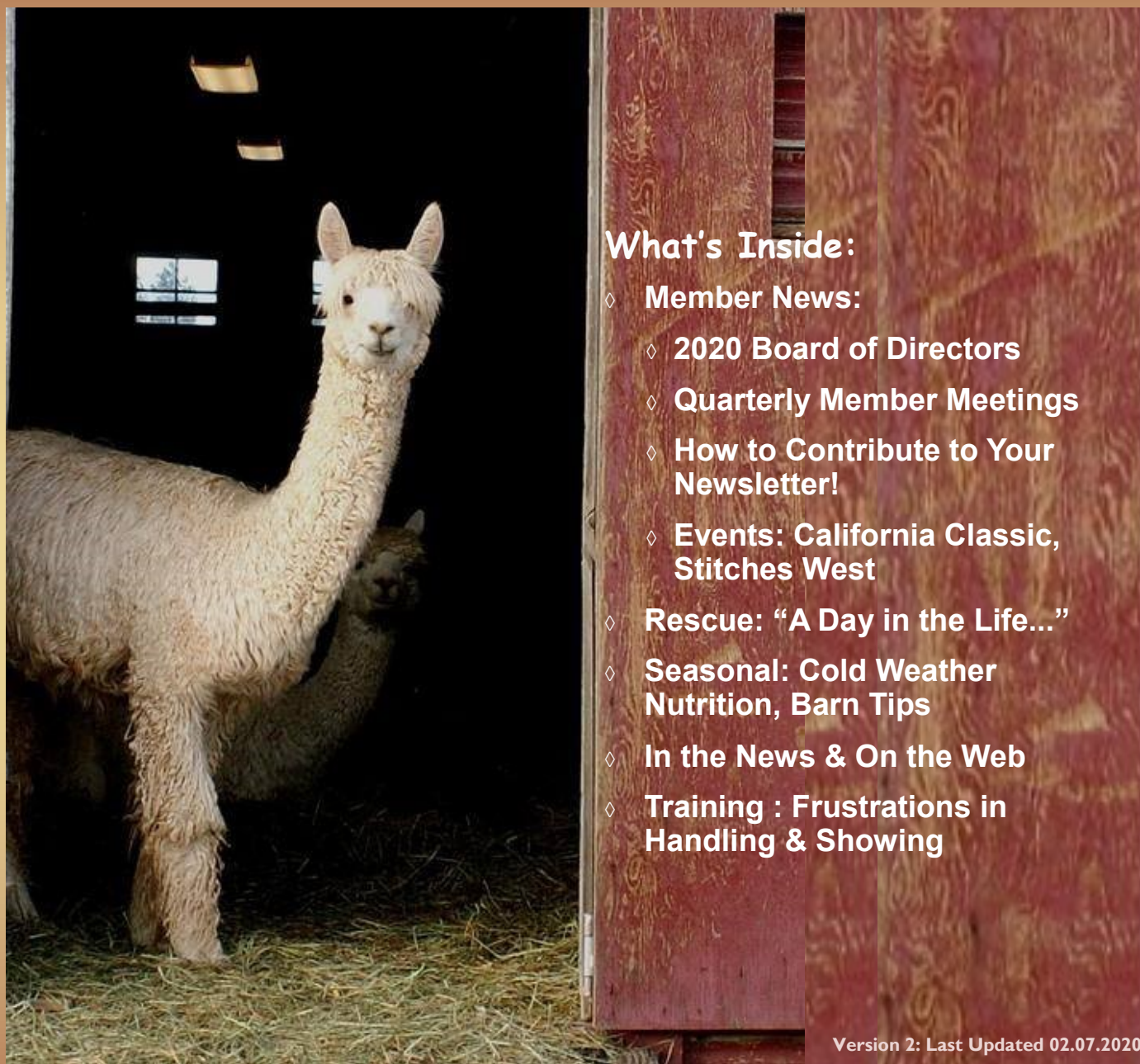


CONNECTION

Winter FEB 2020



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◇ Member News:

- ◇ 2020 Board of Directors
- ◇ Quarterly Member Meetings
- ◇ How to Contribute to Your Newsletter!
- ◇ Events: California Classic, Stitches West
- ◇ Rescue: "A Day in the Life..."
- ◇ Seasonal: Cold Weather Nutrition, Barn Tips
- ◇ In the News & On the Web
- ◇ Training : Frustrations in Handling & Showing

Version 2: Last Updated 02.07.2020



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

macedosminiacre@gmail.com

Vice-President

Dianna Jordan

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

dljordan@live.com

Treasurer

Jackie Jones

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

jaclyndjones@outlook.com

Secretary

Megan Kukla

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

mkooks2002@yahoo.com

Director-at-Large

Tracy DiPippo

Angel Dreams Alpacas
291 Race Street
Grass Valley, Ca 95445
805-432-9344

alpacasdream@me.com

Membership Chair

Linda Cline

C-Line Alpaca Ranch
7970 N Locke Rd
Vacaville, CA 95688
805-218-1171

47whatnow@gmail.com



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
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for 925 Sterling Alpacas

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

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Calpaca Website

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Group Emails

calpacamembers@gmail.com

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Connection Editor

L'illette Vasquez

L'illy Llamas & Alpacas
10451 Valley Drive
Plymouth, CA 95669
720-839-0787

editor@lillette.net

To join or renew your membership:

calpaca.org/

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NEXT ISSUE: The spring issue publishes in May, which means all things fiber, crias, and... what's on *your* mind?! Please send submissions to Editor@lillette.net by April 11, 2020.

2020 Dates to Remember

02.20-23	Stitches West	Santa Clara, CA
10.17-18	Gold Country Gathering	Grass Valley, CA

Calpaca Quarterly Membership Meetings

02.08	Dale Davis	Derwydd Alpacas	Esparto, CA
05.09	Claudia Porter	Black Rock Mountain Alpacas & Fiber Mill	Fernley, NV
08.08	Jackie Jones	Back 40 Farms	Valley Springs, CA
11.14	Leanne Antaya	Plateau Breeze Ranch	Murieta, CA

Message from the President

Welcome to a new decade! At this time, I would like to welcome our two new board members, **Megan Kukla** (MLK Alpacas & Friends Fiber Farm) and **Jackie Jones** (Back 40 Farms). We have a number of items on our agenda, and will be spending a day working on a Strategic Plan for our organization. (The meeting is scheduled for the end of January; we will post in the next *Connection*.)

At this time, it is appropriate to thank our two departing Board Members, Charlene Schmid (Integrity Alpacas & Fiber) and Darcy Phillips (Rare Gem Alpacas) for all of their time and energies spent on behalf of Calpaca. These two worked diligently and have promised to continue their efforts even as they leave the Board.

2020 will see Calpaca working with researchers at U.C. Davis to study the genetics of blue-eyed whites and deafness in alpacas. Charlene Schmid will continue to be our liaison due to her proximity to UCD, and shall be reporting to the Board (and in updates in the *Connection*) as the study continues.

There is a very exciting new opportunity for alpacas with the fiber community! 2020 will see Calpaca's informational booth at Stitches West, one of the biggest gatherings for fiber enthusiasts on the West Coast. The Fiber Committee will be reporting on this in an upcoming *Connection*. Stitches West takes place February 20th through the 23rd in Santa Clara, California, at the Convention Center. It is a "no sales" booth event, but Farm Members are invited to have their business cards and tri-fold pamphlets available for attendees to pick up.

Calpaca will continue to have its presence felt at Ag Day at the Capitol. It is extremely important that we keep alpacas in front of our legislators.

The two Calpaca shows, Gold Country in Grass Valley and the California Classic, now located in Merced, California, brings opportunities for owners to have their alpacas evaluated by AOA's premier judges.

The Camelid Symposium was back for a second year after its hiatus. Steve Aitcheson (Epic Alpacas) and the Symposium Committee came up with an outstanding group of presenters, from a variety of backgrounds and for a wide range of interests. I hope you were able to attend.

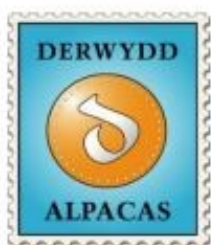
And let's not forget our member meetings! Here is your chance to meet and greet other alpaca owners and show off your ranch. Virtual meetings simply cannot take the place of face-to-face opportunities. Calpaca covers a HUGE geographic area, so we like to offer North, South, East and West opportunities to host, but that means YOU need to offer to host a meeting! You can sign up on the Calpaca website, it's that easy!

Thank you for taking the time to read the *Connection*: it is your newsletter, and I want to remind you that we need your articles, photos and ads. The more members contribute, the stronger the organization becomes.

Happy New Year!

Regards,

Maureen Macedo, President



Calpaca Feb Quarterly Membership Meeting Feb. 08, 2020 | 9:00 to 4:00-ish

Hosted by Dale Davis, Derwydd Alpacas
24485 Derwydd Way, Esparto CA 95627 | 530-908-3534

RSVP to Dale@DerwyddAlpacas.com. Let her know
if you need additional directions to the farm.

Agenda:

9:00 Coffee and snacks available

10:00 Calpaca Quarterly Meeting

12:00 Potluck Lunch

- Bring enough to share. What to bring? Surprise us!
- 25 chairs available; bring yours if you want to guarantee seating.
- Empty fridge for folks to park stuff in.
- Lotsa electrical outlets for crockpots.
- And the entire event will be in Dale's lovely heated home!
- Wine, beer, and sodas available all afternoon.

1:00 Educational Program: *Fun with Core Spun Fiber*

TOC Join us at Derwydd for a great afternoon learning some new HANDS-ON techniques to use core spun fiber; *and* Laura Hutchinson from Trillium Lane Alpacas will teach us how to braid a rug. There will be active demos using peg looms and a continuous weave pin loom. This is a great opportunity to use some rug-weaving equipment!

Derwydd will loan the group all the core spun needed to practice with. If you want to bring your own, that's great! If you want to purchase what you played with, it will be available at cost.

Calpaca Quarterly Membership Meetings

02.08	Dale Davis	Derwydd Alpacas	Esparto, CA
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11.14	Leanne Antaya	Plateau Breeze Ranch	Murieta, CA

Have You Met Your New 2020 Board Directors?

In case you would like a little refresher, these are the candidate statements from our two newest members of the Calpaca Board of Directors.



Jackie Jones

Hello, my name is Jackie Jones, and I am running for a position on the Calpaca Board of Directors.

I began fulfilling my dream of alpaca ownership in May of 2015 when I purchased my first ranch home. I quickly became acquainted with Dianna and Jack Jordan (Alpacas of Somerset Farm), spending many weekends visiting their ranch and learning. Back 40 Farms was established, and the dream became a full reality when I brought my first six alpacas home in August of 2016. Since then, I have grown my herd to 25 with five cria on the way, and relocated to a larger ranch I purchased in Valley Springs, CA. My herd includes Huacayas and Suris.

I am eager to learn as much as possible about these amazing animals and the industry. I have an affinity for multis and appaloosas, and I am building my breeding program around that focus.

I enjoy showing my alpacas, and I am excited about bringing my "home grown" youngsters to upcoming shows. I have met many wonderful alpaca people, and I am looking forward to further deepening my relationships and ties within the Calpaca community and the alpaca industry.

My career has been in the Mortgage Banking industry, and I recently became the Director of Mortgage Operations for a major lending company. Through the years, I have developed vast leadership and project management skills. If elected to the Calpaca Board, I will use these experiences and skills to serve the Calpaca membership and Board.

Thank you for your consideration.



Fiber Mill Manager: Ms. Staci Forshee

918-930-1314 crossedarrowfibermill@gmail.com

Office: 580-444-3541

*Russ and Brenda Wyler
178740 N. 3000 Rd
Duncan, OK 73533
540-295-8214*

New 2020 Board Directors



Megan Kukla

Hello, my name is Megan Kukla, and I am running for a position on the Calpaca Board of Directors. I was introduced to the world of alpacas in July 2015. After volunteering for several months and not knowing exactly what I was going to do with them, I purchased, bred, and leased my first alpacas in October of the same year.

I have always been a huge animal lover; and although I never joined 4H myself, growing up, I had many friends who were members. I remember helping them with their daily chores and at fairs while waiting to show. After 20+ years of pent-up jealousy, never getting to show animals myself, I finally got to show my first alpaca at the California Classic in 2016. Not only was the entire weekend experience educational and extremely enjoyable, but my little girl actually got 1st place in her class! You've never seen a person more shocked. Needless to say, I was hooked!

Today, I own four Huacayas (plus another due November 2019) and two Suris. I have decided to build my business, *Alpacas & Friends*, around alpacas and other fiber animals in the hopes of educating young people about fiber and its many different uses, while also encouraging them to get involved in the alpaca industry. As a fiber *Sorting, Grading, Classing* apprentice, I continue to learn more and more about alpacas and the fiber industry with every fleece I look at. I believe that getting the younger generation more involved, as well as creating a larger demand for alpaca fiber products, is the future of the alpaca industry.

Everyone I've met within the Calpaca community has been forthcoming with information, given great advice and encouragement, and are so friendly and accepting, that it would be a true honor to serve on this board. I am excited for the opportunity to become more involved, meet more of you, and contribute some new ideas for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

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](#)

California Classic



March 28 & 29, 2020
Merced County Fairgrounds
Merced, CA

*** Halter with Traditional & Small Breeder Classes ***

*** Walking Fleece Competition ***

REGISTER ONLINE

Come and help us celebrate the California Classic Alpaca & Fiber Show. Calpaca returns the premier California alpaca show again this year to the Hilmar Cheese Barn at the Merced County Fairgrounds on March 28 and 29. Several Vacaville alpaca ranches, as well as a multitude of ranches from all over California, Nevada, Oregon and Arizona will be represented. What better way to learn more about the alpaca industry than to talk to alpaca breeders and meet 200+ alpacas face-to-face, plus get your hands on their soft luxurious fiber.

Admission is FREE.

Be sure to bring your camera!

If you knit, spin or weave, you don't want to miss this opportunity. Throughout the weekend, fiber enthusiast and artisans will showcase alpaca fiber (raw fiber, roving, and yarn) and examples of felting, fiber arts and more. Lots of vendors and farm displays will sell the latest alpaca fashions and hand-crafted items.

Alpaca is often compared to the softness of cashmere. Hypoallergenic, 1/3 the weight of wool, comfortably smooth against your skin, and it comes from a beautiful, manageable animal that softly hums to communicate. Alpacas require small acreage and are considered "green" livestock.

Show Hours:

- Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location:

The show and vendors will be in the Livestock section of the Fairgrounds.

Competitions:

On both days, the alpacas will be featured in a Show Ring Competition, where they will be judged on the quality of their fleece and their conformation.

Watch as the alpacas compete for that "Blue Ribbon." They are not judged for their performance or behavior, but strictly on the quality of the animal. See if you can pick out the winner before the judge makes the announcement!

CALPACA is California's Regional Affiliate of the Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. (AOA). Calpaca was the first regional alpaca association in the northern hemisphere and has been a leader in the American alpaca industry since 1989. Its member farms are home to the oldest and most respected bloodlines in North America. For more information, visit calpaca.org.



Owners Association Inc

Calling All Unregistered Alpacas 2 and Older!


Registering all of your alpacas is not only important to the alpaca industry as a whole, but also for your business. Registered alpacas have more value than their unregistered neighbors!


Through DNA testing, registration validates your alpacas' pedigree and tracks their bloodlines. Registered alpacas can participate in AOA's Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) program and compete in AOA Certified Shows. This science-based registry supports the value of your alpacas!

To help you fill-in your pedigrees, the AOA Board has just approved a temporary price reduction for the month of February on the registration fee of alpacas 2-years-old and older. This means you can register your older alpacas in February for the same price as younger alpacas at \$55 per registration. This saves you \$25 per registration!

So order your blood cards today and be ready to register those older alpacas starting February 1, 2020!

[Emailed notification from The Alpaca Breeders Association 01.23.2020]

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Learn more about Alpaca Husbandry

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Protecting your investment through research.

How to Contribute to *Your* Newsletter!

By Sheila Fugina

Newsletter editors the world over will tell you the hardest, most frustrating part about the job is lack of submissions received from members. All of us look forward to seeing that familiar newsletter in our mailbox as we anticipate a “good read.” If members don’t contribute the content—articles, calendar items, helpful hints, photos, ads—there is no newsletter. An editor edits, which is defined as “to prepare an edition of” or “to direct the publication of.” That doesn’t include writing all the copy or beating the bushes for ads. That’s our job as members of this organization.

Many people aren’t comfortable writing. They don’t know where to start, or they don’t think they have anything worthwhile to say. Others are worried about their spelling, grammar or use of words. Still others feel they are just too busy to set aside any time for contributing to the newsletter. If any of those excuses sound familiar to you, here’s how to get over them.

If you’re not comfortable writing a piece for the newsletter, then “talk” it. Tell it to a tape recorder, or have your spouse or friend copy down the main points as you tell it to them. We’re not asking for a major epistle, just a short item or two. Once the gist of what you want to say is down on paper (or the computer), then you can play with it and change or refine it.

If you don’t know where to start, just start anywhere. You can always go back and put a beginning on your story. When I worked as a reporter for a daily newspaper, I had to work fast. If I wasn’t sure how to start a piece, I didn’t have the luxury of sitting around until inspiration hit. I just dove into the story, and then checked afterwards

to see if it had a logical beginning, middle and end. Have a friend read it and give you their reaction.

Everyone has something worthwhile to say or share. Maybe it’s a simple trick or two in setting up your barn that makes feeding easier, or a way of handling your animals at shearing time that makes everything less stressful for them and for you. Maybe there’s a special event coming up that you want others to know about, or maybe you attended a great conference and have information you want to share with others. Everyone has a fun llama or alpaca story they tell their friends—why not write it down for the newsletter so others may enjoy it too?

If you’re worried about your spelling, grammar or use of words, have your spouse or a friend read your copy with a critical eye (there’s no more critical eye than that of a spouse). Though computers can be helpful with some spelling errors, beware of totally relying on spellcheck features. The computer won’t catch words that are spelled correctly, but not used properly. Ask the editor to proof or clean up your copy if you’d like. As editor on a variety of magazines and publications over the years, it was my job to edit articles and make them read well. Most editors will be happy to do this.

You don’t have enough time? Certainly, over the course of a year, you can manage to submit one item to the newsletter. If every member submitted only one item a year, the editor of a quarterly newsletter would be awash with material for publication. Just put it on your calendar and follow through. If you have the time or inclination

How to Contribute to *Your* Newsletter, cont.

to contribute more than one piece, all the better. Consider it your responsibility to your organization, just like paying your membership dues.

Think about advertising in the newsletter. Promote your stud, highlight animals or equipment for sale, and keep your newsletter solvent at the same time. Encourage others to advertise, not just members, but also business and services that might benefit from advertising to our members. Business card ads and classified ads are inexpensive, and larger size ads in our newsletter are very reasonable. If you aren't sure how to put together a camera-ready ad, ask a computer-literate friend for help.

Our newsletter is the single piece of communication we can count on to reach every member on a regular ongoing basis with news and information about our organization, as well as items of concern throughout our region. Not everyone attends all of our meetings and conferences, nor can we count on everyone receiving our organization's email communications. Our newsletter is one of the most important membership benefits we receive. And that includes "giving to" the newsletter as well as "taking from" it.

Reprinted from MLA's *Llama Living* newsletter [Vol. 23, Issue 3; September 2019] with permission of author.



Your 2020 Calpaca Board of Directors

Maureen Macedo
Tracy DiPippo
Megan Kukla
Jackie Jones
Dianna Jordan

A Day in the Life of Llama Rescue:

Letter to a Friend



Dear — ,

As if I didn't have enough animals to care for, I now have two Nigerian Dwarf goats as well. That wouldn't be a problem... except that when I put them in the small pasture where my broken-legged llama, Amelia, is being kept temporarily in a small enclosure, Amelia totally freaked out and jumped the fence (yes, a 5' fence and her with a broken leg in a cast) into the large field behind the barn that is not yet fenced!! Fortunately, I had not yet removed her halter after giving her her daily exam, because she was headed for the wilderness!! I managed to get her back into the pen. I then moved the goats into the larger pasture with six of the geldings who, wusses that they are, alarm-called like crazy and ran as far away from the goats as possible. Meanwhile, the goats are following me and baaaaing, just as terrified of the llamas as the llamas are of them!!



All this would have been sort of OK, had it not been for the fact that I have big Al (400-lb. gelding) in the pen with Amelia, because four days ago he started showing some really strange behavior: he starts to turn around, seems to lose his balance and almost falls over; so I wanted to observe him in a small space and see what's up.

Well, he's done it a few times in the pen, and today while all this excitement was going on, he actually fell down!!! I'm in tears for him! He's the big ol' love you helped me cut toenails on some time ago.

Oh, and I can't neglect to mention that before I brought the goats in, I had to move another big old gelding out of that pasture, because he's a rescue I've taken in due to the fact that he crippled a small dog and killed a cat, so I didn't know what he would do to the goats.

That wouldn't have been such a big deal either, but he also grew up with a halter on that grew into his face and had to be surgically removed, so he's just a "tad" face shy.

I called some neighbors who have two llamas. They came right down and helped me get him into a small space where I could halter him; then helped lead him to his new pasture with two other somewhat "iffy" rescue geldings.

Before all of this, the rescue gelding that I moved and my guy, Bandito, had gotten into a knock-down fight over the fence and almost managed to turn my fence between the two pastures into "toast."

Well, I think there's a happy [not ending, but...] respite here in that the goats have calmed down and seem to want to make friends with the llamas, the llamas have calmed down and actually moved closer and stopped alarm-calling when they saw me petting the goats, Amelia is calmer and eating, Al is lying down and eating, the rescue geldings are choosing which corner of the pasture is whose, Bandito is so busy watching the goats that he is not at the moment the least bit concerned about getting into any fights, AND I don't have any money so I can't buy any wine or narcotics!!!! Guess I'll just stay here and live the daily adventure!



Cheers!

Chela

Chela Gray has been involved in the camelid community since 1988. Stillpointe Sanctuary, which was incorporated as a non-profit and opened in Washington 2000, takes in llamas and alpacas in need; and also plays a large part in educating the public about camelids.

Visit StillpointeSanctuary.org to learn more about Chela and her many efforts on the behalf of llamas, alpacas, and the people who love them.

In the News and On the Web

(CLICK IMAGE OR TEXT BOX TO GO TO ARTICLE ONLINE)



"Alpacas' antibodies create more options for human patients"
by [Lauren Moss, WDNu News](#)
(12.27.2019)

AlpacaGram 7.08
Your January To Do List From AOA
(posted 1.30.2020)



[Chela Gray](#), Stillpointe Sanctuary



American Llama Magazine

November 30, 2019 ·

Llamas vs. Alpacas, we're here to set the record straight. Watch for an article on this topic in the upcoming spring issue. Free to download at [LlamaMagazine.com](#)

Barn Tips & Tricks for Cold Weather

- In need of emergency lighting? Use the battery-operated, stick-on closet lights in a stall, tack or feed room; on a barn wall; even in the back of a dark trailer.
- Need a quick cria nursery? Use portable panels with blankets hanging on the *outside*. You can purchase inexpensive blankets and comforters from thrift stores. Use quick-ties to hold the blankets in place.
- Cold winter weather can be a killer for the very young and old. Get down to their [kushed] level and check for drafts and water-soaked bedding.
- Wood chips and straw make great bedding for your outside livestock guardian dogs.
- An old blanket and a length of Velcro, or a bathrobe belt in a real pinch, that fits around the belly makes a quick warmer for a llama with the shivers. For crias, use a child's jacket or sweater, buttoning on the back.



If you have a tip you would like to share, please email the editor at llamas@lillette.net

Cold Weather Nutrition for Camelids

Dr. LaRue Johnson, Colorado State University (RMLA Journal, March 1993)

Since we are now optimistically facing spring here in the Rockies, we would like to think the cold weather is over. But tradition would tend to suggest otherwise. Is there a need to give nutritional consideration of cold weather for our furry friends? Perhaps the first thing to define is cold weather. As our always-reliable weatherpersons point out, the temperature often plunges below freezing which, just by the term, suggests cold to us two-leggeds. However, what is cold to us may well be only a stimulus to our buddies to feel frisky and llama dance more than just in the twilight. I'm not sure we can put an absolute formula definition on cold weather; however, factors that must be considered are, of course, the thermometer reading, the wind chill, dampness or relative humidity, body condition, wool covering, shelter, bedding, and nutrition quantity as well as quality.

In reality, any time the mercury dips below 40°F, the other factors may begin to have an influence on determining the effect, with obviously greater potential influence as it gets progressively lower. High relative humidity, as well as either rain or snow, provides greater thermal penetration. Combining the reduced environmental temperature with the influence of Wyoming winds may well send the wind chill factor to produce a considerable thermal effect. That effect may well be nicely tolerated, however, if the combination of resistance factors are adequate to the challenge.

What allows the various sea mammals (notably polar bears, whales, and the various cetaceans) to endure swimming in icy waters that could quickly be the demise of most other mammals? The answer lies in a considerable layer of body-covering fat, as well as in some, a furry coat with variable thickness, as well as unique thermal protecting

properties. The same fat llama that was predisposed to heat stress back in July - September is now better able to tolerate the other extreme, whereas a truly thin llama (rare breed) will likely need some cold weather consideration.

Camelids that have been extensively groomed or shorn in the previous summer will also have lost some of their natural thermal protection. Also, naturally short-wooled animals will need some consideration over heavily wooled ones. Environmental options available to your animals may well circumvent the need for additional nutritional considerations in spite of being properly body-conditioned and short-wooled. Wind breaks with deep bedding should be the minimum available; ideally, a roof is provided in addition.

NOTE: If you have a herd of llamas and plan to construct a protective shed/barn, be sure to provide the opening to the south/southeast, and consider that approximately one-third of the floor space will be occupied by an all too predictable dunging area.

Upon close inspection of your llama's wool coat, you will observe that all body parts are not covered equally. The same thermal window that allowed for heat loss in the summertime is now unprotected from the cold while the animal is standing. Consequently, if dry, deep bedding made available, the thermal window of the abdomen is protected, and the tail (if wooly) will fully cover the genital region. Feeding your llamas on the ground during extremely cold weather allows them to lie down on uneaten hay (protecting the thermal window), although this admittedly comprises our usual recommendations for prevention of parasitism.

Cold Weather Nutrition for Camelids, cont.

Having considered the foregoing countermeasures to cold effects on our llamas, most will actually need no additional nutritional considerations. However, if residual concerns persist, some nutritional alterations may be implemented. We can, in some cases, increase the total intake of forage. However, if animals have already essentially been offered free-choice forage, they will not increase their intake just because we offer them more. Research has shown that they will not consume more than 1.8-2.0% of their body weight (BW) in dry matter (DM), no matter how much or of what quality they are offered. As such, only if they have been limit-fed prior to the onset of cold weather, will the offering of more of the same feed be of benefit. Therefore, the only other option is to increase the caloric density of the total DM consumed.

This effort in itself is a paradoxical compromise in that by substituting for some of the forage in the diet with a more calorically dense and generally more readily digested food, a reduction of heat increment occurs. What, pray tell, is heat increment? Essentially, it is wasted calories that do not get truly into the body's metabolism, but instead cause internal heat to be generated in the course of being digested. For our cold weather situation under consideration, a feed with high heat increment is, of course, desirable, whereas during hot weather, quite the opposite is concluded. Forages (hay and pasture) have high heat increment, whereas concentrates (grains and many pelleted supplements) have a lower heat increment. Consequently, in replacing part of the diet with grain, we are increasing the digestible nutrients available for body metabolism, but in the process, not generating as much heat. One can conclude, however, that a proper balance of forage-to-grain supplement will be maintained as long as the grain

doesn't exceed 20% of the total DM intake.

Example: 300-lb. llama eating 2% of BW in DM = 6 lbs. \times 20% = 1.2 lbs. of grain and 4.8 lbs. of forage.

Now, have I just said that all 300-lb. llamas should receive 1.2 lbs. of grain per day? NO! Only if they are thin, short-wooled, and not provided adequate shelter in cold weather. In addition, independent of the previous conditions, consideration to offer grain is influenced by late pregnancy, heavy lactation, heavy exercise (the pacing stud), and young animals in growth spurts.

What concentrate/grain should we feed? While the options are many, constraints of price and availability compromise many. As such, the KISS ("Keep It Simple, Stupid") principle should prevail. Yellow corn, either whole, flaked or cracked, is my choice in that it is readily available, reasonably priced, readily consumed, and is calorically dense. Combinations of grains (e.g., COB—corn/oats/barley with a sprinkling of molasses) do offer a desirable higher fiber intake, but are more expensive.

In summary, there are circumstances where nutritional changes can be used to advantage to counter the effects of cold weather. However, before nutritional measures are implemented, I would encourage you to assess body condition, wool covering and unique nutritional demands. Remember, just because some of your animals may need more groceries, doesn't mean the whole herd does—even if cold weather!

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Frustration in Leading and Showing: An Email Dialogue

By Marty McGee-Bennett, Camelidynamics

Note: In this particular article, I am writing about a llama and a llama owner. Alpaca owners often find themselves in the same situation. My advice would be the same for handlers of either species.

Compared to trimming toenails, taking a llama for a walk is one of the easier skills to master for both owner and handler; but when it comes to showing, leading can be tricky, difficult and frustrating. Leading a llama well is not unlike walking a dog. It can be a partnership—each walking gracefully in accord with the other; control, if evident, understated and hardly noticeable—or it can be a frustrating experience for both animal and handler, an exercise in discomfort and imbalance. Watching a dog lunge, pull and gag makes one wonder how much fun taking the pooch for a walk could be for dog or human. Dog owners commonly rely on prong and choke collars, using discomfort as a way of controlling behavior. Llama owners often pull, jerk or hang on for dear life as they attempt to control an animal in the ring.

Dog or llama, learning to put an animal in balance is the answer to walking together without the threat of pain as an incentive for good behavior. Walking in balance is not only easier for both handler and animal, but will show off your llama to his or her best advantage.

This series of emails is classic, and really illustrates both the frustration of having a problem that doesn't seem to be getting any better., and the rewards of figuring out how to fix it!



Tension on her lead line makes llama Carina use the lead rope for balance.

To: marty@camelidynamics.com
From: llamalover@someemailaddress

Hi Marty! Hope all is well with you two during your summer travels. This is Betty Fockler/Centerburg, OH. We met at your clinic three years ago at Barb Claire's, and again this spring at McFarlands' in Fredericktown. I don't expect you to remember Carina (you dubbed her "Drama Queen"). I wonder if you have any suggestions before I march forward w/ my own plan.

Situation: Carina leans away from me when I am trying to show her in the ring; sometimes she leans away when leading anywhere. I have a devil of a time getting her to walk without my "encouragement," and I find myself pulling her. I've tried stopping, putting her in balance, starting again... No dice; she's right back out there. I've gripped the halter tightly, loosely, frontwards, from the side... you can see I am frustrated.

My husband Fritz says she just hates being shown, AND we haven't exposed her to the show ring enough for her to be comfortable. Could be. Before I give up on her AND while I begin to train our newest little girl, Tina Marie (8 months old), I'm asking your opinion.

Frustration in Leading and Showing: An Email Dialogue ~ cont.

Do you believe the *Grace of the Cheetah** would be beneficial, modifying it for the handler on the right to use the wand to get Carina back to her left? Thank you for any suggestions. I don't want to confuse her any more than she appears to be now.

Best Regards!

Betty

I can feel Betty's frustration in every line of this email. She is a dedicated llama enthusiast, and has attended not one, but two training clinics with me. She is convinced she has tried everything, and is still getting nowhere with her girl. I did, in fact, remember Carina, and remembered dubbing her a drama queen. She was a young llama who was very energetic in her response to anything! No wishy-washy llama this one! I don't and didn't mean to diminish Carina's concern about things, but it would be easy to take her somewhat over-the-top reactions too seriously. I told Betty she needed to be a bit more assertive in her dealings with Carina, hardening her heart just a bit to those beautiful liquid eyes.

To: llamalover@someemailaddress

From: marty@camelidynamics.com

Subject: Re: Drama Queen

Hi Betty, I would definitely use the *Cheetah** but even better would be to lead with two leads and a handler on both sides (the *Homing Pigeon**). Make sure that you stay light and don't put any steady pressure on her head. Give her signals when you need to... but REMEMBER to release in between corrections. Graduate to one handler with two leads and then to leading under the chin when she gets it. I know that it is difficult not to hold Carina and try to make her go where you want but really less is more in this case.

Correct...release, correct... release correct RELEASE... look at the hook or hooks attached to the halter and if the hook is not dangling loosely from the ring with the bottom end of the hook aimed at the ground, then you still haven't totally released the pressure on the lead. I promise you this is what is causing the problem! Make sure to attach the leads to the side rings of the nose-band. Good luck and let me know how you do.

Marty



At a walk you see that Carina is using the lead for balance.

*The *Grace of the Cheetah*, or simply the *Cheetah*, and the *Homing Pigeon* are leading techniques developed by Linda Tellington-Jones, the inventor of Tellington Touch Every Animal Method (TTEAM). These leading techniques encourage the animal and handler to work together as a unit. Both of these leading techniques involve leading from a greater distance than is usual when leading llamas. It offers more freedom to the

llama, and requires more precision of the handler. Both of these techniques teach a llama to pay more attention to signals from the handler. Perhaps more importantly, they also teach a handler to listen to his or her llama!

To: marty@camelidynamics.com
From: llamalover@someemailaddress

Marty,

Thanks SO much for your recommendations on using two leads & leaders. Fritz and I worked w/ Carina two days with little improvement. On day three, I realized I was still applying pressure (no, the hook wasn't dangling loosely toward the ground). When I COMPLETELY let go, she responded. We went to just me leading and what an improvement! What I learned is it takes virtually NO pressure on Carrie's head for her to walk straight. She took a 2nd at the Hartford Fair out of four entries; But what is important is she actually gave this judge an opportunity to see her walk. AND the judge commented on how fluid her movement is, and excellent width of those front legs, etc. What a difference!

With our new little girl (8 months), I used the same "touch," and she walked beautifully in her 2nd show (my first showing her)! She took a 2nd out of 14, and I was thrilled. Again, this judge commented on her movement, etc.

Those llamas will get me trained yet!

Incidentally, a friend and I were commenting at the Ohio State Fair Show (I didn't show) this weekend on how nearly all handlers hold extremely tight leads under the llama's chin, or pull their necks skyward; and I wonder HOW they could possibly get them to walk under that gripping pressure.

Hope all is well with you two! Thanks again for your advice!

Betty

....

To: llamalover@someemailaddress.com
From: marty@camelidynamics.com

Subject: Re: Drama Queen

Hi Betty, that is soooooooo great. Would you help me write an article about this issue? It is so neat that you got that realization, and I think having you help me say it would help others. As hard as I try



A lovely neutral connection through the lead rope. Notice that Carina is standing square.

to help people get light, it is so hard. Perhaps hearing things from both of us would help—plus the great success of your efforts. Let me know if you would be willing to be featured in an article about this. It would be fab. Congratulations on getting light.

Marty

.....

To: marty@camelidynamics.com
From: llamalover@someemailaddress
Subject: Re: Drama Queen

Sure, I'll help on an article. Let me know what you need.

You know, it is SO hard to be light. I think it's because I want to be in control (always - but that's another issue - or actually - that IS the issue). I know better; but when I saw other handlers (winners too) in the show ring with their hands underneath the llama's head, clutching the hook end of the lead rope or pulling it skyward so tightly, I thought that was the way to show your llama. In retrospect, perhaps that's why Carrie disliked walking into the ring: she is an intelligent girl, and she KNEW she was going to get her head yanked around by me. Who would blame her?

Best Regards!

Betty

I asked Betty to summarize her experience...

To: marty@camelidynamics.com
From: llamalover@someemailaddress

"Llamas walk gracefully and with no assistance in the field. Getting my llama Carina to do this in the show ring was a challenge for me. I watched other handlers in the ring, and attempted to imitate them as they led their llamas: tight under the chin, raised toward the sky, pulled forward from under the chin—lots of different styles. I tried all of them. All I succeeded in doing was getting Carina to pull her head away from me, which altered her gait as well. Walking toward the judge so he/she could get at look at her just wasn't happening.



A lovely llama walking in balance with her owner.

My husband Fritz and I don't breed/sell llamas. Showing and working with our llamas is supposed to be fun. Pulling Carina around the ring wasn't fun. I went back to the basics, and reread the section on leading in my newest edition of Marty McGee Bennett's book. I reflected on what we did at the clinic we attended in May, when Carina led just fine. I decided perhaps using the Cheetah method might work and sent an e-mail to Marty for her opinion. She agreed this might be a good training tool,

Frustration in Leading and Showing: An Email Dialogue ~ cont.

made some other suggestions, and gave me some reminders about staying LIGHT on the lead and to “release, correct, release, correct.” OK, I know this stuff and had believed I was practicing it.

Out to pasture we went. Fritz on one side and me on the other, we walked Carina.

After two sessions and no appreciable difference, I reviewed Marty’s note. One phrase leaped from the page: “Look at the hooks attached to the halter, and if the hook is not dangling loosely and AIMED AT THE GROUND, you still haven’t totally released.”

I had a mental image of the hook as I walked Carina: the hook was nearly horizontal to the ground. AH HA!!! Back out to the pasture, one handler (me) and one llama, Carina, with the lead under her chin, walking among the trees. I literally put zero, no, nada pressure on her lead/head; held the lead rope some distance from the hook; and she just walked forward beside me. As I wanted her to change direction, I used a quick tug and FULL release, and she just followed. It was a miracle. Such a very basic tool, and I had not had it in my “muscle memory.” I was reminded of my teaching golf pro many years ago who told me the game was largely “muscle memory.” Repetitive movement until it becomes so natural one doesn’t even think while making the movement. That has become my goal in leading my llamas.

"I had decided the next show might be Carina’s last if she had to be pulled around the ring again. But, using the no pressure method, she simply walked around the ring; and for the first time actually walked toward and away from the judge when asked. Was this the first time a judge really had an opportunity to see her walk? I think so. When we picked up her 2nd place ribbon, the judge commented on her fluid gait and correct movement.

Second out of four entries may not be headline news, but what is important to us is we had fun together. I used the same “touch” showing our newest little girl, Tina Marie, who simply strutted around the ring in her natural gait, unimpeded by her handler. Second out of 14 was thrilling for us. Enjoying our llamas is what this is all about for me and Fritz. Now, we are looking forward to Regionals in October. We know we’ll have fun!"



Resulting in a lovely moment!

Learning to give a correction on the lead and then let go is the hardest easy thing you’ll ever learn. Once you understand and experience how to really release after giving a signal on the lead, your handling skills improve dramatically. Mastering anything brings moments of inspiration when you say to yourself, “How could I have made this so hard when it is really so easy?”

More detailed information about the leading techniques described in this article and TTEAM is available by reading “The Camelid Companion” by Marty McGee Bennett. Visit CameliDynamics.com.



Santa Clara Convention Center
Santa Clara, CA

February 20-23, 2020

Thursday

Classes: 9:00am-12:00pm

Classes: 1:30pm-4:30pm

The Market Preview 5 pm - 8 pm

Friday

Classes: 9:00am-12:00pm

The Market: 10:00am-6:00pm

Classes: 2:00pm-5:00pm

Fashion Show & Dinner 6:30pm

Public Toga Party 10:30pm

Saturday

Classes: 9:00am-12:00pm

The Market: 10:00am-6:00pm

Classes: 2:00pm-5:00pm

Student Banquet & Style Show 6:30pm

Sunday

Classes: 9:00am-12:00pm

The Market: 10:00am-4:00pm

Cash Grand Prize Drawing at 1 pm
Must be present at the market stage to win!

Classes: 1:30pm-4:30pm



Whether you're at the show or at home watching what's happening, we've got you covered with at least one of your favorite social media sites.

[Click here to check out the STITCHES West 2020 Social Media Resource page.](#)



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Market Map & Exhibitor Listings



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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

Alpacas For Sale

Nancy and David Helwig of 925 Sterling Alpacas, located in Plymouth, CA, are announcing their Retirement Sale. Great quality, color and many full Accoyo suri females still available and priced to sell quickly. Check our website at 925suris.com and our auctions on OpenHerd.com.

For more info, contact L'illette Vasquez, Ranch Manager: 925suris@lillette.net | 720.839.0787

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Herdsires

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

Herdsires, cont.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? At the 2013 California Classic show, two up-and-coming herdsires 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 herdsires.

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 genetics 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 Championships and 21 1st Place** wins, it's no wonder that more than **10 of his offspring are Color Champion** winners! 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:

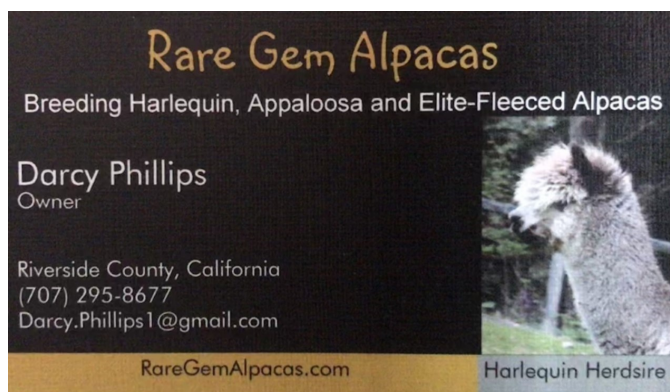
<http://www.menageriehillranch.com/alpacas-for-sale/121347/rr-guns-kit-carson>

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!

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Member Business Cards, cont.




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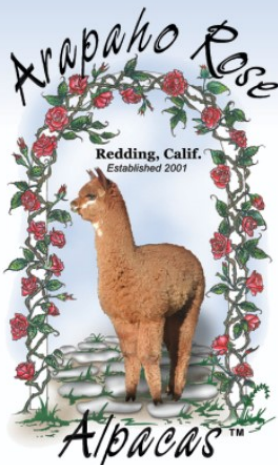
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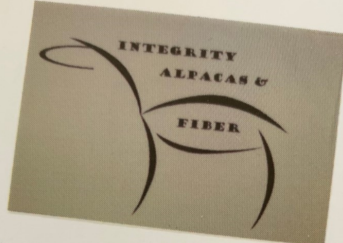


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Calling for Contributions to the *Calpaca Connection*!

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

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



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- Assessing Your Camelid Before You Call Your Veterinarian
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- 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

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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)

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- Free advertising opportunity in the Connection newsletter
- Ability to link your Web site to a mobile device
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- Lobbying our State Legislature through– AG Day sponsorship
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- 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