



# BCL newsletter

No. 1

British Camelids Ltd

January 2004

## Council Matters

In this modern age with every facility for communication it still seems to be a constant battle to keep people informed and up to date. Part of the problem may be that we are increasingly expectant of instant access to information and are frustrated when it is not. In a drive to improve communication to members we are proposing to issue several newsletters in hard copy and also to send out important or time sensitive bulletins by e-mail. Those of you not on e-mail will be sent hard copy. But the essential point is that it is extremely cheap to send documents electronically. To this end Jane Brown is building a database of members addresses, which will enable us to improve contact with members. We shall protect your individual addresses so that other recipients will not pester you and we shall not abuse our access to you by sending unnecessary bulletins. The next issue of the 'Camelids Chronicle' will be in Spring 2004. If you have any copy for the magazine, please send it to Jane Brown.

The reports of the two species advisory groups are within this newsletter, please do read them and note the participants of the groups. Their contact details are also published, so if you have any good ideas or would like to discuss your ideas for the association's activities please talk to one or more of them so that they can build on your ideas.

In our planning for next year both groups are building show programmes and rules for agricultural shows and where possible we shall endeavour to combine llamas and alpacas at the shows. The objective is to have several shows throughout the country run to a standard form by local members and supported by the association. David Pryse is also going to be actively promoting camelids and the association at shows with a new tent and displays.

Serious enquirers and new members will be receiving our literature in a smart new folder.

The conference, held at Crockwell Farm this year, was organised in conjunction with the British Veterinary Camelid Society and we were delighted to have Dr David Anderson and Claire Whitehead as presenters for the two days. They gave a varied and excellent account of camelid health and management. Thanks are due to Jane Brown for her excellent organisation and to Joy Whitehead for the original introduction. We achieved a surplus of a little over £1,000.

Libby Henson reports that the registration of alpacas is proceeding with only a few problems. There are currently more than 2,500 alpacas registered with BCL and we expect

many more as the year draws to a close and breeders complete registration of crias born this year. If anyone is experiencing difficulties with registration please do contact me and I will do my best to smooth your path. We are continuing our talks with the BAS to create a single British alpaca registry.

Council is working with members to challenge the requirements of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, which requires owners of camelids that invite the public onto their farms to see their animals, such as in a farm park, to either be licensed or have gained an exemption from holding a licence. The logic behind this legislation is faulty and the advisory body to DEFRA is in our opinion no longer representative of camelid ownership. We are campaigning to encourage DEFRA to look at this matter in a sensible and more realistic way ...an they have hitherto. The licensing of premises is in the hands of local councils.

We are also developing a working party to formulate the rationale for the deregulation of Guanacos from the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. This is likely to be a lengthy task.

I have published in this newsletter a summary of the proposed regulations for the detection and control of Tuberculosis in cattle and camelids that was written by Gina Bromage, an alpaca breeder in Somerset and also a vet. It is a most important issue and I do urge you to take up cudgels and write to your MPs or else the consequences could be most serious for those of us unfortunate enough to be caught up in it.

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### Council Contact List – See Page 11

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I am sorry to report that Bruce Wright has resigned from Council with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003. Bruce's main reason for resigning was the length of his journeys to attend Council meetings and the llama/guanaco advisory group. I would like to thank him on your behalf for his contribution to Council over the years.

Council has asked Paul Rose to consider being co-opted to Council in his place and I am delighted that Paul has agreed to join Council with immediate effect.

It remains for me to wish you a peaceful festive season and a happy New Year.

*Nick Weber, Chairman*



Nick Weber, Chairman

# The Alpaca Advisory Group

Soon after Nick Weber took over as Chairman of British Camelids, he set out his vision for BCL to continue as a society whose mission was to support all members of the society regardless of whether they owned alpacas, guanacos, llamas or vicunas.

The Alpaca Advisory Group, together with our sister group the Llama & Guanaco Advisory Group, were set up in order to assist Council and to share in the workload involved in running the Association.

Council would continue to act as the umbrella organisation retaining overall control and co-ordination whilst focussing on national issues such as policy, finance, corporate governance, animal welfare and liaison with government. The Advisory Groups were asked to address species specific issues and to concentrate on promoting the interests of owners and animals as well as responding to matters of concern to members. The Group was to be a conduit for initiatives and recommendations but not empowered to take decisions without the authorisation of Council.

The Group meets once a quarter hosted by Nick or Michael Brooke. Meetings last most of the day but include a jolly good lunch. At present the group consists of Chas Brooke, Michael Brooke, Su Lenk, Mary Jo MacDonald, Karen Oglesby, Hilary Shenton, Arish Turle and Nick Weber.

We rotate the chair between meetings as this shares the workload and provides a different style for each meeting. Our terms of reference require the reporting channel back to Council to be the responsibility of a member of Council. At present I am fulfilling that role.

Our work this year has focussed on putting in place the infrastructure to support alpaca events and ownership. This year we have achieved the following:

- **Import and Screening:** We have produced a manual and guidelines for the screening and importing of alpacas into the UK. This project was managed by Nick and involved a great deal of work. We believe we have put in place protocols that are professional but also fair and flexible and most importantly protect integrity of standards. These protocols offer reciprocity between other reputable registries both here in the UK and abroad.
- **The British Alpaca Herd Book and Registry Ltd.(BAHR):** Many alpaca owners joined BCL due to the quality of the registration process. But as numbers grew, Rodney Newth, who was responsible for building and operating the registry, rightly recommended the alpaca registry should be transferred to a full time professionally resourced breed registry. Nick identified and introduced our group to Grassroots Systems Ltd and its founder Libby Henson. Libby was invited to make a presentation to our group as well as to the British Alpaca Society who were invited to join us in the belief that the interests of all alpaca owners would be best served through the creation of one registry open to all. As a result of that meeting in June of this year, Grassroots have a contract to provide a registry to each of the two breed societies, BCL and BAS. Nick and I are currently meeting with the BAS with the aim and the hope (shared by both societies) to achieve a single registry available to all animals regardless of which society or societies their owner chooses to belong.

Phase 1 in opening the BAHR has been to transfer existing data from Rodney and to bring registrations up



to date. There is further work to be done and we are looking at how we may be able to simplify and therefore reduce the costs of certain transactions such as transfers etc. In Phase 2, as we develop the registry, we are investigating DNA and Male Certification (for alpacas!). We are asking you all to support the BAHR. The more complete and accurate the data on the registry, the better BAHR will be able to offer a valuable research tool for breeders.

- **Shows:** Chas and Michael have been working on two fronts (venues and rules) in order to develop a show programme. Organisers of agricultural shows across the country have been contacted to identify suitable venues for hosting camelid events. A particular effort has been made in finding venues and hosts in the North and East of the country. Selective shows have been sounded out as prospective hosts. Chas has also put together a draft set of rules for this group to review at our December meeting before being submitted to Council for approval.

We therefore hope that going forward into 2004 BCL can offer alpaca owners:

- Screening and importing protocols, which are flexible and appropriate to the needs of importers as well as the needs of the national herd.
- A registry and registration process to support all owners and breeders.
- A show programme and showing rules that will encourage participation by owners whilst promoting the alpaca to the general public.

We are participating in a constructive dialogue with BAS to find a common approach towards the key issues of imports, registration and shows, whilst enabling owners to be a member of the society or societies of their choice. Co-operation should help us all, as without it the competition for resources, money, as well as management, between the two societies will continue to put a strain on the successful development of both societies.

The group is very much aware that other areas such as training, support for the magazine, membership, have not been given quite as much attention as they deserve. In the coming year we have a full programme of training events which are being organised on a regional basis. These will include shearing and fibre sorting; show classes and halter training, and alpaca workshops. We also recognise that in a geographic sense our group is South West orientated. *If there are any volunteers – blessings be upon them and their herd multiply – we would welcome your help and perhaps the group could migrate both in terms of members and location.*

Our hopes for 2004 are to build on the infrastructure now in place and in particular to develop the show programme. We are striving to promote the alpaca but at the same time there are opportunities where the two advisory groups can work together to the benefit of our whole membership.

Arish Turle

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*Alpaca Advisory Group Members – See Page 11*

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# The Llama and Guanaco Advisory Group

Your Llama and Guanaco Advisory Group met on 3 November 2003. Please note that I said **YOUR** Advisory Group. The whole point of this group is to represent llama and guanaco owners; but we can't represent you if we don't know what you want! Please call, write, fax or e-mail any of your committee members with suggestions, requests, queries or complaints. You will find the members' names and how to contact them in this newsletter.

One of the biggest problems that we are aware of is the lack of communication between British Camelids Council and the membership. We feel this is a major (and justified) complaint. We have brought this to the attention of your Council and will work to ensure that this situation improves.

The group meeting covered many subjects. Liz Butler, as chairman, managed to keep us on the right track and not to let us go off at tangents.

Some of the topics covered were walking and packing guidelines, dangerous wild animal and zoo licensing and registration.

The Camelid Chronicle was discussed and we all agreed that it was important to the members and must be continued. We understand that the next Chronicle is due out Feb/Mar 2004. It will take time to reorganize. To help implement this, we have recommended to the committee that Paul Rose, who has a background in publishing, produce a review of all our publishing requirements. Meanwhile, we hope that you will receive regular newsletters to keep you abreast of what is happening. We also suggested that these newsletters should continue even after the Chronicle is back.

There will be some changes to the judging at shows. The good news is that fibre will not be plucked out by the judge, and teeth and genitals will be checked before going into the ring. The guidelines for showing are to become rules. These will then become available to all those who want them. Let me make a plea to all llama owners. Do try to show your animals. It is so important that we support the shows that put on llama classes. Besides it is really great fun. Both you and your animals will enjoy yourselves. If you can't bring animals, it would be terrific if you would volunteer to help at the shows. If you have any comments, reservations or queries about showing, then again, please contact a committee member. We are not only anxious to encourage member participation, but to know what holds back members from doing so.

In conjunction with this, we need more llama judges who are not llama breeders. If anyone knows of a person who would enjoy doing this and has had some experience judging other animals, please give their names to Jane Brown.

Another thing that is very important is the promotion of



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camelids to the public at large. Let us all remember, however, that each camelid species has its own special and wonderful attributes and we urge owners of all types of camelid to promote their animals by concentrating on these qualities and not by denigrating the other breeds. (Sadly a number of instances have been brought to our attention where this totally unacceptable approach has been taken.)

We have been discussing some very exciting projects that we are researching and look forward to publishing details of these as they develop. We would also love to hear your ideas. Any suggestions given to a group member would be gratefully received.

**Llama & Guanaco Advisory Group Members - See Page 12**

## Llamas & Charity Work

The Llama and Guanaco Advisory Group are planning to write an article, hopefully for national publication, about llamas and charity work. We know that many of you have done charity walks and other activities to raise money. Llamas have also been used with disturbed children, the elderly, going to hospices and hospitals.

We would like to hear from you about how you have participated in these types of activities. Pictures would also be great.

Please take a few minutes and contact Paul Rose (Contact details, page 11).

We really want the public to know what wonderful animals llamas are and what good work they can do.



# The Llama Stud Assessment Scheme

The Llama Stud Assessment Scheme was originally launched in 2000, but unfortunately due to the foot and mouth crisis and restrictions it got off to a slow start. The scheme has now been re-launched so that progress can be made towards the formation of a Stud Book or Stud Male database.

The original idea was formulated so that members can make use of a procedure whereby breeding stock can be assessed to confirm that it **meets or exceeds minimum breeding standards**. This scheme is not about creating an elite group of stud males, but about helping to ensure that animals used for breeding will perpetuate good characteristics and conformation. Animals brought forward are not being 'judged', they are being assessed as reaching these minimum standards. Approved animals will be identified in the registration system.

Stud assessments can take place at any place, but to make it cost effective it is necessary to try and assess five or six animals in any one geographical area in a day. It may also be possible to arrange for assessments to take place at shows and events. We try and keep the cost down to about £25 per animal. If you are interested in having animals assessed, or being trained as an assessor, then please contact me by letter, phone, or email, and I will forward full details of the scheme.

Please contact Phil Davis (Contact details, page 11).

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## South East Fibre Show

31 August 2003 *Liz Butler*

One wintry evening in early January 2003, the South Eastern group of the British Camelids were in mellow mood. Post-prandial conversation had ranged over a spectrum of exotic topics but refocused as usual on the subject of llamas. The meeting – a most civilised affair in the Chequers at Rowhook – was debating the issue of fibre quality in UK camelids, when Fred White, llama aficionado extraordinario, replete after his steak and chips, suggested that a Fibre Show would be a great idea. It could include competitions for llamas and alpacas and would offer spinners the chance to demonstrate their abilities with prizes for garments and fibre production.

The idea gathered momentum over the next few months and over subsequent pub dinners Fred would enthusiastically engage the group with new plans and suggestions. A date was soon set for the end of August and would be held on one of Fred's fields in Cowfold. Before long Fred had acquired all the necessary accoutrements – tents, fencing, pens and portaloos and soon volunteers had organised a committee to run the show and arranged the services of a vet, judges, sponsors and helpers. The whole event took considerable effort, from the organisation of the competition classes to the groups of spinners, not to mention the trade stands, refreshments and car parking.



*Fred White, Candy Midworth and the Peruvian Ambassador and his wife*

On the day of the South East Fibre Show the weather was brilliant – a clear, dry and sunny day. By early morning the show animals were in shady pens and the stands were in place. Visitors arrived and several trade stands did brisk business with the local scouts providing refreshments.

An authentic touch of class was added by the arrival of the Peruvian Ambassador, Sr Armando Lecaros-de-Cossio and family together with his Minister, who were treated to an excellent lunch provided by Pam Walker. Afterwards the Ambassador was ceremoniously driven round the show in a vintage car, much to his evident delight.

The stars of the show were of course the animals, which behaved impeccably and showed themselves to good advantage in the ring.

The spinners were able to sit in the sun and demonstrate their skills with a wonderful array of spinning wheels. There was a range of pretty garments and cushions made from the fibre and awards were given for quality of fleece, yarn and finished article.

Everyone had good fun and judged the day a great success. Much credit was due to the excellent organisation and hard work by the committee and most of all to Fred, without whom the show would not have taken place. His enthusiasm knew no bounds.

## Help Wanted

Council have been asked by several Show Committees to provide camelid classes at their shows. This is a great opportunity to promote our wonderful animals and our Association, but we can't do it without YOU.

We can organise the venues, classes and judges but we need YOU, the local owners, to provide the animals.

*We have shows starting in May at :-*

South of England 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Contact Liz Butler 01737 823375

North Somerset 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Contact David James 01278 671425

Devon & Exeter 24<sup>th</sup> May (stand only)

Contact David James 01278 671425

Royal Welsh 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May

Contact David Pryse 01295 760542

**And that's just the beginning of the Show Season!**

We would like to organise shows in other parts of the country so please let us know if you are willing to help. It's fun, it's social and well worth doing. Have a go!

**David Pryse (Show contact) 01295 760542**

**Email: david@llamatrekking.co.uk.**



# British Veterinary Camelid Society

Janet Nuttall

This year's British Veterinary Camelid Society Conference took place in October. The pattern is now well established: a mixture of practical sessions, lectures from a distinguished guest speaker and lively discussions when we all share our experiences.

This year's guest speaker was David Anderson of Ohio State University. Those of you who attended the British Camelids Conference will know that he is incredibly knowledgeable about llamas and alpacas, and a witty and persuasive speaker who manages to impart a lot of valuable information in a short time.

Joy Whitehead of Bozedown Alpacas was our host this year for the practical sessions, and we spent two afternoons with her animals. The Friday afternoon workshop concentrated on the basics of camelid handling and management. David and others gave us some very helpful tips and we also learnt a useful technique for single-handed blood sampling.

I think that it is very significant that we had a number of vets from DEFRA attending the weekend, with a couple especially interested in the Friday afternoon workshop. We know that with increasing numbers of camelids in the UK it is inevitable that they will be included in future legislation and it is encouraging to see that DEFRA vets are keen to find out more about them.

Following a group discussion later in the weekend, concerning tuberculosis in camelids, the Head of Veterinary Endemic Diseases at DEFRA has sought a meeting with Bob Broadbent, BVCS president. Again, it is very important to ensure that the real welfare issues as experienced by camelid owners and their vets are considered when policy is decided.

Returning to the main business of the weekend, one of David Anderson's specialisations is in facial abscesses, so it was good to follow up Saturday morning's classroom session with the drainage of a tooth root abscess in an adult alpaca at Bozedown during the afternoon. Other demonstrations included trans-abdominal and rectal ultrasound scanning for pregnancy diagnosis and investigation of infertility.

There was a very full programme of papers and case studies on Sunday morning, with a broad spread of clinical and surgical cases presented by members. These included a discussion on sedation and anaesthetic procedures following a number of anaesthetic deaths, a report on the successful treatment of meningitis in an alpaca cria and the successful repair of a fractured radius and ulna in a young llama.

BVCS conferences have always been great social occasions as well as opportunities to learn. This year we discovered one long-standing member is also an extremely accomplished performer on the Highland bagpipes. This may not have endeared him to other residents of the conference hotel when he insisted on piping David Anderson and his wife back to their room at midnight!

The annual conference is a really important part of the

work of the British Veterinary Camelid Society, and an excellent way of sharing knowledge and experiences. If your vet is not a member of BVCS then please urge them to find out more at [www.camelidvets.org](http://www.camelidvets.org). We would love to see them at next year's conference.

## TB in Camelids

### A Summary from the Veterinary Conference 2003

TB in camelids is notifiable and clients who have had a case have been subject to threats by DEFRA and forced to use a bovine test in their animals. This was reported by Robert Broadbent, whose practice is in Stow on the Wold, local DEFRA office, Gloucester.

Robert Broadbent has also been informed by DEFRA that they will be seeking, by the end of 2003, to:

- (a) Have camelids included under regulations currently used for bovines.
- (b) Have compensation payable on compulsory slaughter capped at **£800 per animal**, bovine or camelid.
- (c) Use the cattle test as a diagnostic test in camelids, even though it has never been validated in camelids and is known to be a relatively poor predictor of active infection even in cattle. (A significant number of slaughtered cattle reactors have no visible lesions on post mortem (PM) and the organism cannot be cultured from the carcass. In addition, there have been cases of fulminant disease on PM, which had had a relatively recent "clear" test.) In spite of this we understand that DEFRA is seeking to be able to use the "ultra severe" interpretation of the test, where any increase in skin thickness denotes a reactor.

## Concerns

1. The test is not validated in camelids and unlikely to be accurate, yet is proposed as the basis of a slaughter policy using ultra severe interpretation, which allows for no inaccuracy at all.
2. The compensation is so inadequate that Vets fear a breakdown in client cooperation, since those unfortunate enough to have a reactor will face huge financial losses.

## Action

*Please take the time to write to your MP raising his/her awareness of the issues.* Use the fact from this summary. You need not quote verbatim from the summary but should emphasise the fact that the test is unreliable and un-validated and that the capping of the compensation awarded upon slaughter is unfair, and unrelated to actual values. The inability of DEFRA valuers during FMD to do their job in an informed manner, leading to gross overvaluation of ordinary commercial stock, is no justification to abandon a professional valuation and replace it with a grossly unjust capped award. Many pedigree stock in both the cattle world and camelid world are worth at least ten times the proposed compensation payment.

*Taken from a summary written by Gina Bromage, Somerset.*



# Llama & Guanaco Registrations

Rodney Newth - Registrar

By the time you read this I should have got through the pile of llama registrations that built up whilst we were transferring the alpaca data from our Access data-base to Grassroots Systems Ltd. With a few hiccups the transfer went very well. The prospects of establishing a single UK alpaca registry appear to be positive.

I had a meeting with the Llama and Guanaco Advisory Group in October. The Llama & Guanaco Registry will stay on its current Access database for the foreseeable future. There are a number of developments that we would like to introduce and these will be outlined in future issues of the newsletter or the Chronicle. In the meantime if you would like us to consider any specific additional data that should be included or any additional uses for the Register please let me know.

I should now have time to amend the draft Registration Manual to make it specific to llamas and guanacos and to respond to general queries from owners. During 2003, for example, I was asked if I could identify all white stud males as a breeder wanted to ensure that there was no inbreeding in his herd of white llamas. I was also asked to check to see if there was any recorded relationship between a male that a member was intending to purchase and any of her breeding females. I was able to go back three generations and confirm that there was no recorded relationship. At the moment we do not make a charge for these enquiries but this may have to be reviewed.

I intend to send all current members with llamas/guanacos/x-bred camelids on the Register a schedule of the animals recorded as being in their ownership so that for the first time we can verify the data held.

There are a number of ways that you can help:

- If you are buying a llama or guanaco ask to see its registration certificate BEFORE finalising the purchase. If it is not registered get full details of its parents and if possible its grandparents. (I am always willing to check to see if parents or grandparents are "on file"). Also obtain photographs of the llama that you are buying and its parents (again if possible). Send this data to me and I will come back to you with an opinion as to whether the llama can be registered without further assessment. (I am not experienced with Guanacos so I will have to seek the Llama & Guanaco Advisory Group's assessment of whether the guanaco is true to type).
- We know a number of members do not register all their llamas/guanacos. This reduces the value of the register to both those owners and to other members. Please try and persuade any non-registering members that it is really in the interest of all llama and guanaco owners that as many animals as possible are on the Register.
- Remember to notify me of all sales/purchases and deaths. In the case of deaths I would like to know the



date, the reason and whether a post mortem was carried out. Please also advise me when males are gelded.

Just a reminder that the registration fees for llamas/guanacos and cross-bred camelids are:

First registration where both parents are registered: £5.00 (see Note a)

For transfer to a new owner: £2.50 (see Note b)

For a first registration where details of parents and grand parents have to be entered onto the database: Between £5.00 and £15.00

Notification of death or gelding: No charge

Change to Registered Sire status- register update: £25.00 (see Note c)

(llamas only) - cost of assessment charged at cost

Change of name or other registered details: £2.50

Notes:

- a) Where more than 10 are being registered in one batch **AND** are registered using the ACCESS or Excel spreadsheet facilities there is a discount of 25%
- b) Normally paid by the transferor.
- c) The register update fee is suspended until the number of RS status male llamas reaches 20 and a stud book becomes viable.

The discount for registering 10 or more on individual input sheets, and the late registration fees have been abolished. We do not charge for the initial setting up of a herd name on the system.

Fees should accompany the registration applications or, in the case of those sent by e-mail on a spreadsheet, should be mailed as soon as possible.

Please contact me if you have any queries or suggestions on how to improve the register of llamas and guanacos.

Rodney Newth

Registrar - Llama & Guanaco Registry

Tel: 01908 610698 e-mail [mklamas@clara.co.uk](mailto:mklamas@clara.co.uk)

## Membership Subscriptions & Gift Aid

We will be sending out subscription reminders shortly after Christmas. If you have not already done so please consider making your subscription under the Gift Aid scheme. Provided that you are a UK taxpayer and pay sufficient tax (either income tax or capital gains tax) you can make certain payments and donations to a registered charity under Gift Aid simply by completing and signing the form that will accompany your subscription reminder. Our Hon Treasurer will then be able to claim from the Inland Revenue 28p for every £1 paid as a subscription. Last year, with under one quarter of members involved, we were able to reclaim over £1,000. If more

members are willing and able to pay under Gift Aid it will help to keep subscriptions to their current levels for some time. So remember Gift Aid your subscription and make the taxman pay up!!!



# Your Letters



## Camelids Chronicle & Candia Midworth

*We have received two phone calls and four letters in support of Candia Midworth and the work she has put in on the Camelids Chronicle, and we publish two below as representative of that point of view:*

**From Susan Evans, Painshill, Cobham, Surrey:**

I have been looking at one of the first Chronicles I received in autumn 1998. It is a small thin thing but nonetheless welcome for people like us who had just bought a llama or two. Later editions got to be real quality: lovely paper, good photos and what I considered to be a harmonious blend of expert knowledge and homespun experience. I read my Chronicle greedily at one sitting and preserve my copies for reference – and – are they useful! I have found, over the years, pretty much everything I needed. And I notice how, in recent years, that Candia Midworth has made an enormous contribution – not only editing and despatching the magazine, but supplying relevant copy and unique photographs.

You say that members need information to “better reflect the interests of a growing and diverse membership”. Now what exactly does this mean? We had had vet articles; show results, letters, readers’ anecdotes, advertising and I remember an agony aunt – what more is there? And why aren’t members writing in their droves to ask for it? And contribute to it?

I am going to miss my quarterly Camelids Chronicle, and if the new bi-annual (with newsletters) is a quarter as good as Candy’s elegant production I will be pleased (and amazed).

**From Sue Somerville, Co Wicklow, Eire:**

I was delighted to receive my copy of the Camelids Chronicle yesterday. However, I was thoroughly dismayed to read that it may be absorbed by Alpaca World. In my opinion this would be a disastrous move.

The Chronicle, as it stands, is a distinctive and impressive production and it is just what a members’ journal should be, i.e. without that commercial glossiness which it would acquire under an Alpaca World umbrella. The Chronicle has blossomed and improved under the editorship of Candia Midworth and I am devastated to hear that she may no longer be its editor, although your letter and editorial leave this question unclear. Editing a journal is a thankless job, which requires many hours of input that usually go unrecognised by the readers. We, the members, are all guilty of not producing articles and snippets for inclusion.

I thoroughly enjoy reading about my fellow association members and hearing of the happenings particularly in the llama/guanaco Camelids world – being an overseas member the Chronicle is my only point of contact with the membership. Personally I find the content informative, interesting and above all readable. In fact

since I joined BCL in 1995 I have kept all the Chronicles bound, shelved and accessible. Actually I would like an index! One needs to recognise that each member will never find every article to his/her taste and, as you pointed out, there are many diverse interests in the membership. I understand that the financial burden is a huge consideration but I urge you to resist the temptation of producing the Chronicle with Alpaca World. We do not want to be swallowed up. Also I think you would be very unwise to let such a talented, experienced and hard-working editor slip away if you decide to continue producing the Chronicle in-house. With all good wishes for a continued Camelids Chronicle.

*ED. In response to representations made to Council, the proposal is to retain the Camelids Chronicle ‘in house’.*

## Registration

**From Sylvia Collyer, Pencader, Carmarthenshire:**

I am writing to express deep concern about the new arrangements for registering alpacas. British Camelids is an organisation, which claims to represent all Camelids equally, and in my opinion it is extremely important to treat all groups fairly. Historically there has sometimes been reason to doubt this (one of the factors which undoubtedly paved the way for the formation of BAS).

Recently things seem to have settled down, but now we find that the new registration plans mean that the cost of registration for alpacas has tripled, whereas, as I understand it, fees for other Camelids remain the same. This does not support the idea that we are all equal in the eyes of British Camelids and seems to me to be a divisive and undesirable step backwards.

*ED. Regrettably the burden of a growing alpaca registry lead Rodney Newth to call for assistance and the best option for the association was to take up the services of a professional manager. It is the costs associated with that management that have increased the fees. Whilst Rodney ran the registry we were fortunate to benefit from his generous donation of time and effort for free.*

**From Barrie Stoneman, Wincanton, Somerset:**

I am greatly concerned that the British Alpaca Herd Book and Registry is becoming impractical, complicated and bureaucratic. Perhaps in an abortive attempt to merge with the BAS Registry.

Recent communications assert, “All true to type alpacas owned by members can be recorded on the database”. Elsewhere, paradoxically, we are told only the owner of the dam can register a cria - “subsequent owners may not apply for registration”. A certain well known gentleman, who is completely disinterested in breed societies and their registries, has a larger than average herd of very impressive alpacas, some by my studs. If he were to lose an argument with an omnibus I would be first in the queue for his animals. Could I register them? Or their progeny? Would bureaucracy exclude these true to type alpacas?

My strongest misgivings lie with the “Listed” non-registered registration classification. A sort of Camelid undead dustbin. I believe the “Listed” classification is unnecessary and ill advised and should be dropped.

*continued over...*



Because:

1. Apart from "Notified", three grades of registration have been established:
  - a) "Registered Screened" for above average quality sires and dams. Very good. For excellent add compulsory DNA identification.
  - b) "Registered". Certainly the bulk of the registry for the foreseeable future which will inevitably include the full range of qualities, from above average sires and dams with cautious owners who do not want to risk screening in case their animals get downgraded and devalued into "Listed" status, to the inbred genetically unsound. Import screening does not detect hidden defective genes, which may appear in later progeny. For example, in Puno, Peru, alpacas with deformities including facial, sexual and fifth legs comprise 30% of the stock (source: Professor Monyka Portocarrero, SAC veterinary specialist, 26 April 2003). Obviously this 30% are the surviving cripples. The number of crias dying or being killed at birth can only be guessed at.
  - c) "Listed" which will include previously "Registered" animals whose owners were unwise enough to enter them for screening and the produce of any breeders inclined to spend multiples of £10 to tell the work they are breeding duds.
2. "Listed Animals – cannot be upgraded to Registered status". How about the hypothetically otherwise perfect alpaca laboratory fibre tested shortly before its second birthday: Mean micron 27.0, SD 5.95, % above 30u 6.5, BCL fineness score 14 = Fail (proceed to land fill site) OR tested just after its second birthday: BCL fineness score 19 = Pass (proceed to penthouse harem). At the very least remove the laboratory fibre test from the equation. I am aware there is at least one assessor who tweaks the rules and does not downgrade to "listed" for fibre inadequacies.
3. Many people, especially newcomers, will understand three grades of registration to guarantee top, middle and poor quality alpacas whereas of course the middle "Registered" classification will include all qualities. Misleading and possibly one day attracting the attention of Trading Standards Departments unless sellers enter into involved and discouraging explanations.
4. Registration grades will markedly affect the value of an animal. Of two identical alpacas one might be unscreened "Registered" and expensive whilst the other is screened "Listed" and cheap. As lawyers become too old to chase ambulances they may resort to pursuing alpaca transporters.
5. Lastly, but definitely not least. Welfare. Animals categorised as inferior tend to be treated accordingly.

In summary I ask the Committee to:

- Compulsorily DNA identify screened alpacas.
- Scrap "Listed" and "Notified" classifications.
- Record disqualifying abnormalities on Registration Certificates. It is not possible to dictate breeding policies and it may be that the undershot dam with a superb fleece and the overshot sire with a superb fleece will produce the goods.

The above is intended to help in the establishment of an effective, practical and universally respected registry. If you agree with me completely, partially or not at all I am confident the Committee would be grateful for your opinion. Now would be a good time.

*ED. Thank you for your comments Barrie, I believe that there is no disagreement with you over the use of DNA for screened animals and we are working towards the application of DNA for those animals and others. We currently have a working group investigating the proposal to adopt DNA and it will be able to publish its thinking in due course. If a member purchases an unregistered alpaca we have a policy of screening that animal prior to it being accepted onto the registry. As regards your comments about classifications I am sure that there is sympathy with your views and we would welcome a debate.*

## Bottle Feeding Crias

*From Fiona Davis, Monmouthshire*

Following yet another person saying "we had to bottle-feed the cria, what do we do now?" it occurred to me that time and time again this statement is being repeated. It worries me that too many people are interfering with Mother Nature and bottle-feeding their new babies without necessity. Why are so many owners thinking that their dam is not producing sufficient milk for her offspring? Could it be ignorance or over-sensitivity? It is well known that camelids do not have udders like cows. The milk is very thick and concentrated. The cria takes small quantities and frequently. I have milked a perfectly healthy mother llama and she produced at one go, two fluid ounces (60mls)! Maybe people are just a bit too eager to worry, step in and interfere just that little bit prematurely. The mother and cria should be given time to bond naturally. Obviously if there are definite signs of illness or lethargy then something should be done. There is going to be the odd female camelid that genuinely won't produce enough milk, but it surely isn't a phenomenon of the new century that more camelids have this problem. It can't be good for a cria to be fed unnecessary quantities of non-camelid milk. Finally, the result and most worrying thing will be the increase of over petted, unwanted dangerous animals requiring help, re-homing or even euthanasia. Perhaps an article on "when to step in" could be included in a future magazine.

*ED. Thank you for the suggestion, would you like to contribute, it would be most welcome?*

**We look forward to publishing your thoughts, ideas and articles.**

**All items should be sent to Jane Brown, Puckpitts Farm,  
Tredington, Shipston on Stour Warks CV36 4NH**



# Midlands Group 2004

We have organised two Back to Basics Days in the Spring and they are *open to all members*. Numbers are limited, so please get your name down ASAP!

## *Back to Basics Day 1*

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2004

Catanger Llamas, Nr Towcester, Northants.

An informal day of discussion and demonstrations on basic llama care and handling aimed at new owners and would be owners. Subjects covered: general health and management, welfare routines, catching, haltering, grooming, leading, and trekking.

Only 12 places available at a nominal charge of £10. BYO lunch.

To be followed 6 weeks later on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (subject to demand)

## *Back to Basics Day 2*

Laundry Llamas, Newport Pagnell, Bucks.

With a vet/shearer in attendance we will cover injections, toenail clipping, micro-chipping and shearing. We will look at conformation and phenotype for selecting good breeding animals and discuss breeding and births.

Again depending on demand it will be possible to bring a limited number of your llamas/alpacas to have them microchipped/shorn/injections/toe nails clipped etc.

BYO picnic lunch. Nominal charge for day £20/£25 (depends on vet's charges) plus cost of medications used on an individual basis.

We hope to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Llama & Alpaca Fun Day at Manor Farm Notts/Leics border late July – date to be confirmed.

Also the Midland Group Trek in late summer, date to be confirmed.

If there is anything else you would like to do/visit/talk about – please let us know!

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## Spring Babies

*Mary Pryse*

My crias used to arrive in July and August, as most of us try to avoid calving in the colder months. I have now brought the majority of our calving around to Spring, as I believe it is far more efficient.

The abundance of grass and the quality of our hay keeps most of my animals with more 'condition' than I'd like, so complementary feeding is not something I do. This could possibly leave a gap in



the levels of vitamins, minerals and trace elements required to keep them healthy and most of all, productive. I also have one mother whose milk obviously never satisfies her crias as well as the rest of my mums. Although she bags up nicely, her babies always seem to want more milk.

Most other animals will give birth in the Spring as this gives them the benefit of the lush grass that boosts their lactating ability. Now that I have managed to bring most of my girls round to calving earlier, I can see huge benefits.

Firstly, during the last third of gestation it is the end of Winter and early Spring, so I can give them a little hard feed laced with a chelated vitamin and mineral additive. Most other farm animals will be given a boost of this pre-lambing/calving and again pre-mating, but with the long gestation of camelids, this can be done all in one go as there isn't really any discernable gap between the two events.

Secondly, mum is going to get the benefit of the Spring grass that will enhance her milk production and, thirdly, the cria also reaps the benefits. The extra hours of sunshine will provide vital vitamin D for healthy strong growth as will the abundant grass. My mum with the poor milk production has not had a hungry baby this year!

## Chiropractor to the rescue

*Mary Pryse*

Nappa turned 2 years old last spring. During the course of this summer I began to feel there was something not quite right about his back. Not only was he 'couched up' over his rump, the action of his hind legs was not true. Instead of placing his hind feet in the same line as his front feet (tracking) he was placing them well inside the front feet placements (plaiting). This confirmed my suspicion that it was his lower back causing the problem and as this was the Summer he was going to start being pack trained, I thought I should get this problem solved first.

I contacted a local chiropractor who treats mainly horses, a great many dogs and humans, but had never treated a llama. We walked Nappa up and down and compared his action with that of his father Crofter and another trekking llama. The examination confirmed what I had suspected; three lumbar vertebrae were slightly out of line. A llama's back is like a dog's, having one more vertebra in the lumbar region than a horse. This is why, although they are pack animals, they cannot possibly bear the same weight ratio as equines as their backs are considerably weaker.

A few gentle taps from the chiropractor put the spine back in line and we were told to allow Nappa to have a few weeks rest from trekking. A second visit confirmed that his spine had stayed true and he began to go out working again. Gradually his back has straightened and the action in his hind legs has improved as the muscles have got stronger now that everything is in the right place!

*continued over...*

Nappa has been back at work for a while and I have noticed a big improvement in his behaviour when we are out working. I had begun to think that he might not make the grade for commercial trekking, as he wasn't always as consistent in his behaviour as I would like. Trekkers have to be consistently well behaved with whoever is leading them. Since his back has been fixed he is a different animal, which proves that the poor chap must have been quite uncomfortable at times before the chiropractor came to the rescue.

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## Round-up of Late Summer Show Results

### Oxted & Edenbridge Show – 24 August 2003

Supreme Champion Llama – *Josephine*, Bluecaps Llamas  
Reserve Champion Llama – *Dotty*, Ashdown Llama Park

### Cowfield Fibre Show – 31 August 2003

Supreme Champion Llama – *Aaron*, Maplehurst Llamas

Reserve Champion Llama – *Micky*, Bluecaps Llamas  
Supreme Champion Alpaca – *Bryssa*, Bozedown Alpacas  
Reserve Champion Alpaca – *Diaz*, Meon Valley Alpacas  
**Fibre Classes:** Best in Show – Mrs K Oglesby, Reserve Best in Show – Mrs C Thorpe

### Moreton-in-Marsh – 6 September 2003

Supreme Champion Llama – *Quickly*, Catanger Llamas  
Reserve Champion Llama – *Pollyanna*, Brown Boy Llamas  
Supreme Champion Alpaca – *Bozedown Aquila*, Bozedown Alpacas  
Reserve Champion Alpaca – *Bozedown Horatio*, Bozedown Alpacas

### Henley-on-Thames – 13 September 2003

Supreme Champion Alpaca – *Blenheim Accoyo Don Felipe*, Blenheim Alpacas  
Reserve Champion Alpaca – *Bozedown Contessa*, Bozedown Alpacas  
Reserve Champion Llama – *Oona*, Catanger Llamas  
Reserve Champion Llama – *Dot.Com* – Hafodwenog Llamas

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## Alpaca Showing

### Rules Manual

The Association 2004 Alpaca Showing Rules Manual has been released. Copies are available upon application from the Secretary. Contact Jane Brown 01608 661893 or e-mail [jane.p.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.p.brown@btinternet.com)

### Show classes 2004

Chosen to represent a mixture of large and smaller shows with the emphasis on national distribution, they are open to all alpacas registered with the British Alpaca Herd Book and Register (BAHR) and the British Alpaca Society

register. BCL hopes that as many members as possible will take the opportunity to show their animals especially those in the north of the country which in previous years has not been fully represented.

British Camelids also announces that it will be running a national programme of alpaca assessment and showing workshops designed especially for those alpaca owners who have not shown their animals before and wish to gain experience and confidence in the rules, procedures and etiquette.

All shows will be run according to the recently released British Camelids Showing Rules Manual.

### Schedule of Alpaca Judged Show Classes 2004

Show	Date	Judge	Contact
South of England	2 - 3 May	Liz Barlow	Liz Butler. <a href="mailto:Llmaliz@hotmail.com">Llmaliz@hotmail.com</a>
Royal Bath & West	2 - 5 June	Dr. Julio Sumar(Peru)	Nick Weber. <a href="mailto:Nick@westways-alpacas.com">Nick@westways-alpacas.com</a>
Cheshire County	22 - 23 June	TBC	Sandra Stowell. <a href="mailto:Srstownell@carillionplc.com">Srstownell@carillionplc.com</a>
Royal Norfolk	30 June - 1 July	Maggie Krieger (Canada)	Su Lenk. <a href="mailto:Su@azsualpacas.com">Su@azsualpacas.com</a>
Fordingbridge	18 July	Su Lenk	Karen Oglesby. <a href="mailto:Info@mvalpacas.co.uk">Info@mvalpacas.co.uk</a>
Cumberland County	17 July	TBC	Mike Griffiths. <a href="mailto:Alpacas@euphony.net">Alpacas@euphony.net</a>
Mid Devon	31 July	Val Fullerlove	Chas Brooke. <a href="mailto:Alpacauk@aol.com">Alpacauk@aol.com</a>

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## Welcome To New Members

Mrs C A Allen – Cleobury Mortimer, Worcestershire  
Claire Bound - Mereworth, Kent  
Linda Brimacombe – Yeoford, Devon  
Bridget Brown - Dover, Kent  
Mr & Mrs A K S Bush - Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire  
Marilyn Coupland - Moffat, Dumfriesshire  
Caroline Davies - Garsington, Oxfordshire  
Robert Dewar & Amanda Huntley – Islington, London  
Victoria Drysdale – Fife, Scotland

Dr John Evans - Swansea, West Glamorganshire  
Pam Fennell – Langbank, Renfrewshire  
Clare Hastings - Hailsham, East Sussex  
Nikki Hayton - Godshill, Hampshire  
Ronee Hulme - Polesworth, Staffordshire  
Susan Humber – Priddy, Somerset  
Eileen Karger – Wood Dalling, Norfolk  
Elizabeth Lemon – Lower Kingswood, Surrey  
Julia Martin - Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset  
Mrs A Maynard – Bideford, North Devon  
Janet Mellor - Buxton, Derbyshire



Richard Phillips – Brockhampton, Herefordshire  
Gillian Philpott – Llandysul, Ceredigion  
John Potts – Thakeham, West Sussex  
Rosalind Pugh - Yelverton, Devon  
Eamon Regan - Magherafelt, Derry  
Melanie Rieger & Douglas Miller – Ipswich, Suffolk  
Maria & Lars-Inge Sandgren – Gimo, Sweden  
Geoff Scott - Santiago, Chile  
Dr Julie Taylor-Browne - Helston, Cornwall  
Mrs V Walker - Studham, Bedfordshire  
Mr & Mrs D M Whitfield - Trekenner, Cornwall  
Mark Williams – Tadcaster, North Yorkshire  
Alexandra Wilson - Blackburn, Lancashire

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## Council Members Contact Details

Nick Weber – Chairman  
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Jane Brown – Administration Officer, & Membership Co-ordinator  
Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4NH  
Tel: 01608 661893 e-mail: [Camelids@btinternet.com](mailto:Camelids@btinternet.com)

Lorna Renshaw – Treasurer  
Newseat of Ardo, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7HP  
Tel: 01651 806619 e-mail: [ArdoAlpaca@aol.com](mailto:ArdoAlpaca@aol.com)

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Lodge Farm, Batcombe, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6DA Tel: 01749 850753  
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Tel: 01295 768676 e-mail: [david@llamatrekking.co.uk](mailto:david@llamatrekking.co.uk)

Phil Davis – Llama Member  
Hafod Wenog Farm, Cwmavon, Nr Pontypool, Monmouthshire NP4 8UW  
Tel: 01495 774746 e-mail: [phil@hafodwenogfarm.freemove.co.uk](mailto:phil@hafodwenogfarm.freemove.co.uk)

Mr Paul Rose – Co-opted Member  
Lake Farm, Stockleigh Pomeroy, Devon EX17 4AY.  
Tel: 01363 866056  
e-mail: [roseland@llamas.co.uk](mailto:roseland@llamas.co.uk)

## Other Association Officers

Association Secretary: Mrs Candia Midworth  
Banks Way House, Effingham Common, Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 5JB  
Tel: 01372 458350

Registrar for Llamas & Guanacos – Mr Rodney Newth  
The Old Laundry, Tyringham, Newport Pagnell, Bucks MK16 9ES  
Tel: 01908 610698 e-mail: [bcl@:mkllamas.clara.co.uk](mailto:bcl@:mkllamas.clara.co.uk)

Alpaca Registrations: British Alpaca Herdbook & Registry Limited  
Grassroots Systems Ltd, P O Box 251, Exeter, Devon EX2 8WX  
Tel: 01392 437788 Fax: 01392 270421  
e-mail: [Libby@grassroots.co.uk](mailto:Libby@grassroots.co.uk)

Regional Groups Co-ordinator – Mr Bob Pope  
Brackley Burn, Slinfold, West Sussex RH13 7RU  
Tel/Fax: 01403 790493  
e-mail: [bandj.pope@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:bandj.pope@ukonline.co.uk)

## Alpaca Advisory Group Members

Lt Col Michael Brooke Tel: 01747 830120  
e-mail: [mpbrooke@btopenworld.com](mailto:mpbrooke@btopenworld.com)

Mr Chas Brooke 01398 361616  
e-mail: [alpauk.aol.com](mailto:alpauk.aol.com)

*continued over...*

## GALA

### The Guanaco, Alpaca & Llama Advertiser

### For Sale

**Two gelded male llamas**, one white, one brown, half brothers - 2 years old.  
£400 each or sell together for £750.  
Contact: Jennifer Cole (Oxon) Tel: 01608 685231

### For Sale

Due to unexpected circumstances:

### One share in Alpacas of Wessex 'Caligula's Accoyo Crusader' Stud Male.

The purchase of this share allows the owner to access a range of six other stud males all from prestigious bloodlines.

This is an opportunity to control the cost of stud services and yet to have access to exactly the sort of quality animals so essential to breed improvement. Please contact Michael Brooke for details (01747 830120) who is handling the sale on behalf of the owner.

Advertise your animals for sale, goods or services. All advertisements cost £15 and include an entry on the Association web site. Cheques should be made payable to "British Camelids Ltd". Send your advertisement to Jane Brown, Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4NH.

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Mrs Karen Oglesby 01489 878663  
e-mail: info:mvalpacas.co.uk

Mr Nick Weber 01935 863467  
e-mail: nick@westways-mpacas.co.uk

Ms Mary-Jo-MacDonald 0118 984 1882  
e-mail: mjmacd@waitrose.com

Mrs Hilary Shenton 01568 750396  
e-mail: hilaryshenton@aol.com

Mr Arish Turle 01749 850753  
e-mail: arturle@netcomuk.co.uk

## Llama & Guanaco Advisory Group Members

**Chairman:** Mrs Liz Butler Tel: 01737 823375  
e-mail: llamaliz@hotmail.com

**Vice Chairman:** Mrs Ordell Safran Tel: 01344 885857  
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**Secretary:** Mrs Jane Brown Tel: 01608 661893  
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Mr Phil Davis Tel: 01495 774746  
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Mr David James Tel: 01278 671425  
e-mail: bardfordllamas@btopenworld.com

Mr Paul Rose Tel: 01363 866056  
e-mail: roseland@llamas.co.uk

Mrs Linda Johnson Tel: 01825 712040  
e-mail: info@llamafarm.co.uk

Mrs Pam Walker: Tel: 01403 864683

Mrs Una Dawes (Guanaco Representative)  
Tel: 01491 752416

## Guanaco Research Project

Student member, Alexandra Wilson, is undertaking a research project on the social behaviours of the Guanaco. If you keep guanacos and are willing to answer a few simple questions, please contact Alexandra on 07734 773105 or by e-mail: bs0u1089@liverpool.ac.uk.

## Back Copies Of Camelids Chronicle

Back copies of the Camelids Chronicle, Editions 46 (Summer 1999) – 62 (Summer 2003) are available from the Association Secretary, Candia Midworth, at a cost of £1.50 per copy which includes postage. Contact Candia at Banks Way House, Effingham Common, Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 5JB. Tel: 01372 458350. Cheques should be made payable to British Camelids Limited.



## Tail End

*Having greatly enjoyed the camelid-related items discovered by Candy Midworth which she published in past issues of The Chronicle, may I offer this item from my Lamarabilia collection. It is a 1930's ad from the New York Fashion House of Stroock & Co which pioneered the use of camelid fibre for luxury fashion fabrics long before the rest of the modern world began to catch up with the desirability of camelids.*

*Perhaps other members would like to send in copy of their treasured lamarabilia for publication in a future Camelids Collector's Corner?*

**Paul Rose**



## LLAMANDO IS SUCH A FINE, EXCLUSIVE TOPCOATING

**ONLY ONE WEAVER KNOWS  
HOW TO LOOM IT!**

NATURE produces one of her most remarkable fleeces on the body of the South American Llama. It completely resists cold, wind, rain and heat. Due to its silky softness, it is very hard to weave—only one mill having discovered a process. Their remarkable product—Llamando—is confined exclusively to Hickey-Freeman, who tailor it into topcoats of rare beauty and unusual utility value.

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