamas for wool production, companionship, and as part of sustainable farming practices.

From their early beginnings as pack animals in the Inca Empire to their modern roles as friendly farm companions, therapy animals, and beloved pets, llamas have played a vital and enduring role in human history for thousands of years. Their story reflects the resilience of both humans and animals in adapting to challenging environments, and it highlights the enduring bond between people and the creatures that support them.



I Love Llama Kisses

By Ben Foster, age 6
Agua Dulce, California

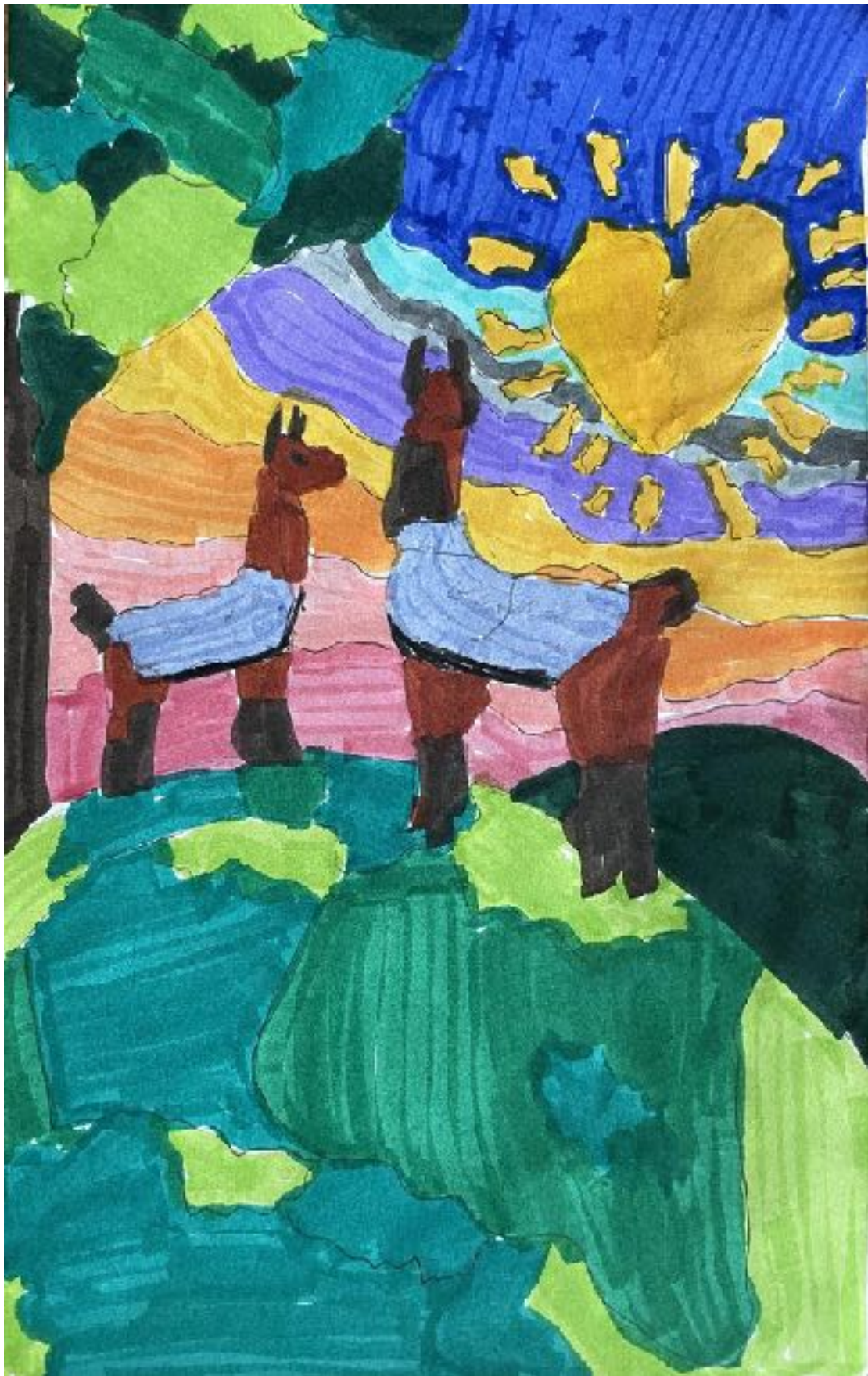
I love llama kisses
They are the best
They make me feel so blessed
Be careful of their spit
You may need a shield
That you will have to wield
Make them angry
And your fate will be sealed
They are so soft and fluffy
Llamas are the best
I love them above the rest



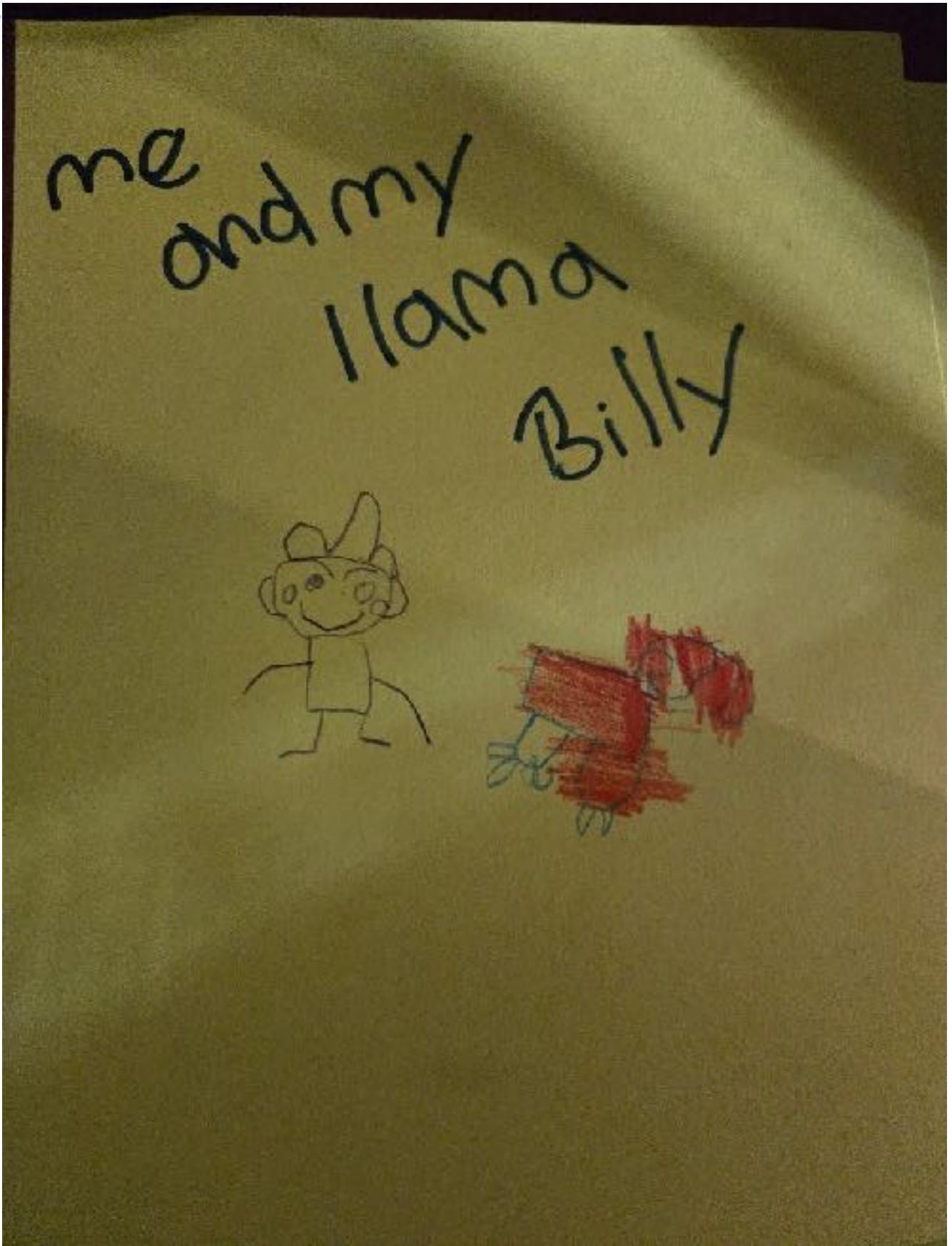
Untitled
Danielle Chourbagi, age 18
Pencil
Lancaster, California



"Levi's Llama"
Alexandria Foster, age 13
Agua Dulce, California



"On a Hill"
Charlotte Roberson, age 11
Markers
Escalon, California



"Me and My Llama Billy"
George "Georgie" Aguilar, age 8 (special needs)
Colored Pencil
Lancaster, California



Untitled
Ben Foster, age 6
Watercolor
Agua Dulce, California

Ask the CSU Vet Team: Do You Know What's in Your Llama's Mouth

By Rachel Lyons, DVM

From the RMLA Newsletter, Summer, 2021

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Dental disease is common in both male and female camelids of all ages and management conditions. Dental problems include tooth root abscesses, infection of the bone of the jaw (mandibular osteomyelitis), uneven wear, tooth overgrowth, and tooth fractures to name a few.

The dentition of llamas and alpacas is designed for grinding forages similar to other herbivores. They have incomplete sets of teeth at the front of their mouth near their muzzle with three lower incisors on each side, but only one upper incisor per side. In male camelids, the permanent upper incisor and the upper and lower canines are referred to as fighting teeth and are used as weapons during fighting other males. Females and castrated males may or may not have permanent canines.

Looking farther back in the mouth, llamas and alpacas have premolars and molars which are referred to as cheek teeth. There are no first and second premolars in camelids, and the third premolar is frequently absent in many individuals. The fourth premolar is always present but may be smaller than the molars. Llamas and alpacas typically have three molars. The dental formula for these animals is provided in Table 1.

		Incisors	Canine	Premolars	Molars	Total Teeth
Deciduous	Maxillary (Top)	1	1	2-3	----	x 2 = 8-10
Deciduous	Mandibular (Bottom)	3	1	1-2	----	x 2 = 10-12
Permanent	Maxillary (Top)	1	1	1-2	3	x 2 = 12-14
Permanent	Mandibular (Bottom)	3	1	1-2	3	x 2 = 16-18

TABLE 1: DENTAL FORMULA

The eruption dates of the teeth are variable in camelids. The deciduous incisors and premolars are erupted at birth in full term crias, and unerupted incisors are a sign of prematurity. Please refer to Table 2 for permanent eruption dates of llama and alpaca teeth. The mandibular (lower) and maxillary (upper) cheek teeth do not completely align and contact each other. The mandibular teeth are located closer to the tongue, while the maxillary teeth are positioned closer to the cheek. Therefore, over time wear on the cheek teeth is uneven with enamel points forming on the cheek side (outside) edge of the maxillary cheek teeth and the tongue side (inside) edge of the mandibular cheek teeth. However, this type of wear is often mild and does not require routine "floating" of the teeth to a more level conformation as in horses. Regular reduction of these enamel points is not recommended, however, the incisors and canines may require routine trimming by your regular veterinarian if they become overgrown and/or sharp as described later in this article.

Signs of dental disease may include focal swelling along the jaw or sides of the face (this swelling can be soft and fluctuant or hard and boney depending upon the timeline and progression of the disease), discharge from a draining tract, pain while eating and grazing, an abnormal chewing pattern, pain on external palpation, malodorous nasal discharge, and potentially even anorexia and weight loss. A thorough physical examination including a sedated oral examination and dental radiographs (X-rays) are often sufficient to diagnose dental disease in camelids.

Incisor 1	2-2.5 years
Incisor 2	3-3.25 years
Incisor 3	3.1-6 years
Canines	2-7 years (most by 3.5 years)
Premolar 3	3.5-5 years
Premolar 4	6-9 months
Molar 1	6-9 months

TABLE 2: PERMANENT ERUPTION DATES

Depending on the underlying cause, medical treatment with long-term use of an appropriate antibiotic, surgical treatment such as tooth extraction and debridement, or a combination of these treatment modalities may be necessary to fix the problem. Most chronic dental conditions such as tooth root abscesses require surgery, so consulting with a veterinarian soon after any of the aforementioned signs of dental disease are recognized is important in a successful outcome. Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital is honored to have board certified large animal veterinary dentist, Dr. Jennifer Rawlinson, on staff to address these specialty cases. Dr. Rawlinson’s appointment and surgery schedule can be booked up to months in advance, so we recommend coordinating with your regular veterinarian and our Dentistry Service as soon as possible after a dental issue has been identified so that we can address your camelid’s needs in an efficient manner.

Multiple radiographs (X-rays) are necessary to definitively diagnose and localize dental disease in llamas and alpacas. Sedation is often required to obtain good quality films that can be used for diagnosis and interpretation, as even minor motion can obscure subtle abnormalities. The mouth will need to be held open in certain views to allow for evaluation of all of the teeth, tooth roots, and surrounding bone. In order to minimize anesthetic risks, such as bloat, regurgitation, hypersalivation, and aspiration (inhaling feed material into the airway) it is very important that camelids be adequately fasted from feed and water prior to sedation or anesthesia. At CSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital, we recommend holding llamas and alpacas off feed for 24-36 hours and from water for 12 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time. If you are unable to fast your llama or alpacas appropriately before coming in, we can provide that service for the cost of hospitalization.

Tooth root abscesses are the most common dental condition affecting camelids. Any tooth can be involved, but mandibular cheek teeth are more commonly affected than maxillary teeth, incisors, or canines. Most animals with tooth root abscesses are 5 years of age or older, but this form of dental disease can be seen at any age.

Overgrown mandibular incisors are another common problem in camelids, and they can protrude beyond the lips which may result in difficulty prehending food. Incisors should normally contact the front of the dental pad and not extend much beyond this level if they are of appropriate position and length. Mandibular incisors and fighting teeth should be routinely evaluated by your regular veterinarian and trimmed as needed for the comfort and safety of the animal, herd mates, and human caretakers. There are many proposed causes in the development of dental disease in camelids, including but not limited to genetic predisposition, diet, and other management factors. Good prognosis for dental disease depends on early diagnosis and treatment, so if you have any questions or concerns about your llama or alpaca’s mouth don’t delay and have your veterinarian involved right away!



Sierra 4-H Llama Project



2025

Llama Project Leaders: Cali Roberson and Susan Rich

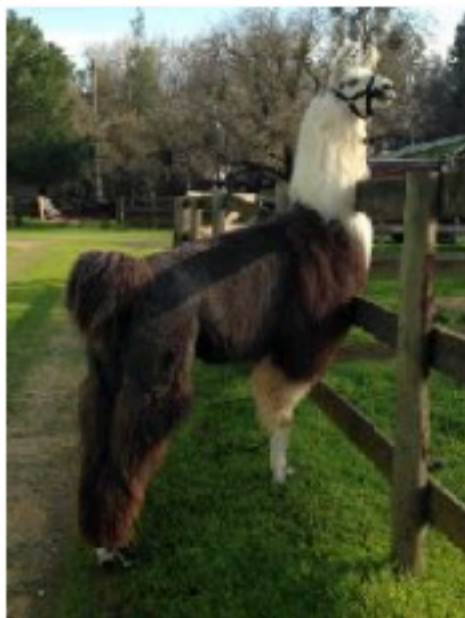
Llama Project Members: Audrey Roberson, Charlotte Roberson,
Dominic Toste, and Kira Vessels

As always, our Sierra 4-H Llama project wants to say a sincere **Thank You** to the many supporters who encourage us and gift us with the resources to care for, show, and love on llamas. Thanks to Greg Harford for trusting us with his "foster boys." Thanks to the LANA Board for providing many opportunities, activities, and adventures. Thanks to our parents who drive us hither and yon!



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.

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Llama Association of North America Next of Kin / Live Animal Alert</p> </div> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone(s) _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p><small>(If email updated or die, please contact those listed on the reverse side of this card.)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PLEASE INSURE SOMEONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EMERGENCY FEED AND WATER NEEDS OF MY ANIMALS</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Next of Kin Contacts</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____ ph. _____</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____ ph. _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Animal Care Contacts</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____ ph. _____</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____ ph. _____</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> # Llamas <input type="checkbox"/> # Cows <input type="checkbox"/> # Sheep <input type="checkbox"/> # Pigs <input type="checkbox"/> # Alpacas <input type="checkbox"/> # Dogs <input type="checkbox"/> # Goats <input type="checkbox"/> # Other </p>
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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.*