



# LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America  
Late Summer Edition 2017

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## UPCOMING LANA EVENTS

### LANA Versatility Award

October 25 - 28, 2017  
ALSA Grand National, Kansas

### LANA Youth Contest

November 1, 2017 deadline  
contact Sue Rich

### LANA Hobo Classic Show

February 3 -4, 2018, Turlock, CA

### Kids & Camelids Show

April 14, 2018, Turlock, CA

correction to the 2017 Early Summer Newsletter. HNOR Domingo's Zorro is the Open Alpaca Versatility Reserve Champion. He is owned and shown by Nancy Varga of Star Rose Ranch. Congratulations Nancy!

## the "CA33"

At the end of 2010, 1200 animals, mostly llamas, needed to be rescued from the dreadful conditions at the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary. Llama Association of North America's Lama Lifeline Committee (LANA Lifeline) and other llama rescue organizations, and hundreds of volunteers, evacuated 700+ llamas to foster intake centers across the United States by the end of January 2011.

At the Camelid Symposium at UC Davis, coordinator and LANA Board Director Joy Pedroni explained the dire situation in Montana and the need for homes for thirty three llamas coming to the University later that month.

The CA33 arrived in two shipments. They were evaluated, treated and taken care of by Dr. Julie Dechant, the Camelid Medicine Club, veterinary school staff and students. The Camelid Medicine Club donated money as well as the Student Chapter of the AVMA towards the cost of services. UC Davis was the only university that took llamas in directly. The animals were housed at the campus until their adoption.

Joy devoted her time to finding homes for all the llamas. Read about two of these lucky llamas, Napoleon and Dynamite on page 21. Look for more articles about the CA33 in upcoming newsletters.



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photo credit to School of Veterinary Medicine, UC Davis

# BUDDY

by Eileen Ditsler, Icehouse Llamas and  
Doug Bearmar, Black Mountain Pack Llamas

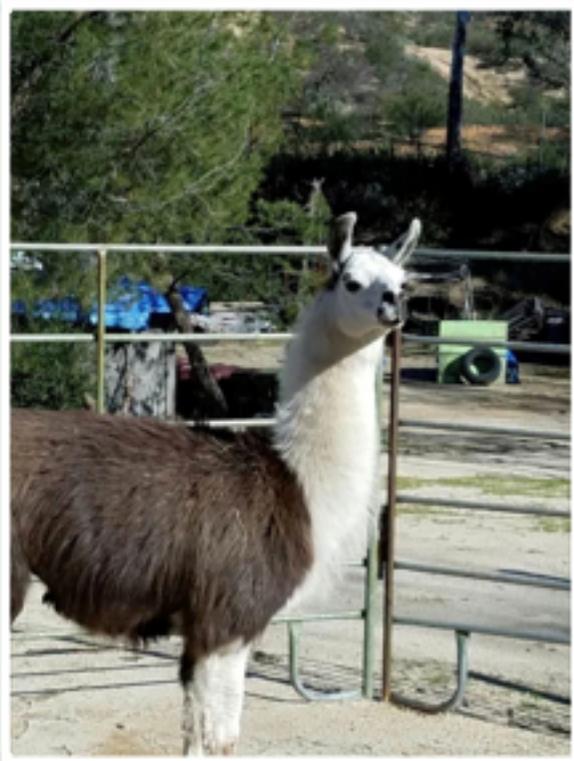
## Eileen's story

*January 28th 2017 Facebook post:*

This llama was found standing outside our front gate today by my husband. I am thinking someone dumped him. We live at the end of a dead end dirt road with hills in back of us. We do not get any traffic on our road. I just think it is weird a llama shows up and as far as I know no one around us has llamas except us. And we are not missing any. Last month we had a package stolen and last week someone kicked in our mailbox. This llama seems to be a yearling and not handled, he is intact and not halter broke. Anyone want a llama??? Sigh....

[Eileen Ditsler](#) How did he catch him?

[Susan Lewis](#) Just waited and had a pen open next to HP and he slowly walked in with Russ behind him.



*January 29th Facebook post:*

It is official, someone dumped a young llama at our place yesterday. Our neighbor heard a truck a there was a llama. Some people SUCK!!!! Especially those who have animals and don't know how to care for them!! Thank you my llama friend Eileen who will take him💚💚. I can't print what I wish on those stupid people who left this poor guy 😡😡😡😡😡😡😡

[Susan Lewis](#) He needs training because he is not use to people and refuses to be touched.

This is the beginning of Buddy's story. A llama dumped outside a friend's gate and abandoned. Since Susan has switched gears and concentrates on showing her dogs, she did not have time to work with a wild llama. So I agreed to come pick him and see what I could do with him. I hoped I could find him a home quick.

I drove to Susan's with my 24 foot livestock trailer, as its all I have to transport llamas. Luckily, Susan's husband Russ was home as I found there was no way I could have caught and haltered the llama by myself. It took us nearly half an hour to get close enough to catch him without him totally freaking out. We were concerned he'd try to jump out of the horse corral and hurt himself. He was shaking and feared for his life. This llama had not been touched or handled ever. Once Russ got a halter on him, we let him stand a few moments. Slowly we began to try to get him moving. It ended up being a long tug and release drag from the stall to the trailer. I think he only made one step forward under his own steam. Getting him into the trailer was struggle. Touching his front leg and pulling him into the trailer was strenuous, but finally it was done.

Susan hugged me and said thank you for taking him. I sighed-this wasn't going to be easy.

At home I parked the trailer in the yard, opened all the doors on the trailer and went about my chores. The llama suspiciously watched me for a couple of hours. He did not venture out on his own. When I was done with things, it was time he came out. I caught him easier as he still had the halter on. More pull and release to the edge of the trailer, and he stepped out gingerly. Thank goodness no leaping. It took us 10 minutes or so to get less than 40' to his new stall. In he went and halter came off. Whew!

I decided to give him a day to settle in. He watched me work the other llamas on the obstacles in the yard. When I'd go in to clean, he'd scurry to the farthest corner away from me. He was not interested in me at all.

I knew it would be best for him first to learn to control himself and not force myself on him. I decided to start slowly getting into his personal space using positive reinforcement – walking away from him once he stood still. We worked this way a few days until I could approach him and touch him without rushing away (most of the time). Then I started incorporating the halter. By the end of the week, I could approach and put the halter around his neck without a wreck.

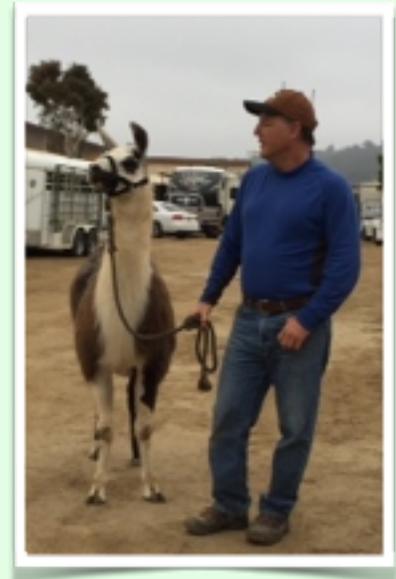
The following week we were scheduled to go to a show where we pen the llamas on a grass area away from crowds. I decided to take him there so he could get more exposure to new things, but not have to be around large crowds.

I asked a friend if he'd be interested in taking on the new boy. There was guarded interest. With the goal in mind of having Galaxy (the name I called him) being able to be haltered and walk on a loose lead, I worked with him a little every day. When I could finally put the halter on his head without a struggle, we took a stroll around the yard. The next day we went around the cul de sac. Each time out, I'd have him load into the trailer too.

*February 17th 2017*

It's time to go to the show, he could walk nicely on a loose lead and load. He was still on guard and highly suspicious of new things. I found him to be level headed and while not really interested in learning, he wasn't fighting or balking at the process either. Day 2 at the Fair, I decided to bring him ring side to see the other llamas. I tied him in a safe place on the backside of the bleachers as it was my other llama's turn in the show ring. Galaxy seemed relaxed watching everything so he stayed there over an hour. No one paid him any attention — no drama to call attention to himself.

The next day, my friend asked about Galaxy. I explained he had walked past him several times the day before at the show ring. He was impressed that the wild llama had not caused a spectacle. I again brought him ring side and tied him up. My friend told me a bit later that he would take him back to our pens. When I walked back, he was tied to my friend's trailer. I didn't realize he had meant that he would take him!



**Doug and Buddy**

## Doug's story

When I first met Buddy, he was nothing like I expected. My mind was closed expecting some old gangly broken-down llama that lived a hard life until the day he was dumped some where. Nothing could be farther from this as Buddy was young and very compliant. We met ringside at the Indio Date Festival. He was chillin' in the back area checking out all the happenings. If you have not been to the Date festival, it's a site to be seen! You know you are at Indio when you're on the performance course and monster trucks are flying by in the next arena over (no joke), or the fabulous Mexican equestrian team is in full form alongside our llama arena. Buddy was taking it all in and looking the better for it. Right away, I knew I would take him home. It's the first long term intact male I've had on our ranch as we pack exclusively with Ccara females. But Buddy spoke to me some how and right away, we connected.

After a while at the llama show, I needed to go tank up on some tasty fair food. I decided Buddy would be fine tied to my stock trailer while I found some food you can only get at fairs (you know the kind). After getting almost out of the camping area I hear "Loose Llama."! Oh great! I think what knuckle head lost their llama.... Me! Buddy was walking off and went right back to Eileen's trailer. She and her bestie Crystal calmly walked over and picked up his lead and gave me another attempt number for a tie out. Good friends I have in the llama world, giving me a second go and all. Buddy was not running off; he was going back home with Eileen, or so he thought.

Buddy is small compared to my tall 48" pack animals. All the girls were curious but ready to smash him as soon as look at him. On the three hour trip home in the same trailer, it was some what traumatic for ol' Buddy. He managed it and I was newly proud of him for enduring the trip with five big girls being nasty to him while he was tied in a back area of the stock trailer.

Buddy was entirely stoked to get his own huge pipe corral area on the ranch. It was actually nice to use up all the pipe corral that was in stand-by mode for Buddy's new zone. We have an old broken down rescue gelding on the property that wanted to do Buddy bad like no ones business, so initially we had to make Buddy is own pad. The best location was somewhat close to all the other eight females and across the fence from Rusty, the rescue gelding.

After a couple of weeks I could come out early and find Rusty and Buddy sleeping right next to each other along side the fence. He had lived up to his namesake and was now Rusty's Buddy too.

Since he was a light woolen animal, there was not much to shear. I gave him a smart cut which is my version of a barrel cut with some flair. He handled the summer and extreme heat well and was ready to go for a walk any day I came for him after work. He even liked the inside of our house, which is a good test for a llama, and didn't break anything.

Recently, some of the Llama Association of Southern California members were encouraging me to step up Buddy's game and enter him to a show. His first outing was again a four hour trailer ride with only four girls that would like to seem him in some other trailer. He made it again with no llama drama. He is truly a bud to others. Buddy showed in the youth division with some fine young exhibitors and learned a lot in performance at the Antelope Valley Fair in Lancaster.

Being in a performance event is a big deal for a young animal with very little experience and he did fine. Many obstacles were simple for him and others were completely new and a challenge. He never got too scared and even won his handler a second place ribbon in the public relations class. The young exhibitors were able to compete with this raw animal and do okay at his first outing.



I'm inspired by Buddy and wanted to share my experience with him to all you llama folks. It is a truly fulfilling experience when you can approach a new animal in an open field and halter them with no runaway issues. Buddy grabbed my interest. He was so unique in personality from the rest of my packing Ccara females in almost every way except one, his willingness to work and explore new places and situations. To me this makes Buddy a great addition to our llama community and he truly captured my heart as my new buddy.

Follow Buddy on facebook at Black Mountain Pack Llamas. He will be out there living the dream at shows and on the trail.



# TROUBLE-SHOOTING NUTRITION FOR CAMELIDS

David E. Anderson, D.V.M

## FACTORS AFFECTING NUTRITION

Too often, nutrition is equated with feed alone. Little thought may be applied to the type of feed (grain, pellets, hay, grass, water), how it is fed (individual feeders, bunk feeder, free choice trough), how it is stored (molds, spoilage), the animals' access to the feed (feeding hierarchy), and the animals' utilization of the feed (fine ground grain versus roughage). Llamas and alpacas are particularly susceptible to these factors because of their social structure and the lack of livestock experience of many owners.

## MANAGEMENT FACTORS

Management, or more specifically human factors, are important to proper nutrition of camelids. Human factors include obtaining a diet that is useful to the animal, proper storage of the feed, making the feed available to all animals, feeding an appropriate amount, providing proper feeding areas, and monitoring the quality and consistency of the feed. This includes pasture and water management. Camelids must have unlimited access to clean, fresh, water. Stagnant ponds or water troughs that are seldom cleaned may result in consumption of contaminated water (e.g. blue green algae, high minerals) or decreased water consumption because it is not potable. Access to pasture, hay, and supplemental feed sources must be done in a way that all camelids have equal access to the feed. Often, a thin animal is unable to compete with dominant members of the herd for feed. Adequate feeding space is important. An example of poor feeding management is a herd of 60 alpacas offered hay and a pelleted supplement in a 10 foot long single sided feed trough. Camelids are competitive feeders and will eat based on social hierarchy. This competition may result in only 1 alpaca eating for each 2 feet of trough space. Therefore, this herd may experience three waves of eating: 1) dominant animals competing for the highest quality feed, 2) middle hierarchy alpacas eating the remaining high quality feed, and 3) submissive alpacas either not eating from the trough at all or eating the residual stemy particles left over from the rest of the herd. I have investigated situations such as this and found that the body condition scores of the camelids were clustered in three groups: fat (BCS – 9), ideal (BCS – 5,6) and thin (BCS – 3). The ideal BCS can be reached by either increasing trough space or by separating these animals into groups based on their BCS (the latter being a better option in my opinion).

## ANIMAL FACTORS

Animal factors focus mainly on social structure of the herd and changes in this social structure as discussed above, but individual animal problems do occur. The most frustrating llamas and alpacas are those animals that remain thin (BCS -3) despite adequate access to pasture, hay, and supplemental feeds. Often these animals have a history of excessive supplementation of concentrated feeds in an attempt to achieve weight gain. I have been concerned that this method of feeding may cause a decrease in efficiency of digestion, subclinical acidosis of the forestomach, and aggravate the nutritional problem. Therefore, my recommendation to these owners has been to limit concentrate feeding, offer free choice high quality hay, and re-establish forestomach bacterial populations by transfaunation or try feeding commercial bacterial inoculant. A probiotic pelleted supplement that we have been researching is a product called Turval Camelid Daily. This is a voluntary intake product, but we have found the palatability

of the product to be quite good. We have found that this product has beneficial and protective properties for camelids challenged with acidosis by grain feeding. If an individual animal persistently remains separate from the herd during feedings, separate the animal into a small group of submissive animals and feed them individually.

## **FEED FACTORS**

Feed factors are interrelated with human and animal factors: the feed must be appropriately processed, stored, and offered in adequate amounts and availability to all members of the herd. I have seen liver problems in llamas and alpacas that may have been related to molds. In a study funded by the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association we tried to document this as a problem. In fact, we performed a feeding study and found that alpacas could eat up to 75 ppm Fumonisin B1 grain supplement for 30 days. We did not see liver disease in alpacas fed less than 50 ppm Fumonisin, but we did see depression, anorexia, and increased liver enzymes when the Fumonisin concentration rose above 75 to 100 ppm in the diet. Copper toxicity and copper deficiency also have been documented as causing significant health problems in alpacas and llamas. Our research, in connection with Dr. Norm Evans and funded by the Llama Association of Mid-Atlantic States, suggests that dietary copper levels between 15 and 35 ppm are well tolerated by llamas. We are currently collating research data on zinc absorption which was funded by the Camelid Health Foundation, Magical Farms Alpacas, and the Ohio River Valley Llama Association. Alfalfa based diets are more prone to zinc deficiency because of interference with zinc absorption in the digestive tract. Camelids are equally susceptible to thiamine deficiency or inhibition compared with other small ruminants. Water or feed sources containing excessive amounts of sulfates may cause Polioencephalomalacia in camelids. Use caution; extremes of either high or low trace mineral offerings should be avoided.

## **ASSESSMENT OF NUTRITION STATUS/ANIMAL WELL BEING**

Assessment of adequacy of nutrition in camelids is complicated by the limited information specific to llamas and alpacas. When performing an initial investigation into nutrition on a camelid farm, I prefer to have all sources of nutrient intake analyzed: water, grass, hay, feed supplement, and trace mineral mix. Also, I have blood mineral analysis performed and give the owner the option of liver mineral analysis. If I suspect that there is a problem or have documented a problem in any herd member, then I strongly encourage the owners to have liver mineral analysis done. Liver mineral analysis is easily performed through the skin using a special needle. Our nutrition studies at Ohio State have shown that liver analyses are superior to blood in the assessment of trace mineral status. I limit liver biopsies to males, geldings, and non-pregnant females older than 6 months. At least 5 animals should be sampled in order to determine the trend. Differences in liver mineral content may be seen between males and females. Larger farms may find annual or semi-annual blood mineral analysis advantageous to monitor consistency of nutrition availability. I prefer to obtain samples in the late winter or early spring (because I get a better impression of how the animals are doing after a prolonged period of nutrition that has a limited green base), and again in the summer or autumn (because this sample allows evaluation of the total diet including grass).

## **SUMMARY**

Nutrition programs should be tailored to the local geography. Management practices are tailored to local issues and these influence feeding practices. Camelids in Ohio are highly unlikely to prosper based on nutrition practices tailored to Arizona!

(reprinted from LANA Expo handbook)

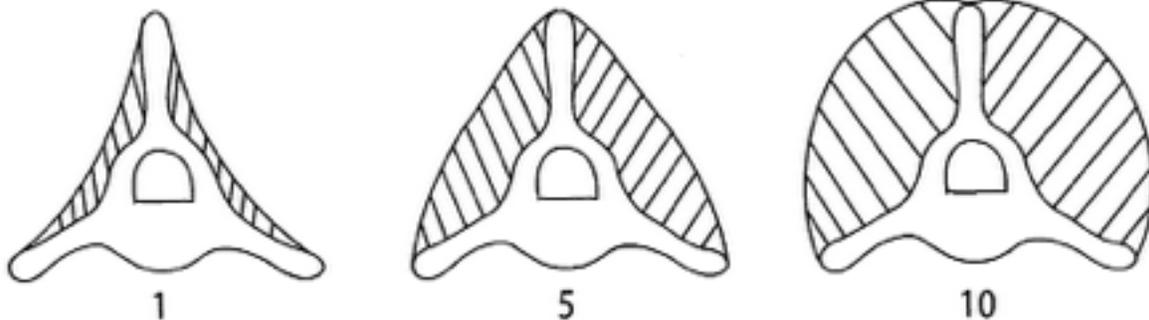
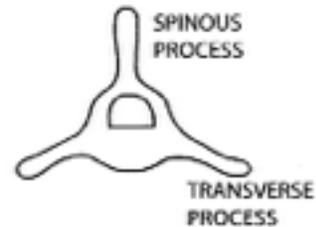
## Body Condition Scoring

Jennifer Bowman, MS

Body scoring is a palpating skill to allow you to evaluate the fat & muscle mass condition of an animal. Body scoring evaluates 2 locations along the back (withers/thoracic vertebrae and lumbar vertebrae) and the rib section (behind the elbow).

### Score Chart 1 – 10

- 1: Emaciated (hand sinks down)
- 5: Ideal (flat between spinous & transverse process)
- 10: Obese (difficulty in locating spinous process)



- 1) Locate the spinal vertebrae. The spinous process is the vertical structure on the center of the vertebral body and is the site of spinal muscle attachments. A line of connecting spinous process feels like a ridge down the topline of the animal. The transverse process is the horizontal structure extending from each side of the vertebral column and is the site of spinal muscle attachments.
- 2) First site for palpation: region of the lumbar vertebrae, just in front of the stifle on the rear leg. Stand on the side of the camelid, place the tip of your middle finger on the spinous process & the heel of your hand on the transverse process. Nestle your hand flat against the skin allowing your hand to follow the contour of the underlying muscle mass. Score the animal from 1-10.
- 3) Repeat at the second site of palpation; the thoracic vertebrae.
- 4) Examine the muscle and fat overlying the ribs, behind the elbow.
  - a. Score 1 – 10
    - i. 1: Emaciated – ribs protrude significantly
    - ii. 5: Ideal – feel ribs easily, without protrusion
    - iii. 10: Obese – can not find the ribs due to excess fat

**TAKE HOME MESSAGE:** You must palpate your animals to understand their body condition.

## LANA YOUTH MEDALLION AWARD

This award recognizes the good deeds of youth at shows, encourages good sportsmanship, and promotes youth interest in llama herdsmanship. The judge, show superintendent, or any board member can determine who receives the award.

In order to be considered for the award, a youth must first be a registered entrant in the show and be observed willingly helping out in areas such as:

- Helping other youths or adults not of their own family or 4-H/FFA club.
- Running ribbons or score cards.
- Helping to set up or clean up anywhere need-ed.
- Educating the public and others about llamas. (PR)
- Exhibiting good sportsmanship.

One award will be given at each show where a youth is deemed qualified for such recognition. Youth are not limited to one award per year, but may earn additional medals for any llama show in which they participate and qualify. As with the other LANA Youth awards and contests, a recipient is not required to be a LANA member.

Show superintendents who wish to include LANA Youth Awards programs in their shows should contact the LANA Business Office. A picture and brief bio of the recipient should be sent to the Business Office for publication in the *LANA News* and on the LANA website.

## Kayla Rogers

Congratulations to Kayla Rogers who was awarded the LANA Youth Medallion at the 2017 California State Fair Llama and Alpaca Show in Sacramento.

Kayla was selected by the show superintendent and the youth coordinator (both are LANA board members) for her outstanding efforts such as:

Participating in the Youth Demonstrations

Assisting with the set up of the performance courses including unloading/loading obstacles

Participating in Pooh Corner (Walk-a-Llama) with her llamas

Interacting with the public through out the four days of the Fair

Helping exhibitors when they needed a handler



# LANA

## Youth Article & Art Contest

LANA invites youth member of all ages to submit an article on any camelid-related topic of interest to the youth. Articles should be 1000 words or less with four pictures or less.

Articles should be written in Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced, with the author's name on each page in the header.



Young members (11 years and younger) are also invited to submit a piece of original artwork. Pictures or scanned artwork should be submitted as .tiff or .jpeg files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. The content should be the original work of the youth author.

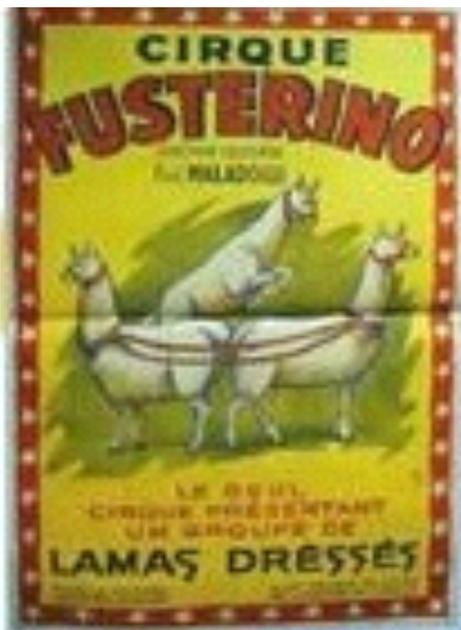
Articles and scanned artwork should be submitted electronically to Sue Rich at [susan.rich9631@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rich9631@gmail.com)



One winner from each of the four age categories (sub-junior, junior, intermediate, and senior) will be selected twice a year.

Submission due:  
November 1, 2017  
May 1, 2018

Winners will receive a \$25 cash prize and articles will be published in the LANA Newsletter and on the website.



**October 7th & 8th  
Stanislaus Fairgrounds  
Turlock, CA**

## **2017 Western Regionals**

Ladies & Gentlemen! Boys & Girls of all  
Ages! Welcome.....to the Big Top!

That's right, Regionals is headed back to the circus.  
Dig out your circus clothes and join the fun.

Ron & Joy Pedroni, Superintendents

**JOY@BLACKCATLLAMAS.COM**

**Judge: Mike Swanson, Iowa**

**Grands and Reserve Grands will count in every division regardless  
of number of entries in the division.**

**Regionals is a double point show!**

**Top 6 placings qualify for the 2017 ALSA Nationals**

**You do NOT have to qualify to enter Regionals.  
This show is open and everyone is welcome!**



## BREEDERS OF SHOW QUALITY LLAMAS

- SALE OF LLAMAS FOR BREEDING STOCK, SHOW, COMPANION, GUARDS OR PETS
- PRODUCER OF ORGANIC LLAMA COMPOST
- SALE OF NATURAL 80% LLAMA AND 20% MERINO WOOL IN SKEINS FOR KNITTING AND/OR ROVING FOR SPINNING.
- VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
- [WWW.WILDOAKLLAMAS.COM](http://WWW.WILDOAKLLAMAS.COM)

**Rick & Mary Adams  
Wild Oak Llamas  
66250 Gerking Market  
Road  
Bend, OR 97703-2013**



Dolly Peters

**RANCHO  
DOLLY LLAMA**

951 Sheridan Lane  
Gardnerville, Nevada  
702 265-1989

**RDL Ilya—7/6/15**

**California State Fair Champion**

**Medium Wool Male**





## Four R Llama Ranch

Lisa Labendeira ~ Linda Rogers ~ Kayla Rogers ~ Madison Rogers

[www.fourrllamaranch.com](http://www.fourrllamaranch.com)

[www.teamjorjio.com](http://www.teamjorjio.com)

# THE ORANGE

## BLOSSOM 4-H LLAMA PROJECT



We are indebted to very kind members of the adult llama community who share their expertise and their animals with the 4H participants in our project. Trinity Harry is shown here with a llama provided by Ed and Arleen McCombs: McShaggy's Memnon.



Another McComb's gift, McShaggy's Maverick with Trinity: **BEFORE** the shearing ...



... And then **AFTER**



We especially want to thank those in the llama world who have donated their time to help these 4Her's and other llama youth grow in their knowledge of the care and training of their camelid friends, their skills in dealing with the new and unusual both in the ring and on the trail, and their love of the animals.



Lora Crawford has been incredibly generous with both her time and her animals. Lola Garcia, to the left, has her first up-close-and-personal encounter with EZ Cash, an animal donated to the project from Lora. His easy affection makes him a hit with newcomers to the project and a favorite at shows, especially State Fair, where he is quick to reach over the bars of the stalls to say, "Hello" to the passersby.

**Joy Pedroni** has volunteered her time and energies to make the Kids & Camelids Show happen by gathering the show entries, interfacing with ALSA and fairgrounds staff, and manning the scoring table. Her grandsons fill the ranks of the sub-junior classes, and she connects with the youth at every show.

**Maureen Macedo** shares her home pastures and fields for the Hot August Nights Show, sponsors another 4-H project, and donates her time to offer fiber consultations during the Kids & Camelids Show.

Incredibly generous, **Margaret Drew** has donated her valuable time to judge and consult with the participants of the first two Kids & Camelid Shows. She has created T-shirts, shared printed resources, provided give aways for gift bags, and served in innumerable ways to connect kids with animals.

**Kathy Nichols** has had a huge impact on youth and their animals. She provided the youth strand of the LANA Expos for years, schedules a youth demonstration at the State Fairs that she has superintended, and has donated her time to assist with the Kids & Camelids Shows. **THANK YOU ALL**

Project Leader: Susan Rich, 9631 Dillwood Road, Oakdale, CA 96361 (209) 847-2981

*New Leaf*



*Llama Farm*

**Sarah McGovern**

*newleafllamafarm.com*

Phone: 530-913-6035

Email: [sarahmcgo@gmail.com](mailto:sarahmcgo@gmail.com)

**PO Box 1104  
Oregon House, CA 95962**

## *Silver Oaks Llamas*

***Good luck to all the  
exhibitors at the 2017  
Hobo Classic!***

***Nancy Carpenter &  
Tomahawk***



*7 Yearling Grand  
Champions*



*5 Yearling  
Best of Shows*

*Skansen's Aloha Legend*

*Dob 3/20/2015*

*Aloha Secret Agent Smooch x Skansen's Wonderbar*

## **EVALUATING LLAMAS FOR SHOW**

**by Lora Crawford**

**What are your goals in showing lamas?**

**Promotion for your breeding program?**

**Do you just want to have fun?**

**Are you doing this for the kids?**

**Do you love your lama and hope the judge does also?**

**Did you buy an “expensive fancy show” lama so, now you want to show him/her off?**

**Do you want to compete in the Halter classes but no Performance?**

**Do you like Performance and don't care much about Halter?**

If you are promoting your breeding program, you need to bring your best to the show. This determination must be made primarily on conformation and soundness. It is not enough to have a pretty face, great presence, or awesome fiber or color. All of those elements are important but if the positive conformation traits are not there, your success in the show arena will be compromised.

If you are showing “just for fun,” then enjoy, have fun, be happy. The problem is, fairly soon you will also enjoy winning (placing, ribboning) along with having fun. So again, bring your best, take the time to train and prepare your animal before the show.

Adults wanting to support their children have a responsibility to be involved in the educational process of caring for and showing lamas. Children love to compete; however, they also want to win. Often times the child starts with a donated lama and many times the quality of the animal is not as desirable as a selected and purchased animal. Adults have the task of guiding the child through the learning process of how to be a humble winner and a gracious loser in competition. They have the awesome responsibility of supporting the child through all the trials and errors incurred during the shows. They also must help the child learn about caring for their animal before, during and after the show. Rules and regulations must be learned and practiced. Even though the youth do not have Halter classes in their shows, the lama should still be conformationally strong and in good health. This all falls on the shoulders of the adult to guide and support the child. A llama that has significant conformational faults should not be purchased for a child wishing to compete. Conformation is not judged in Performance; however, it is always important for the longevity of the lama and for success of the child in competition.

When judging llamas, I never look at faces first until I have checked out everything else, because I fall in love with those faces. Most of us fell in love with our first llama. The judge will not have the same affection for your lamas as you do, so again the animal needs to have the best conformation possible and be sound.

People have purchased animals from well-known ranches that show frequently, advertise nationally, and do very well in competition. When you get the llama home you expect to do as well as the folks you purchased from. That doesn't always turn out that way, particularly if you let the high visibility of the seller get in the way of seeing and evaluating the llama realistically. Once a llama leaves the hands of a well-known owner it must compete on its own merit and conformation is always important.

The last two questions will be addressed together. Conformation will always be the first priority when considering an animal for show. In performance correct conformation will serve the llama well in negotiating obstacles. It will also look great going through the course with grace and style. In Halter, conformation is number one, however it is helpful that the llama has style, grace, balance, and **PRESENCE**. Requirements in Halter and Performance must be learned and practiced by owner and animal to be competitive.

Evaluation llamas for show:

Be realistic when looking at your animal or when evaluating for potential purchase. Re-examine your goals. Look at the animal from the side. Does it have a strong straight top line? Does the stretch of the neck look pleasing to the length of the back? Is there a relative high tail set? How does the llama stand? As viewed from the side, does it have appropriate angle to the hind legs and straight front legs with proper angle to the pasterns? Does the animal have a proud "look at me" presence? Take the llama to a local event where a large number of people are in attendance. Does the animal tolerate that type of stimulation?

For Performance it is desirable that the llama enjoys performing. Positive attitude is extremely important. Developing a sense of trust between you and your animal will make the difference between just completing the course or scoring with a ribbon. Set up an obstacle course at home. Use common items around the house/ranch, such as : chairs for weaves, front steps for stairs, bales of hay for jumping, or back ups, etc. Learning and practicing is important, however once the llama does the obstacle well, only review occasionally. You don't want the animal to get bored and not want to respond to your direction.

For showmanship select a llama that will stand still and follow your directions. You don't need "mister studly" or "baby scaredy cat" out in the arena while you try to remember the pattern and follow direction from the judge. Practice at home. Conformation is not judged in the class, but if you have done your homework before hand, you will have selected an animal with good conformation anyway.

There are two excellent references that I use on regular basis:

In Search of the Ideal Llama: The Field Guide  
Assessing Conformational Traits in Llamas  
By Richard and Maggie Krieger

Alpaca & Llama Show Association Handbook  
Phone:  
Website: [www.alsashow.net](http://www.alsashow.net)

# What is a Micron?

by Chris Switzer

WHAT IS A MICRON? It's a measurement for fineness with animal fibers. A tool for describing qualities: extra fine, fine, good, coarse, etc.

A micron is 1/25,000 of an inch; i.e., 1/1,000 of a millimeter! The lower the number, the finer the fiber.

For instance, an "average quality" of alpaca fiber is 25 microns, so that's 1/1,000 of an inch.

(Try imagining a ruler, and then an inch, and finally 1,000 tiny pieces of fiber.) There's not much difference with one or two microns, but 25 down to 15 has a huge difference in "hand."

Sheep breeds have a wide range of mi-cron counts, with merino being the finest.

ANIMAL	FIBER DIAMETER (Micron)
Vicuna	6 - 10
Alpaca (Suri)	10 -15
Angora (Rabbit)	13
Cashmere	15 - 19
Yak Down	15 - 19
Camel Down	16 - 25
Guanaco	16 - 18
Alpaca (Huacaya)	27.7
Llama (Tapada)	20 - 30
Llama (Ccara)	30 - 40

The range for alpaca and llama is 20-35. Vicuna averages 10-14. Llama guard hairs can be as much as 150 microns!

On an industrial mill-level, the primary factors for using an animal fiber to make yarn are: high length-to-width ratio (length-to-fineness to be able to be spun), adequate strength, flexibility, cohesiveness (will cling together), pliability, uniformity, plus cost.

Secondary properties are of more interest: color, luster, crimp, fineness, hand, staple length, weight and bulk/loft.

There are even more considerations: abrasion resistance, absorbency, density/low specific gravity, dye ability, flame resistance, elongation and elasticity recovery, moth and mildew resistance, plus texture. All these things are judged/tested before a big mill works with fiber.

Microscope work is interesting. Chemical tests add more information. Burn tests can also be helpful. Fiber identification is a fascinating study

*About the Author:* Chris has a BFA from CSU in fibers. She has been weaving and spinning since 1971. She and her husband, Phil, have been raising alpacas since 1985, and before that, had llamas via Bobra Goldsmith. More recently, they are raising paca-vicunas for their very fine fiber. She is the author of *Spinning Llama and Alpaca*.

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## Napoleon and Dynamite by Ken Williams

I think that I heard about the need to find homes for some llamas "rescued" from Montana from Joy at the alpaca conference at UC Davis. I expressed an interest in helping and went to Davis when they arrived to check things out. The Vets and students at UC Davis were all busy doing a great job inoculating and gelding llamas. I convinced Terry that we should take a couple of rescue llamas. She readily agreed and we adopted two of the llamas.

The one I picked was relatively short but he was confident and acted like he was in charge. So we named him Napoleon. The other (Terry's pick) was relatively tall and he seemed calm and low-key. I think that he was still under the sedation that he received from UC Davis when he was gelded. But when he "woke-up" he sort of exploded. He was very thin and despite his size was able to jump 5-foot gates. It was an adventure just to keep him in one place. We called him Dynamite.

Napoleon was here for about a year and was very easy to train. He finally joined a group pack llamas in Grass Valley. The new owners were a little concerned that he was not very big. But they liked the way he was easy to lead and was confident. So they decided to give him a try. The last I heard he was doing great. He is one of their pack crew and has no trouble carrying his own weight.





**Napoleon (on the left) and Dynamite**

Dynamite was a bigger challenge. Thankfully he gained weight and could no longer jump gates. :) And he calmed down over time. But he remained wary for a long time. Terry worked with him for a couple of years slowly building up a trust relationship. She was finally able to halter and lead train him. I think he stayed with us for 3 or 4 years before we found the right home for him. He is enjoying life as a pet llama in Auburn. They love him and report they are able to feed him by hand.

Both Napoleon and Dynamite are with good homes and are living the good llama life. All-in-all it was a great and worthwhile experience. And, as I told Joy, if the situation arises I would be happy to do it again.

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