



LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America
Late Summer Edition 2024



International Year of the Camelids

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lama Friends,

On behalf of the LANA Board of Directors, I'd like to thank Rondi Smith for serving as a Board Director. Rondi served almost a complete term. Cali Roberson was appointed by the BOD to fill the remainder of that term which ends at the end of this year.

BOD Lee Beringsmith has arranged for camelids and their owners to again be a part of the *Great American River Clean-Up*. At this annual event, volunteers collect garbage along the American River parkway in the Sacramento and Fair Oaks area. Check LANA's website for more information.

A Fall/Halloween-themed felting clinic is scheduled for October 26th in Vacaville, CA, taught by BOD Margaret Drew. More information will be eblasted and on LANA's website.

LANA hosted the 2024 California State Fair Llama & Alpaca Show. You can check out the results and pictures in our previous newsletter dedicated to the show. There is a link to that newsletter on LANA's website.

Is there an event or activity you would like LANA to host? We want to hear from you; we're always interested in your ideas.

Kathy Nichols
LANA President

LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Nichols
President, Newsletter Editor

Stephanie Pedroni
Vice President, Social Media

Joy Pedroni
Treasurer, Office, Webmaster

Susan Rich
Secretary, Youth Chair

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 lanaquestions@gmail.com

LANA BUSINESS OFFICE

Joy Pedroni
3966 Estate Drive
Vacaville, CA. 95688
1-707-234-5510
lanaquestions@gmail.com

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

Visit LANA at: www.lanainfo.org
Instagram @llamassociationofnorthamerica
Facebook Llama Association of North America

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THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

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

David Armer, Eileen Ditsler, Nelson Leonard, Joy Pedroni, Susan Rich, Audrey Roberson, Cali Roberson, Cathy Spalding, and Nick Stone.

Int'l Year of the Camelids Photo Gallery: David Armer, Kris Barnes, Eileen Ditsler, Alyson Giardini, Sabina Karr, Lisa Labendeira, Stephanie Pedroni, Susan Rich, Cali Roberson, and Karen Wagoner.

Editors Note:

LANA continues to celebrate the International Year of the Camelids. Enjoy a wonderful article written by David Armer about his camel Gobi. Remember to send your pictures to Susan Rich for IYC Photo Gallery. Your pictures will be eblasted and will appear on our website and in our Fall newsletter (last newsletter for IYC pictures).

Please enjoy the great reads in this newsletter. I'm always looking for stories. If you have one you'd like to share, please send it in.

Kathy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL SHOW
September 20 - 22, 2024
Noble County Fairgrounds
Kendallville, Indiana
contact: kelsimatthew@icloud.com
www.hlaa.us

2024 HLAA FALL SHOW
September 20 - 22, 2024
Noble County Fairgrounds
Kendallville, Indiana
contact: kelsimatthew@icloud.com
www.hlaa.us

GREAT AMERICAN RIVER CLEAN-UP
September 21, 2024
Sacramento, California
contact: lbering@outlook.com

2024 OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR OPEN
LLAMA/ALPACA SHOW
September 21 - 22, 2024
Oklahoma City Fairgrounds
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
contact: luckyonyx81@gmail.com
[www.okstatefair.com/competitions/
livestock.com](http://www.okstatefair.com/competitions/livestock.com)

2024 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS
September 26 - 27, 2024
Fair Park
Dallas, Texas
contact: bbbs@swbell.net
bigtex.com/livestock

2024 FALLAMAFEST LLAMA SHOW
September 27 - 29, 2024
Douglas County Fairgrounds
Castle Rock, Colorado
www.fallamafest.com

ALSA WESTERN REGIONAL SHOW
September 28 - 29, 2024
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
Lancaster, California
contact: labendeira@yahoo.com

ALSA GRAND NATIONALS
October 4 - 6, 2024, 2024
Iowa Equestrian Center
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
www.alsashow.com

ALSA SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SHOW
October 11 - 13, 2024
Georgia National Fairground
Perry, Georgia
contact: kdevaul2@gmail.com

GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIR
October 11 - 13, 2024
Perry, Georgia
contact: kdevaul2@gmail.com

2024 GOLD COUNTRY GATHERING
CALIFORNIA CLASSIC DUAL ALPACA SHOW
October 25 - 27, 2024
Glenn County Fairgrounds
Orland, California
www.calpacaevents.com

LANA FELTING CLINIC
October 26, 2024
Stonehenge Llama Ranch
Vacaville, California
www.lanainfo.org

LANA YOUTH WRITING & ART CONTEST
Deadline: November 1, 2024
contact: lanaquestions@gmail.com
www.lanainfo.org for more info

NORTH AMERICAN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW
November 8 - 10, 2024
North American Livestock Exposition
Louisville, Kentucky
www.northamericanllamashow.com

2025 LANA HOBO CLASSIC
January 31 - February 2, 2025
Merced County Fairgrounds
Merced, California
www.lanainfo.org

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

Sharing the wonderful world of llamas and alpacas with the public

Local library visits for story time



Cleanup along the American River Parkway

Parades



Sponsoring camelid rescue through LANA Lifeline



Hiking the Sutter Buttes with wet staddlers



Established in 1981



Working with 4H Groups



Enjoying time with our llama friends and family

What is LANA all about?

Livestock (that's oemzing) with llamas



Festing clinics

Creative costume contests



Practical Shows and Playcotco



Supporting youth as they grow through the responsibility of animal care and training

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.

Reflections from Ten Years of Camel Ownership

By David Armer



Gobi – photo by D. Armer

In all the animal kingdom, the camel is truly one of a kind. It supplies people with all of the basics for human life. It is a beast of burden, companion, fiber producer, leather producer, and a source of protein, as it provides both milk and meat. There are three species of camels: the Dromedary, the Bactrian and the Wild camel. Popular misconception is that the Bactrian camel was domesticated from the wild camel or that the Wild camel is feral from the Bactrian; however, this is not true. Genetic DNA testing of the wild camel (*Genetic Status of Wild Camels 'Camelus ferus' in Mongolia*) by scientists at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, show the wild camel has 2-3 genetic difference and a 3% base difference. The Wild camel is unique for a number of different reasons, including being the only mammal that can consume and survive from salt water. The Bactrian cannot. Just like South American camelids, all three species of camels can interbreed and produce viable offspring. While often considered and classified as an “exotic animal” in the United States, the camel is one of the world’s oldest domesticated animals. For most of us in the United States, camels are a working animal and pet.

I’ve owned llamas since 1996, but I’ve always had a fascination for camels. My journey into camel ownership began in 2014 with the purchase of Gobi, a wide-eyed 3-month-old Bactrian camel. If you’ve never seen a camel calf in person, just know they are so ugly they are cute – especially during the summer when they’ve shed their coat. At 6 months of age, Gobi was weaned and arrived home. He was halter broken using the bicycle inner tube method. After one very “spitty temper tantrum” one afternoon, he could be lead willingly in about 2 sessions, was halter broken and going everywhere via trailer. From a young age, I lifted all of his feet so he would be easily handleable into adulthood. Like llamas and alpacas, camels do require toenail trimming. Gobi was also doing obstacles, just like the performance llamas I was showing at the time. Having lived in four states, Gobi has literally gone everywhere - hikes around Lake Tahoe,

walking on the beach and exploring the Cascades. One of the biggest thrills of having a camel is rein riding. While they don't have the smoothest gait, it is a lot of fun riding them when the proper ground training is taken.

One of the best parts of keeping a Bactrian camel is the fiber! As a hand spinner and knitter, this was one of my biggest draws for selecting a Bactrian. Being a native to Mongolia and living in one of the harshest cold deserts in the world, they produce an incredible fiber that averages around 14-18 microns. The down from the Bactrian is a luxury fiber, and once separated from the more course guard hair, is a delight to spin. The Bactrian, along with Cashmere (goat), is one of only two domestic/livestock fibers in the world that naturally sheds from the animal. Using a fluffer comb, the down easily separates from the guard hair during shedding. A slicker brush can also be used to help comb out the fiber during this time. They do not have to be shorn. They will produce about 4-5 pounds of usable down. Camel top can be found from most fiber suppliers. If you harvest your own, hand processing can be done, but due to the guard hair being present, its much easier to send it to a mill. Camels are also not the cleanest beasts. Some way of "tumbling" the fiber is essential for removal of debris. I most often spin camel using long draw. Due to its incredible warmth, I often spin a sport or DK weight. Camel fiber makes a great blend with other wools and fiber. One of the softest yarns I ever spun was a camel angora rabbit blend; however, due to its staple length, be prepared to spin it fast.



CAMEL FIBER
Spun/Photographed by the Author

Left: Raw Camel

Top to Bottom:

- Handspun Camel/Silk Blend Yarn
- Camel/Silk Blend Roving
- 100% Handspun Camel Yarn
- Sample Knitted Swatch of Handspun Camel Yarn

A few notes and observations from the author:

- Do your homework, attend a clinic and find a trainer. Camels are extremely intelligent. Several great hands-on camel clinics are now offered in the United States, along with several camel trainers available for 1-on-1 or group work with your camel. I halter broke Gobi myself; however, having mobile trainer Terri Bowen Lindley for a 3-day crash course in camel training, behavior and soft-touch reinforcement/techniques was one of the best investments for my camel and myself.
- Make sure your camel is trained to kush (sit) and is used to wearing hobbles. This is important, helpful and safer if the camel needs veterinary care, especially anesthesia. It was easier and safer for anesthesia to be administered to Gobi while kushed at OSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, than waiting for him to drop. Camels can and will injure themselves getting up/down during and after sedation, especially their necks.

- Make sure your veterinarian is willing to perform medical work on a camel. Gobi was the first and only camel castration for the veterinarian I was using at the time until he retired. He was willing to research, consult and perform the procedure and jump in with both feet. Since camels are considered exotics, some veterinarians will not perform veterinary care for camels.
- Read *Camel Crazy* by Christina Adams for a comprehensive look at camels all across the world, their impact in the communities where they live and the ongoing research and studies of camel milk for the treatment of autism, immune dysfunction, diabetes, etc. Even if you have no intentions of having a camel in your life, I still highly recommend you read this book! Besides an in depth look at camel culture across the world, you will be inspired by one mother's ambition to obtain camel milk for her autistic son.
- Routine Fecal Testing! Parasites are one of the biggest battles when owning camels and a major killer of camels in the United States. Depending on your environment and the season, routine fecal testing helps manage these numbers accordingly and keeps your camel healthy.
- No Bottle Babies! Raising a young camel on the bottle doesn't make it any gentler or handleable than a mother raised one. Just like young llamas and alpacas, a bottle raised camel can develop obnoxious, dangerous and even deadly behaviors. You'll spend more time teaching corrective behaviors than training new ones.
- You own a camel. No matter where you go, you will always turn heads and attract the public... Even for a walk at 6am, when you think no one will be around. Be prepared to always "talk camel" and educate the public. This is especially important from a safety standpoint. Keep this in mind also while transporting, especially open windows in a trailer. The general public will do anything to get a photo, even while operating a vehicle.
- Hardware - I use a combo rope halter/lead from Rae's Rope Halters that has special knot placements made specifically for camels. The leads are also braided into the halter. Especially when halter breaking and beginning training, camels can and will break the snaps on most lead ropes.
- Camels are powerful. Know your animal, its behavior and set boundaries for personal space. Gobi is not hand fed or given treats specifically for this reason.
- The life span of a domestic Bactrian is 40 years, some can live to be 50. Literally, a lifelong commitment for some of us. This is also important when preparing wills, trusts and end-of-life decisions. Not everyone is prepared for or wants to take on a 1300-2200 pound animal.
- Camels shed their entire coat - literally all of their hair! You and others might think they have mange. It'll grow back!

Last but not least, Gobi was a 28th birthday present from my mother. Talk about one cool mom! The journey with camels and camelids overall wouldn't be what it is today without her support.



Gobi at 4 Months old



"Merry Christmas!" Photo by D. Armer



Gobi on the beach, photo by Kelly McWhorter



Gobi in the Pacific, photo by D. Armer



Riding Gobi, photo by Dana Brothers



Camels are great for all ages! Photo by S. Kirwin



Gobi & Friends, photo by D. Armer



Gobi & Friend, photo courtesy of K. Bass



Gobi & David, photo by K. Russell

EAR FEAR

by Cathy Spalding

Spit happens! To spit would seem one of the higher levels of aggression exhibited in the normal behavioral range of alpacas and llamas. It is not something to be given — nor received — lightly. It is serious business. When the ears of alpacas or llamas are actually pinned, it is clear they have a strong opinion on something. You can almost count on spit to follow if the offender does not immediately comply.

The alpaca or llama who would spit does not seem to enjoy the doing any more than those who would be receiving. Even alpacas or llamas not directly involved in the exchange will avoid anything with spit on it. Some will even hang their own lower lips. After a good spit, alpacas or llamas will open their mouth fairly wide to “air out.” This stance is commonly called “bad mouthing.” Its mouth will look a mess with particles of stomach contents dripping here and there as it hangs its lower lip. The ears are usually at half-mast, the eyes appear somewhat depressed and the nostrils may flare. In this disgusting state, it is often left quite to itself by the rest of the herd.



The llama is exhibiting typical “bad mouthing” behavior.

Pinned ears are not the same as ears that are back. Ears that are pinned will be held tightly back and downward nearly in line with a strongly held vertical neck. For the ears to be truly pinned there must be an upward titling of the head. This facilitates the ability of the ears to lie as flat as possible against the neck as well as straightens the esophagus for a possible rise of stomach contents. Alpacas and llamas can certainly spit without tilting their head upward. Normally, the only contents of this spit would be anything that was present in the mouth at the time such as grass, grain, saliva or cud. Spit in the form of fresh stomach contents must be brought up from the stomach. By tilting the head upward, dramatic curves are eliminated along the path from the stomach to the mouth allowing a clear volley from the stomach up the esophagus and out through the mouth.



This alpaca is holding a large oak leaf in his mouth as a sort of breath mint after a good spit.

This female, Merry, is quite serious in her statement to another llama. So serious in fact that she would appear just moments from backing it up with a hearty spit of fresh stomach contents. She shows great emotion through clear and bright eyes making direct eye contact with the object of her displeasure. Her eyes seem to warn that she is not happy — quite angry in fact — about whatever is going on and her feelings best be taken seriously. Notice the combination of indicators which all come together for this expression of anger or upset. The head is tilted upward — nose in the air.



Her ears are pinned — laid back almost flat along her neck. Her neck has stiffened and is held nearly vertically straight. She appears squarely balanced over herself. Her eyes are bright and clear making direct contact with the offender in the delivery of her message. Her nostrils are flared and her lower lip is tensed and pulled under. Some of these behavioral cues could indicate something quite different were they not in concert with the others. Many humans feel concern that an alpaca or llama may spit when the ears fall back or are snapped back in combination with a seemingly unhappy facial expression. Though a situation where the ears are snapped back could certainly progress to the point of pinning and spitting, it is interesting to note that alpacas and llamas can only spit saliva, cud or whatever happens to be in the mouth in that stance. Stomach contents can be brought up for cud chewing in this position but it does not have a clear volley from the stomach out of the mouth without a much more extreme tilt of the head. Taking another look at this female, notice the position of her head as it connects with her neck. She has made a rather straight path for the clear flight of stomach contents.



This photo shows Frankie, the recipient of Merry's aggression. His response to Merry's angry stance is interesting. Frankie's eye shows he is well aware of the aggression but he is not responding with direct eye contact. He has formed a stress wrinkle under his eye. He is clearly looking at her, has definitely understood the seriousness of the situation but he maintains a more softened, non-direct connection with Merry. He has readied himself for defense should the need arise but it is interesting to note his manner. He has laid his ears back, flared his nostrils, his mouth is

open with some tension in his lips and he has tilted his head upward. All are expressed, however, with less intensity and directness than his aggressor. His neck appears more supple and less vertical. His body is a bit off balance and somewhat turned away. He is looking at her but not in a front on, direct way. And, his ears are not truly pinned. Will this situation escalate or will it diffuse? It would seem to depend on the choices Frankie will make. I wonder...could it be that Frankie's behavior represents our cue over the years for that "don't look them in the eye" belief?

LAMAZING WISDOM



PERCEPTION

The question is not what you look at but what you see.

- Henry David Thoreau

OUR EVACUATION

by Nick Stone

On the evening of Saturday, August 15, 2021, my wife and I were working in our vegetable garden when we saw a few local fire trucks heading east on Grizzly Flat Road toward the El Dorado National Forest. We live in Northern California and like most places in the west, wildfires are a common problem the time of year. Our property borders a very large BLM parcel on the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River that is choked-full of manzanita and chamise. Every time I hear sirens or see fire trucks this time of year, it gives me a slightly uneasy feeling.

A quick check on the internet showed that a fire had started a few miles east of our place in the Middle Fork Cosumnes Canyon near Caldor. Caldor was the name given to a town and mill (that no longer exists) built built by the California Door Company in the early 1900's. The company used a narrow gauge railroad to haul logs out of the mountains. I am very familiar with the area as I frequently take my llamas on training hikes along the old railroad grade.

A few hours later, the uneasy feeling in my gut went away as I saw a few fire trucks heading away from the fire going back down Grizzly Flat Road. It appeared that crews had gotten it under control. Two weeks before the fire, I had reluctantly turned in a Nevada archery deer tag. We own llamas, horses, and cattle. We have a 17 foot stock trailer, and also a four-horse slant gooseneck trailer, yet currently only own **one** F-250. If I were to take the llamas on a hunting trip to Nevada, it would have left my wife with no means to haul animals in the event of an emergency. Originally when I drew the tag, my plan was to rent a truck and leave my F-250 with my wife. My rental truck reservation got canceled due to the rental company giving preference to CalFire for trucks needed at several other fires burning around the state. I definitely wasn't happy about turning the tag back in, but it was the right thing to do.

My wife and I went about our regular business and headed to work like we normally do for the next few days. The fire continued to burn, but reports seemed to show it was somewhat contained. On the evening of August 16, I was out in the garden and felt the wind shift directions and pick up speed. I went inside to check the fire status and noticed that the community of Grizzly Flats had been given an evacuation warning. The fire was still a few miles away from us. I talked to my wife who suggested we hook up the four-horse trailer. I stayed up all night monitoring the fire and getting texts from concerned friends. From my place, I wasn't able to see any flames at that point due to the height of the trees; however, I was able to see a constant string of cars and trucks driving past our house as they evacuated.

I went to bed around 4:00 am and at 4:30 am, my phone went off with a mandatory evacuation alert from the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. I woke up my wife and updated her. She grabbed some personal belongings, clothes, important documents and loaded them into our F-250; and I loaded the horses into the four-horse trailer. At the same time, I



called my friend Jeff and let him know I was going to need help hauling the stock trailer with the llamas. He showed up shortly after and once we got my wife loaded and on her way, Jeff took the llamas and headed towards his place. Jeff had a set of pens and property that the llamas would be fine with and my wife had previously set up arrangements for boarding her horses in the event of an emergency.

I stayed behind and tried to do anything I could to make sure we would have a place to come home to. I take pride in how fire safe our place is and we work hard to clear vegetation around our home, shop and outbuildings. The majority of our siding is cement; our roofs are metal. We have two wells so I set up sprinklers on a wood deck and a few other areas to minimize impacts from embers. I parked my wife's Honda, my four-wheeler, and several other pieces of equipment in the horse field as it's pretty much bare dirt. I made a point to park them several feet from each other so that in the event one caught fire, it would minimize the chance of something else catching fire.

None of my neighbors live very close to me, but I talk to all of them regularly. To the east of me lives a couple with a young son. I texted them to make sure they were aware of the situation and they had already evacuated. To the north of me lives an 84 year-old rancher. I called him and he was aware of what was going on. He was on his tractor cutting firebreaks around his ranch. He had no intention of leaving. Shortly after my wife called and gave me an earful about not leaving. She told me she was having some issues with a few feral llamas that we had recently rescued off a large ranch. I assured her I would be along shortly to help.

Our address was under a mandatory evacuation warning until September 3rd. It was a long sixteen days. At that time we were allowed to bring all of our animals back home. During the evacuation, we were blessed to have several good friends offer places to stay for us and also our animals. I'm fairly new to the llama community and I was blown away by all of the offers of help from people I've purchased animals from to people I've just casually met at llama events.

A few of the main things I think people should be aware of if they live in an area with the potential for wildfire are:

1. **Fire-safe your property** to the best of your ability. Clear and label fuels, and mow when appropriate. Anything you can do to help out the fire crews if they have to defend your place will help.
2. **Transportation.** Make sure you have a truck and functioning trailer (tires aren't flat, lights work, etc.). When my wife first left, she called and told me about several people on horseback at an intersection down the road from our place. They did not own or have access to a trailer, so they rode their horses several miles down the road to evacuate.
3. **Handle your animals.** The majority of our animals are very easy to handle, with the exception of the feral ones we took in shortly before the fire. My main training goal after returning home was to work with them so anyone could halter them and easily load them in the event I wasn't around. It just makes life easier for the animals and anyone working with them. While evacuated, a friend texted me pictures of a llama covered in fire retardant asking if it was one of mine. Luckily, it was not. There are several groups in my area that help evacuate animals. I'm guessing they don't have much experience gathering and loading feral llamas.
4. **Animal evacuation facilities.** Try to set up a place to take your llamas in advance of being evacuated. Luckily, we had a lot of options.
5. **Reach out to your neighbors** and help them in any way you can.

International Year of the Camelids 2024 Photo Gallery



T.J.

(Todd Jeremiah)

This is T.J. back in 2007
on a packing trip with me and my family
near Yosemite National Park.

He is now 21 years old
and living out his life in retirement
with my other two llamas.

Owned and submitted by
Kris Barnes



Piper

Piper showing off her foot placement skills
at the LANA Hobo Show.

Submitted by
Stephanie Pedroni
Black Cat Llamas



Gobi at Sunset

Owned and submitted by
David Armer - Waycool Llamas



Cookie Season

PFO Lakota and Devon Giardini
with Girl Scout Troop 2710

Photographed and submitted by
Alyson Giardini



Cooling Off

EZ Cash on a hot summer's day
in Oakdale, CA

Owned and submitted by
Susan Rich
The Rich Ranch



The Ladies

Llama girls in with some
of the alpacas.
In front is Mementa, Icy Hot in
the back and Lyrical standing
beside her.

Owned and submitted by
Karen Wagoner
Singing Alpaca Farm



Charlotte & Don Pedro

A little bit of Llama Llove
from the recent
Sonoma County Fair,
Santa Rosa, California
Submitted by
Cali Roberson
Goodness and Mercy Llamas



Chariot of Fire

Kayla Rogers
and Kaza
2017 Houston Livestock
Show & Rodeo
costume class winners

Owned and submitted by
Lisa Labendeira
Four R Llama Ranch



Lazy Babies

Lazy babies bellied up
to the food.

Owned and submitted by
Eileen Ditsler
Icehouse Llamas



Cousins

4R Barbosa meets
a camelid cousin at the
2024 California State Fair

Owned and submitted by
Sabina Karr
Autumn Day Alpacas

LLAMPING AT LAKE OROVILLE

This past June, several of our LANA families gathered at Lake Oroville to spend a weekend “llamping.” The Loafer Creek Equestrian Campground hosted us for our second year of camping with llamas. The campgrounds have numerous campsites, each containing its own fire pit, pens for the llamas, and space for a tent or RV. In attendance this year were the entire Roberson and Pedroni families, along with Joy Pedroni as our master of games. There was lots of hiking, BBQing, swimming, and game playing, but I’ll let Audrey convince you why you should join us next year...

- Cali Roberson

WHY SHOULD I GO LLAMPING?

By Audrey Roberson, Age 11

Are you thinking about going llamping? It is full of fun and training opportunities. There are so many reasons why you should go llamping. Llamping is not only fun but also a great training experience for young llamas. The trails have obstacles such as water crossings, bridges, horses, and dogs. It depends on the trail you take. The views are breathtaking. The trails are not strenuous. The trails are great for letting your llama get used to the pack or carrying weight. If your llama simply needs practice being touched by people, there are plenty of people who would pet a llama. When you meet people on the trail, you get to teach them about llamas.





Llamping is the perfect place for fun. During the downtime, we played lots of card games. We played Uno, Skip-bo, L.L.A.M.A. Card game, and llamanoes. Mrs. Joy picked out 4 LANA games for us to play. In the first game, you had to shake ping pong balls out of a tissue box tied to your waist. The adults won every time. The second game was the plank. You had to bounce a ping pong ball or a whiffle ball on a wooden plank. In each round you had to bounce it 1 time, two times, three times, then four times. In the third game, you had to guess whether someone was standing on one foot or two. The last game was telestrations. It was funny seeing how the phrase evolved. When we weren't playing games we jumped in the lake. Lake Oroville is fantastic for all ages. The lake is shallow for a long distance. The bottom of the lake is not rocky or rough. It is sandy with a few weeds. Llamping is a very enjoyable experience.





New to llamas?

Sustenance by Nelson Leonard

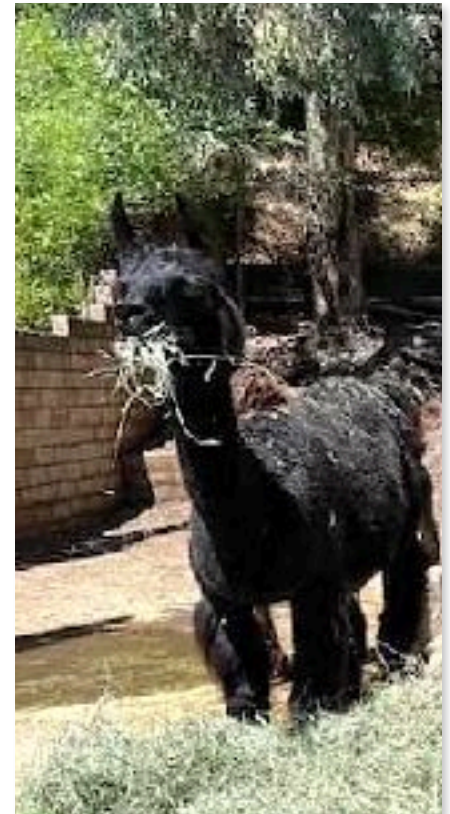
This topic is so basic and so important it almost falls in the same category as medical advice, a topic which I would prefer to leave to veterinarians. I did say “almost,” so here goes.

Food

With few exceptions the nutritional requirements of sound llamas can be met by hay or pasture, fresh water, and salt/mineral supplement mix; no pelletized food supplements or grain are necessary. Llamas make efficient use of their food so selecting a 2nd cutting grass hay, feeding 1.0 to 2.0% of adult body weight per day is sufficient. Over feeding - free choice of grass hay, feeding alfalfa hay or alfalfa/grass mix, feeding pelletized food or grain regularly - is not uncommon. Obesity in llamas can lead to health problems, and trying to take weight off one llama and not others can be a management nightmare; best not to go there. Feed a measured amount of hay each day and learn to ignore llama attempts at “guilt trips.” Lacking irrigated pasture, we feed grass hay throughout the year. Our llama paddocks support seasonal grasses, which provide llama amusement and not a lot of calories. Not having much of a life outside llamas, for several years I’ve calculated the number of llama pounds we care for and divided by the amount of hay we feed. Somewhere in there is the number of days in a year. Anyway, bottom line, our daily average feeding ranges between 1.4 - 1.6 percent of body weight. Most recently I calculated the feed for our female pasture - eighteen llamas between age one to twenty-two years (all open with no nursing babies), feeding 1.5% of body weight daily. About half maintained normal body weight and the other half gained weight to the point that I will need to cut back feed.

When we estimate our annual hay needs, we calculate one ton for each adult llama. This has provided sufficient feed for adults with enough left over for babies and weanlings.

Species composition, quality, and availability of grass hay varies tremendously from one region to another. Finding and securing good quality hay is a major focus of llama ownership. The most economical, best quality hay is 2nd or 3rd cutting grass hay. Our llamas prefer a high percentage of broad leaf grass species.





Llamas will eat 1st cutting grass hay,; however, there will be a fair amount of waste, as 1st cutting has a high percentage of coarse stems and seed heads. Though some llama owners feed alfalfa hay or alfalfa and grass mix, most owners feel it is too rich and should be avoided. Ask your veterinarian about the relative merits of one hay over another and if there are any nutritional or trace element deficiencies in local hay and what measures you must take to remedy the problem.

Selecting good quality hay has health (other than nutrition) and pasture management ramifications. Hay can contain noxious plants (such as star thistle) that may injure your llamas or the seeds of such plants. Seeds from hay can find their way into the field and reproduce plants that pose mechanical (fox tail, star thistle) and toxic hazards, or produce plants that may deteriorate the quality of forage and ground cover - plants like dog fennel or buttercup. All hay contains some trash or foreign plant material. Careful selection of hay and good field management will keep this problem to a minimum.

When pelletized feed supplements for llamas were introduced in the mid to late 1980's, most people recognized that the llamas didn't need the extra calories. We used these feeds, as this was the best solution to the problem of supplying daily requirements of trace elements and minerals. When a salt based formulation of trace elects and minerals was developed for our area, we withdrew feed supplements except for specific working or health related situations. Working llamas (pack llamas burning a lot of calories), nursing mothers (loosing weight) and some elderly llamas may require pelletized feed or grain supplementation. For the most part we have relegated feed supplements to training rewards.

Water

Llamas acquire water from moisture contained in pasture, browse, and water you provide. It is important they have access to an adequate supply of fresh water daily. The test for fresh water is simple; ask yourself "Would I drink this?" If the answer is "no," then it isn't fresh. Better yet, replace water daily.

Mineral and Trace Elements

Salt or salt/mineral supplement mix should be offered free choice. The llamas will self regulate their intake. There is a salt based mineral supplement (Llama Premix) tailored to our mineral and trace element needs in the west available through Redmond Veterinary Clinic, Redmond, Oregon. Ask other llama owners and your vet about the need for and existence of a similar product for your area.

LANA

Fall Felting Clinic

October 26, 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Stonehenge Llama Ranch
Vacaville, CA

We will be making Fall/Halloween decor

FOL members:	\$10
LANA members:	adult \$20/youth \$10
non-LANA members:	adult \$30/youth \$20

Potluck Lunch

For more information and to RSVP contact
lanaquestions@gmail.com

GREAT AMERICAN RIVER CLEAN UP

SEPT. 21ST

9 am - 12 noon

Location: River Bend Park
2300 Rod Beaudry Drive
Sacramento, CA

Register on line at
<https://apps.arpf.org/volunteer-opportunities?VO=593>



Come join LANA and other volunteers at the GARCU! We will be clearing trash and debris off the American River Parkway. Your alpaca or llama hauls out the garbage in your pack's panniers to the collection area. There is horse trailer parking at this location.



More information at lanainfo.org
or contact Lee Beringsmith at lbering@outlook.com

LANA

Youth Writing & Art Contest



LANA invites youth of all ages to submit original work for a contest:

- a piece of writing OR:
 - an article on any camelid-related topic of interest to the youth OR
 - a fictional story involving camelids OR
 - a poem about an alpaca or a llama or a herd OR
- a piece of original artwork with camelids included

NOTE: Please just one submission per youth per contest. (There are 2 contests per year.)

Written pieces should be 1000 words or less. If the author chooses to include images (illustrations or drawings or photographs), there should be no more than four to accompany the writing. The images that accompany a piece of writing will not be considered for the Art contest; they will be seen as a part of the written submission. 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 author/artist.

Submit written pieces and scanned artwork electronically to Susan Rich at lanquestions@gmail.com.

One winner for the written submission and one winner for the art submission will be chosen for each of the four age categories (sub-junior; junior; intermediate; and senior). Winners will receive a cash prize and written pieces and artwork will be published in the LANA newsletter and posted on the LANA website.

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1st



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

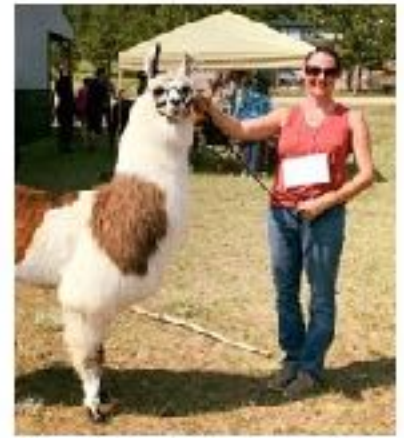


Cali Roberson



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).



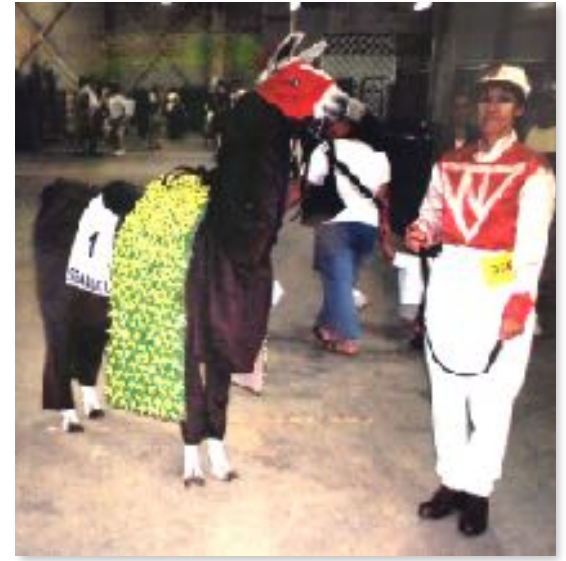
Black Cat Llamas

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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