



# LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America  
Fall Edition 2024



International Year of the Camelids

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lama Friends,

The LANA Board of Directors hope that you and your loved ones, both two-legged and four-legged, are doing well and are safe from the devastating storms, floods and fires.

Thank you BOD Susan Rich for helping us observe the International Year of the Camelids. Did you all enjoy the celebratory emails? There's still more time to share your favorite pictures, so send 'em in.

Thank you BOD Lee Beringsmith for organizing LANA's participation in the American River Clean-Up. It's a good cause and a great way to promote llamas.

Thank you BOD Margaret Drew for hosting another well-attended felting clinic. The participants wet felted six-sided pumpkins. The potluck was (as one participant described it) "delish" - lots of fun stuff to eat.

It's with a heavy heart that I tell of the passing of former LANA members Gary Kaufman from Washington and Ken Sutton from California. Gary was the chair of the LANA Lama Lifeline committee for many years. Ken had also been a member of the Llama Association of Southern California and hosted shows and clinics on the ranch. We send healing thoughts to their families and friends.

Kathy Nichols  
LANA President

## LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kathy Nichols**  
President, Newsletter Editor

**Stephanie Pedroni**  
Vice President, Social Media

**Joy Pedroni**  
Treasurer, Office, Webmaster

**Sue Rich**  
Secretary, Youth

**Lee Beringsmith**  
Director

**Margaret Drew**  
Director

**Emily Muirhead**  
Director, Social Media

**Cali Roberson**  
Director

**Cathy Spalding**  
Advisory Chair

If you would like to contact any of the board members, please do so at [lanquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanquestions@gmail.com)

## LANA BUSINESS OFFICE

Joy Pedroni  
3966 Estate Drive  
Vacaville, CA. 95688  
1-707-234-5510  
[lanquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanquestions@gmail.com)

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

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

## LANA News DISCLAIMER

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## THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

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

Joy Pedroni, Susan Rich, Audrey Roberson, Cali Roberson, Dr. Bradford Smith, Dr. Karen Timm, Kira Vessels and Irv & Frieda West

IYC Photo Gallery: David Armer, Eileen Ditsler, Margaret Drew, Alyson Giardini, Lisa Labendeira, Kathy Nichols, Susan Rich and Mike Thompson

## Editors Note:

In this issue you will find a couple of older LANA newsletter articles with good information. Enjoy Susan Rich's story about her return to the annual Blessing of the Animals. Read about the LANA felting clinic and LANA's participation in the American River Clean-Up. Browse the pictures in the last installment of the IYC Photo Gallery. Thank you to everyone who sent pictures throughout the year.

*Kathy*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## NORTH AMERICAN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

November 8 - 10, 2024  
North American Livestock Exposition  
Louisville, Kentucky  
[www.northamericanllamashow.com](http://www.northamericanllamashow.com)

## NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

January 23 - 25, 2025  
National Western Stock Show Complex  
Denver, Colorado  
contact: [judy.glaser@yahoo.com](mailto:judy.glaser@yahoo.com)  
<https://nationalwestern.com>

\* **LANA HOBO CLASSIC**  
**January 31 - February 2, 2025**  
**Merced County Fairgrounds**  
**Merced, California**  
[www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)

## FLORIDA STATE FAIR OPEN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

February 14 - 15, 2025  
Tampa, Florida  
contact: [www.floridastatefairag.com](http://www.floridastatefairag.com)

## \* **LANA KIDS & CAMELIDS SHOW**

**April 12, 2025**  
**Wilton, California**  
contact: [susan.rich9631@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rich9631@gmail.com)  
[www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)

## HAPPY CAMPER LLAMA SHOW

July 19 - 20, 2025  
Hidden Oaks Llama Ranch  
Estacada, Oregon  
[columbiarivercamelids@gmail.com](mailto:columbiarivercamelids@gmail.com)

## CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW

July 24 - 27, 2025  
Cal Expo  
Sacramento, California  
contact: <https://calexpostatefair.com>

**Bold type** denotes LANA sponsored events

\* (asterisk) denotes discount for LANA members

If you have an event you would like added to the Calendar of Events,  
please contact: [lanquestions@gmail.com](mailto:lanquestions@gmail.com) or [KathySVA@aol.com](mailto:KathySVA@aol.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.



# Calling all Artists



Many of you will recognize the graphic above as it has fronted the LANA notecards sent out over the past decade or more. As the LANA secretary, I was given a large stack of printed notecards several years ago with this logo, and now ... the cards are almost gone.

So, the LANA Board is launching a contest for a new design for its notecards. This contest began with an blasted email message and ends on **November 30, 2024**. The LANA Board will select a winner at its December meeting. We will then go to press, and when the last of the old notecards are gone, the new cards will appear.

Submission parameters:

**ONE:** The graphic must be in black, white and gray tones.

**TWO:** The submitted graphic must be clearly discernible when appearing on a  
4 1/4 x 5 1/2" (the profile option) or  
5 1/2 x 4 1/4" (the landscape option)  
with allowance for a 1/2" margin around the edges.

The graphic should be proportionate to either the portrait or landscape shape designated above.

**WINNER receives a FREE 2025 LANA membership**

# LANA Membership



"LANA makes new friends"

**WELCOME TO**

**Kimberly Korff**

**Vacaville, California**



# ELECTIONS



**There are four positions open in 2025**

**The term is for three years**

**Must be a current member**

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

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



# American River Clean-Up 2024

by Cali Roberson

This September, LANA once again joined the American River Parkway Foundation for its annual clean-up day. Volunteers come from all over the Sacramento region of California to spend a day picking up trash along the American River and its many trails and bike paths. LANA Board member, Lee Beringsmith, has been involved in this project for dozens of years and led our eager group of llama lovers in this act of community service.





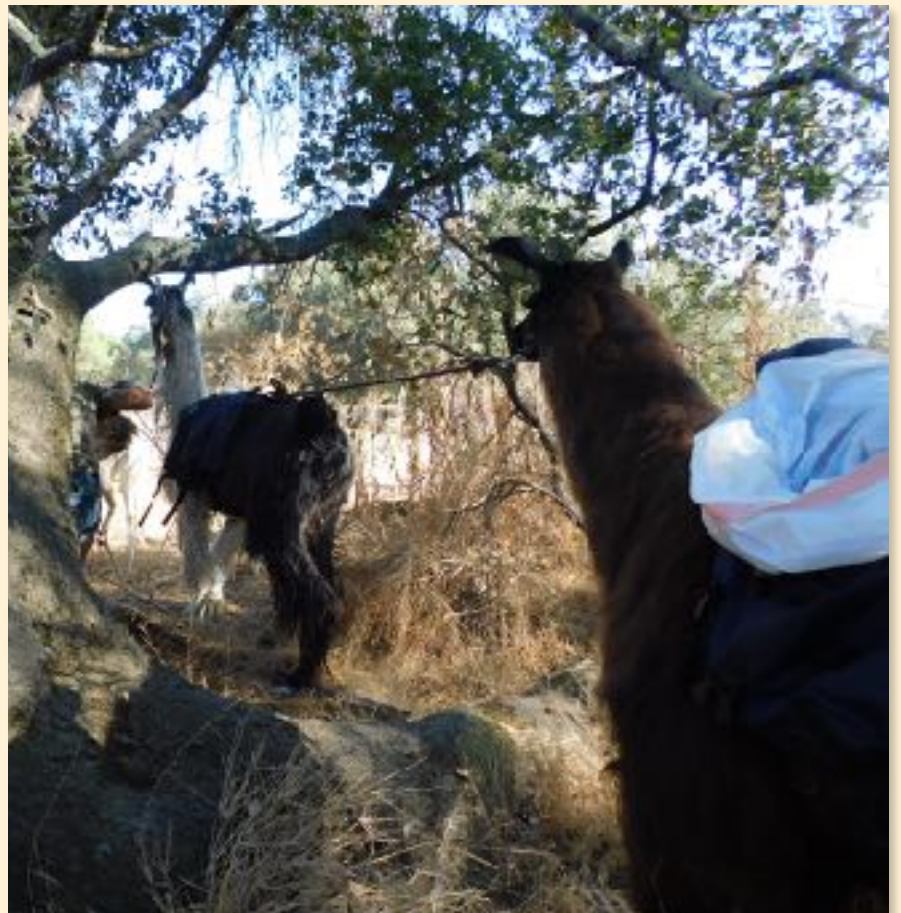
Lee chose a location known for its safety and ease of parking large vehicles. This made parking their large stock trailer quite simple for the Roberson family of Cali and daughters Audrey and Charlotte. The convenience was less necessary for Lee and his friend, Jean, and Stephanie Pedroni, who popped their well-trained llamas out of their vans. We put packs on our animals, grabbed a few trash bags to attach to the packs, and headed out to hunt for trash.







Last year, we kept close to the river and set out this year with the same plan in mind. We were confronted with orange netting that fenced off large areas in the direction we were trying to go. With 9 year-old Charlotte taking the lead, we endeavored to find a way around. Charlotte is not afraid of tackling difficult routes, and we tested our llamas' abilities to navigate deadfalls and thick brush.







After being rerouted to nearly our starting point, it was decided we should try to travel near the bike path, thinking maybe there would be an abundance of litter from the thousands that ride there.





We encountered a coyote, turkeys, and lots of inquisitive public, but not much trash! I suppose this is a great thing that people are taking care of these beautiful trails and not leaving their trash behind. Ironically, we found the most amount of trash in small parking lots...right next to trash cans.



Our public service shifted from clean up to PR. Choosing to walk along the bike path brought us into much greater contact with curious people. Our llamas were photographed, petted, and fed treats (that we provided). We all answered numerous questions and met a lot of friendly people who were very excited to see how calm and gentle llamas can be.





The llamas had an easy day without much trash to pack, but they still performed well in other areas. Stephanie brought two young llamas and strung them together for the first time. Each took a turn at being a leader and handled the experience like they'd been doing it for years. Lee's llamas are truly great PR animals, loving the pets and treats from the public. The Robersons' llamas all showed great improvement over last year, handling the passing cars and speedy bike riders without a glance.

The Clean-Up is a wonderful way to serve the community. Even if we were only able to gather a small amount of trash this year, we were able to educate and interact with people who would never have the opportunity to see llamas in action otherwise. Please consider joining us next September for this annual event. Service is more fun with llamas and friends!

# International Year of the Camelids 2024 Photo Gallery



## We're On Our Way

PFO Indy and the Giardini girls  
on their way to the  
LANA Hobo Show.

Photographed and submitted by  
Alyson Giardini



## Sisters & Brothers

Kayla and Madison Rogers  
Kaza and Jorjio

Photo submitted by  
Lisa Labendeira  
Four R Llama Ranch





## The End of a Great Trip

The end of a ten-day trip into the  
Ansel Adams Wilderness

Owned and submitted by  
Mike Thompson



## Showtime!

Crystal grooming CK Smokey.  
She's lucky I brought the step ladder!

Photo submitted by  
Eileen Ditsler  
Icehouse Llamas





## Dromedary Camel

A camel in training at the Camel Clinic  
in American Fork, Utah

Photo submitted by  
David Armer  
Waycool Llamas



## Looking Regal

WINS Hot Note  
Owned and submitted by  
Margaret Drew  
Stonehenge Llama Ranch



The World Isn't All  
Sunshine and Rainbows,  
but Llamas Make it Feel  
Like it is

Uncensored and Kayla  
hiking near Twin Lakes

Photo submitted by  
Lisa Labendeira  
Four R Llama Ranch



Exploring the Sierras  
with Manhattan

Susan and DML Fancy's Legacy  
Manhattan above

Spicer Reservoir, California

This was my go-to animal:  
Ag Days, Classrooms, Shows, Hikes,  
PR events, and my daughter's show  
animal...Manhattan did it all.

Owned and submitted by  
Susan Rich  
The Rich Ranch





## One of These Things is Not Like the Others

PFO Indy, Devon Giardini and friend

Photographed and submitted by  
Alyson Giardini



## Driving Miss Dusty

Kathy and Dusty  
in Obstacle Driving

Owned and submitted by  
Kathy Nichols  
Lamarah



# SELLING A LLAMA FROM A NEW BUYER'S PERSPECTIVE

by Irv & Frieda West

There's something a bit scary about making the leap from dog and cat ownership, to the owning of llamas. We just made that leap and — thanks to the wonderful family that sold them to us — we landed squarely on our feet.

With so many newcomers to llama ownership, I would like to recount our experience in the hopes that farm owners will be better able to identify with the first time buyer and consequently be more supportive.

Once we had done some pretty extensive reading, we made inquiries at some nearby farms. One was so high pressure that it reminded me of the salesman from whom I bought my last used car; others were somewhat distant (“just the facts, please”). Only one farm introduced the subject of support and guidance before and after the purchase. Only one!

When a person is thrust into a new situation like a llama purchase, and they are surrounded by experts in the field, they often feel somewhat intimidated, even if it is unintended. The effect is that it discourages their asking anything other than basic questions, like price, genetic line, etc. And while these “book” questions are important, there are so many more questions the owner wants to ask, relevant to their particular circumstances.



Our experiences, buying from Katrina and Gary was that — right from the outset. They encouraged us to ask them about anything, and so often as we needed to. They put us at ease by explaining that they often get calls from people who purchased elsewhere from farm owners who treated the sale as a strictly business transaction. In other words, once the contract is signed, the message was that buyer and seller go their separate ways. The Capasso's even offered to visit, look over our property, and make suggestions.

## Only one farm introduced the subject of support and guidance before and after the purchase

They did, and the suggestions were invaluable. Together we anticipated problems and found solutions before they ever became problems. By lessening the anticipatory anxiety that was an inherent part of this new adventure, they greatly enhanced the joy of the experience. They put us at ease.

Now with the llamas enjoying their new life and with some questions still coming (each answered with a comment like, “keep the questions coming”) I look back on my association with this caring family and see clearly how they made this new and exciting experience much less anxious much less than it might have been.

Despite all the books in print, and all the video tapes available, new owners will still have questions and concerns, whether or not they express them will often depend on how inviting the seller is to those queries.

As the owners (and sellers) of these magnificent animals, you have invested much time and caring in their welfare. By being available for support and guidance to new owners — before and after the sale — you extend that care and help ensure a happy future for the llamas in their new home.





# Back to the Blessing!

by Susan Rich

Last year, I noticed a marquis up on a local church in Oakdale advertising a “Blessing of the Animals.” I reached out to the pastor who was enthusiastic about me bringing in some llamas to add to the typical dog and cat attendees. I thought it went well, but I knew we were a hit when I received a text from the same pastor almost a year later (ahead of the marquis advertisement for this year’s event) that “No pressure, but if you are game to come again ...”

Three “unblessed” animals; in other words, not the same animals from the year before; entered the courtyard ahead of the scheduled start time to avoid having to bring in animals through a throng of excited canines. Cali Roberson and her daughter, Audrey, brought two young geldings: Sen-Your Don Pedro and PRL McClure, and I borrowed one of my 4Her’s animals: Catsonova.

Along with all the dogs, we had one other exotic in the courtyard of the church: a hairless guinea pig. I confess that I lied to its young owner and told her it was cute. It was not cute. But even though this was a church setting, I felt the truth was better kept to myself. She loved the thing after all, and that is all that counts.

In addition to desensitizing our llamas to the music of a keyboard, the singing of hymns, and the yapping of the canine brethren, it was a great PR event as we answered a variety of questions, provided grain for those brave enough to extend a hand, and allowed youngsters and oldsters alike the opportunity to pet a woolly neck.



*Our pen to the far corner of the church’s courtyard with the three llama boys and Cali and Audrey Roberson.*



*Cali Roberson with the program and Catsanova.*

My favorite parts:

- I just loved it when Pastor John dipped into the bowl of holy water, and blessed our animals, saying, “In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit ... “ adding as he tossed the water in the direction of the llamas, “and please don’t spit on me!”
- And it was memorable when our llamas began to hum in earnest along with the music. Not quite in tune, not really following the melody, but *a joyful noise was made unto the Lord*, as we like to say on Sunday to those of us in the pews who are tone deaf as well.
- A small white dog approached hesitantly and the three llama boys lowered their heads over the top of the porta-stalls to investigate. This little guy, maybe 10 pounds soaking wet, looked over the three and started a low growl as he slowly backed away. The larger and somewhat seasoned animals telepathically responded: “Are you kidding?” At least that is what I thought they were saying.



*And the Holy Water flies!*





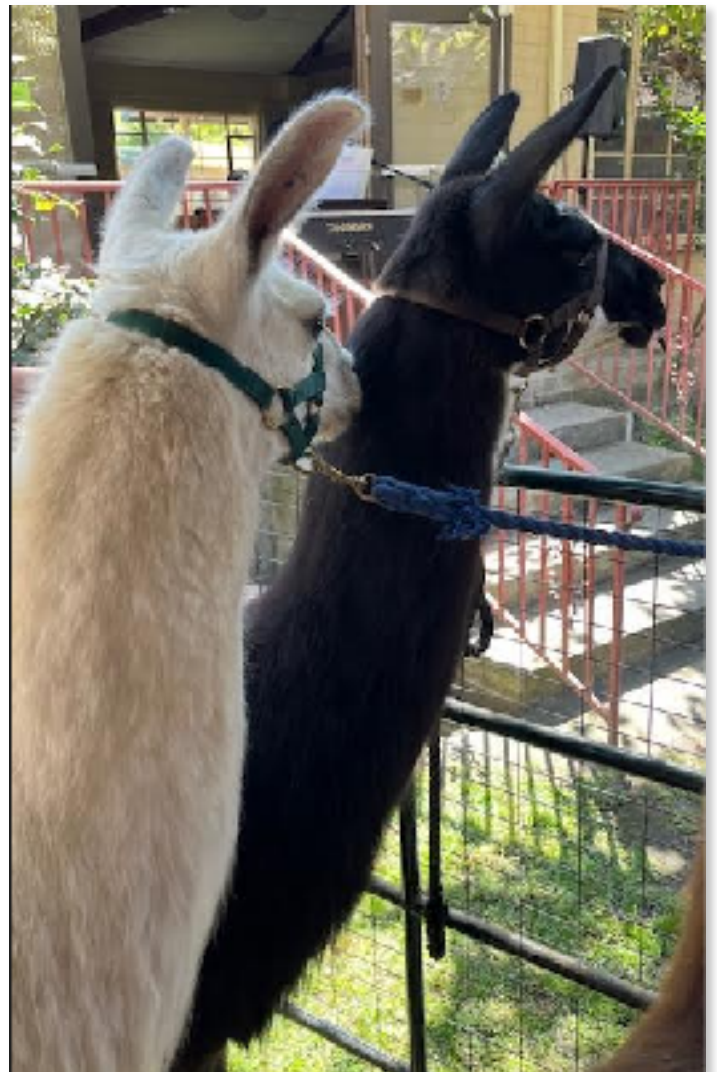
*Mother and daughter with Catsanova after the service.*



*Catsanova heading home after the service.*

This is an annual event in Oakdale to help celebrate the life and work of Francis of Assisi – the patron saint of animals. I suspect that there is likely a church near you that is celebrating this saint’s day as well, if you are looking for a new outing for your 4Hers, your animals, and yourself.

I suspect, and I hope, that we will be invited back next year as well. After all, we have not yet procured blessings on all our entire herd yet!



*Alert and watching the dogs arrive to be blessed.*



# LANA HOBO CLASSIC

**LANA's 16th Annual Hobo Classic Show**  
**ALSA Single Halter & Performance Show**  
**January 31 - February 2, 2025**  
**Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced, CA**

**SHOW SUPERINTENDENT:** Kathy Nichols

**SHOW SECRETARY:** Joy Pedroni

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

**ARRIVAL:** **Friday - January 31st**  
Arrival time for all exhibitors is  
anytime on Friday

**SHOW SCHEDULE:** **Saturday - February 1st**  
**8:00 am** Driving Classes  
Exhibitors' Meeting  
Performance Classes  
**6:00 pm** Hobo Dinner  
Annual Membership Meeting  
Annual Awards  
Introduction of 2025 Board  
Dessert Auction

**Sunday - February 2nd**  
**8:30 am** Showmanship  
Halter Classes  
Best in Show Llama & Alpaca

## **Special Price Package**

**NO Groom Show**

**Relaxed & Casual  
Atmosphere**

**Hobo attire encouraged**

**Fun Awards**

**Outstanding Silent Auction**

**LANA Annual Membership  
Meeting**

**LANA Annual Awards**

**Dinner Saturday evening**

**Dessert Auction**

**COME JOIN THE FUN!**



# **PREPARING FOR THE AGED LLAMA**

**KAREN L. TIMM D.V.M., Ph.D**

**BRADFORD B. SMITH D.V.M., Ph.D**

**College of Veterinary Medicine Oregon State University**

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Just as preparation for birthing begins before a female is bred, preparation for aging begins with proper selection of a llama and continues throughout the animal's life. The goals of caring for an aging llama are to maintain health, comfort, and reproduction for as many years as possible. Beginning with an animal that is healthy, with no obvious problems, is an excellent start.

By selecting a llama with good conformation, you'll have a great chance that the animal will remain sound as it ages as compared to an animal with obvious conformational defects such as crooked legs. Crooked legs do not provide the optimal biomechanics column of support for the animal. The usual forces acting on the joint tissues of a crooked leg tend to cause constant pulling and stretching of the tendons, ligaments and joint capsules supporting the joint. In time, the body responds with increased tissue production in the ligaments, joint capsules and bone - these are the enlarged joints of old age. The result is arthritis, pain and lameness. Some have questioned why importation screening criteria focused so heavily on leg conformation. Firstly, there was concern that poor leg structure might be heritable and passed on to future generations. Secondly and of equal concern, was the likelihood that animals imported with crooked legs would be more likely to have joint problems as they aged.

Fitness and optimal body condition is as important in the llama as it is in the human. Exercise is good for any species; it maintains good bone, tendon, muscle and ligament strength as well as helping with weight management. With a consistent exercise program, bones, tendons and ligaments strengthen along with muscles. Does this conjure up images of llamas on treadmills? That's not really what we're encouraging, but consider the llama's natural environment, llamas move to pasture daily, move around to graze and then move back from pasture to shelter at night. Moreover, some of them go for miles to get to their pastures. And this is only the animals that are not working. Those animals that are working are packing loads, at times for many miles. If your pastures are designed so that your animals can move around, especially up and down some hills, they will at least get some exercise.

This is certainly preferable to the llama that just hangs out waiting for the next serving from the pizza bar. The fat animal of any age is more likely to break down, especially at the fetlocks, than the fit animal. Besides the added stress of obesity on the joints, obesity causes the heart to work harder and can result in poor reproduction and poor milk production.

Body-scoring and keeping track of your animals weight is very important. Every time you are working with an animal you should perform a body-score assessment and make a note in its record. Minimally, animals should be body-scored every three months and as they age they should be body-scored more frequently. Abrupt changes in weight are always a concern. Separating the fat animals and putting them on a weight reduction plan is paramount. Methods of weight reduction for an obese animal (body score of 5/5) should be developed in consultation with your veterinarian. Rapid weight reduction can precipitate metabolic problems such as hepatic lipidosis and can be very dangerous for the animal. As the weight loss experts tell us, slow and steady weight reduction in an organized program is the way to go.

Actually, more common in the geriatric population, is the tendency towards weight loss. Of 36 llamas in a geriatric study (defined as over 12 years old), 55 percent were thin, with 10 being emaciated (body-score of 1). Thirty-two percent were optimal weight, 6.5 percent were fat (body-score of 4), and 6.5 percent were obese (body-score of 5). Factors that may contribute to weight loss in an older animal are bad teeth, decreasing ability to absorb nutrients, shifts in social status, and excessive milk production. It is especially important to watch for changes in the social status of aging animals. The female that was always first to the feed may get pushed out as she ages. Additionally, she may have some arthritis that causes her to be slower in grazing and moving to the feed.

Assessment of the teeth should be done more frequently as the animal ages. Dental health directly influences the overall health of the llama. Good teeth throughout life will maximize the animals ability to chew its food properly and will help with proper absorption of nutrients. Some of the geriatric llamas in the previously mentioned study had level molar arcades. This is optimal. Admittedly, the teeth were worn flat so they were not grinding as efficiently as they did when they were younger, but the animal could still chew freely. A llama that has large hooks and severe wave pattern of the cheek teeth is not going to be able to chew freely. This condition causes the animal to chew more slowly and hold balls of feed in the cheeks. Some causes of wave-mouth in older animals are so bad that no amount of corrective dentistry can come close to restoration of normal chewing.



Ideally, the llama's incisor teeth occlude with the dental pad through its life. The animal should not need to have its incisor teeth trimmed. However, if you do have an animal with incisor teeth protruding beyond the dental pad, it is very important to regularly trim to keep the teeth as close to the normal occlusion as possible. Do not wait until teeth are protruding over an inch or more before trimming. Proper occlusion of the incisor teeth and dental pad allows for ease of food intake and allows molar teeth to meet in a normal manner and wear normally. Unseen, uneven wear of molar teeth will cause chewing problems in the long term. The molar teeth should be checked regularly, starting at above age five years of age. Looking at your llama's molar teeth is not an easy task. Although you can easily check the incisors, fighting teeth and premolars, llamas' mouths generally do not open far enough to see the molar teeth without the use of sedation, a small flashlight, and veterinary assistance.

Tooth root abscesses are another concern. Anytime you're working with your llama you should run your hands along the lower jaw to make certain there is no expansion of the jaw bone which might indicate a molar abscess. In addition, a sore open area on the jaw that looks like a wound may actually be a drain for an abscessed tooth. If you have any questions about the possibility of a tooth root abscess, you should check with your veterinarian. If a decision is made to remove the tooth, remember that the opposing tooth from the other jaw will not wear normally and will periodically have to be filed as the other molar teeth wear. That opposing tooth can eventually bump the bare gum where the tooth was removed. The pain could prevent the llama from eating well. Animals with minimal teeth may need an entire dietary supplement of pellets or feeds developed for older animals. These feeds may include a liquid gruel that is used with animals whose teeth are essentially all gone. Again, we stress that preparation for aging begins with selection of the animal and continues with management throughout the animal life.

With aging, digestive processes change and efficient absorption of nutrients decreases. If you have an older animal that is losing weight and the teeth are okay, there are no social problems, the animal still moves well, parasitism is not a problem, and she is not nursing a cria, consider that she may not be absorbing nutrients as well as she used to. Boosting the nutrition of an aging animal can best be accomplished initially by increasing the carbohydrates (i.e. grains) in the diet. If the animal does not pick up weight, your veterinarian should evaluate the animal and create a plan for weight gain.

Reproduction in the aging llama can become more problematic. Some females will continue to produce a cria each year without difficulty. For example, one geriatric produced 19 cria in her 22 years! She still had

good leg conformation and good teeth, but she was no longer maintaining a healthy weight. She was retired from breeding. Some females may conceive but then lose the fetus early on, and some may be such good milkers that nursing a cria drags them too far down in body condition. Some people choose to spread out the birthing interval in older females to allow them to recover body weight before the next cria. There can be issues with lowered fertility during heavy milking, so a very long birthing interval is a possibility. Early weaning of a good strong cria is also something to consider. Remember that if you have an animal with a dystocia at any time in its life, damage to the reproductive tract can end the female's ability to have crias. Always be aware if you are assisting a delivery that the reproductive tract of the llama is relatively susceptible to damage. Recall the adage, "Do no harm," and get help if you need it.

Some features of old age cannot be prevented but certainly must be considered when managing older animals. Many older llamas develop cataracts (opacities in the lens of the eye). If the cataracts become dense, the animal can have trouble seeing. Like many elderly people, predictable patterns and familiar surrounding are more important to the older llama. Moving an elderly llama to a new pasture can cause distress that may be exacerbated if the pasture mates are unknown animals. As animals age, fiber regrowth will slow, and therefore frequency of shearing should be decreased, or shearing should be stopped. Some older animals will have such a light coat that they'll become extremely cold sensitive. Blanketing these animals in the winter will help. The older llama may also be less tolerant of high environmental temperatures and should be watched carefully on those hot summer days. It is also important to continue to manage for parasite control. Older animals' immune systems don't function as well as when they were younger. Subsequently, they may have increasing problems with parasites as compared to their middle-aged comrades. Finally, remember to keep the toenails trimmed so the toes are in proper alignment. The toe joints will stay in better shape over time.

As with any aging animal, note careful attention to the condition, attitude and overall health is important. Watch for changes in behavior, eating habits, and mobility. Check body condition, teeth, and parasite load more frequently than you did when they were younger. Above all, begin with sound, well-conformed, healthy young animals and practice good management with them throughout their lives.



# Kids & Camelids Show



**Saturday, April 12, 2025**  
**Start time 9:00 am**

**Registration deadline: Monday April 7th**

## Location:

Nichols Ranch  
12514 Plum Lane  
Wilton, CA 95693

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



Designed for Youth ONLY

No Groom

Lots of fun

Performance classes + some fun stuff!!

Part Show - Part Clinic

- Consultations with the judge
- Opportunity to practice on obstacles
- Fun stuff station(s)

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



**Show Superintendent:**

**Susan Rich**  
**(209) 847-2981**  
**(209) 605-2055**



## **LANA 2024 FIBER CLINIC**

### **by Kira Vessels, Sierra 4-H Llama Project Member**

On October 26, 2024 LANA (Llama Association of North America) hosted a delightful fiber clinic. The fiber clinic was held at Margaret Drew's ranch in Vacaville, California. The clinic began at 9:00 am and ended at 3:00pm. Guests were provided delectable breakfast treats and snacks in the morning time. Upon arrival, we gathered indoors and began working on the project. First, we sewed three layers of recycled materials (thick plastic layers) together which served as the resist for our pumpkins. While we sewed the material used for the resist together, we were able to join in conversation and reconnect with one other.

After the resist for the pumpkin had been completed, the instructor, Margaret Drew, gave us detailed instructions on how to properly felt the fiber around the resist and detailed the next steps. Our project was a Fall themed pumpkin craft that appeared to be an enjoyable project for everyone participating. There was also a needle felting opportunity for anyone interested. After receiving instructions, we journeyed outside and began to work on the pumpkins.

We started with applying a thick layer of fiber onto the plastic. We dampened the fiber with a soapy water mixture and began felting each layer. After completing one side, we flipped one side over and

repeated the process. We placed a non-stick material in between the layers to prevent the layers felting together. Once we had a thick coat using the white fiber, we were given the choice to layer over with some decorative colors.

Once all were finished, we tightly wrapped our pumpkins in plastic bags and secured them with rubber bands. The pumpkins were then put into the dryer while we enjoyed lunch. Each LANA felting clinic is potluck style meaning each guest is welcome to bring a side dish, entree, or dessert. There was a wondrous variety of food provided. We joined in conversation while eating lunch and then joined together for a group photo.

Afterwards when the pumpkins were finished in the dryer, we were given further instructions to complete our pumpkins. The next step was to cut a hole in the top. We then could remove the plastic and stuff the pumpkin with fiber to fill it out. The majority of the guests took their pumpkins home to work on them further, however some were completed. It was additionally recommended that once the pumpkin was finished to add a needle felted stem to the top of the pumpkin. Overall, the annual LANA fiber clinic was a successful event filled with fun times and great memories.



Here's what the participants had to say about the felting clinic:

I enjoyed visiting with these lovely ladies and playing with fiber. I learned that different fibers have different properties while trying to felt them.

I would love to see a finished project. I think it would have helped me to understand the process better.

Giovanna from Benicia

I enjoyed the clinic and the people. I learned how to felt a pumpkin. Thank you, Margaret, for all you do for LANA.

Pam from Lodi

I enjoyed the instructor - she was fabulous. The instructions were easy to follow. I'm excited to see the final result.

I learned that you can not over work the fiber and keeping it wet with soapy water. Amazing group of people. Love the talents they bring. The set up and atmosphere were perfect.

Kimberly from Vacaville





I enjoyed the creative freedom with great instruction.

I learned that the project is much more pliable when you keep it wet.

Thank you so much for hosting us and sharing your great ideas and creative process with us.

Keralyn from Oakdale

I enjoyed the camaraderie of the group.

I learned a new felting technique today.

This was great fun! I finished my project and really liked the way it turned out for my first needle felting project.

Bette from Vallejo



I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to experiment with different fiber colors and textures.

I learned that it is important to separate the layers of fiber so they won't felt together.

Thank you so much for hosting this wonderful event and allowing us to experiment with fiber creations.

Kira from Oakdale



I enjoyed gathering together with friends.  
I learned the method for making a multi-sided,  
three-dimensional pumpkin. It was fun to learn.  
Thank you, Margaret!

Cali from Escalon

I enjoyed adding color to my pumpkin.  
I learned how to make fairy pumpkins.  
Thank you, Miss Margaret!

Audrey from Escalon

I enjoyed that we were probably gonna be  
making pumpkins.

I learned it takes time.

Thank you soooo much!

Charlotte from Escalon

I enjoyed visiting with so many friends and  
making some new ones.

I learned about the multi-page resist  
technique.

Thank you, Margaret Drew, for a fabulous  
day.

Joy from Vacaville







I enjoyed visiting with new friends and my long-time friend, Sue. I loved being outdoors with such a nice group of people. I learned something I had never done before and how labor-intensive wet felting is. It takes time and patience.

I appreciate the time and effort from our hostess, Margaret, to make the workshop happen.

Debbie from Antioch



I enjoyed escaping for a day of creative fun under the canopy of beautiful trees with engaging friends and their canine companions.

I learned how to create multi-faceted projects.

I experienced that different fibers behaved differently when trying to felt them.

I relearned that felting takes patience and room to make a wet, soapy mess!

I so appreciate Margaret's hospitality. Not only does she open her incredible home and grounds, but the time to prepare for us was a generous gift. She is patient and funny and so giving of her time, experience and materials. I know it took a lot of prep for this one!

Susan from Oakdale







**Sierra 4-H**  
**Llama Project 2023-24**  
 Oakdale, California



This year's participants include:  
**Audrey Roberson** (far left),  
**Kira Vessels** (back row),  
**Charlotte Roberson** (middle front),  
 and **Allison Blanc** (far right)



**Llama Project**  
**Leaders**



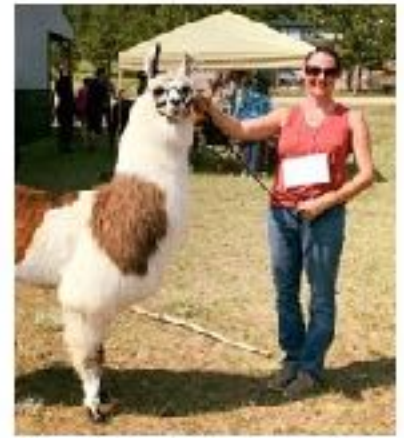
Cali Roberson



Susan Rich

The Sierra 4H Llama Project is very grateful for all the support it receives from the llama community, and we would like to thank, in particular, Arleen McCombs (for Tam), Greg Harford (for Kern and Short Stop and ranch visits), Joy & Stephanie Pedroni (for Regionals, etc.), Kayla and Lisa Labendeira (for ranch visits and sage, wonderful advice in all things llama), and Kathy Nichols (for opening her ranch for shows & playdays and lending animals).





# Black Cat Llamas

JOY PEDRONI & STEPHANIE PEDRONI



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

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





# LAMARAH

Wilton, California  
Kathy Nichols



# Minimum Standards of Care for Llamas and Alpacas

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

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

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Standards of Care Committees, June 2005  
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