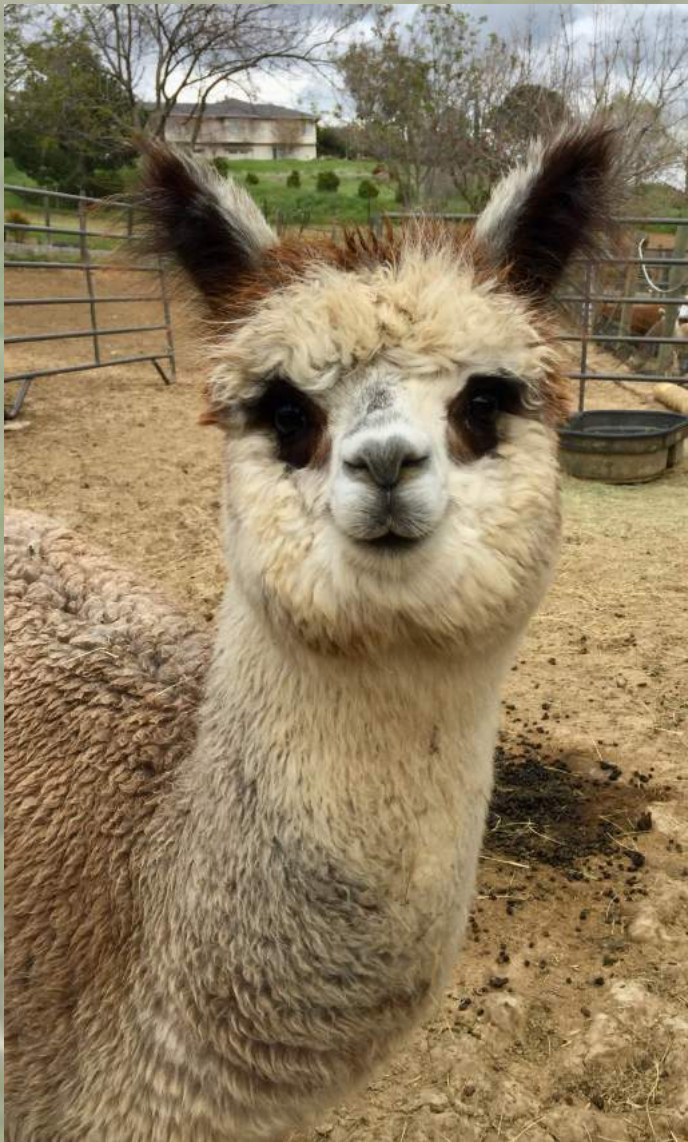


CONNECTION

Spring MAY 2020



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- Member News
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- CA Agritourism News April 2020
- 2020 Camelid Symposium
Survey Results, *by Dianna Jordan*
- Articles:
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by Marty McGee Bennett
 - * Don't Fence Me In!
by Dianna Jordan
 - * How to Lose Your Vet in 3, 2...
by Emily Thomas, DVM
 - * Positioning
by Cathy Spalding
 - * Roan Revisited
by Ken Rosenfeld

Version 1: 05.09.2020



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

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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

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Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

AlpacaResearchFoundation.org

International Llama Registry (ILR)

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To join or renew your membership:

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

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NEXT ISSUE: The summer issue publishes first week of August.
Please send submissions to Editor@lillette.net by July 05, 2020.
For more information about newsletter submissions, [CLICK HERE](#).

Message from the President

Dear Calpaca members, friends and families,

2020 started out with such optimism, and was filled with events and opportunities to get together, to show our alpacas and to create products made from their fabulous fiber. Then we started hearing about COVID-19, and then the word *pandemic* cropped up. Many of you have been affected personally or maybe a member of your family has. TV commercials all seem to be saying the same thing “In these uncertain times...” Many, if not all, of us are feeling the effects financially of the quarantine and business shut-downs. Thankfully, agriculture is considered essential.

Alpaca owners are familiar with the concept of quarantine, but when it involves ourselves, it may be overwhelming. Biosecurity and good sanitation practices may be normal for us on a ranch, but donning masks and gloves to go to the grocery store are not. “Social distancing” has become a new norm.

One thing that I have noticed is that alpaca owners are stepping up and doing their best to be positive in the light of cancelled shows, markets and agritourism. We are doing our best to find the silver lining and to express positive thoughts as much as possible. I see postings online showing lovely fleeces, adorable cria and outstanding breeding stock. Virtual auctions and internet marketing are more common than ever. Groups are offering to help with marketing and promotions. Working together has never been so important.

The cancellation of the California Classic and of the May membership meeting were not taken lightly, but in the best interest of our members’ health. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume more normal activities in time for our August member meeting and October’s Gold Country Gathering.

We are finding creative ways to stay connected and to hold virtual events where possible. I know that Larry and I have spent a lot of time thinking of creative marketing strategies. There is a talk of a “new normal,” but how the future shapes up will depend on our continuing to work together, to support each other and to do our best to further the alpaca industry.

Take the time to enjoy your alpacas, to be grateful that we have such peaceful livestock to enjoy. Appreciate each other, and take pride in our ability to continue to make alpacas a growing industry.

Regards,

Maureen Macedo, President



Macedo's Mini Acre
Turlock, CA

CAMELID



by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

On January 18-19, 2020, in Sacramento, CA, approximately 80 camelid enthusiasts gathered to attend the Camelid Symposium sponsored by Calpaca.

The feedback during the event was very positive. The speakers provided timely information on a variety of topics of interest. Attendees seemed to appreciate the flash drive that included the speakers' notes (if the notes were submitted before the deadline). This year, 4-H clubs were invited to attend, with their members serving as volunteers for the event. The 4-H members and their parents seemed very grateful to be able to listen and learn from the experts. What a great way to introduce youth to the wonderful world of camelids.

We appreciate everyone who responded to our post-event survey. The feedback and suggestions will help the Calpaca 2021 Camelid Symposium committee plan for another successful educational event.

Here are some of the highlights of the survey responses (rounded to the nearest whole number):

- 73% had attended a Camelid Symposium before.
- 11% traveled over 300 miles to attend.
- 90% attended in person, 10% attended via live streaming.
- Breakdown of years of alpaca ownership:
 - 43% owned alpacas 1-5 years.
 - 17% owned alpacas 5-10 years.
 - 10% owned alpacas 10-15 years.
 - 30% owned alpacas for more than 15 years.
- Overall category rating of the symposium, based on those who provided the feedback, ranking the category with a 4 or 5, with 5 being the highest rating:
 - Format: 90%
 - Topics: 75%
 - Speakers (knowledge of topics): 93%
 - Networking opportunities: 70%
 - Audio/visual quality: 77%
 - Food and refreshments
- Overall ratings of the symposium, based on those who provided the feedback:
 - 13% found the symposium informative
 - 60% found the symposium very informative
 - 33% rated the symposium as excellent
- 97% of the respondents are likely or extremely likely to recommend the symposium to others.

The 2021 Symposium Planning Committee is already at work making plans for next year. With the information and feedback provided by this year's event, next year should be better than ever.

In the News & On the Web

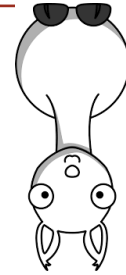
* CLICK IMAGE TO OPEN ARTICLE IN BROWSER *

UT NEWS

[Click for article](#)

© Apr 29, 2020

Antibodies from Llamas Could Help in Fight Against COVID-19



International Camelid Institute



Biosecurity for Camelid Owners

The reason millennials find alpacas so relatable



MERCK MANUAL
Veterinary Manual

The trusted provider of veterinary information since 1955

Don't FENCE Me In!

by Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm

We have owned Livestock Guardian Dogs (LGDs) since 2005. I remember when we were first looking into using LGDs to protect our herd, I read about how these natural protectors will do anything their instincts drive them to do to achieve their missions. Even if it means risking their lives. And they will certainly not be deterred by road-blocks (aka restraints or enclosures devised to inhibit their freedom) or words from their person. Their mindset is to protect their herd at any cost. Through the years, we have dealt with the occasional digging out, climbing fences, or jumping over and through gates from a few of them... because that is what LGDs do when they feel the need to protect their herd or expand their territory.

One day in mid-May, our LGD Sadie started acting very agitated. Her behavior could be described as almost frenetic. She was walking the fence line of our main alpaca field, obviously searching for a way out. We are within the territory of the mountain lion who had been killing small livestock in our area. We know how the dogs behave when they sense the mountain lion close by... but this was different with Sadie. To say she was being extra vigilant did not come close to describing her behavior.

Based on her past escapes, we thought we had every place in our fence line, and any place she might be able to jump over or through, secured. However, whatever was driving her was strong enough that she managed to get out. Fortunately, she did not stray too far off our property, and returned home on her own. Our attempts to get her to come back inside our fencing were futile. In her mind, she was going to stay outside the fencing and be prepared to attack whatever this threat turned out to be. Trying to catch her

when she was on this mission proved to be not only unsuccessful, but resulted in her running from us. She remained on guard and in a heightened state of alertness just outside our fence line through most of the day. Finally, we were able to get her back inside the fencing.

We were concerned she would escape again during the night. The only option we had was to put her in the completely enclosed, including the top, dog pen for the night. As you can see in the pictures that follow, Jack placed sheet metal along the base so she wouldn't chew out. (Yes, she had chewed through this wire fencing in the past!)

The pictures that follow tell the story. The next morning, she was out. Still on our property, but outside the field fencing... guarding her herd. She had torn down the sheet metal and chewed through the fence. Jack was able to rebuild and reinforce the sheet metal, and we were able to keep her in there until we could see she had calmed down and was no longer agitated. It took a couple of days, but she was returned to the field with the other LGDs, and settled back in to her regular routine.

We never did figure out what had her so on edge those few days, but I have a theory. During that time, the area around Carson City, Nevada, which is about 100 miles from us, was experiencing earthquakes. I believe animals have a sixth sense when it comes to feeling what's going on around them. Sadie's behavior changed after the last recorded earthquake during that time near Carson City.

What I learned about these dogs... *Where there's a will, there's a way!*

Oh, Sadie!

She does not understand why she has been locked up away from her herd.

The sheet metal was screwed into the wood base and zip-tied in several places to attach it to the fence.

During the night, she tore down the sheet metal and chewed through the fence.



2020 Dates to Remember

10.17-18	Gold Country Gathering	Grass Valley, CA
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To discover more area events, visit <http://www.calpaca.org/events/>

Calpaca Quarterly Membership Meetings

May 09, 2020 meeting canceled due to virus restrictions. Black Rock will host our May 2021 meeting. Thanks to all for being so understanding, patient and positive!

08.08	Jackie Jones	Back 40 Farms	Valley Springs, CA
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11.14	Leanne Antaya	Plateau Breeze Ranch	Murieta, CA
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Updated 2020.04.15

From the Mailbox of...

Highline Trail Llamas | Boulder, WY | Al and Sondra Ellis

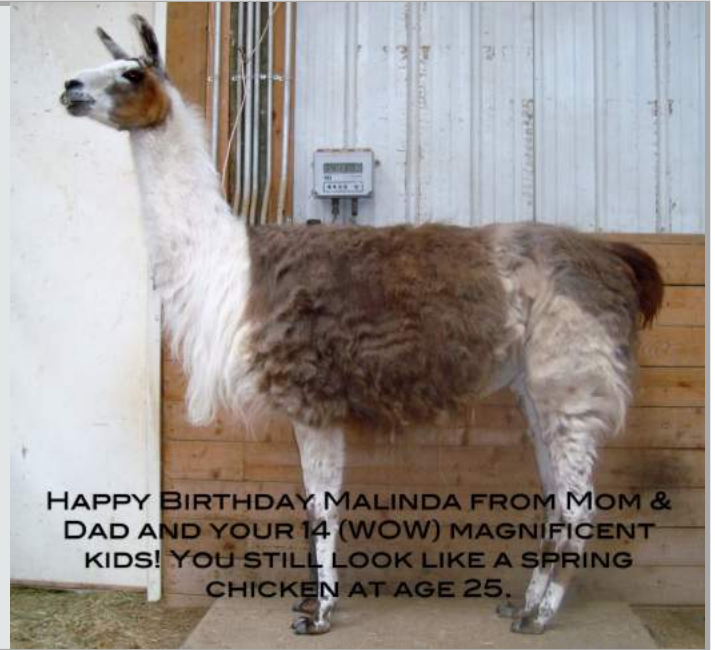
Wishing Grand Old Dam Malinda a Happy 25th Birthday

And combined with the country in lock-down, it really drives home how important llamas have been in our lives, and we hope in yours also. Whether marveling at the crias playing, going for a walk or a hike, hanging in the barn, training, or just watching them live their lives, they bring so much peace and enjoyment that it is actually sad to think of all the folks without them. And now llamas may turn out to be the key for a cure to Covid-19 and many other ills:

<https://www.fiercebiotech.com/research/a-covid-19-treatment-inspired-by-llamas>

Please take the time to love them and let them calm your lives a bit while you are distancing and staying healthy.

Best from Al & Sondra



A long and Healthy life for your llamas

Hello everyone,

As we approach mid-summer—well, actually here it just started—but as I look around the country, I am reminded once again of the extreme variables of weather, habitat, feed and parasites our llamas are subjected to. Keep in mind, they existed for thousands of years in relatively narrow parameters, and have only had little more than 100 years to adapt to such a wide range of variables. On top of that, they are shipped back and forth across the country from environments like our minus 50° F to California's 115° F, to the humid interior to the dry deserts.

Llamas are capable of living healthy lives well into their 20s, and probably beyond as we learn to address the limiting factors; but in most cases, if not all, that depends what steps we as their caretakers take to identify problems and deficiencies, and take to correct them.

I am probably preaching to the choir, but the desired outcome is so dependent on taking action beyond providing climate-appropriate shelter and adequate clean water and forage that once again, I encourage everyone who has llamas to evaluate their programs.

Here is a start on my homework assignment:

- <https://highlinetraillamasales.com/feed-parasites>
- <https://highlinetraillamasales.com/vitamins>
- <https://highlinetraillamasales.com/oral-dosing-made-easy>

For anyone with llamas under 2 years of age

- <https://highlinetraillamasales.com/emac>

Just for fun!!

- <https://highlinetraillamasales.com/vaughn-s-kids>

Enjoy your llamas to the fullest,

Al Ellis (07.19.2019)

Positioning

A "must know" for optimum training success with alpacas and llamas

By Cathy Spalding ©

www.gentlespiritllamas.com | www.gentlespiritpacas.com

Positioning is used almost every day in nearly every arena. To position ourselves means to place ourselves in the appropriate and most advantageous place known to us for the desired results. Advertising agencies have conducted extensive research regarding the most successful positioning of ads. We position ourselves for the best views when attending various events. We use positioning in building our homes, in the arrangement of our furniture, in where we hang our paintings and in the location of our gardens. Positioning is critical in the sports world. It can mean the difference between a win and a loss. Without knowledge of the proper positioning of the sails, a sail-or may stall or even capsize his sailboat. Proper positioning by a captain flying an airliner full of passengers could literally make the difference between life and death. We use positioning when sunbathing, at parties and when pointing a telescope to the heavens. Positioning has long been a strategy in battle: position the guns, position the troops... and, of course, in politics!

Positioning is nothing more than taking a position. A position is many things. It can be a place or location, an arrangement of objects or an arrangement of our body parts in the form of a stance, posture or pose. It can be mental through our point-

of- view and beliefs. And it can be all of these things at once.

So what does positioning mean to each of us in very basic terms within our daily lives? Simply that we all "place" ourselves in the best position we know for optimum success at whatever it is we are attempting. Though we do not normally think in terms of "Now, I am going to position myself to...", this is exactly what we do on an unconscious level. And so it is with the herd management and training of our llamas. Positioning is the underlying key for optimum success in understanding and communication.

Where we physically stand combined with our mental/emotional stance and body posture can truly make the significant difference in understanding and communicating with our llamas. In turn, our llamas are constantly communicating with us, hoping for our understanding by positioning themselves in how and where they might stand in relation to us, each other, their surroundings and in their mental/emotional attitudes and body posture.

Without a spoken language, positioning provides the cues for communication. Positioning exists as a constant in both humans and llamas whether we are specifically training, doing routine herd maintenance,

crisis intervention, showing, or just observing and having fun. And it exists whether or not we are conscious of it.

An awareness of the positioning of other people, animals or the inanimate objects around us is a key part of the positioning equation. For example, it is obvious when we wish the llamas to leave the barn that we do not stand in the doorway. Not so obvious perhaps, is the position of the door itself. Is it slightly open, wide open... is the wind banging it around? What awareness do we have of our positioning while teaching a llama to jump a low pole?

While concentrating on the act itself, we often forget where we are - what is our overall positioning? Holding the lead rope and standing in the middle of the jump on the other side of the pole is not the optimum positioning for success. The llama may feel there is nowhere to jump, as we have severely compromised the "landing strip." Yet I've done it—we've all done it. We must position ourselves out of the way!

What about positioning as it relates to the overall health and well-being of our llamas? Understanding what might be the more normal positioning for the herd as a group or of a specific llama can serve as a baseline for noting when something might be different.

One of the more profound uses of positioning is in the catch pen. The fastest way to meet with success in any training lesson is to understand and make use of positioning dynamics. The actual "training lesson" is

built upon our use of positioning as a base. A clear example of positioning as a basis for training can be seen when teaching our llama the meaning of the word "stand." If we position ourselves in the optimum place to cause our llama to stand, half the "lesson" has already taken place. Our body posture and mental stance, combined with physical location, are instrumental in a successful training lesson. Body and mental positioning do well in the form of assertive confidence. Not aggressive dominance or shrinking violet, but a calm, attentive confidence. Stand upright rather than hunched or stretched. Move about in your normal fashion, rather than faster or slowly creeping. If you normally move a little faster or a bit slower, do just that. Move as you yourself normally do. It is you who they have come to know, and as keen observers, they will not miss changes in your behavior.

Do any talking in a normal, confident tone of voice. Simply, you should behave normally with no added drama either escalated or depressed. Be yourself. Behave as though you know what you are doing. Maintaining these behaviors which are, for the most part, our natural selves, is important no matter what the circumstances. From training to accessing and assisting a compromised llama, physical positioning shares equal importance.

As a training example, you have entered the catch pen, but not yet begun. Position yourself clearly off to one side so the llama feels he has the opportunity to move about the majority of the pen. In this way, you can do all manner of things before the

actual lesson begins without seriously escalating the anxiety level on either side. For a compromised llama, behaving in a more normal, calm and confident manner will help to mitigate the effects of an already stressful situation.

The Awareness of the Use of Positioning & the Story Behind It

While teaching one of my two-day llama behavior and training clinics at Glenn and Cyndy Baker's Critter Creek Ranch in Port Townsend, WA, quite a few Decembers ago, I clearly discovered the profound use of positioning. Though positioning had always been there, I had no specific awareness of it. It was a discovery—a newfound awareness that would greatly clarify and simplify training and herd management no matter your preferred method or technique.

We were working on catching and haltering, and I was puzzled. How was it that one participant could maneuver the llama easily about the pen in any direction, and others simply could not do it? This puzzling "phenomena" was a common occurrence at every single clinic I had ever attended, assisted with or taught. What was one participant doing differently than the other?

There had to be something I was missing. What was it? Was it their particular demeanor? Was it a particular llama? Though those things obviously came into play with

in the total picture, they were only a part of the whole.

It was a great puzzle to me, and I finally stopped the clinic, asking participants for any observations or thoughts. We had a great discussion, but the answer wasn't immediately clear to any of us. I was absolutely intent to discover the reason. A great deal of clinic time was passing, so I decided to take a vote of the participants as to whether we should continue to solve this puzzle or go on to the next area of leading exercises. The vote was unanimous—solve this mystery! Everyone wanted to know how to control the action in the catch pen, and those who could already control it were most curious to understand why.

We spent most of an entire day in and out of the catch pen with a number of different animals and participants... same person, different animals... same animal, different people. We observed and discussed and replayed again and again.

A Day Of Discovery

We soon discovered many subtle positioning quirks such as differences in the depth of personal space for individual llamas as well as for each participant, how the size of both the person and the llama played a role, and the importance of paying attention to balance. The direction we faced in relationship to the llama often had a profound impact on the success of directional movement. We discovered our mental and emotional stances were part of the overall equation.



Lamazing Wisdom

**'Tis skill not strength
that governs a ship.**

Thomas Fuller, MD

Positioning Ourselves: The Most Profound Discovery

The most profound overall discovery, however, was where to position oneself to make certain things occur in the catch pen without exception in nearly every instance. Though I did not realize the immense scope of our work at the time, specific attention to the art of positioning was a key element for optimum success for all training and herd management. It would profoundly

enhance my ability to teach by immediately providing participants with a much more clear and visible understanding of human/llama interaction. The success of positioning is immediate. Our ability to apply any training method/technique or herd management skill comes much more easily and quickly if we first position ourselves for success.

The Four Positions

Though we had long missed them, there are three obvious primary positions to keep in mind - forward movement, standing in balance, and turning. A fourth, the stopping point, is a brief position that cannot be maintained for long.

Forward Movement

To move your llama forward, move to their rear and stand diagonally out from the hip.



Standing in Balance

As your llama stops, immediately drop back a step or two to position yourself just behind the withers. If you should remain in the "stop" position for too long, the llama will become uneasy and move. By immediately stepping back a few steps the moment the llama stops, both you and your llama should find yourselves in balance and standing in place until you give the next "signal."



Turning

To have your llama turn in the opposite direction, move to the front just beyond the eye.



Note the positions of the ears and feet.

Balance

In positioning as in all things, it is key to be mindful of balance - both yours and that of your llama. As a side note, if you are using positioning in a catch pen to get your llama to stand for haltering and your llama does not move, do not insist that they do. In this instance, the whole point of positioning is to understand how to communicate to get the desired results. If he is already standing then you have the result you were seeking. It is amazing how quickly llamas understand positioning. For some it will take a couple of times of maneuvering about the pen while others will immediately understand your communication. And, as we become more skilled with positioning, our communication becomes much more clear.

Be Aware of Your Body Language

In positioning one's self for moving forward and/or stop and standing, your

body position should be such that you are facing in the same direction as your llama - your noses should be pointed in the same direction. For turning, you must adjust your body position to face the llama. Interestingly, once again your nose will be pointing in the direction you wish your llama's nose to head in order to make the turn.

We all tend to move in the direction our nose is headed. Again, watch the balance. When you and your llama are first experiencing positioning, it is important for you, yourself, to consistently face in the direction you wish your llama to go. Llamas are keen observers of body language. Our work that day experimented with facing towards our llama and facing the same direction as our llama. We discovered when facing towards our llama, particularly when initially learning the nuances of positioning, we often created the effect of blocking, cornering or trapping our llama. Facing our llama created closed shoulders and the ability to outstretch our arms along our llama's body length. This is a common stance by humans

for "cornering" or "catching". Facing the same direction as our llama opened our shoulders and greatly lessened the usefulness of our arms reach providing a more obvious and clear "escape route". This same direction positioning facilitates the opportunity for feeling a higher level of security, safety, attention and communication for both human and llama. Thus, applying the notion we are giving signals by our body language, by our turning and facing our llama when asking our llama to turn, we have basically created a physical block as well as the image or idea of what we want to have happen. We are, in effect, giving signals - communicating - with our overall body positioning. And llamas, as we have noted, are keen observers in this area.

Keeping A Correct Distance

When using positioning it is important to keep the personal space zone in mind. This zone is not a matter of inches or feet and varies from llama to llama as well as from person to person. Do not crowd nor stand far away. I've found the most consistent distance is an arm's length plus about one hand more. And, believe it or not, it is your particular arm's length not anyone else's. The distance is relative to our own unique size. In solving the mystery, we discovered a shorter person's (like myself) arm length distance was actually crowding for a tall person.

A Fruitful Collective Effort

I truly thank those many who were in attendance at my clinic that day for their help, support and enthusiasm in providing the opportunity to solve this long-standing mystery. We are all much better for the experience and I could not have solved this mystery without their willing participation and thoughtful input. As a result of this collective effort, I have been able to add the valuable art of positioning to my understanding of llama behavior within my own herd and share it with others in my behavior and training clinics. The increased success for participants, not to mention myself, is truly noteworthy.



About the Author: Cathy Spalding and her family live in Olympia, WA, where they enjoy their herd of 18 llamas and alpacas. With 35 years of experience, Cathy has a wealth of expertise in camelid behavior and training. She has written numerous articles, produced publications including the camelid behavioral textbooks on CD-ROM, "Llama Talk" and "Alpaca Talk." Both are highly acclaimed and used in a number of veterinary universities including Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and the Uruguay Veterinary School of Medicine in Uruguay, South America. Her article on positioning has been translated into Chinese and presented at the Xi'an Jiaotong University in China. Cathy is in constant demand, traveling worldwide as a speaker, conducting clinics and working with youth. She's given presentations at Cornell, Oregon State, U.C. Davis and Washington State University Veterinary schools. She currently serves on the ICI Advisory Council, LANA Lifeline and as a consultant for the Llama Association of North America Board of Directors. Cathy believes there is more than one "right" way to do anything. Naturally, that would include herd management, training, care and interaction with alpacas and llamas. Understanding as much as we can about their behavior provides important, useful information enabling us to make educated decisions as to what approach or technique might be most appropriate in any given situation.

Cathy can be reached either by e-mail at cathy@gentlespiritllamas.com, or by logging on to her website at www.gentlespiritllamas.com.

The Camelid Business

By Marty McGee Bennet, Camelidynamics

I picked up a *Smithsonian* magazine in 1981 and read an article about a couple that raised *llamas*, of all things, in a small town in Oregon. I was intrigued. At the time, I was an army officer living in Pennsylvania. I went to see a herd of llamas about four hours away, wheedled my way to the top of what was then a two-year waiting list and within months, I was a llama owner. I had never so much as touched a llama before my first two were delivered, and I actually didn't and couldn't touch them for several weeks after they arrived... and it didn't matter.

As I gazed into a llama's eyes the first time, I knew it was an important moment, but I didn't realize I was making a career choice. Ironically, twenty-four years, four homes, and thousands of air miles later, I lived 20 miles down the road from Kay Patterson Sharpnack and Hinterland Llamas in Sisters, Oregon, the woman featured in that magazine article. Amidst all the life changes, the constant in my life has been and continues to be my involvement with camelids.

Since I began teaching in 1987, I have presented hundreds of clinics around the world and spoken to thousands of people about how to handle their llamas and alpacas. Many of these people are brand new to the business. My long association with camelids and my status as someone in the "business," but no longer a breeder, put me in a unique position to comment on the history as well as future of the camelid business.

I have been and will always be confident in the ongoing popularity of llamas and alpacas. There is nothing like these creatures, and try as we might, their overwhelming appeal cannot be logically described or explained. People who love llamas and alpacas love them, and that is that! There is something about that split lip and those big eyes that just commands, "Take me home! I am supposed to be part of your life!"

When people become disillusioned with the business of raising either llamas or alpacas, the source of the problem is usually one of two things: the animals themselves, or the business of selling them. I think it is useful to look at these two issues separately.

The Animals

Why would someone who buys a llama or an alpaca become disappointed? I think in some respects, we are our own worst enemy—in the form of the "public relations" camelid. How many of the so-called "PR" llamas or alpacas are actually true representatives of the animals for sale back at the ranch? The new owners that come to my clinics nod their heads when I bring up the "PR" issue. The newbie meets a lovely, tolerant, friendly, often bottle-fed young llama or alpaca at the local fair and falls in love... who wouldn't?

Nancy Newbie signs on the dotted line, but the animal she gets is an older, imported female that spits on her every time she walks in the barn; or maybe she gets a couple of the rank and file animals in a large herd that are only viewed closely... with binoculars. Worse yet, Nancy Newbie actually gets that bottle-raised male she saw at the fair, and she doesn't realize the consequences of treating this animal like the family dog until she is flat on her back in the pasture with a young, confused and horny camelid on top of her.

The public and private faces of our animals need to match. The animals we take to the fair should be representative of the animals we intend to sell. Either the animals we take to the fair should be standoffish and shy, or the all the animals at home should be more comfortable with people. At the very least, the difference between the two should be clearly and honestly explained. Either way, I do not advocate taking bottle-raised or *unusually* tolerant animals to a fair, allowing them to be mauled all day by the public. It is not good for that particular animal, and in the long run, it is not good for business.

In my experience, PR animals are inappropriate for beginners to raise. People brand new to camelids do not understand how to set appropriate boundaries and will almost always spoil one of these animals and turn it into a brat... or worse.

In my opinion (I fully admit to having an axe to grind here), many owners of llamas and alpacas

The Camelid Business, cont.

need to manage and handle them differently. I am speaking of the ubiquitous “chase-corner-grab-hold” approach to getting your hands on a llama or an alpaca. Camelids that live in this kind of environment will never be approachable or comfortable with people. As long as we must corner an animal to catch it, we are teaching it to run away from humans whenever it can.



How do we create a whole herd of confident animals any one of which would be suitable for PR duty? A barn arrangement that allows for and encourages consistent use of a catch pen (a small area of containment) makes a huge difference in the way camelids feel about humans. There is a lot more that can easily be done from a management and handling point of view to make camelids feel safe around humans and, therefore, more confident and personable even when raised in large numbers.

It is important to have an honest sales pitch: most llamas and alpacas are more like most cats than dogs. Given that there are approximately 68 million dog owners, but 73 million cat owners in the United States, this is not bad news. But sell a person a dog that acts like cat, and they will be disappointed. On the other hand, if they were expecting a cat... you get the picture.

When it comes to alpacas, if you are presenting alpacas as a commercial animal to be raised for its fiber for profit, then it may be more appropriate to present typical animals in a group that is seen, but not touched by the crowd unless it is in the context of allowing select individuals to examine the fleece. The “Huggable Investment” slogan is a set-up for disappointment. Better to have slower growth because we only sell animals to people that really understand the nature of the beast than to have people that leave the business complaining to anyone who will listen that they were duped.

The Business

Many people who are disappointed in the business end of the “camelid lifestyle” are often disappointed because they don’t realize how much work is involved and the specific nature of the work. There are many people that invest money in camelids who are not as interested in the breeding business as much as they are in the dream of easy money. There is nothing easy about raising livestock—comfort one as it is dying, feed in below zero weather, attend to a struggling new baby—and there is nothing easy about a business start-up.

The Camelid Business, cont.

There is certainly money to be made in the camelid business; however, starting a business is hard work, and not everyone is suited for the rigors of self-employment. Raising and selling llamas and alpacas require much more than a love of the animals. You must be prepared to be a herd manager and just as important if not more so, you must be an astute marketer and savvy businessperson. Of the two elements required for success, taking care of the animals is a lot easier and less time consuming. Some people are attracted to the business of raising animals because they don't like dealing with people and are looking for a way to earn a living without the hassle of dealing with the human race. Big mistake. The only way to sell animals is to market them to people. If you really don't like to deal with the public, you will not be good at selling llamas and alpacas and the problem *won't* be the animals!

In the long run, when we put the needs and well-being of the animals ahead of the bottom line, we are well served. Exploiting employees or exploiting animals is not a sustainable business model. I don't think there is an animal that is more versatile, more engaging or more interesting than a camelid, but they aren't the animals for everyone. There are thousands and thousands of people who want camelids in their lives—they just don't know it yet. Let's find and market to the people who will truly love and respect these most magical of animals.

About the Author: Marty McGee Bennett, the founder of [CAMELIDynamics](#) has traveled from the wilds of Patagonia to Peru and around the world studying llamas and alpacas and teaching others to understand them. Marty has always been interested in animals and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Behavior.



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!

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[Not] Seen at the Shows!

Dreamy Kisses



Dreamy Fleece
Nationals 2020



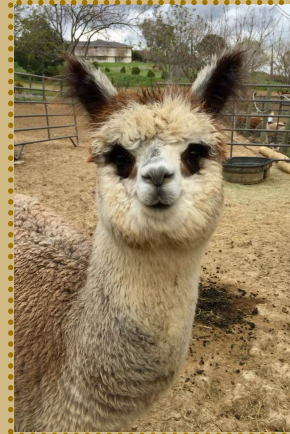
Tracy DiPippo
Angel Dreams Alpacas

MHAR's Serenity Carson

"Sunny" would have shown as a juvie at the CA Classic. This 10-month old beauty is a Kit Carson daughter.

Visit her page!

Deb Galway & Kirk Howard
Menagerie Hill Ranch
dgalway11@gmail.com



Alpacas of El Dorado

We made it to one spring show and look what we brought back!!!

El Dorado Blue's Troublemaker

- 1st Place and Invited Color Champion

El Dorado Golden Thunder

- 1st Place, Halter

Together, we won the *Nationals 2020 Small Breeders Classic Cup!*



El Dorado Captain Jack Sparrow missed the spring shows due to Covid-19, but he isn't missing any dates. He can't wait!!!

[https://www.alpacasofeldorado.com/
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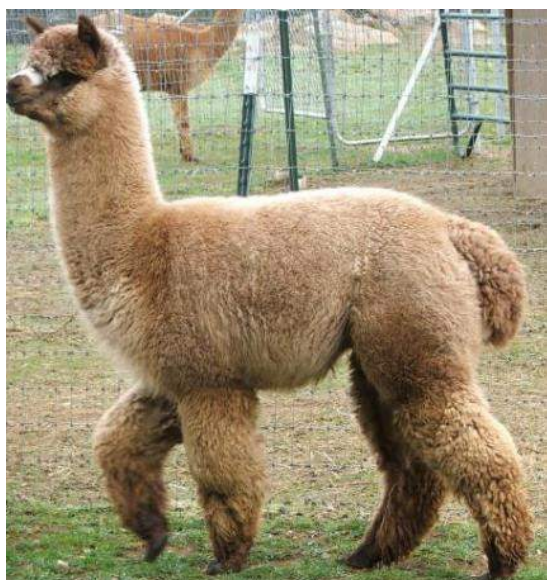
Roan Revisited

by Ken Rosenfeld, MD

Roan: adjective denoting an animal, especially a horse or cow (or alpaca?!), having a coat of a main color thickly interspersed with hairs of another color, typically bay, chestnut, or black mixed with white.

Early in our breeding experience, almost 15 years ago, we were drawn to grey alpacas, and started our quest with an outstanding rose grey stud. He sired 40 cria in our herd over a three-year breeding career.

By phenotypic expression, he could have easily have been “modern” as “classic” by conventional definition, because he had, at best, a mini-tuxedo and no dark spots. His production did nothing to resolve the genotypic modern vs tuxedo dilemma... he had 12 grey cria out of solid-colored dams. Six of the grey cria were “classic” (aka tuxedo grey), six were “modern.” With the benefit of hindsight, I believe he likely carried both the tuxedo grey and roan genes, and that both are dominant, with tuxedo incompletely dominant.



We found ourselves drawn to the solid grey blanket in roans, and from our investigation were discouraged to find that roans not only represented less than one percent of the American herd, but that there were at least two serious attempts in the US to establish a roan breeding program, neither with success. The task at hand would require a better understanding of grey color genetics.

An understanding of the various “shades of grey” requires an understanding of the various alleles in the Agouti and E series and how they influence contributions to black (eumelanin), and fawn to brown (pheomelanin) production. A more detailed understanding involves delving into the pathway by which tyrosinase works to convert tyrosine to melanin, and the steps where mutations can derail or switch rails in the finished product.

Understanding the process of pigment production needs an understanding of the role of MC1R, melanocortin 1 receptors (on the cell membrane). These receptors serve as a “switching station” that function as “mission control” in assigning base color. These receptors regulate signaling proteins which are dependent on the composition of Agouti alleles to then determine base coat color. This subject is sufficient to merit a separate discussion and is well worth the trouble to learn for anyone with an interest in color genetics.

Both classic and roan greys depend on the base color as determined by these two genes, and then modified by patterns and degrees of dilution. Over the last few years, roan alpaca breeders, at least if social media is any indication, are increasingly seeing a wider expression of the roan phenotype, particularly in the dilutions.

Horse genetics

“The similarities between the color and pattern of alpaca and (for example) horses and dogs, is [sic] striking, and leads to hypotheses about which genes may have variants that affect colors and patterns in alpacas.” [Kylie Munyard, PhD ⁽¹⁾]

In addition to testing for roan and the double dominant RnRn homozygote, horse breeders are able to test for Agouti and E alleles. Testing is also available for some of the dilutions, including

Roan Revisited, cont.

Cream, Dun, Pearl, Champagne and Silver (for any horse breeders among you). As with the roan gene, the dilutions can be tested for zygosity— something that is important, for example, in the variable expression of the Cream gene, which illustrates the phenotypic complexity in roans when both dilution and base color are accounted for:

No dilution (nn)	Single dilute (nCr)	Double Dilute (CrCr)
Chestnut	Palomino	Cremello
Bay	Buckskin	Perlino
Black	Smoky black	Smoky cream

For some time, it was felt that the roan gene (Rn), which is dominant, was lethal as a homozygote in horses, but it has recently been found that RnRn is viable. Horse breeders have used the “double dominant” genotype, and my recent review identifies two stallions that have each sired 188 roan foals.

Alpaca genetics

Recent identification of the alpaca tuxedo/classic grey allele in the KIT gene has shed new light on the challenge faced in trying to breed towards an all-grey herd. In an ongoing study by Kylie Munyard, PhD, and Samantha Brooks, PhD— which looked at 496 alpacas (including tuxedo greys, roans, blue-eyed whites, white-spotted and solid) from three continents—there were no homozygous TxTx genotypes found, adding to the body of evidence for the lethal tuxedo theory. It is known that KIT mutations can be lethal as homozygotes in other species.

The KIT gene controls fundamental metabolic processes that can cause disruption even in early embryonic development. It is with some confidence that the lethal grey hypothesis is supported (personal communication). The importance of this finding to grey breeders can be appreciated by use of a Punnett Square showing the breeding outcomes of two classic greys (TxTx x TxTx) is:

TxTx	x	TxTx
TxTx (lethal)		TxTx
TxTx		txtx

If indeed the TxTx homozygote is lethal, it means that the outcome breeding tuxedo grey to tuxedo grey would be 2/3 TxTx, the tuxedo grey phenotype, and the remaining 1/3 of progeny would be txtx, which could be any solid color, black through brown and even white. Even by selecting only tuxedo x tuxedo breeding in subsequent generations, by removing solid colors from the breeding program, the developing herd would, in time, equilibrate to 2/3 of the herd being constant as classic greys, and the remaining 1/3 (txtx) being solid in color.

However, if breeding were random, it would equilibrate over time so that the solid population approaches 50% of the herd. Since breeding tuxedo to solid colors leads to, at best, 50% tuxedo because of the influence of dilutions lighter than darker fawns, which might be indistinguishable from solid and would be masked. In actuality, most breeders will select at least one classic grey in the breeding pairs and try to breed back solid colors to classic grey, so the herd composition might exceed 50% grey; but except in the instance of infusion of new classic greys into the herd, the outcomes cannot be maintained at 66% without withdrawing solid colors from the breeding population.

The roan gene is still being looked for in alpacas. It has been tracked to the KIT gene region of chromosome 3 in horses. A publication in 1979 suggested that RnRn might be lethal in Belgian horses. However, it was subsequently identified as a viable genotype in Japanese horses and then in other horse breeds, debunking the “lethal roan theory.” Testing for homozygosity is currently available at an af-

Roan Revisited, cont.

fordable cost. It is not unreasonable to expect that homozygotes would be viable in alpacas as well.

Here's why it would be important: Using that same Punnett Square, the breeding from an $RnRn \times RnRn$ pair would result in:

$RnRn$	\times	$RnRn$
$RnRn$		$RnRn$
$RnRn$		$rnRn$

The progeny outcome would thus be 1/4 $RnRn$, 2/4 $RnRn$ and 1/4 $rnRn$. Phenotypically, one would therefore expect 3/4 of offspring to be phenotypic roans. In reality, as would be the case with classic grey, the actual numbers of grey phenotypes would be slightly lower; but only because at the extreme dilutions (white and light), the admixture of light and dark fibers would disguise roaning.

The good news is that with genomics, those "cryptic" roans can be "recaptured" with the right breeding. Having knowledge of the genotypes would make it easy to develop a high concentration of $RnRn$ genotypes within a herd. This is a situation that is not dissimilar from that of Suri genetics, in which breeders have taken advantage of homozygous dominance to effectively develop a Suri breed, even without the benefit of gene markers.

Shades of roan

The phenotypic expression of roan is dependent on the interactions of numerous other alleles, and there is a spectrum of phenotypes that will vary along the brown hues (red roans), black hues (blue roans), and the "in-between" brown-black (bay roans). As in the Cremello dilution, there is a compound influence from dilution genes to lighten these base colors, thereby increase the possible phenotypic expression with additional color varieties.

As has been the case in horses, it would be expected that over time, markers will provide clues to the identifying these dilution alleles and their order of dominance, making selection of a narrower spectrum of color. This would be a boon to roan breeders.



In an attempt to mimic some of the roan variants seen in horses, I am illustrating results that we have observed:

Red roan: This would correspond to chestnuts or sorrels in horses. In this red roan alpaca, roaning is more obvious in the alpaca's neck, but well-seen in the blanket when opening the fleece.



Bay roan: Corresponds to the same in horses. The influence of dilution is seen in first two photos, then undiluted in the next two. The

Roan Revisited, cont.

black, brown and white fibers associated with an undiluted black-bay roan are demonstrated. The last photo (courtesy of Faith Perkins, Quarry Ridge Alpacas) is a variant with an interesting dilution (perhaps a “smoky”).



Blue roan: As in horses, the base color in blue roans is black. There is continuum along dilution influence as illustrated by observing a slate color dilution and then darker shades, pewter and almost charcoal, and the corresponding fleeces.

AOA Online Voting Closes May 26, 2020!

Discussion

The quest for grey alpacas has been a goal for many breeders over the last few decades. It is more than the esthetics that have been responsible for the enthusiasm. The wool color is much in demand. In our first generation of roan breeding to solid, we had 11/23 roan cria. Our third generation, as of this writing is 4/7, all with just one roan parent. It is gratifying to

Roan Revisited, cont.

see that the first foray into alpaca genomics is in the direction of inheritance of color.

Although the current investigation being done by Kylie Munyard, PhD, and Samantha Brooks, PhD, is into grey genetics, the appreciation of the influence that it potentially has into other color genes and dilutions should be a boon to every breeder looking for color consistency across their herd. We believe that the increased array of “natural” colors is what sets alpaca apart from other luxury fiber. We are also heartened by our results after three generations of

breeding for roan, and see it as being a direct path to a grey wool production, with increasing color homogeneity over time, genomics being a very powerful catalyst. It is with great anticipation that we will be following the ongoing investigation... stay tuned!

I am very grateful to Kylie Munyard, PhD, for her help in writing this article.

1) Munyard, K. 2011. Inheritance of White Colour in Alpacas. RIRDC Publication No. 11/074, p 5



SWLR Partners with Matters of Trust (MOT)

Do you have llama/alpaca wool that is not being used? A fundraising project for llama / alpaca rescue is in the experimental stages to make mats for oil spill and storm drain clean-up. Matter of Trust's [Clean Wave Program](#) promotes using waste fiber for environmental improvement. MOT is expanding the Clean Wave Program to use waste llama and alpaca fiber in addition to the human hair and dog hair that MOT has been using. Feltcrafts makes the needle felting machines that are being used by SWLR volunteers for this trial startup. The plan is to

raise funds for llama rescue, as well as use waste fiber for environmental improvements. This is a long-range plan in the beginning experimental stage.

The machines recently arrived, so SWLR project members are just now experimenting with making the mats. We will need additional llama and alpaca fiber to experiment with now, and eventually make mats on a continuing basis. More details will be given when known.

Shipping costs will be born by the sender. Southwest Llama Rescue is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your donations may be tax-deductible. Texas and California locations are currently collecting fiber. Email SouthwestLlamaRescue@yahoo.com if you want to donate fiber to this project.



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How to Lose Your Vet in 3, 2...

by Dr. Emily Thomas, DVM

<https://dremilythomasvet.com/how-to-lose-your-large-animal-vet-in-3-2/#start>

I hear the statement all the time: “Nobody wants to be a large animal vet anymore! They all just want to work 9-5 and sit in an office.” Having been a large animal vet myself and having access to thousands of vet moms online, I have heard all the reasons for leaving, and they’re all about the same. Are we lazy and just don’t like getting dirty? No! We love throwing on muck boots and being armpit deep in a cow (as odd as that sounds). Is it because we don’t like the odd hours of on-call? Sometimes, but with enough vets to share the call and with responsible owners, it’s really not that bad—and no, we don’t mind getting up at 3am for an emergency... as long as the emergency was first noticed at 3am... that same day. Is it that young folks these days don’t know an honest day’s work? Stop it, silly! We love working, we love helping people, we love getting dirty; but we also respect ourselves and know how to keep our job from becoming our entire life.

Warnings!

- All examples provided, as crazy as they sound, have actually been experienced by me or another vet.
- Some gruesome pictures are included. All animals pictured are alive and completely healed, thanks to fast-acting clients.

1. **Complain about the bill.** I’ve already written a piece on how little money vets make, so I won’t be long-winded, but large animal vets already make less money than small animal vets as a general rule; but when you add in the number of extra hours and the drive time between calls (loss of production time), it can be even harder on their pockets and lives. Unfortunately for the vet and for the farmer, many times a 2am call 30 miles down the road costs the vet more to perform than the farmer is willing to pay. So when the farmer gets the \$400 bill for his cow, he may get upset at the cost—it’s just a cow, and



she only got two injections! Large animal vets know it’s a fine balance, but when you’re out for three hours in the middle of the night and have to show back up to work at 8am and work another full day, it can also detract from your production for days to come. Not to mention the fact that most large animal clients are billed, and when we sometimes don’t receive payments in a timely manner, we have to withhold paying our bills or even employees. This is also the reason most vets won’t do payment plans even in small animal. I believe in my Disney movie-loving heart that people *absolutely* intend on paying every cent of that bill, but things come up—electric bills, hospital bills and, dare I say, some people never intend to pay. I would estimate we never see 80% of the payment plan money—thousands of dollars a month vets don’t get for believing in people has slowly soured us.

2. **Only call us when you’ve tried everything else—**

including what your neighbor’s cousin’s best farmer friend suggested. You’ve been walking this colicky horse since 10am, have given it three injections of Banamine... in the muscle (*cringe!*), have tried your neighbor’s recommendations of sticking an onion up the horse’s rectum and coating the tongue in a bottle of cayenne pepper; and now you and the horse are soaked in the mineral oil you tried to get the horse to swallow and has perhaps aspirated. It’s now 11pm, and you call the vet—the one that you haven’t called since four years ago on Christmas morning when you had a foundering horse that you’d already bled three gallons of blood from because your friend said it would work—but



it didn't because that's not how any of this works. Or you saw that your cow that was due to calve had her tail up and some membranes hanging out three days ago, and now she's down in the mud (likely rotting from the inside); or you and all your friends have already been inside the cow, and despite only having a head and one leg for presentation, you went ahead and tied her head to a tree, and chained the calf's one leg and head to a tractor, and had the cow suspended in the air before you gave up and called me (because now she's down—likely a broken pelvis). As the entire veterinary community, we want you to know something: We would *much* rather you call when you think there might be a problem, and we can ask you questions and decide if it's an emergency (and go see your colic at noon when there's light out and the horse isn't 90% dehydrated now from walking) than wait until the animal is practically unsalvageable. Also, your bill will be much more reasonable the earlier we see the problem. As much as you think we cost to use, we stay alive with regular visits, the “bread and butter” as one boss called it—vaccines, coggins, heard health, etc.—and we are much more likely to jump out of bed to help you if we have a good working relationship with you and your farm.

3. **Try to save costs by compromising good husbandry and only calling us when you have an epidemic.** We don't like getting called out to clean up a disaster situation that could have been prevented with a little more money, forethought, and elbow grease. Why are all of your calves getting sick and dying?

- **Are they kept in clean, dry bedding out of the wind, rain, snow, heat, sun?** Access to clean water, non-moldy, unspoiled food? Pens cleaned and sanitized between animals? Animals kept far enough apart to not lick or touch each other (so they can't spread diseases)? You would not believe how much of an impact good husbandry can have on the health and production of your animals.
- **Are you vaccinating?** No? Do it! Vaccines are

amazing tools we have that can be given as early as birth to *easily* prevent deadly diseases that... *gasp*... can't be fixed with an antibiotic injection. Also, talk to your vet about a smart deworming protocol for your herd—deworming every six weeks is often not recommended anymore due to resistant worms, especially in goats and sheep. [Editor: And camelids!]

- **Are your animals being fed a diet that works best for their species?** Spoiler: even though grain makes them gain weight faster, they need roughage (i.e., hay) to keep their bellies happy (yes, even pigs). In fact most ruminants (cows, goats, sheep, etc.) would have better health with little to no grain (think bloat, rumen acidosis leading to founder, liver abscesses, urinary blockages in male goats, etc.). Good quality hay too—*not* straw or that hay that's been sitting in the pasture for five years, is mostly black, and will likely cause respiratory issues for you and the animals when you break it open.
 - **Water, water everywhere!** Clean water, water that doesn't have two inches of ice on top of it (buy a de-icer), water in multiple places if you have numerous animals and the bullies are guarding it, water that doesn't have an electric current going through it (check that 10-year old de-icer).
4. **Don't have your animals caught when the vet arrives.** I cannot tell you the number of times, after I ask them to get a halter on the cow and at least tie her to a truck or tractor before I get there, the farmer will absolutely *insist* the cow is down and “she ain't going anywhere.” Then, as soon as my vet truck pulls up to the farm, that pet cow that was bottle-raised and loves you and is so sick now she cannot even lift her head, will reach down deep into her soul, grab what's left of her water buffalo ancestry, jump up and scramble away. She will then lead an hour-long chase across pastures, through woods, and briars before finally falling into a creek, losing her will to live, and attempting to drown.

Don't expect us to rope or dart her! Unfortunately, they have dropped Rodeo Clown 101 and Rhino Darting from the veterinary curriculum, at least since I went to school. Basically, if you have large animals, have the equipment needed to handle them: gates, corrals, chutes or head catches would be amazing; trailers that work.

Make sure your horse will load in a trailer if needed. Have halters, ropes, etc. Don't expect us to halter- break your two-year old stud colt when it has a laceration and you haven't touched it since it was born. It's stressful and inefficient if we get there and you're chasing animals around when we already have three more emergencies waiting on us. And you may get charged for the time.

5. **Get annoyed when we can't be to your place immediately.** There is often only one vet working after-hours calls, and if we're at someone's farm, soaked in birthing fluids and wallowing around in the straw trying to pull a calf when you call, and we don't call you back for another 30-45 minutes and *then* won't be to your place for another hour because you're on the opposite pole of our practice range, please be understanding—we're trying.

And here are other requests from a group of 12,000 vet moms:

- Just give me your address—GPS works great in most areas—no, I don't know where the old Hamilton place used to be or that oak tree that was cut down a few weeks ago. Also, have easily visible, large, reflective numbers or name on both sides of your mailbox.
- Don't leave the bull in the herd up until pregnancy checks. It's much easier to estimate a breeding date when the cows are 30-90 days bred, and there's not a bull currently trying to breed the cow behind you in the chute.
- Don't call your vet after-hours for non-emergency questions that can wait until regular business hours, or to schedule appointments, etc. We have families and a life outside of vet

medicine: Please allow us to live as much of it as possible.

- Please don't call us after hours for advice on how to treat something you have no intention of having us come out for because we're expensive. Also, don't ask us to teach you how to do something you see us doing—like passing a nasogastric tube on a horse (please, for the love of God, don't try to tube your own horse or stick a hose down their throat to “wash out the choke”) —just to save money next time... which brings me to my next point
- Animals are expensive. Please carefully consider this and basic husbandry for the animal you are about to buy or rescue. Rescue animals are often even more expensive because of all the health issues they come with. If you can't provide it the care it needs, you haven't rescued it, you've just relocated it—there, I said it.
- Don't call us out for an emergency that could wait until normal business hours just because it's more convenient to you. A five-day duration of lameness in a horse at 11pm because you have to work tomorrow and don't have time? Me, too! No, thanks.
- Colicky horses (which can sometimes also look like straining to urinate):
 - Call as soon as you suspect. A 5% dehydrated animal is much easier to correct than 50%, and with colic, hydration is 90% of the problem.
 - Don't walk the horse more than 30-60 minutes before calling. Walking, trotting, even a short trailer ride can help immensely, but not to excess; the more they walk, the more tired and dehydrated they get.
 - Let a lying horse lie. If they start rolling (and not getting up with a big ol' shake-off), then get concerned. Even a colicky horse can be allowed to lie quietly—think of how you would feel if you went to the doctor with a stomachache and they put you on a treadmill for four hours.

How to Lose Your Vet, cont.

- Don't comment on my size as a woman. You, sir, also cannot body slam a 1500-lb. steer, so let's let the drugs I brought do the talking.
- Please admit to any and all treatments already given before I arrived. This goes for small animals as well. Think he got into weed? Just say it... *big, tired sigh here*... We're not calling the cops, but knowing that could save you \$500 in bloodwork, diagnostics, and referral to a neurologist.
- Don't ask us to look at your other horse who has had a weird, flakey skin condition for the past two years and also needs a coggins while we're out treating a laceration on another animal at 2am.
- Bonus: Please don't pull a nail out of an animal's hoof before we get the chance to shoot x-rays to see how deeply it penetrated and whether it got the bone or joint.

We love our jobs, and we want to help. Call as soon as you think you have an emergency. The easier you make it on us and the more we can help you, the better our doctor/client relationship will be, and the

longer we will stay with the large animal work. Be nice to your vet. Please.

About the Author:


Dr. Emily Thomas is an American veterinarian and a television star, who is probably best known for appearing on the National Geographic's Wild channel's reality TV show "The Incredible Dr. Pol."



Upon completing her primary and secondary education, Dr. Emily enrolled at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Science, from which she graduated in 2010, earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, majoring in large animal field services as well as equine reproduction. Upon graduation,

Dr. Emily began her professional career as a vet in a private practice based in Newberry, South Carolina. After several years of honing her professional skills, she decided to add another dimension to her career and continue her professional work on-camera.

In 2015, Dr. Emily relocated to Weidman, Michigan, where she joined Pol Veterinary Services in the show's sixth season. Since leaving the show in 2019, Dr. Emily remains active on Instagram and blogging on her website at DrEmilyThomasVet.com, and has moved on to a small animal-only practice in Virginia to have more time with her husband and three children. She says she misses working with large animals... but not the hours!

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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 | menageriehillranch.com | 707.290.7915

Alpacas For Sale

EXTREME SALE!! DRSA Sylent Partner, aka "Sly," is one of our few breeding males remaining on the farm. He's the last to go because we wanted to use him to the last possible moment. This boy is wonderful! He is gorgeous, has great stats and show wins, is a strong breeder and yet gentle enough for even folks new to the alpaca world. And he's currently on Openherd auction with a VERY low "Buy Now"... and NO reserve!! Read more about him below; visit his info page to see a couple of his colorful offspring and the fiber awards of some other of his progeny, and enter your bid on Openherd Auctions!

PROGENY INFO: <https://www.openherd.com/userPage.aspx?ActiveOverride=1&Id=8609>

AUCTION PAGE: <https://www.openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/133170/drsa-peruvian-sylent-partner>

For more info, contact Nancy Helwig at sterlingalpacas@yahoo.com

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

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 [openherd.com/alpacas-for-sale/119141/ova-kiernan-of-st-andrews](https://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 | 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

Calpaca Classified Ads

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 genetics at this special price!

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

SURI BREEDERS, do you appreciate the uniqueness multi-colored fleece brings to your herd? Take a look at these three proven producers of multis:

Derwydd Tagi's Phawchi: Phawchi is one sexy herdsire with incredible exotic and elegant coloring covering a solid and impressive frame. A true "standout" in the field. Are you looking to breed to a lovely exotic colored full Peruvian with a little Accoyo in the pedigree??

GVA Kootenay: A 3/4 Accoyo Male - 7/8ths Peruvian with a dash of Chilean for COLOR! His fleece is FINE, with a cool, slick hand, locking holding to the skin, density and luster to burn. Are you breeding for fineness... check him out.

Queen's Prince Henry: Henry is an **EXTREMELY RARE** multi-patterned **Pucara Kahuna** son. Here is an opportunity to add the genetics of a high-impact herdsire the caliber of Pucara Kahuna to your breeding program.

Call Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm, 530-744-7474

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Call Dianna Jordan, Alpacas of Somerset Farm, 530-744-7474

Member Business Cards



Member Business Cards, cont.



Where suri alpacas are sterling

Nancy & David Helwig


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10451 Valley Drive
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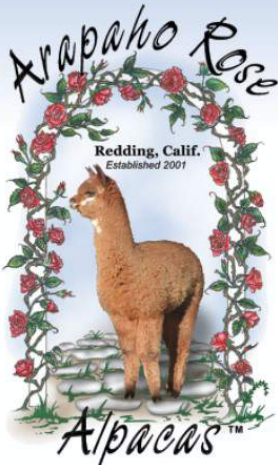
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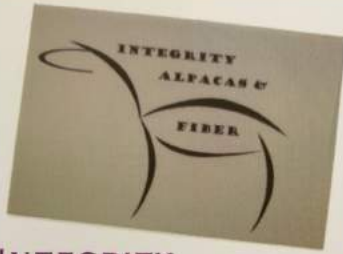


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Member Business Cards, cont.



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Turlock CA

Alpacas, llamas and fiber arts studio

Larry & Maureen Macedo

209-648-2338 & 209-648-2384

macedosminiacre@gmail.com



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



*A world of discounts is waiting...
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Welcome to Alpaca Owners Association Benefits Marketplace!

Enjoy discounts, rewards and perks on thousands of the brands you love in a variety of categories:

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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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- [Alpaca Research](#)
- [Alpaca Shows](#)
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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