

CONNECTION

Autumn 2020

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are suffering in these uneasy times, especially those affected by the Covid-19 virus and the wildfires roaring across our western states.



Cover photo from redrover.org, a resource for wildfire evacuees: "Bringing Animals from Crisis to Care" (see pg 17)

What's Inside:

- ♦ **Member News:**
 - ◇ 2020 Board of Directors Candidate Statements
 - ◇ Dates to Remember
 - ◇ Annual & Quarterly Membership Meetings
- ♦ Training : Llamas vs. Alpacas
- ♦ And more...

Special: AOA Articles on Emergency Planning

- ♦ *Disaster Preparedness*
- ♦ *Members Helping Members*
- ♦ *Help Emergency Responders Learn About Alpacas*
- ♦ *Catching & Handling Llamas and Alpacas*
- ♦ *Preparing the Farm and Farm Animals for Disasters*



California Alpaca Breeders & Owners Association
Connecting members to Calpaca, the industry and each other

2020 Board of Directors

President

Maureen Macedo

Macedo's Mini Acre
11175 Golf Link Road
Turlock, CA 95380
209-648-238

President@CalpacaBoard.org

Vice-President

Dianna Jordan

Alpacas of Somerset Farm
8226 Stoney Creek Road
Somerset, CA 95684
530-620-6033
530-744-7474

VP@CalpacaBoard.org

Treasurer

Jackie Jones

Back 40 Farms
Valley Springs, CA 95252
916-337-7474

Treasurer@CalpacaBoard.org

Secretary

Megan Kukla

MLK Alpacas & Friends
Fiber Farm
Sunland, CA 91040
818-606-9133

Secretary@CalpacaBoard.org

Director-at-Large

Tracy DiPippo

Angel Dreams Alpacas
14058 Sun Forest Drive
Penn Valley, CA 95946
805-432-9344

Director@CalpacaBoard.org



In California's tradition as a pioneer of progress, Calpaca was the first, and the oldest, regional, alpaca association in the Northern Hemisphere. Past and current members of Calpaca have been leaders in the American alpaca industry since 1989.

Calpaca represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences. We host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public.

We invite you to join us!

Calpaca Membership meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the second month.

Advertise in the Connection

Calpaca Members:

- Business Card: Free
- ¼ page: \$15
- ½ page: \$30
- full page: \$55

Contact Connection Editor
editor@lillette.net

Affiliations

Alpaca Owners Association (AOA)

8300 Cody Dr Suite A
Lincoln NE 68512
402-437-8484
402-437-8488 Fax
AlpacaInfo.com

Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

International Lama Registry (ILR)

LamaRegistry.com

Stay Connected!

Calpaca Website

calpaca.org

Group Emails

info@calpacaboard.org

Calpaca Facebook

Facebook.com/groups/Calpaca

Connection Editor

L'illette Vasquez

L'illy Llamas & Alpacas
170 Hoofbeat Trail
Kerrville, TX 78028
720-839-0787
editor@lillette.net

To join or renew your Calpaca membership:

[calpaca.org/
page/2572/join-calpaca](http://calpaca.org/page/2572/join-calpaca)

Cover Photo from RedRover.org

What's Inside!

MEMBER NEWS

- Message from Calpaca President [04](#)
- 2021 Calpaca Board of Directors *Candidate Statements*
 - ◊ Leanne Antaya [07](#)
 - ◊ Steve Craig [08](#)
 - ◊ Lindsay Betz [08](#)
 - ◊ Stacey Payne [09](#)

CALENDAR

- Calpaca 2020-2021 Events [07](#)
- Quarterly Membership Meetings [07](#)

ARTICLES

- Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) Disaster Planning Articles:
 - ◊ Members Helping Members [10](#)
 - ◊ Disaster Preparedness for Alpaca Owners [11](#)
 - ◊ Preparing the Farm and Farm Animals for Disasters [13](#)
 - ◊ Catching & Handling Llamas & Alpacas [18](#)
 - ◊ Help Emergency Responders Learn About Alpacas [20](#)
- Training: Llamas vs. Alpacas by Marty McGee Bennett [21](#)
- Calpaca Scholarship 2020 Recipient: Krupa Swaminathan..... [26](#)

IN EVERY ISSUE

- Keeping in Touch..... [05](#)
- Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF) info link [06](#)
- Contribute to Calpaca *Connection* [09](#)
- AOA Announcements..... [12](#)
- CA Agritourism Newsletter registration link [12](#)
- Classified Ads [28](#)
- Business Card Ads [30](#)
- AOA's Alpaca Education at Your Fingertips [33](#)
- Join Calpaca..... [34](#)

Next Annual Membership Meeting ~ November 14, 2020

Hosted by Leanne & Marc Antaya ~ Plateau Breeze Ranch ~ Murrieta, CA
Drone-driven virtual farm tour, coffee and mimosas... details coming soon!

Message from the President

Dear Alpaca Friends,

Greetings and a fervent wish that you and your families (two- and four-footed) are doing ok right now. Between the pandemic and fire season, this year is one that I am sure many of us desire to see the last of.

I'd like to thank Cynthia Kuhlman for her very timely compilation of **emergency information** for Calpaca; we are always hopeful that we do not have to use it, but were grateful for being able to have the information in one place! The way members of Calpaca jumped in and helped with evacuations and/or sheltering of animals and their owners was impressive. I have been saddened by the news of friends who lost their homes and/or their animals in the many fires happening right now.

During last month's AOA Affiliate meeting, President Shauna Brummet shared that the [EPD program](#) deadline would continue past the usual deadline. She asked that if you are sending samples to SGS in New Zealand, to send AOA an e-mail letting them know that you did. SGS has been having a two week turn-around once they receive samples. The hold-up appears to be U.S. customs, which has been taking two to four weeks! Want a testing facility in the US? Send a sample to the AOA office! They are trying to get a U.S. facility, and this would help them get one established.

Two tests are being done to support **antibacterial and thermal claims** in North Carolina. And the new Alpaca Owners Guide is either at, or close to being at, the printers.

The **AOA Show Rules committee** was given a lengthy and detailed document from the Show Task Force. I haven't heard the results of it, but please contact Margie Ault at the AOA offices if you have any changes that you would like to see. (She asked us all to let you know that she welcomes positive suggestions!)

Not every state is at the same level of "**lockdown**." Each governor has the responsibility of setting guidelines. Some states are nearly back to business as usual—and you may have already seen that there are some [fall shows](#) happening as a result!

[Farm days](#) will be different for many of us this year. Check out some of the ideas presented by AOA for [virtual tours and events](#). The pandemic is definitely creating changes in how we do business. Several farms across the country have pooled resources to create "drive-by" farm visits where visitors stay in their cars and go from one ranch to another.

Calpaca elections are coming up soon—be watching for candidate statements and ballots! Your vote matters!

Our **August Member Meeting** was attended virtually and in person. It is a learning process, and thank you for your patience while we test it out.

Please stay safe, wear a mask, and I hope to see many of you at the November meeting in SoCal.

Regards,

Maureen Macedo
Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock CA

Keeping in Touch

Communication is key to a well-informed organization. It's how the organization stays in touch with members and how members keep in touch with each other. It's the link to the sense of belonging that comes along with organizational memberships. For the most part, most organizations, including Calpaca, have moved their primary modes of communication to the web, emails or cell phone texts. Posts, emails and text have become the norm, and in many cases, the preferred method of communication.

Calpaca has three primary ways for members to send or receive information: by email, through the Calpaca Facebook page, and on the Calpaca website.

By Email

The new Calpaca member email distribution list is active now. Here is some basic information:

- Only active Associate and Farm members of Calpaca, based on current membership status, are included in the list. The email list will be updated annually and maintained as new members are added.
- To keep information confidential, the member distribution list may only be used by members of the board. To send an email to Calpaca members use this email: info@calpacboard.org. A member of the board of directors will forward your message to Calpaca members in a timely manner.

We are following this process to avoid the scamming that occurred with the former member email distribution list.

Through the Calpaca Facebook Page

Calpaca maintains an active Facebook page, Calpaca-California Alpaca Association <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Calpaca>. This group is an extension of Calpaca.org. It exists to promote and answer questions about raising alpacas, using alpaca fiber, husbandry issues, share interesting news and ranch events, and promote classes having to do with those issues. We are an open group and want to encourage people who are interested in alpacas to join the discussion. Examples of posts include BOD announcements, alpacas in the news, emergency information, birth announcements, new purchases/acquisitions, Calpaca events, Calpaca Farm member events, industry events, etc. This is a group for learning, sharing, and being supportive.

Advertising: Only Calpaca Farm members are permitted to advertise animals or products for sale. If the frequency of this advertising becomes excessive, the post will be removed by the moderators. Any advertising posts by non Calpaca Farm members will be removed by the moderators.

Calpaca Website

The Calpaca website www.calpaca.org is Calpaca's primary online presence, the "Internet face" of our organization. It's the place where existing, new, or potential alpaca owners can go to learn about Calpaca. Who are we. What do we offer. How we assist new and current alpaca owners. How we support the alpaca community through education? What events we offer. What support we offer.

Emails to keep on file:

info@calpacaboard.org: use to send emails to Calpaca members

Board Members: Your board members encourage members to contact us with any comments, questions or concerns. We are here to serve you.




AOA Announcements

Updated Lab Schedule


Due to COVID-19 our lab DDC reduced the testing of our blood cards to every other week. DDC will once again be testing our cards weekly. Cards are mailed every Tuesday with the results being returned on Wednesday of the following week.

Members Helping Members *(see next pages 8-10)*

Many of our alpaca families are in crisis due to the natural disasters happening across the country. If you need help or can offer aid, login and visit the [Members Helping Members](#) page (online). Learn about [Disaster Preparedness](#) on Alpaca Academy.



Donate Now!



HOMEABOUT ARFDONORSMAKE A DIFFERENCELIBRARYRESEARCH STUDIESINVESTIGATORS CONTACT US

VOLUNTEER

- For more information visit [ARF Development Committee](#)

GRANT DEADLINE

- [Full Proposals due April 1](#)

ARF SUCCESSES


- [Read about ARF Successes](#)
- [Annual Appeal](#)

THANK YOU

- [Our Major Donors](#)

LINKS

- [Connect to International Websites Related to Camelid Health](#)



1234

Learn more about Alpaca Husbandry

LEARN MORE

Protecting your investment through research.

Calpaca 2021 Board Candidate...

Leanne Antaya

Raising and breeding alpacas was an idea I came up with, a way to get away from the lifestyle I had become accustomed to. As a licensed real estate agent, I was in the housing market for almost 20 years. The realization that I didn't want to spend the rest of my life in a car with strangers and collecting rent from tenants hit me hard, so I began looking for something else, something that would enrich my life. Extensive research brought me to the magical world of alpacas.



That idea came to a quick ending when my middle son was involved in a horrific accident, comatose for seven months and hospitalized for three and half years. He wasn't expected to survive, so I poured everything I had into him, forgot about the alpacas and placed my career on hold. I spent every moment I had by his side and finally brought him home after being told he'd never leave the hospital. He broke all doctors' expectations!

Once Travis was home, I knew I could find something that might earn me extra income while I still cared for him at home. The alpaca idea was back on the drawing board! My enthusiasm became contagious and a way for me to escape my everyday problems. It wasn't long before my dream became a reality. Marc, my husband of 40 years, developed a business plan and went right to work on it in his spare time. A contractor most of his life, Marc had the knowledge, experience and equipment to put our business plan into action. Our ranch on the plateau in Murrieta, California, grew up out of the pale green hills as if it had always been part of the scenery. That is where we experience cool ocean breezes, spectacular views of the plateau, the vineyards and a real sense of peace. We never dreamed in our wildest of imaginations that we'd be alpaca ranchers, breeders and sellers of elite-fleeced alpacas; but here we are and love it!

Being offered a possible position on the board is quite an honor; and if elected, one that I will pour everything I have into, just as I did for my son. It is my hope to bring national awareness to these magical and incredible animals. Being in Southern California also affords me a voice for those around me in the southern part of the state. I believe that having a representative here balances out the Calpaca organization with a board which equally represents both north and south.

Life has its twists and turns, but the alpacas have helped in a lot of ways. They are therapeutic, and they make me smile when they cozy up to Travis and my grandchildren. Life wouldn't be the same without them!

Calpaca 2021 Events

Mar. 27-28, 2021	Alpaca Show	California Classic	Merced, CA
------------------	-------------	--------------------	------------

Calpaca 2020-2021 Quarterly Membership Meetings

<i>Annual Membership Mtg</i> Nov. 14, 2020	Leanne & Marc Antaya	Plateau Breeze Ranch	Murrieta, CA
Feb. 13, 2021	TBD	TBD	TBD
May 08, 2021	Claudia & Jerry Porter	Black Rock Mountain Alpacas & Fiber Mill	Fernley, NV
Aug. 14, 2021	TBD	TBD	TBD
Nov. 13, 2021	TBD	TBD	TBD

Calpaca 2021 Board Candidate...

Lindsay Betz

My name is Lindsay, and I am 29. My family and I moved from Modesto to Penn Valley in 2003, and we started raising heritage Jacob sheep shortly thereafter. In 2018, I decided to contact some friends' family ranch—Heart & Soul—and ask about a job. Alpacas, as you all know, are contagious! We are now three crias into our own breeding program, plus I broker alpacas for other ranches.

As far as fiber, I worked for Heart & Soul Spinnery, and have since purchased equipment to hand-process. We are having tons of fun!

As far as sheep, I have added two more heritage breeds: Navajo-Churros and Leicester Longwools. We plan to sell lambs to those who will propagate these endangered breeds and help us prevent their extinction.

I have been in leadership positions before, such as being a deacon at my church, as well as participating in various committees. I always have ideas, and I am not afraid to respectfully articulate my opinions, especially on ethical matters. I am resourceful and a problem solver, and I would love to work with fellow board members on your behalf!



Calpaca 2021 Board Candidate...

Steve Craig

Peavine Mountain Alpacas | Reno, Nevada

Why would I want to be a Calpaca Board Member? Very good question... let me explain. I got my first three alpacas in 2014. My herd has grown to 22 alpacas and one very big llama through animal rescues, buying, and some planned and unplanned births. I have come to recognize that each animal has its own personality, and that part of it was forged by the original owners that took care of them. Some of my older animals came to me schizophrenic, while the ones that I raised are calm and loving. I have suffered losing two animals and have had the birthing trauma of breached births. Basically, I love these animals, and they give me daily joy being around them. I make no money on having them, but admire and support the farms that have bred to championship levels, built stores and invested in fiber mills.



I can offer Calpaca a different viewpoint from a farm that doesn't have high-end championship animals, but a farm that is oriented toward "pet-quality" animals. I love showing them to visitors and letting the alpacas eat treats from their hand. I worry about the many that are "out and about," especially around shearing time where I get their owners to schedule shearing.

Calpaca is in transition because of Covid and the socio-political winds that are blowing. I would suggest that the organization is in a low-level crisis as the "money shows" are being canceled and the little farms springing up that have alpacas as "yard art" don't have a reason to be part of a large organization. It may be time to start coming up with a strategy to "reinvent" the organization on many different levels. I don't have all the answers, but I sure would brainstorm with any alpaca owner to see what they need to help them raise and take care of these beautiful animals.

For background, I am 73 and still very active in my profession as a Senior Consulting Geologist with many clients. I have been on many professional boards as a leader and follower. Becoming a Calpaca board member takes a commitment, but with help, it would be a pleasure to work with people with common objectives. And finally, I am a member of AOA.

Calpaca 2021 Board Candidate...

Stacey Payne

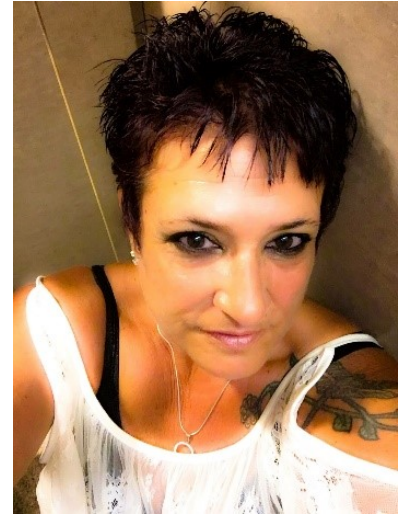
I was introduced to alpacas in 2008, when I chanced upon them in the Monterrey Bay area. It was love at first sight. Fast forward to March 2017 when I bought my first three females. I now own 24.

Since my first purchases, I have participated in as many educational events, shows and groups as possible to become the very best alpaca rancher I can be. I am constantly learning thru reading, watching You Tube and, of course, caring for my herd.

I have applied to the Judges Qualification program, and once I have enough time as an owner and have completed all the reading, I hope to be accepted. It would be my dream come true.

It was an honor to have Scott and Laurie Findlay suggest me for the Calpaca board. I know that if chosen, I will bring 30 years plus of business operations know-how, and 2.5 years of passion for alpaca to the group. It is my hope to bring local and national awareness to these incredible creatures. I do as many local events as I can, marketing the beautiful products made from the fiber, and of course, introduce animals to the attendees.

We are in the process of buying a good amount of acreage where I will create an alpaca haven, complete with, a yoga/mediation area, fiber processing area for classes, and a safe interaction area for humans and alpacas. I love these animals, their funny personalities and their incredible fiber. I have used them as therapy, not only for myself, but also for my business, working with mental health/substance use clients.



Contribute to the *Calpaca Connection*!

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of editing a newsletter is coming up with articles and ideas that are current, relevant, interesting and beneficial for our members. I like to write... I could fill each issue with my own stuff; but that's not why I'm here. To create a truly valuable resource for Calpaca members, we need Calpaca members to contribute.

- You have ideas all the time, right? This is a great place to explore and express them.
- Have you solved a problem at your place or with your animals? I'm betting lots of us would like to know how you handled the challenge.
- Do you get calls or emails asking your advice on fiber, herd management, breeding, and other aspects of living this lifestyle? Harness your responses, and let's share them!
- What other ideas or suggestions do you have to make this the best publication possible? I'd love to add regular columns, tips'n'tricks, pictures, anything you are interested in that will also interest your cohorts.

Email submissions to Editor@lillette.net



Members Helping Members

[AlpacaGram 7.66, 09/10/2020](#)

Natural disasters are unfortunately taking place around the country that are impacting AOA members including hurricanes, wildfires, and tornadoes.

If you or your family are affected, fill out the [AOA Members Helping Members Form](#) so we can get the word out. Do you need a place to board animals, trailers to evacuate your animals, need a place to stay, supplies, etc? We want to share your needs with the alpaca community to help you.

If you are able to help members who are in need, you, too, can fill out the [AOA Members Helping Members Form](#). Please provide the details of the assistance you can provide: board animals, transport animals, supplies, etc. We will attempt to connect those in need with those able to help.

Below are some pointers from members in the trenches now:

- Register all your alpacas and keep the AOA database updated with the animals current microchip or ear tag IDs. This allows AOA to direct finders to the alpaca owners right away.
- If your animal has no chip, leave identifiers on them, something around their neck or even spray paint. Some animals have had to be set loose and there has to be a quick and easy way to tell where they belong when found or if they get mixed up in possible chaos.
- Alpaca owners should have a care form with the alpacas they evacuate as people at the evacuation centers may know nothing about alpacas.
- Post forms around the farm in case you need to evacuate and leave your animals. Law enforcement will be sent to feed the animals and need to know how many animals in each barn, what kind, and how to feed, etc.
- It is important to evacuate before it is dire, once an evacuation order is given, nobody will be permitted to come help.
- Have a plan no matter how remote the idea of a disaster seems. Have a 5 minute plan, 1/2 hour plan, and 2 hour plan.
- Check with local affiliates to see if they have an emergency plan and a list of people who can help transport or keep alpacas.
- Utilize social media, it is the quickest way to reach out and let other locals know you need help or can help.

Additional resources and information on disaster preparedness:

- [Disaster Preparedness](#) on Alpaca Academy
- [AlpacaGram 7.46](#) — a must read message from GIRCom on how to prepare for a disaster along with a list of resources.

We have members wanting to help however possible, so please let us know what may be needed.



Disaster Preparedness for Alpaca Owners

[AlpacaGram 7.46, 07/17/2020](#)

The most important thing that alpaca owners can do to lessen the impact of any disaster is to be prepared.

Important Information from the AOA Government and Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom)

Hurricane season begins around June 1 and ends around Nov 30. The warmer weather will bring the threat of fires, and with the storms that we have seen there may be the possibility of flooding. The most important thing that alpaca owners can do to lessen the impact of any disaster is to be prepared. Depending on the type of disaster and resources available, you may have to decide whether to evacuate your animals or shelter in place. The following are suggestions that you can consider to be better prepared for a disaster. They are not all-inclusive and specific measures that you may take are dependent on the size of your herd, and what type of disaster is most likely in your area.

Ensure all animals have some form of identification—microchip, neck tag—this will help facilitate their return. **If your alpacas are registered with AOA, and you record the microchip number in the database, which can be done at any time, that information may assist in the identification and return of your alpacas.**

Evacuate animals whenever possible. Arrangements for evacuation, including routes and host sites, should be made in advance. Alternate routes should be mapped out in case the planned route is inaccessible. Remember that once mandatory evacuation from an area is ordered, friends will not be allowed into the

area to help you. If you are planning to move your alpacas out of state, be aware of the receiving state health requirements.

The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment, and facilities.

Ensure vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting your alpacas are available. Halters, leads, and trained animals will facilitate loading easily. If you do not have enough trailers to transport all your animals, develop a list of others who may be able to help transport your animals.

If evacuation is not possible a decision must be made whether to move your alpacas to an available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter.

Prepare an evacuation kit. This might include copies of registration papers (a source of identification), and a list of contacts, evacuation routes, and health records.

Develop a buddy system. You should consider having an arrangement with a buddy farm in a different threat area to house one another's animals if an evacu-



Disaster Preparedness for Alpaca Owners, *continued*

[AlpacaGram 7.46, 07/17/2020](#)

ation becomes necessary. You may not be readily available if an emergency occurs and may need to rely on others to help with your alpacas in an emergency. Post in your barn area a list of numbers and types of animals, the location of your halters, leads and disaster kit, your emergency contact information, and contact information for your veterinarian.

The following are websites that can provide additional information and tips:

- [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [American Humane Association](#)
- [United States Department of Agriculture's \(USDA\) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts have produced videos and publications to help ranchers/livestock owners prepare for a hurricane.
 - ◇ Preparedness publications are available through the Texas Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) website at <http://texashelp.tamu.edu>.
 - ◇ Several videos are available including Hurricane Preparedness for Livestock Owners, parts 1 and 2. Video 1 can be found at <http://bit.ly/2q6PLy7>. Video 2 can be found at <http://bit.ly/2pBkQqg>.



Newsletter: California Agritourism News

The California Agritourism News e-newsletter is written by Penny Leff, statewide agritourism coordinator for the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (UC SAREP). This e-mail newsletter is a chance for growers, agritourism operators, county staff, tourism professionals and everyone else involved in California agritourism to keep up with the latest information. Input and suggestions from readers are always welcome!

[Subscribe to CA Agritourism News](#)



Preparing the Farm and Farm Animals For Disaster

[Posted on AlpacaInfo.com: July 11, 2013](http://AlpacaInfo.com)

In light of the recent fires that have affected different areas of the western United States, we thought the following paper would be helpful.

Introduction

Disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, severe winter weather, hazardous material spills, or nuclear power plant accidents can occur any time. The event may occur suddenly or be anticipated for several days as with an approaching hurricane or flood. The time to prepare for these events is long before they occur. Even at the farm level, procedures should be written. They should be kept in a safe, fireproof, quickly accessible place with other important documents and taken along if it becomes necessary to evacuate the farm. Each member of the farm family and herd personnel should know of and practice the plan so that action may be taken even in the absence of key management personnel.

The first step in planning for a disaster is to determine what type of disaster could occur on the farm and with what frequency. It would be useless to spend time and money, for example, to plan for severe winter weather if the farm is located in a tropical environment. If the premises are near a nuclear power plant, even though the risk of an accident occurring is slim, the owners would want to consider how to protect their animals from radioactive fallout. If the farm is near a major highway, one might want to consider a hazardous material spill from a road accident in the planning. Living next to a river or stream would put planning for flooding or a barge accident in the forefront.

Only after farm owners have considered their risks can they prioritize the time, money, and oth-

er resources they wish to allocate to each potential hazard. An all-hazards plan is most desirable; however, plans should also be customized for specific situations. Once the risks are known, decisions can be made about what actions can be taken in advance and what actions would be required once the disaster occurs. Generally, the effects of a disaster on livestock are lessened by avoiding the disaster, mitigating its effect if it cannot be avoided, or sheltering the animals. The approach taken would depend upon the type of disaster anticipated. Sometimes only one approach may be appropriate such as sheltering. In some instances, combined approaches, such as mitigation and sheltering, may be required. In events such as floods or fire storms, sheltering may be the wrong thing to do.

Mitigation

Hazard mitigation is defined as any action taken to eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological hazards. Some examples of hazard mitigation might be hurricane seeding to reduce the intensity of a storm, tying down homes or barns with ground anchors to withstand wind damage, redirecting the impact away from a vulnerable location by digging water channels or planting vegetation to absorb water, establishing setback regulations so a building is not allowed close to the water's edge, and constructing levees or permanent barriers to control flooding.

The farm and farm buildings should be surveyed to figure out what mitigation procedures should be followed based on the hazard risk. These procedures include:



Preparing... for Disaster, *cont.*

[Posted on AlpacaInfo.com: July 11, 2013](http://AlpacaInfo.com)

- Building or repairing barns and outbuildings so they exceed building codes.
- Constructing or moving buildings to higher ground.
- Replacing or covering glass windows and doors with sturdier materials.
- Keeping drainage furrows sodded.
- Cleaning or moving trash piles and burial sites (Many farms contain burial sites contaminated with lead-based paints, machinery grease, motor oil, lead-lined tanks, batteries, roofing nails, asphalt, shingles, caulking compounds, linoleum, and plumbing lead. During flooding this material may leech into the crops or feed supply or be moved to a more accessible area where animals could consume them.
- Moving or storing toxic chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and rodenticides in secured areas to prevent their washing onto pastures where animals may be exposed.
- Securing loose items.
- Draining or building levees around ponds that could flood.

A list of resources and people should be developed by the farmer and kept with important papers. This list should contain emergency phone numbers, suppliers, truckers, and people that can help with the animals, especially if normal working conditions are disrupted.

Supplies that may be needed during or after the

disaster should be obtained. Many of these items may not be readily available after the disaster. By obtaining them in advance, more reasonable prices will be paid. Unfortunately, disasters attract individuals who gouge and prey on the misfortunes of victims. Items that could be obtained are portable radios and TV's, extra batteries, flashlights, candles, portable generators, salt, gravel, litter, fuel, antifreeze, stored feed such as hay (the amount to store would depend on the hazard — after the Washington state flood, most producers vowed never to inventory large amounts of hay due to excessive flood damage and spoilage), ropes, halters and other animal restraint equipment, and medical supplies. Once obtained they should be stored in such a manner that they will be usable after the disaster. While in storage they should be checked at regular intervals — i.e., once a week — to assure that they do not spoil, and that electrical or mechanical appliances are still working. They should also be rechecked and evaluated after the event to assure they are still usable. A log should be kept to record when and how often the items were monitored. Animals should be kept current on all appropriate vaccinations and booster shots before the disaster. Keep a written record of the products given and the date of injection. Because the stress of the event and the disruption of the environment could cause an increase in infectious disease spread, proper vaccination could protect the animals.

Representation to Governmental Agency Managing the Disaster Response

As the disaster approaches or after it arrives, the most important thing the farmer needs is truthful, accurate, and current information. Government's response to most disasters is coordinated by a county, state, or federal emergency management



Preparing... for Disaster, *cont.*

[Posted on AlpacaInfo.com: July 11, 2013](http://AlpacaInfo.com)

agency. Representation to this agency for the farmer is critical. In most instances, this is competently done by a member of the State or Federal Department of Agriculture. It is strongly suggested that farm organizations lobby for veterinary representation either through their State or Federal Department of Agriculture or separately to the emergency management agency. Often, the needs of animals during disasters are given low priority. Veterinarians, who are aware of these needs and can also verify the validity of requests for help, are most suited to bring animal problems to the forefront. In many instances, actions required to protect animals, such as sheltering or evacuation, must be done before a similar action is taken for people. This is because moving animals to shelter from pasture or evacuating them to other locations takes considerable time and many workers. However, governmental agencies will not issue such directives for animals before similar instructions are issued for people. They fear that a panic situation might occur and people might be critical about animals being protected before them. (Animals can always be released from the shelter or returned from their point of evacuation if the disaster does not materialize.) What they do not consider is that it must be done while it is still safe for people to do the task since animals cannot shelter or evacuate themselves. After the disaster, government usually limits access to the disaster area. However, animals have to be fed, watered, and milked. Who is better suited to do this than the owner? Designation of farmers as emergency workers by government solves the problem of who will be responsible for this task. A veterinarian located in the emergency operating center can get these messages across.

Evacuation

If evacuation of the animals is being considered, then evacuation procedures, places, and routes should be planned. Since all animals may not be able to be evacuated, owners should decide ahead of time which are the most important ones to save. Various decision criteria can be used such as sale value, breeding quality, stage of pregnancy, stage of production, or simply sentimental preference. These animals should be identified ahead of time and a written list kept. If the owner is not home when the disaster threatens, others would then know which animals to save.

Animal evacuation routes must not interfere with human evacuation routes. Alternate routes should be found in case the planned route is not accessible. Places where animals are to be taken should be decided in advance and arrangements made with the owners of these places to accept the animals. Trucks, trailers, and other vehicles should be obtained in advance and the animals acclimated to them so they are not frightened when they have to be used. Restraint equipment, feed and water supplies should be available to use and move with the animals and sufficient people should be on hand to help move them. The animals should be photographed and permanently identified by metal ear-tag, tattoo, brand, registration papers, or microchip. A permanent record of the identification must be kept as this information is useful in resolving arguments of ownership in case animals gets loose. Papers documenting the identification should be kept with other important papers. Ultimately, the decision to evacuate will depend on the distance to be traveled, the amount of time before the disaster will affect the farm, and whether there is any ad-



Preparing... for Disaster, *cont.*

[Posted on AlpacaInfo.com: July 11, 2013](http://AlpacaInfo.com)

vantage to moving the animals to the place selected. Sometimes evacuation may be done after the disaster, provided the roads are passable and the equipment needed for travel usable. If this is the case, the accepting location must be contacted to find out its condition.

Sheltering

Whether to move farm animals to shelter or leave them outside will depend on the integrity and location of the shelter being used and the type of disaster. During Hurricane Andrew, some horses left outside suffered less injury than those placed in shelters. This was because some shelters selected did not withstand the high winds. Horses were injured by collapsing structures and flying objects that may have been avoided on the outside. Another reason for possibly leaving animals unsheltered is because flood waters that inundate a barn could trap animals inside, causing them to drown. During severe winter weather, shelter animals from icy wind, rain, and snow. Generally, if the structure is sound, the animals should be placed indoors. Once they are inside, secure all openings to the outside. As mentioned previously, the sheltering should be ordered and completed before similar action is taken for humans.

Farm cats and dogs should either be placed in a disaster-proof place or turned loose, as they generally will stay close to their home in the immediate period following a disaster. If they are loose, however, attempts must be made to immediately catch them after the threat is over to prevent these animals from becoming feral and a public health hazard. Some farm dogs are dangerously aggressive, and under normal circumstances should be kept chained. These dogs cannot be

kept chained or turned loose during a disaster. If an inside shelter cannot be found, then the only safe and humane thing to do is to euthanize these dogs as a last measure before evacuation.

Human Evacuation

What can be done with the animals if there is a need to evacuate the premises and the animals have to be left unattended? There is always the risk that animals left unattended for extended periods could die or suffer injury. Sometimes, this may be the only option to protect human life. Protecting human life should always take priority in planning. Regardless, after the animals are secured in appropriate shelters, food and water should be left for them. The amount necessary for survival is considerably less than for other purposes. If the animals survive, then the decision can be made after the disaster whether it is worth the time and expense to bring them back to their previous condition.

Consult the table as a guide to the amount of food and water to leave. Every practical effort should be made to leave animals with sufficient food and water for their survival — enough for 48 hours should be left. Usually, within that time the initial effects of the disaster will be over. During the recovery phase, the decision can then be made as to the best way to mount a rescue effort.

Special Considerations

Some practices that may be followed in planning for disasters, especially during the winter, require a special alert. During winter weather it is common to use portable heaters, gritty substances on the floor to prevent slipping, and antifreeze.



Preparing... for Disaster, *cont.*

[Posted on AlpacaInfo.com: July 11, 2013](http://AlpacaInfo.com)

When using these heaters, be sure they are working properly and are located in an area where there is adequate ventilation. Heaters not working correctly could be a source of carbon monoxide, a deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Antifreeze used in vehicles is a deadly poison. Animals seem attracted to it and will readily consume it because of its sweet taste. Take care to properly label all containers. Do not use containers previously filled with antifreeze for other purposes, especially feed and water. Promptly clean up all leaks and spills. Water supplies should be checked for freezing. Many animals have died of thirst during the winter, even with abundant water sources, because they could not drink the water as it was frozen solid. If gritty material is spread on floors to prevent slipping, use only approved nontoxic materials. Recently, a farmer mistakenly used Furadan, a fungicide, for this purpose and several cows who licked it off the floor died.

Farms can be insured against catastrophic events. Insurance policies are available for replacement of damaged materials, repair work for recovery, boarding of evacuated occupants and animals, lost production, and relocation. These should be investigated and purchased before the disaster threatens. For a farmer to claim compensation for lost production, which in many cases is the largest economic cost during a disaster, the farmer must

have substantial records that document the level of production his/her herd has achieved in previous years. This is generally only successful in herds with recognized herd monitoring programs, such as Dairy Herd Improvement or other programs that are available for various species. To verify the validity of these records a herd health program, based on a valid veterinarian-client-animal relationship, should be in place. A copy of all production records should be kept in a secure place so that the details are not lost during the disaster. Many veterinarians are willing to keep copies of their clients' production records, if they are computerized and space efficient.

Conclusion

Depending upon the event, disaster preparation may or may not be successful. However, it is known that effects of disasters are lessened by proper planning. Economically, it is cheaper to prevent the problem or lessen its effect than to pay the costs of recovery. The time to do this is NOW, before the disaster occurs.

Authors:

Jacob Casper, DVM, Maryland Department of Agriculture; Sebastian E. Heath, MVetSci, Vet MB, Purdue University; Robert D. Linnabary, DVM, MS, University of Tennessee

[RedRover](#), "Bringing Animals from Crisis to Care," staff and volunteers provide temporary emergency sheltering, resources, financial assistance and emotional support when animals and people are in crisis. Specific to the wildfires in the west, RedRover has an online page of [Animal Resources for Western U.S. Wildfires](#). Info on the page includes pet-friendly lodging resources, CDC—Covid-19 Guidelines for Pet Owners; regional listings for animal shelters, large animal evacuation sites, food and supplies resources, shelter for people with pets, and other evacuation assistance. *Thanks to RedRover for giving permission to use the photo on the cover of this issue.... but most especially, for all they do to help animals in crisis and the people who love them.*



Catching & Handling Llamas & Alpacas

By National Lama Intervention & Rescue Coordination (IRC) Council

[Posted: Tue, August 13, 2013](#)

Animal control and animal welfare authorities are sometimes called upon to remove llamas and alpacas from situations where their welfare is compromised or to capture loose animals when their presence is a hazard to traffic safety. Learning a bit about camelid behavior will help make catching and handling them easier and less traumatic for all concerned.*

Local Help

Many llama and alpaca owners are willing to help catch, halter and transport llamas and alpacas in need of rescue, re-homing or capture. They are used to the behaviors and motivations of such animals, which differ from other livestock in a number of ways, and can be of great help to animal control and welfare authorities. Most states have one or more llama and alpaca organizations that maintain a membership list with contact information. Ideally, local animal control authorities should have one or two names from their area llama and alpaca community they could contact to request help or advice for specific situations involving camelids. It would be good to have this information ahead of time and establish a working relationship before help is actually needed.

If you do not have contact information for local camelid owners, you can contact one of the regional coordinators for the National Lama Intervention & Rescue Coordination Council (IRC Council) who will be able to provide advice, camelid contacts and even halters and leads if needed. They include:

- **Northwest:**
Charlene Schmidt, 509.722.5466
charlene@prosperitypal.com
- **West:**
Jan Sherrill, 805.238.2628
pacamom@lightspeed.net
- **Rocky Mountain Area**
Olin Allen, 970.493.2886
olinallen@earthlink.net;
- **Midwest:**
Sheila Fugina, 715-246-5837
bsfugina@frontier.com;
- **Southeast:**
Susan Ravan
sdravan@gmail.com
- **South Central:**
Sandra Reynolds, 580.745.9202
lonestarranchoktx@gmail.com)
- **Northeast:**
Marc Page, 978-724-3273 home
508.246.0424, weekdays 8 to 4
sputtermill@hughes.net

Catching

Though they are among the earliest domesticated animals and generally very comfortable around humans, llamas and alpacas are very intelligent and intuitive; if they feel threatened or afraid, their first response is flight. Avoid pushing or panicking them into the flight mode. Slow, calm, confident movements are key to keeping them interested and engaged rather than suspicious and wary. Many of the llamas and alpacas involved in rescue situations may not be used to being handled or haltered, but there are ways to move them, contain them and transport them without always needing to halter each one. Above all, remain calm and be flexible.

Make the site work for you. Preview the site ahead of time if possible to determine your catching and loading options. If you are not able to assess the site before you need to move the animals, do so as soon as you arrive. Determine where and how secure the boundaries are (fences, buildings, etc.) and where you want the animals to end up for loading. See if there are materials on site that may be used to help contain animals—cattle panels, portable panels or gates—items that you can move where you need them. If you've had a chance to see the site ahead of time, you have the opportunity to bring needed materials and equipment.



Catching & Handling... *cont.*

By National Llama Intervention & Rescue Coordination (IRC) Council

[Posted: Tue, August 13, 2013](#)

Funnel the animals. Even llamas and alpacas in a large open field can be moved in the direction you need them to go by funneling them into increasingly smaller areas. You can use a variety of visual barriers to help you herd the animals—a human chain (slow and calm), lightweight poles extended horizontally, a rope held between two people. Camelids don't like being separated from their herdmates so it is important to keep them together. They also cue off one another so be alert to potential jumping or breaking away. This behavior can also work in your favor if the lead animal or two are headed where you want the group to go. If you are dealing with a single animal in a large space, another llama or two can be used as “bait”. This is when it's especially helpful to know a local llama or alpaca owner.

Do not use the following strategies. Do not use dogs to herd llamas and alpacas. Camelids usually view a strange dog as a predator and will flee rather than be herded. Do not try to herd llamas and alpacas on horseback. They often feel like they are being chased and will be pushed into the flight mode and become almost impossible to catch. Do not try to rope or lasso a llama or alpaca. You may cause serious injury or snap a neck. Do not chase llamas and alpacas or get so close they feel forced to flee or jump rather than be herded.

Contain the animals. By herding the llamas or alpacas into increasingly smaller spaces, you can contain them in a safe space either for haltering or for herding into a trailer without haltering them. There may already be corrals or catch pens at the site into which you can herd the animals. If not, you can create temporary catch pens with portable panels and the sides of buildings or trailers. When you are catching camelids in a smaller space, one person needs to be in charge and directing the others where to go and what to do so you are not at cross purposes. Encircle the animals in a non-threatening manner as you continue to make the circle smaller until the animals are able to be caught.

Watch for aggressive behavior. Some llamas and alpacas have not learned to respect a human's space. Though not common, if you come upon a llama that rushes the fence toward people, screams or has a history of biting or jumping on people, contact one of the regional IRC Council coordinators for help. It is usually intact males who have been over handled when young that exhibit this abnormal behavior, and they require special handling by a knowledgeable camelid person.

Handling

Load the animals. If the animals are used to being haltered, or knowledgeable camelid owner help is available, you may be able to halter the llamas and alpacas and then load them into a trailer. If they are not used to being haltered, or no halters are available, you can use the same funneling technique already mentioned to direct them into a trailer. An open trailer can be used as the fourth side of a catch pen. By shifting panels and making the catch pen smaller, the animals can be moved closer and closer to the open trailer and will often jump in on their own.

If they don't jump in, alpacas and small llamas can be physically lifted and put into the trailer. With larger llamas, if their front legs are lifted into the trailer, they often will jump in the rest of the way, especially if you keep a panel directly behind them and don't give them room to back up. Llamas sometimes lock their legs and lean back, sliding their front feet under the trailer, so use care not to injure their front legs. Llamas and alpacas often can be transported in vans (even mini vans), especially if you are dealing with only a few animals. Remove the back seats of the van and cover any holes or metal hardware on the floor with old carpet.

Transport the animals safely. Never tie llamas or alpacas when transporting them. Camelids usually lie down when being transported and they can suffer severe injury or death if tied. Properly fitted halters should fit snugly behind the head, and the noseband should ride high on the nose just under



Catching & Handling... *cont.*

By National Lama Intervention & Rescue Coordination (IRC) Council

[Posted: Tue, August 13, 2013](#)

the eyes. If the noseband slides down onto the soft cartilage of the nose it can cut off breathing. The noseband fit should also allow for chewing. Do not leave halters on llamas and alpacas when they are released to their living environment.

Get as much information as possible. If the llamas or alpacas are being moved and re-homed, try to get health records and any registration information or papers. These records will be very helpful in dealing with the animals' future needs and placement.

***Definition:** *The word "lama" is used when referring to the South American "camelid" family that includes both "llamas" and "alpacas" (as well as the wild guanacos and vicuñas). "Llama" is used when referring to the specific species, the llama. When we use the word "lama" in the U.S., we are usually referring to the two domesticated species, the llama and the alpaca. We also often use the word "camelid" to refer to llamas and alpacas together.*



Help Emergency Responders Learn About Alpacas

[AlpacaGram 5.89, Posted December 19, 2018](#)

Special Message from GIRCom

**This is a reminder that the more prepared you are for a disaster,
the more likely you are to be able to protect your alpacas and keep them safe.**

Any disaster, whether it's a fire, flood, hurricane or tornado, can catch you off guard and leave you and your alpacas in danger. This correspondence is a reminder that the more prepared you are for a disaster, the more likely you are to be able to protect your alpacas and keep them safe.

Many of the emergency responders in our communities are not aware of the alpaca farms in their area of responsibility, and those who run the livestock evacuation centers may not have any knowledge about how to care for our animals. One step you can take before a disaster strikes is to educate the emergency responders in your community (fire fighters, local emergency management agency, local agricultural extension agent, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

leaders, etc.) about the alpaca farms in the area, and the fact that alpacas are livestock that may need to be evacuated and cared for. The following article provides some very general information about alpacas that you may use to begin the education process so that alpacas can be considered in your community's disaster response plans. The article may also be used to educate your local and state officials, and others, to increase their awareness that the livestock owners in the area they represent include alpaca owners.

Please help us increase the awareness of alpacas by distributing the article "[What are Alpacas?](#)" to the officials and emergency responders in your communities.

Llamas vs. Alpacas

By Marty McGee-Bennett, Camelidynamics

As much as we may try, one size really does not fit all. One kind of vehicle can't do everything; there are hundreds of breeds of dogs; and I don't think one kind of camelid can do it all either. I think all real camelid enthusiasts need some of each. Alpacas and llamas each have something different and unique to offer, and conveniently, they are quite easy to manage together. Llamas are absolutely the best pack animals, have unique fiber, and are funny and smart. But for quantity and quality, you'd be hard pressed to find a wool producer with a more engaging personality than an alpaca. Get some of each species, and you have the best of both worlds: you become *bi-speci-al*.

For those of you who may be considering branching out, this article is my attempt to contrast and compare the two species from a training and handling point of view. For those of you just starting out and thinking about one or the other, you may have a llama *and* an alpaca in your future! My intention is to compare llamas and alpacas to each other... and I will; but along the way, I think it will be useful to compare camelids to other species with which many people are more familiar.

Llamas and alpacas are smaller than horses, and for that reason, it is easier, safer and more tempting to use force with them than with a horse. Owners of both species use methods on llamas and alpacas they wouldn't think of trying with a larger animal. I have watched in amazement the "football team" method of toenail trimming with llamas, and have often witnessed alpacas up-ended or picked up and moved when they were resistant to initial non-forceful attempts at training.

A camelid's smaller size can be deceiving. It can be quite startling to find out that when you truly mix it up with a camelid, they are pound for pound much harder to wrestle with than one would think. Camelids' anatomies, specifically their long

necks, make them difficult and dangerous (for the animal) to control using the head. The body can be waving around wildly even with the head held firmly in place. Therefore, in order to really control the body, you have to hold on to whole thing... a very tall order. All camelids are extremely supple and athletic, and in the case of suri alpacas, almost "slippery."

Alpacas, being the smaller of the two species, almost invite a handler to resort to force when faced with resistance. When compared to llamas, I have heard alpaca enthusiasts use an alpaca's smaller size as a marketing point when contrasting them with llamas. If an alpaca won't go along with the program, you simply pick it up or lay it down. While this is certainly true and may be physically possible, it may not be the most effective way to end up with an alpaca that enjoys his or her association with people. Picking up a resistant alpaca serves to reinforce its tendency to lie down when uncertain, and this can be a difficult habit to break. It is much better not to teach an alpaca to resort to the kushing behavior in the first place. For reasons both ethical and practical, learning animal handling skills that work for camelids is key to enjoying both species.

Camelids are often characterized as aloof, eschewing human touch and preferring to remain at arm's length. I disagree. I do find both species to be more like cats than dogs; but when approached properly, they are every bit as interested in a relationship with humans as their feline soulmates. There are cats that will allow almost any indignity; but for the most part, one must learn how to approach these animal aristocrats with respect. Imagine the behavior of a cat that was chased into a corner and grabbed, and then held on its owner's lap against its will. I would wager a cat living under these conditions would learn to run from the room as the human entered, take refuge under the furniture, and perhaps resort to scratching and biting

Llamas vs. Alpacas, *cont.*

to make an escape. Under these circumstances, would it be fair to comment, “Oh, that is just the way cats are...” when, in fact, that is *not* the way cats are. We create much of the undesirable behavior we see in camelids by our actions; and then with an arrogance uniquely human, we characterize their reaction to us as natural camelid behavior—I couldn’t disagree more. Camelids are naturally shy, but they can learn to trust and enjoy humans who behave in a trustworthy manner.

It is critical to organize your barn and pastures so that you can efficiently herd animals anywhere you desire. On the other hand, offering grain to encourage your camelids to come when called and to enter the catch pen willingly is smart management. Once in the catch pen, catching your camelid with a wand and a rope, rather than cornering and holding them around the neck, will result in alpacas and llamas that will be more comfortable in your presence. Using the corner grab-and-hold method teaches the animal, be it a llama or alpaca, to maintain an “at arm’s length” attitude.

I use a wand with a clip on the end along with a rope to catch alpacas and llamas that are resistant to being caught (i.e., almost all of them). There is no way to evade the wand and rope method, the handler can stay safely away from the hindquarters, and the animal feels much safer. I do my best to stay behind the animal’s eye as I bring the rope over the head. I bring the rope over the head both from rear-to-front and front-to-rear, although I usually opt for the rear-to-front method for really nervous animals (see photos 1 and 2).

Large llamas that have learned they can escape from a human by throwing the full weight of the body into the arm will be amazed at the new power of their handler and begin to look at humans with more respect. Lightning-fast alpacas are flummoxed by the wand-rope method and quickly learn to settle down and allow human approach. This method also allows a handler to easily work



Photo 1



Photo 2

with more than one animal in the catch pen at the same time.

One of the basic differences between llamas and alpacas is their reaction to being isolated. I find that alpacas are much more dependent on the presence of the herd. An isolated alpaca will have a very hard time thinking and will concentrate solely on escape. It is very difficult to teach an

Llamas vs. Alpacas, *cont.*

animal when it is unable to think. Working alpacas in groups will help keep the whole group calm, especially the more nervous ones. This generalization about isolation is just that—a generalization. When faced with a very nervous llama that is consumed with intent to escape, my first choice is always to provide another llama for company before continuing with my handling and training efforts.

Controlling an animal's movement is part of what makes it possible for them to live in our world.

Typically, we use the head for control, as it provides the greatest leverage and power over the animal's movement. This is another aspect of camelid handling and training that has, in my opinion, suffered from an inattention to a camelid's unique anatomy.

A camelid skull (see photo 3) is very different, both in size and configuration, than that of a horse, mule or donkey. Both llamas and alpacas are semi-obligate nasal breathers and cannot sustain themselves by breathing out of the mouth alone. Far too many halters are manufactured with nosebands that are too small and do not allow the handler to properly place the noseband of the halter well up on the nose bone. Often, those halters that do have a nose band that is large enough do not have a properly proportioned crown piece that will keep the noseband in place when the halter is used for leading. Nosebands that can slip down and off a camelid's very short nose bone restrict airflow and will almost routinely create panic (see photo 4).

Once panicked, the animal is even more at risk from the ill-fitting halter. An alpaca's smaller size

makes him even more vulnerable to a poorly fitting halter. Delicately built and young alpacas are even more at risk. Not all skulls are the same, and prior to attaching a lead rope to the halter, it is crucial to palpate the nose to see exactly how much bone is available to support the noseband. Because halter fit is so tricky with alpacas in particular, I find it best to do herd management chores without even putting one on. Organize your property so that animals can be herded to handling areas. Work the animals in groups within small spaces

using balancing techniques* rather than restraint, and a halter shouldn't be necessary.

When a halter is needed, I fit it correctly using a three-step procedure:

1. I adjust the noseband so that it is much larger than I think I need (this requires a halter that is constructed to provide for a large degree of adjustment in the noseband).
2. Next I snug up the crown piece until it is tight enough to prevent the noseband from slipping forward and off the bone.
3. Only after I have made this adjustment do I take the extra slack out of the noseband. Halters adjusted so that the noseband is further back on the skull near the hinge of the jaw can be snugger and still be comfortable because there is not as much lateral movement at the hinge of the jaw as forward toward the incisors (see photo 5).

Halter fit is critical to not only the safety, but to the performance of a llama or alpaca. I find that



Photo 3

Llamas vs. Alpacas, *cont.*

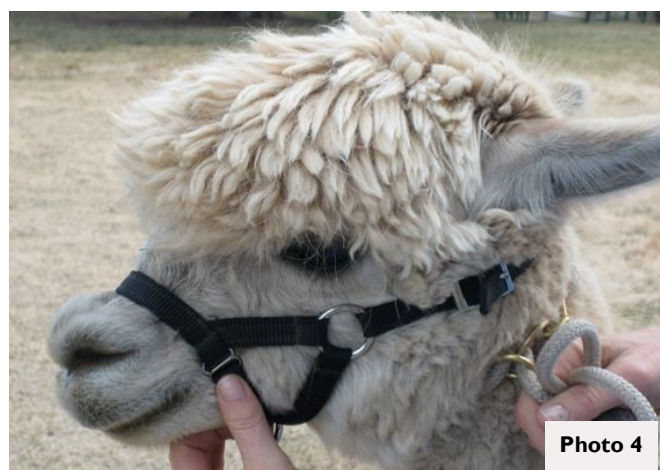


Photo 4

llamas and alpacas perform better and stay calmer when wearing a halter that fits. An alpaca that is asked to wear a halter that is uncomfortable will often begin to exhibit problem behaviors that may not seem to be related to halter fit such as spitting, lying down, or resistance to catching. Much of the misbehavior evident in the show ring is directly related to improper halter fit and can be greatly improved by paying close attention to this issue.

When it comes to teaching a camelid to lead, I find alpacas and llama differ pretty significantly.

Llamas are more independent and are quicker to venture away from the herd, and so are more likely to follow the handler. Alpacas, on the other hand, are more emotionally tied to their herd, and so are easily moved around on a lead if they can follow another alpaca. There are times and circumstances when the alpaca must follow a



Photo 5

human handler alone, and taking an alpaca for a walk--just the two of you—is a great way to forge a bond of trust.



Photo 6

Halter fit, how signals are given on the lead, and lead rope placement directly contribute to the tendency of many alpacas to lie down when learning to follow a human on a lead rope. Since alpacas are smaller in stature than llamas, there is a higher probability and tendency for the handler to inadvertently include an upward component in the signal to move forward. When the handler pulls forward

and up on the lead, the alpaca will normally raise the head and also drop the back. This body stance will tend to lock the pelvis and inhibit forward movement (see photo 6).

You can get a feel for what this is like by trying this

Llamas vs. Alpacas, cont.

exercise: Bend at the waist, raise your head, and hollow your back (the two tend to go together). Now raise your knee. You will probably notice that your balance is affected negatively, and you cannot raise your knee very high. Conversely, if you lower your head, round your back and raise your knee, you will notice that you have better balance as well as more freedom of movement in your pelvis. While this is certainly not directly applicable to what happens when you lead an animal, I have

seen greatly improved performance in both llamas and alpacas when handlers have taken leading pressure off the head, thereby allowing the animal to incline the head slightly forward as he walks.

You will have a higher degree of leading success, particularly with rookies, if you hook your lead rope to the

side ring on the noseband of a halter instead of underneath. This technique tends to inhibit the natural tendency of an untrained alpaca to resist forward signals on the lead by planting his feet and shifting his balance to the rear quarters, seemingly growing roots at the same time. It will also give you more ability to steer and more control (see photo 7).

Heightened awareness of the type and quality of the signal you give your alpaca will also make a

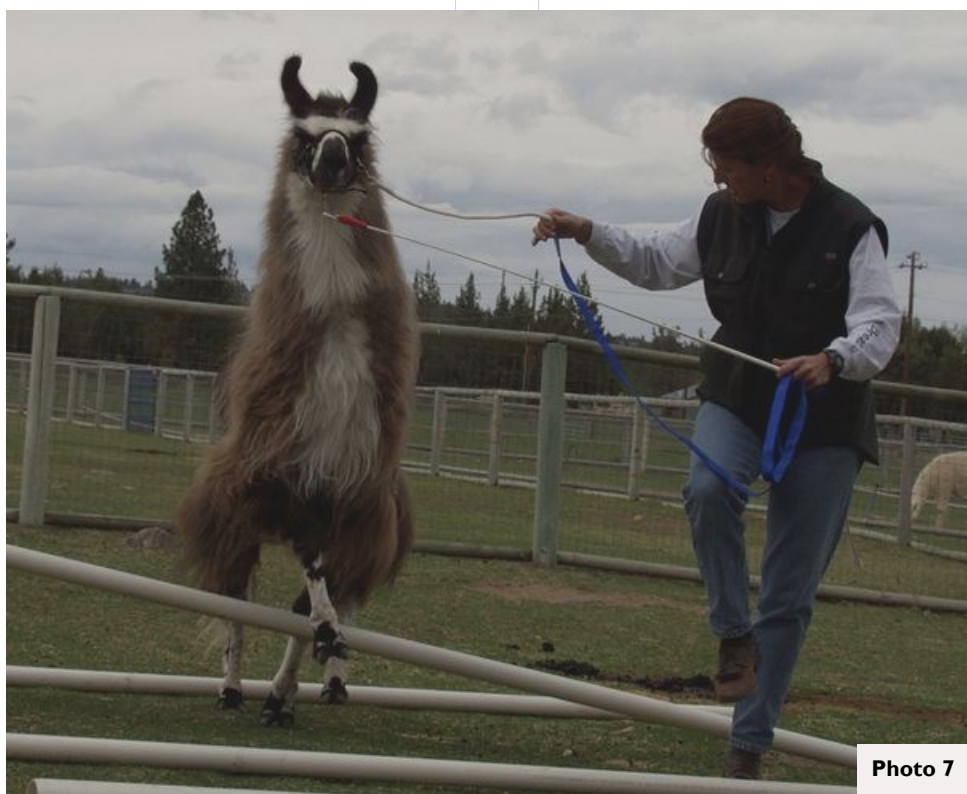
difference to his comfort as well as his performance. Striving for light contact (connection) with the lead rope and using a squeezing signal as if you were squeezing a sponge will work much better than either an abrupt tug-and-release signal or steady pressure. Given the smaller size of alpacas and the sensitivity of both llamas and alpacas, more subtle signals are probably greatly appreciated as well as more effective. Another simple thing to do that will make leading much easier for both

of you is to lighten up on the rope and get as far away as your lead rope will allow. Give your camelid more space!

While alpacas and llamas differ in many ways both physically and behaviorally, using logical handling methods rather than force, and encouraging an animal to think rather than react instinctively, will

work for both llamas and alpacas. Whether you are currently a llama or an alpaca owner, get your hands on the other species: you may just be *bi-speci-al* and not know it!

You can find more detailed information about all of these techniques in Marty's book the Camelid Companion. For more information on the book, training gear, Zoom training sessions, or upcoming clinics, visit camelidynamics.com



2020 Recipient Information

California Alpaca Breeders Association Scholarship

Krupa Swaminathan, Class of 2021

kswam@ucdavis.edu

Dear Ms. Maureen Macedo,

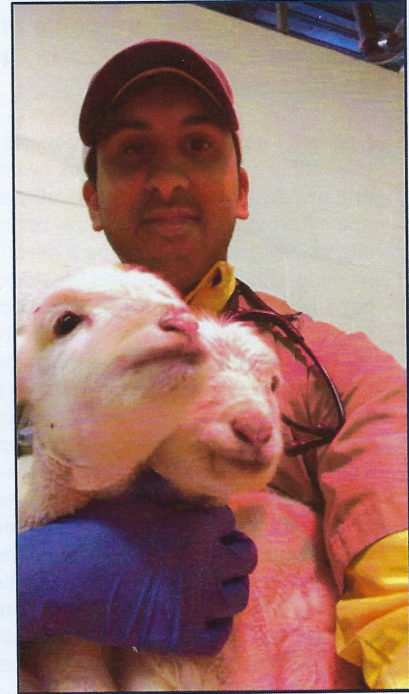
I wanted to thank you for selecting me for the California Alpaca Breeders Association Scholarship. Winning this scholarship really means a lot to me. This award not only provides some relief from financial burden but also serves as recognition for my hard work throughout the past three years. It gives me that extra bit of motivation to keep working hard throughout the rest of my time in school and the rest of my career in veterinary medicine. Knowing that I was chosen to win this award among all my peers is truly humbling and I truly appreciate it.

*Thank you,
Krupa Swaminathan*

Describe your areas of emphasis and interests:

In school, I am currently tracking large animal medicine with an emphasis on livestock. That being said, I hope to go into mixed animal practice, mainly working with small animals and livestock. Despite being branches of veterinary medicine, both small and large animal medicine have many differences. In the small animal clinic, I learned about working up and managing cases that came in and researching to find answers to questions that I didn't know the answer to. In the large animal world, I learned about the unique challenges present in food animal medicine such as the economics of the industry and the bigger importance of safety on the job. Although I came to school with no food animal experience, I have learned a lot and enjoyed my experiences. All of this has culminated in me pursuing the livestock track during my 3rd year of vet school and I hope to one day practice small animal and food animal medicine.

Krupa Swaminathan



Educational Background:

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton, MA

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:
Mathematics

UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Candidate

Scholastic honors received:

Nancy Mettler Award in Veterinary Medicine

Describe your future goals and contributions that you expect to make in the veterinary profession:

I currently have an interest in general practice, and I wish to eventually become a practice owner. As a practitioner and owner, I hope to provide quality and up-to-date care and information, as well as build relationships with my clients. My goal is to become a mixed animal practitioner working with dogs, cats, and livestock. Therefore, I not only hope to practice personalized medicine on pets but also more population-based medicine on herds. I believe that client education is one of the most important aspects of the job. One of my goals is to make sure clients are properly educated on all aspects of being an owner, whether it be on the costs of veterinary care or proper pet care. The internet is becoming a very prevalent resource for a lot of pet owners. However, there is an overwhelming amount of information on how to care for a pet and a lot of it can be misleading. I hope to teach clients how to evaluate information on the internet and eventually, I hope to put together a resource for clients containing frequently asked questions. A unique attribute I possess is my background in mathematics and computer science. In human medicine, deep learning has been used to analyze medical images, and if we were able to relegate a lot of these tasks to artificial intelligence, we can help lessen costs for clients and help advance veterinary medicine. Due to my unique background, I hope to collaborate on such projects.

Describe the honors you received prior to attending veterinary school:

I was a member of the Pi Mu Epsilon, mathematics honors society at the University of Illinois.

Describe the activities you engaged in prior to entering veterinary school:

Prior to veterinary school, the majority of my experience had been in small animal medicine. I worked at a hospital called Ace Animal Hospital where I served as a veterinary assistant where I mainly assisted with clinical skills. At the University of Illinois, I had the opportunity to shadow in their large animal ICU where I gained some experience working with mainly horses, but also with some livestock patients. At Illinois, I majored in mathematics as I have always enjoyed doing math growing up. In addition to schoolwork, I have a wide variety of interests and in undergrad, I was a member of the Illinois Varsity Men's Glee Club, and volunteered my Saturdays mentoring underprivileged youth in the city of Champaign through an organization called the Illini Mentor Program.

Describe your extracurricular activities and interests:

Ever since I was 7 years old, I have been learning and singing Indian classical music, known as Carnatic music and have had the opportunity to perform singing in front of different audiences. I also took this passion for singing to Illinois where I joined the Varsity Men's Glee Club. As a part of the Glee Club, I served as a mentor to younger students and discovered that I had a passion for teaching. I have also been playing team sports ever since I was little, even playing multiple intramural and club sports in undergrad and vet school. I really believe that some of the lessons learned in team sports are highly applicable to a career in veterinary medicine. In addition to playing sports, I really enjoy watching sports. As I am from Massachusetts, I dedicate 4 hours every Sunday to watch the New England Patriots crush their opponents. Despite Tom Brady's departure, I am excited to continue to support the Patriots and curious to see how coach Belichick and the team face the upcoming challenges.

Krupa Swaminathan

Calpaca Classified Ads

Agisting

Menagerie Hill Ranch is a full service, family ranch offering **agisting, consulting, sales, support and alpaca fiber products**. Our agisting service includes quality feed and water, routine husbandry, vaccinations and other care. Alpacas on a long-term agisting plan receive free shearing. Owners are welcome to visit any time, and we will help you learn how to care for your alpacas. Veterinary care, breeding, training and other services are extra. Standard rate is \$3.25 per day. We are located in the English Hills area of Vacaville, close to Hwy 505.

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners | www.menageriehillranch.com | 707.290.7915

Farms / Ranches

Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock California - Suri and Huacaya breeding program focused on performance (obstacle, pack and public relations) as well as fiber. Classes also offered in spinning, felting and fleece preparation.

macedosminiacre@gmail.com | Larry 209-648-2338 - Maureen 209-648-2384

Herdsmen

Not **ONE**, not **TWO**, but **THREE** Get of Sire blue ribbons. The proof is in his progeny! **OVA Kiernan of St Andrews** (#30528987) has sired 61 registered cria over the past eight years. Five were registered in 2018, and more are expected in 2019 and 2020. Yep, he is still working. Check him out at www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/119141/ova-kiernan-of-st-andrews, and then give us a call at 530-744-7474.

Jack and Dianna Jordan | www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com.

Suri: Jar Jar Binks, Sir Baronoff son and Pericles, as Greystone son.

Huacaya: Accoyo Milagro (appaloosa), RR Brubeck (roan), Sundance Kid (light fawn, has sired harlequin greys). Macedo's Mini Acre, Turlock, California.

macedosminiacre@gmail.com | Larry 209-648-2338 | Maureen 209-648-2384

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? At the 2013 California Classic show, two up-and-coming herdsmen were featured in the Herdsire Auction. Little did we know then that six years later, we would be proud co-owners of them.

OVA Kiernan of St. Andrews went on to garner a total of **3 FIRST PLACE GET OF SIRE** and **3 CHAMPION/RESERVE banners**. **101A El Jefe's Moro** earned **1 FIRST PLACE GET OF SIRE** and **3 CHAMPION/RESERVE banners**.

Between them, they have produced over **80 registered offspring**...many multiple show winners.

Call Dianna Jordan at 530-744-7474 to arrange a breeding to either of these proven herdsmen.

Herdsires, cont.

MHAR Blizzard by Justice is a beautiful, bright white stud, with extremely uniform, dense, crimply fleece, full body coverage, and excellent bite/conformation. At 6 years of age, his fleece still has a lovely, soft, but-tery feel!

At the 2014 Gold Country Gathering, judge Kathy Klay said “He’s the total package!” when awarding him First Place (no CC), noting his soft crimp style and density. Most recently, his 3rd fleece spin-off entry won Judges Choice! And his 4th fleece spin-off entry won 1st Place in the adult (D) class (of 8) at the 2017 AOA nationals, this in spite of being very dirty thanks to our very wet/muddy winter. His first cria are on the ground with more due next winter. We can’t wait to see them all!

To date we haven’t used him as much as we should because we’ve been focusing on the SG/black colors. But he’s produced several lights/fawns; and now a gorgeous brown with amazing early crimp/bundling and density, plus staple length, brightness and handle that we’ll definitely be showing! So we’re focusing more on using Blizzard and hope you will too!

So through June 2020, his stud fee will be \$500 for CALPACA members, including 60 days agisting at Menagerie Hill Ranch in Vacaville for your girl. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great ge-netics at this special price!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners. www.menageriehillranch.com 707.290.7915

Menagerie Hill Ranch is pleased to offer the stud services of **RR Gun’s Kit Carson (KC)**. With **17 Champi-onships and 21 1st Place** wins, it’s no wonder that more than **10 of his offspring are Color Champion** win-ners! KC took his first championship at 8 months of age. Since then, his fleece has maintained its length, fineness and uniformity, and he remains one of the best grey males in the country.

His kids still win big in the ring... including 2016 Gold Country Gathering KC son 4-Sights Crawford won RCC behind RR Dizzy Gillespie in Grey Male; KC daughter 4-Sight’s Centerfold won CC, grey female; AND KC son RR Lancelot won Black CC. Centerfold also took CC at the 2016 ABI and the 2017 Futurity. And at the 2017 CA Classic, Lancelot won CC in both Halter and Walking Fleece. Most recently, MHAR Ebonni Carson won CC in Walking Fleece (Black) at the 2019 Gold Country Gathering!

Check KC and his cria out at:

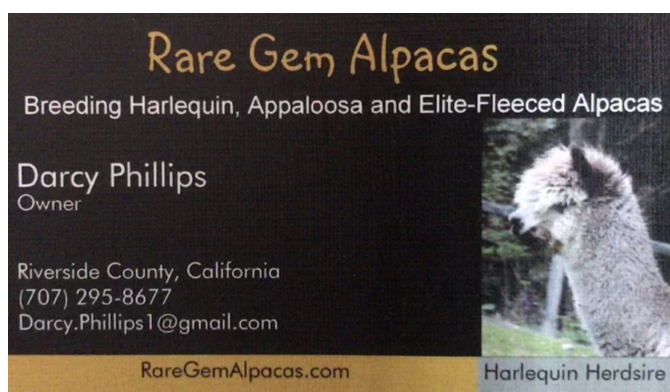
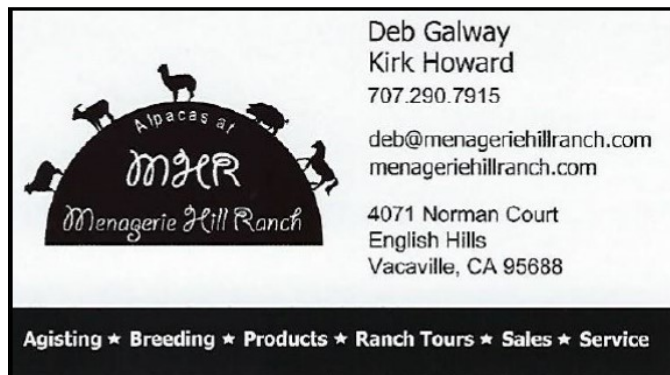
<http://www.menageriehillranch.com/alpacas-for-sale/121347/rr-guns-kit-carson>

With gorgeous silver gray fleece, excellent conformation and a perfect bite, we believe Kit Carson can make a big impact on our breeding program and yours!


He normally summers in Utah and will be leaving around May 1. Until he departs, we’re offering this spring special: Hosted breedings at a **reduced price of \$2,000, with drive-bys at \$1500**. Reserve your breedings now and take advantage of his great genetics at a great price!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard, Owners | menageriehillranch.com | 707.290.7915

Member Business Cards



Member Business Cards, cont.




Where suri alpacas are sterling

Nancy & David Helwig

925 Sterling Alpacas
10451 Valley Drive
Plymouth, CA 95669
209-245-3438
sterlingalpacas@yahoo.com

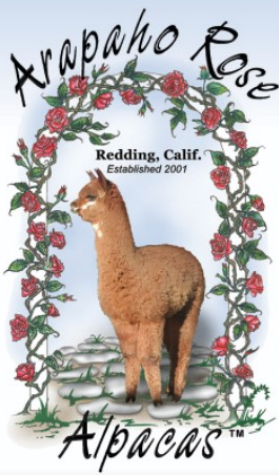
925suris.com



**Tom Houts, PhD
Robyn Houts**

Alpacas
Fiber & Finished Goods
Full Breeder Services
Alpaca Judge (ret.)


8485 Burchell Road
Gilroy, CA 95020
Phone (408) 848-2893
scfalpacas04@yahoo.com



Redding, Calif.
Established 2001

Karen S. Kelly
10702 Arapaho Drive • Redding CA 96003
530.223.3364 • kskelly1@att.net

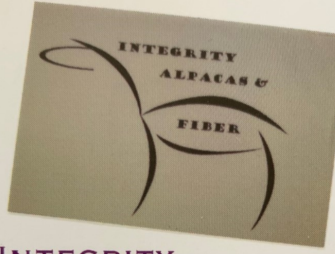
www.ArapahoRose.com



SHEKINAH'S ALPACAS

Sales, Stud Service, Raw Fiber

Wendy MacBain
P.O. Box 1209
Gilroy, CA 95021
Phone/Fax: 408-848-9583
Info@shekinahsalpacas.com
www.shekinahsalpacas.com



**INTEGRITY
ALPACAS & FIBER**

FIBER CONSULTANT
SORTER, GRADER, CLASSER
WORKING FIBER FARM
FIBER ARTS

CHARLENE P. SCHMID
7490 N. MERIDIAN ROAD
VACAVILLE, CA 95688

(530)400-2684
WWW.INTEGRITYALPACAS.COM

Member Business Cards, cont.



**SELECTION
QUALITY
VALUE
&
SERVICE**

**ALPACAS
OF SOMERSET FARM**

Jack & Dianna Jordan
Alpacas of Somerset Farm
530-620-6033
DLJORDAN@live.com

www.alpacasofsomersetfarm.com

Macedo's Mini Acre

Turlock CA

Alpacas, llamas and fiber arts studio

Larry & Maureen Macedo

209-648-2338 & 209-648-2384

macedosminiacre@gmail.com

TIMELESS AND AFFORDABLE



**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS
FROM YOUR PHOTOS**

McCarty Creek Ranch
KIM BISCEGLIA
530-833-5431
MCCARTYCREEKRANCH@YAHOO.COM



**Plateau Breeze
Ranch**

Marc & Leanne Antaya

LeanneAntaya@yahoo.com
www.PlateauBreezeRanch.com

(951) 677-7500

35987 AVENIDA LA CRESTA
MURRIETA, CA. 92562

L'illette Vasquez, Coordinator
170 Hoofbeat Trail
Kerrville, Texas 78028-8780
LlamaRescue@lillette.net



**Southwest
Llama
Rescue.**

SWLR—a 501 c3 non-profit organization

Mission Statement
To provide safe refuge for unwanted, neglected or abandoned llamas through intervention, education and necessary support. To seek placement and lifelong care for all llamas entrusted to our care.

SouthwestLlamaRescue.org



Vicki Arns

21740 Burndale Road
Sonoma, CA 95476
Ph (707) 938-5412
vickiashire@vom.com

Established in 1985

Alpaca Education At Your Fingertips

Do you know the AOA website contains a section called the Alpaca Academy? The Alpaca Academy provides education and information for the entire alpaca community. Topics range from the most common questions about alpacas and the industry to in-depth articles on alpaca EPDs, genetics, and breeding. Alpaca Academy also provides information on the latest alpacas research and links to additional resources.

The following pages contain examples of the various topics available for those wanting to know more about alpacas and the industry.

One of the common themes I have found in reading about what alpaca owners breeders would like is the desire for more education. Perhaps many don't know that many of their questions have already been addressed in the Alpaca Academy. Take a few minutes to review the topics on the right. If you would like to learn more about the Alpaca Academy just follow this link:

<http://www.alpacainfo.com/learn> and

ALPACA ACADEMY



- [About Alpacas](#)
- [Alpaca Fiber](#)
- [Alpaca Registry](#)
- [Alpaca Research](#)
- [Alpaca Shows](#)
- [Alpacas as a Business](#)
- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Embryo Transfer](#)
- [EPDs](#)
- [Farm Management](#)
- [Genetics & Breeding](#)
- [Health & Husbandry](#)
- [Marketing](#)
- [Research Registered Alpacas](#)

Video Topics Available From International Camelid Institute Include:

- How To Give an Injection
- Assessing Your Camelid Before You Call Your Veterinarian
- Removal of Fighting Teeth
- Proper Halter Fit For Camelids
- Passing A Stomach Tube in Camelids
- Obtaining a Blood Sample and preparing the DNA Blood Card
- Shearing for the Health of Your Animals
- Training Your Camelid to Halter and Lead

Join Calpaca Today!

The **California Alpaca Breeders Association** (Calpaca) represents alpaca owners, breeders, and enthusiasts in California and beyond. We promote the well-being of alpacas and education of the public about alpacas, alpaca fiber, and alpaca products. We support each other through shared information and experiences, and host meetings, speakers and shows for the benefit of members and the public. We invite you to join us!

Calpaca Membership Meetings are held quarterly on the second Saturday of the second month of each quarter.

Calpaca Farm Membership - \$100/year (\$50 first year)

Benefits:

- Free marketing on Calpaca website (animals, fiber, store, services etc.)
- Complimentary listing of your Openherd website on Calpaca's website – check out <http://www.calpaca.org/alpaca-farms/>
- Educational quarterly Calpaca membership meetings
- Free advertising opportunity in the Connection newsletter
- Ability to link your Web site to a mobile device
- Ability to link your Web site to Facebook page
- Lobbying our State Legislature through– AG Day sponsorship
- Discounts at alpaca events
- Advertising opportunity to showcase your farm to over 3000 alpaca breeders
- Opportunity to run for a seat on the Calpaca Board of Directors and have a voice in the future
- Opportunity to host a Calpaca meeting and give your ranch and alpacas more exposure
- Two votes on Calpaca issues
- Connection newsletter that provides educational articles
- Listing in Membership Directory, hard copy
- Ability to send email marketing items to members offering your animals, products and services

Calpaca Associate Membership - \$30/year

Benefits:

- Quarterly *Calpaca Connection* Newsletter
- Attend all Calpaca meetings and events

Join Online