



# BCL newsletter

No. 3

British Camelids Ltd

May 2004

## Council Matters

### A tribute, Council vacancies, Zoo Legislation, Alpaca Registry, AGM

Many members will be saddened to hear of the death of Gerald Walker. Pam and Gerald Walker have been long term members of the Association. Indeed I believe that Pam was a founder member and chairman. We collectively owe them a debt of gratitude for all the work and effort that they have put into the Association over many years. Being a relative newcomer, I personally had not known Gerald for long, mainly meeting him at shows or DEFRA meetings, but even on that short acquaintance I was impressed by his depth of knowledge of many subjects and the respect from others that he commanded. We shall miss his good advice and charming personality, which we so valued. Council will be making a contribution in support of his chosen charity. Our sympathies are with his family and Pam in their loss.

This newsletter will reach members shortly before the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> May. At the time of writing we were still short of nominations for the places available on council. We need those places filled to both represent you the members fairly and to share the workload associated with running such an organisation. Please give the matter some thought and either consider yourself or propose someone you know.

This letter comes between two meetings of Council, but there have been meetings of the two species advisory groups, which I see as the engine rooms of the Association's activities. It is from here that the ideas and needs of members derive and the appropriate response and action can be developed.

The show season will soon be upon us and we shall be putting our efforts into representing the Association at our affiliated shows (see listing in this newsletter) and also presenting the Association to the general public at others. The South of England Spring Show over the bank holiday weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the North Somerset Show Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, and the Royal Bath & West Show, 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June, being the first in a busy programme.

Rodney Newth has indicated to me that he wishes to stand down from the group that is to work at changing Zoos Act Legislation as it relates to llamas and alpacas. Rodney has done a lot of work to date in challenging this Act's categorisation of llamas and alpacas and I would like to thank him for all his hard work. I appreciate just how much time that has taken and that there is a limit to how much time can be called upon from one individual. I am keen to make progress with this work and appeal to members to consider assisting with this group's work. We need to be active again and should not underestimate the potential implications of the Act as it stands. Please give this serious consideration and get in touch with me.

Arish Turle and I met with the BAS team in March to progress the terms and conditions of a single alpaca registry for the UK. We had an effective and productive meeting from which will spring the UK registry. The importance of this to the future of the alpaca industry will be highly significant as the present position delivers all the wrong messages to prospective and existing owners. One important element of this work is the agreement that the registry will operate within a formal democratic framework that will cascade down to members enabling them ultimately to determine if proposals for change will take place or not. I am greatly

encouraged by this progress and am looking forward to achieving the objective within a reasonable time frame.

I hope that as many as possible of you will be able to come to the AGM on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Jersey Pavilion and I look forward to meeting you there.

*Nick Weber, Chairman*



*We do hope we will see you at the...*

## Annual General Meeting

Sunday 9 May 2004 at 11am

Venue: Jersey Pavilion, The National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

The AGM will be followed by a less formal business meeting where we welcome members' views on how the Association is being run and how it can develop to best serve the needs of its members. If you have any specific items that you would like included in the agenda for the meeting please let Jane Brown have brief details as soon as possible. Please also let her know if you wish to have lunch!

# Encounters of a South American Kind

## Part II - Further North

After our tour around the Salta region in the north-west of Argentina, we moved a little further north to Jujuy. We were fortunate to stay with an English friend who is married to an Argentinian and lives in the town of San Salvador de Jujuy, the region's capital. Anne has taught English for many years and her husband Cuco, is an anthropologist. Jujuy province borders both Bolivia and Chile with the population being 50 % Quechua Indian. It felt very like being in

Bolivia, but not quite so poor, although by Argentine standards it is the poorest area in the country. It is also one of the most spectacular regions as far as scenery goes, and it is home to many llamas, guanaco and vicuna.

South American countries have a two-tier tariff, one price for locals and another for outsiders, so Cuco negotiated all our taxi fares, entrance fees and other expenses, thus saving us many pesos. One of Anne's former pupils had recently started his own tour company in the region and as he was born and bred in Jujuy, knew exactly where to take us to see llamas and other camelids. We set off to see the Humahuaca valley, spectacular for the most amazing rock formations and colours. The mountains are rich in many different minerals and the zig-zag stratas of rock in shades of pink, red and brown made it one of the most spectacular journeys I have ever made.

We stopped at mountain villages to see the Indian markets, full of alpaca and llama goods, hand made instruments and toys and to take some local refreshments, empanadas, humitas, milanesas and local beer. We even crossed the Tropic of Capricorn, which I duly photographed, as being my birth sign made it far more exciting for me than crossing the equator.

Victor, our guide, took us to see some vicuna. These were not in the wild, they belonged to an anthropologist who was studying them and kept a small herd in fields around his house. It was the first time I have ever been able to get so close, as in Bolivia two years ago, I could only ever see them from a great distance when I usually caught sight of their backsides disappearing into the distance. They were so shy, impossible to photograph. These were very different because they were captive; they were not at all worried by our standing close to the fence within a few metres of them, taking photographs. They are such gentle and graceful creatures and it is so pleasing to know that their numbers are now increasing after years of being hunted to endangered status.

Our next call was to the home of Senora Barcena, a llama farmer.



*Las Senoras, Mary Pryse and friend*



*Llamas in Argentina*



*Humahuaca*

Senora Barcena keeps about 120 llamas that include 4 stud males running with around 60 females, the rest being crias. I had so many questions to ask.

“ Was there a special name for a male and female llama?”

“ No, they are called males and females.”

“ How about the crias? ”

“ No they are male or female crias. ”

And the other answer was ‘castrato’.

These lucky llamas are never sold for meat, they are sheared every 18 months or so and the fibre is spun and processed by hand locally and the garments are sold in local markets. Incredibly, Senora Barcena sells her llamas to people wanting them for the same reasons as here! Some simply want them as pets, others as a fibre source and others as a tourist attraction for their restaurants and shops. They cost from \$50 - \$100 (US), the bigger ones

being worth more and there being no difference in cost between males and females. When she called (or rather whistled) her llamas to come to us, they were very calm and obviously used to being around people. One young cria caught my eye. He was pure white with long tight ringlets all over his neck and body, a suri llama - so they do exist after all!

“ You have a suri llama, Senora, ” I said.

She looked puzzled, my Spanish again I assumed. Victor interpreted for me.

“No, its not a llama, it's a cross with an alpaca”.

I wondered if other breeders might have replied differently had I been a prospective buyer who would have paid a lot more than \$100 for a run of the mill llama.

We left the farm as it was getting dark and I think I had probably worn this wonderful lady out with all my questions. I asked Victor about the llama caravans carrying salt blocks, but by this time it was far too late to go any further and we headed for home.

Victor asked me about my llamas and what I used them for. When I explained about trekking both here and in the USA, he was amazed. Victor runs a successful tour company specialising in outdoor activities in the

mountains, be it trekking on foot or horseback, skiing, or climbing. You could see the wheels turning in his head, had I brought coals to Nuevo Castello?

Hmmmmmmmm as we say in llamaspeak.

*Mary Pryse*



# Camelid Clippings...

## A is for Alpaca

A sign outside a house of worship read: "What is missing from this CH- -CH?"

Well, I can't come up with quite such a clever play on words, but I can tell you that what is missing from this newsletter are articles from our alpaca and guanaco owning members. Happily, however, there are several articles ostensibly about llamas (concerning calving, down syndrome etc), which should be of interest to all camelid owners, so we hope you enjoy reading them! Meanwhile, whilst thanking our very prolific llama owners, we look forward to receiving more alpaca and guanaco related items and to re-dressing the balance!

## Record Llama Sale

A sale of llamas in Colorado recently brought in a total of US\$3,207,000 for their owners Cindy and Bon Burgess. Several llamas sold for \$100,000 and more, and the top winning bid for a llama called Newevo was a cool \$220,000 - claimed as a world record (well it does beat my top stud sales by a bit)!

## Lama charmers in Lussault

Returning to earth, the charming village of Lussault in the Loire valley hosted a very successful two-day camelid show at the beginning of April with llamas and alpacas coming from Germany and Italy as well as France. The show was organised by AELAS, the European camelid show organisation. Apart from the serious business of selecting champion animals there were lots of fun classes including obstacle courses and fancy dress for camelids and owners alike.

To add a final touch of European-ness to the event, the fibre class prize was brought to England by our very own Michael Brooke and "Alpacas of Wessex".

## Straight to the point

*We have it on good authority that for both Aymaran and Quechuan speakers, the word Suri has nothing to do with curly and crimped locks but actually means "straight"! According to U.S llama expert Andy Tillman, when there*

*is hard rain falling straight down, it is referred to as Suri...*

## ICI

Forget empires and chemicals, think camelids. The International Camelid Institute promotes education, service and collaboration among researchers, breeders, owners, fibre and textile industry professionals and animal enthusiasts worldwide. It was founded in 2001 by David E. Anderson, DVM, at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The aim is to provide owners and vets with accurate and timely information to optimize the health and well being of camelids, and to serve as a centralized resource for the collection and dissemination of all facets of camelid education. Take a look at their website - [www.icinfo.org](http://www.icinfo.org).

## Back to Basics

**Saturday 29 May 2004 at Laundry Llamas, Newport Pagnell, Bucks.**

Places still available. Open to all members.

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. This is an opportunity for you to bring your own llamas/alpacas along to have them assessed/microchipped/shorn/injected/toe nails clipped etc. BYO picnic lunch. Nominal charge for day £10-£25 dependent on services and vet charges plus cost of medications used on an individual basis.

To book contact: Rodney Newth (Tel: 01908 610698 e-mail: [bcl@mkllamas.clara.co.uk](mailto:bcl@mkllamas.clara.co.uk))

## Association Website

Have you visited the Association website recently? In addition to your two-monthly publications, regular updates of Association events and any 'time sensitive' news will be posted at [www.alpaca.co.uk](http://www.alpaca.co.uk) and [www.llama.co.uk](http://www.llama.co.uk).

## Tailspin

Association member John Sutcliffe would like to hear from anyone who spins and/or weaves llama wool in the north of England? "I would like to shear my llamas this year and it would be good to make something out of their fleece." Please contact John at Tel: 01642 712228 (Middlesbrough, Cleveland).

P.R



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# Whipping Giraffes

We met Su of AzSu Alpacas for the first time at the Royal Norfolk Show and told her we were getting our first three Alpacas shortly. She was really excited for us and our forthcoming purchase. She told us we would have a LOT OF FUN with our new animals and went on to suggest we joined THE CAMELID SOCIETY, also we should go on the Marty McGee Bennett handling and training course she was hosting at her farm in September 2003 as it would be an investment for our alpacas. Now Su presents herself as a bubbly and very enthusiastic camelid owner with a sales panache that she could sell sub-standard ice to Eskimoes, not that Su would ever dream of selling anything substandard to anybody. Her farm, stock and layout are fit for Royal Patronage; as for the standard of stock fencing, it makes one positively drool at the quality of it - Andy Radford eat your heart out.

So what has this to do with whipping giraffes? Well I am about to tell you.

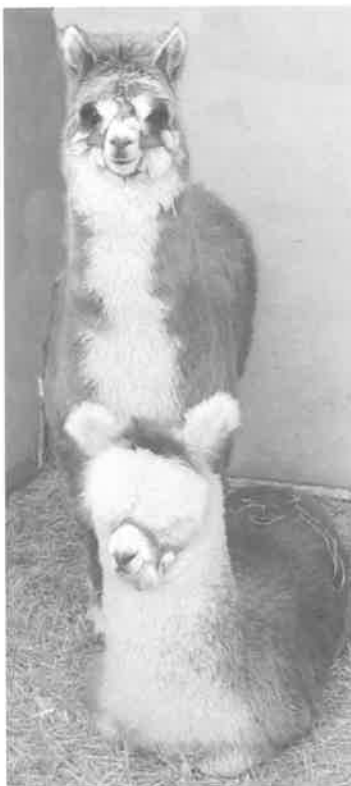
The fateful weekend arrived and armed with nothing more than open minds we were ready for the off. We were greeted with huge welcoming smiles by one and all, in fact we felt like star VIP's on a one to one basis in spite of there being some other 30 odd people there, whom I am sure also felt equally well received. Such was the nature of Su and Marty who bounced around students like an animated rubber ball introducing herself in a very warm friendly manner that instantly put all of us students at ease.

On the display table were an assortment of items that included whips, blow-up giraffe heads, and what appeared to be bandages plus books and Tee shirts. There was also a collection of ropes and harnesses. I thought we are in for a real kinky time here, I mean, I have heard of blow up dolls and bondage, but were the bandages for when we got hurt? My mind was in a whirl.

Once introductions were over and we all sat down in a semicircle like dutiful 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils around our teacher, the learning curve took off big time but such was Marty's style nobody was bored. Even the two children present, were lost in rapt attention. An excellent lunch came all too quickly, but we were soon put back to learn, only this time it was hands on with blow-up giraffe heads to simulate Alpacas. It was explained it was easier to practice on dummy heads and gain confidence before inflicting us on the poor bemused Alpacas who had been watching proceedings all morning from various pens dotted around the lecture area.

Later in the afternoon came our first real test. We were sent in to catch Alpacas or in my case, being a senile old fool, I opted to catch a Llama. I had been told a llama can break a bone with a kick, the boy I was going to catch was 4yrs old, full of testosterone as there were several sexy alpaca girls around, and his mind was more on sex than

being caught. Scaling the 6 foot pen was bad enough (I didn't realise it had a gate) as I had never been more than 3 feet off the ground since leaving the fire service some 25 years ago. I thought I was going to need oxygen. Once in the pen I realised what a big boy I was up against as I am 6ft 3ins and weigh around 240lbs and this guy was nearly as big as me. I was ready to exit the pen very quickly but macho vanity overcame quaking nerves. Besides, Marty had already been in the pen and had worked her magic on the boy and was not going to let a mere woman beat me.



*Alpacas (library photo)*

Watching Marty in the pen was like looking at fluid poetry while I was more like a fairy elephant being prodded by an electric probe. In the end I did manage to get a lead rope on big boy and off again without getting kicked. After that episode I felt I deserved a round of applause but I didn't get it; everybody was too busy catching alpacas to worry about me!

The end of the 1st day came far too quickly and was finished off by Su showing us around her lovely farm which helped us relax from a very intense BUT FUN day.

Our 2nd day dawned clear, cool and with a hint of rain which fortunately did not materialise. Much more hands on work was done on the 2nd day. Cindy my wife was going great guns and her learning curve had taken off like a jump jet. She oozed with confidence in her newfound skills, whilst me, I am still trying to get there. Again the course content was intense BUT FUN and we all learnt a lot, thanks to Marty's excellent teaching style and Su's long suffering alpacas who put up with our early inept clumsiness. Suffice to

say we learnt respect for our camelids & gained results far beyond all our expectations.

To end, before Cindy & I went on the course it was a case of "chase, grab and hang on for dear life". Now Cindy walks into the paddock calmly rounds up the boys and can halter them within the bat of an eyelid and with no stress to either herself or the alpacas. Training will continue until we are able to road walk our boys on halters without fear of mishap. We must say a big thank you to MARTY for her teaching and to SU for organising the event of a lifetime.

*Roger & Cindy Steed*

**P.S.** We are applying some of our newfound handling skills to our dogs but draw the line at training the chickens!



**We look forward to receiving your camelid articles**



# Teaching a llama to kush...

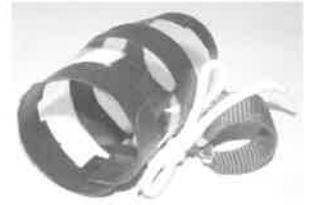
## ... and stay!

I have had one or two interesting experiences with my llamas in the past few months and wonder if these would also interest other owners. I have become increasingly involved in llama behaviour and training since I became an owner and, last summer, started to wonder if anyone had ever taught a llama to kush down on verbal command. It was Paul Rose ( thank you, Paul ) who came up with a method, involving downward pressure to the head and back, together with much encouragement and rewarding\*. The method worked well and within a month or so I had three of my four llamas folding down (well, usually!) on the command "Sit".

But then I wanted to go a stage further: how could I train my animals, natural jack-in-the-boxes, to STAY down?? I must explain that I had just had the experience of taking a llama into a Care Home and he towered, somewhat frighteningly, over the heads of the elderly inmates. How

physical injury to himself or me? ( Dillon is highly-strung.) I decided against it; my vet might call the RSPCA!

And so, fortified with a couple of generous gins, I asked Dillon to kush and distracted him with food whilst I fitted the hobble, mostly working blind because of his long fibre. I then removed the food, stood back and took a deep breath. What followed was the most moving experience of my llama-ownership. Dillon attempted to rise, found that he couldn't ... and sank back into what can only be described as total serenity. It was as though he had been sedated. I walked over to make sure that this wasn't stupified panic, but no, he accepted a mint from my hand, munching happily. This was unreal! What was



*First Hobble*



*Dillon obeying*



great (and impressive!) if I could have asked him to sit and stay! I joined the Marty McGee course hoping that this might be one of the things I could learn, but I was disappointed. I could find very little in books and the Internet came up with nothing. And then Liz Ford, bless her, came up with the suggestion that I looked on the Net for any camel-training sites. I took her advice and at this point my luck really took a turn for the miraculous. I noted that the name Dr. Charmian Wright, a vet living in Utah USA, kept cropping up in relation to camel-training and I sent her a tentative e-mail never really imagining that she'd have the time or inclination to deal with a foreign lady asking daft questions about keeping seated llamas seated. I was in for a surprise; Dr. Wright entered into a long and invaluable correspondence with me. She explained that in her experience, retaining the kush was best achieved by first using a hobble, literally forcing the animal to stay down and then gradually releasing it. I thought this was very strange coming from a vet .... you know, real cruel stuff. She told me to expect a calming effect on the llama; frankly I did not believe her. However, I decided to have a go.

With Dr. Wright's online help, I spent many hours designing a one-leg hobble which would exactly fit Dillon, the llama with whom I planned to work. The hobble was designed to join the fetlock to the elbow, two joints which meet in the kushed animal. The Day came to give it a try. Should I have my vet on the scene in case of blind panic/

going on in this animal's psyche? Was he a bondage freak? Was I imitating a forced position he had in the womb? I could have done anything with this animal, even got the dreaded shears out. Looking back, I suspect that the calming effect of the Marty McGee body-wrap, for those of you that have ever used one, works on the same principal. Marty herself admits that no-one knows why it works, but it does!

I needed to hobble only a couple more times before Dillon got the message that this was what was expected of him on the command "Sit-Stay". I have worked at this, increasing the time he is required to stay down before responding to an "Up" signal. But now the really hard work starts because I have found that it is one thing to have a llama responding well to verbal commands in a one-to-one situation in a quiet field. It is completely another thing to get the same response when surrounded by distraction of almost any sort. Whether or not I'll ever achieve my goal of getting a llama to kush quietly in a room full of excited strangers is debatable... but I certainly plan to have a try.

**Update:** Since writing this article Dillon has now learned to stay in the kushed position whilst I walk away with his grain and comes (at high speed !!) on the "Come" command.

*Terry Crowfoot*

\*For method, visit [www.llamas.co.uk/Pages/tl6.htm#Kush](http://www.llamas.co.uk/Pages/tl6.htm#Kush)



# Good calving practice

Liz Ford, *Llandsker Llamas*

"That time of year" is upon us again and we are looking forward to the llamas' calving. I write to encourage others, particularly new breeders, and in response to the article on a difficult calving in last month's newsletter. I read this with growing unease and some distress. Some ten years ago a survey of camelids in the UK revealed many alpaca crias lost, largely due to poor practices, and one suggestion I would offer is for the BCA to arrange a camelid calving day. We can all learn from each other and perhaps have an experienced vet as a speaker.

If you are unfamiliar with livestock, do read about normal births in one of the many camelid books, or visit some of the websites that have pictures of normal births in progress. Attend a lambing or calving course – large animal vet practices can put you in touch and may even organise such courses usually lasting a few hours. Otherwise find a friendly farmer who will let you observe lambings, calvings or foalings. Though each species is different, any large animal birth will give you some idea of what to expect. Remember camelids give birth more easily than any of the above – many herds experience no difficulties and no losses. We have so far been in this fortunate position, but have advised others locally who have had difficulties over the years.

Size of the cria is largely in your hands, being dependant upon the feeding of the dam during the later stages. Ensure the expectant dam gets suitable amounts and quality of feed, paying particular attention to minerals, but never overfeed – particularly not with high-protein concentrates. A large, lethargic cria may result. The dam should be fit, not fat for the birth. Ensure she gets enough exercise -allowing her to roam at grass is best!

When the time comes, make no changes to the dam's environment, feed or group, (an exception might be to remove entire adult males – but this would ideally be done at an earlier stage). The stress of changes around the birth can upset the dam's metabolism leading to prolonged labour, loss of contractions, poor

lactation etc. These animals are tough, resilient and resourceful: they find shelter in suitable places. They can also hold off giving birth for many hours – until more favourable weather conditions, for example. All our crias bar one have been born outside, sometimes in the inclement weather the Atlantic likes to throw at us.

Be patient – be observant... and if you are unsure what to do, **please call your vet..** The normal birthing position, once the cria's head and forelegs are visible, is the dam standing up. Lying down is emphatically not the normal position once the head is out, and such an animal should not be left. Occasionally they do



*A rare recumbent birth - Library Photo*

jump up and down like yo-yos during the final contractions, but they should not be recumbent.

**Never** attempt to draw the cria when the dam is not having a contraction – internal damage is almost inevitable. **Always** work with contractions, with a firm but gentle pull, stopping to allow the dam to rest between contractions. We have never had to do this for any of our llamas; it happens more often in cattle and sheep. Be careful to pull in the right direction, too – towards the dam's feet, NOT straight out in line with her spine. Consider the cria's position in a normal birth and the logic of this becomes apparent. If contractions have stopped and you do not have to hand the appropriate medical treatments or are unsure how to use them, again, please call your vet. It is better to have him or her at this stage than when things have gone beyond assistance even from the qualified & experienced.

Care of the newborn : if all is normal he gets rapidly up on his shaky legs, gathers himself together and may sit himself down properly on his chest to recover and get his bearings. Most are eager to visit the milkbar first! Mum is usually equally interested in filling her now empty belly, while the

rest of the herd greets the new arrival. If all is normal, let them do so without interfering. If all is normal, there is nothing to do, apart from unobtrusively dunking the umbilicus in a jar of Tincture of Iodine at a convenient juncture. And to muse upon the wonders of nature.

However, if the cria seems lifeless, do not muse, jump to it! Clear the airways by upending him to allow fluid to clear from the lungs. Feel for a heartbeat during or after starting this procedure – better to waste effort on a dead cria than risk losing one by fiddling about, in my opinion. With a large llama cria this can be a two-person job. It is important that the neck hangs down, gently swinging it is helpful if this can be done safely – be very careful not to bump the head on walls, fences, trees, people etc!

If the ultimate misfortune of death or illness of the dam occurs, there is absolutely no need to bottle feed/ cuddle/hold or otherwise mess with the cria's mind once he has learned to feed. For the first feed, give appropriate colostrum from a bottle with a goat teat. Ideally lean over the pen/fence to feed him – no cuddling unless absolutely necessary. After a day he will be on milk replacer. The best practice is to teach him to feed from the goat's teat on a calf bucket attached to the fencepost or gate. This is surreptitiously cleansed and filled from outside his enclosure twice daily with **cold** milk replacer. This "hands-off" method works well: the youngster develops attachments to his or her herd companions rather than identifying with the human carer. It is no kindness to the animal to fuss and pet him – or her! It is probably best to cull artificially reared animals from any breeding programme by neutering, as males are likely to be too stropy to make safe studs and mothering is in most species a learned behaviour. I would be interested if anyone has an alternative view or experience of artificially reared camelids.

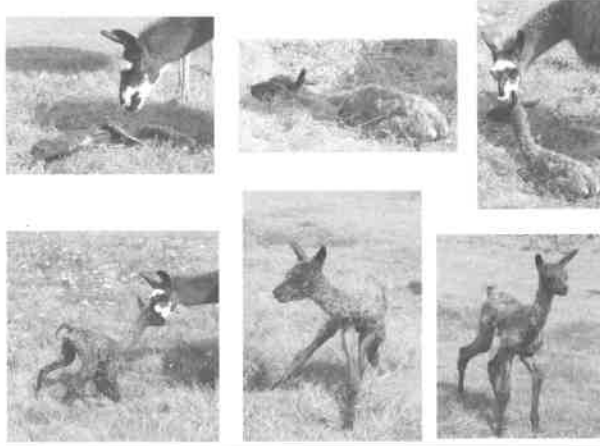
We wish everyone a happy, successful and trouble-free calving this season.

- **A timely article and we would heartily re-enforce Liz's request for more views and experiences of bottle-fed camelids.**





## camelid camera



## Calving time

*Two feet, the tip of the nose... the start of a straightforward birth. This one, at Roseland Llamas in Devon, took approximately 25 minutes from peeping feet to landing. Standing unsteadily came about twenty minutes later...*

*Not all births are quite so fast!*

## Advertising in your Association publications & website

**G.A.L.A** - the Guanaco, Alpaca, & Llama Advertiser – was originally conceived as a low cost opportunity for members with just a few camelids, typically “pet owners”, to advertise the occasional, individual, specific camelid/s for sale; and, alternatively, as a market place for members to advertise *one-off* camelid-related items.

To return to this principle and to encourage members to use this service we are reducing the cost of advertising in GALA, so that a 2cm single column box (minimum) with 30 words will cost just £6.00 (previously £15)! Thereafter each additional word will cost 20p. See examples at side.

These prices include having your ad published on our website too, so this represents quite a bargain! Series rates are not available for GALA, so members wishing to repeat ads should re-book after each issue.

### Display Advertising

For larger scale breeders with stock for sale, or for businesses offering goods and services, there is the alternative of display advertising.

Currently advertising in the newsletter is reserved for members only. Member rates are: Eighth page £25; Quarter Page £35 - 5% discount for 3 insertions, 10% for 6 insertions. In all cases payment should accompany booking, please.

### Colour & non-member advertising

Subject to decisions taken at the forthcoming AGM, colour advertising may be available in future issues of the Chronicle – Non- member advertising may also be available at a surcharge. Please contact Jane Brown **after** the AGM.

### Web Site Advertising:

Trade advertisements cost £25 per year and include e-mail and web site links.

### Breeders Directory

The Breeders Directory is open for new listings at the beginning of each year until 31 March. A short entry, which costs £25.00, consists of herd name, contact name, address, telephone, fax, e-mail and web address. This can be upgraded to an enhanced entry, which costs £50.00, giving you 50 words to describe your services. In addition to the web site your entry will also be printed in the Camelids Chronicle and in the Association Handbook.

**To advertise to your target market contact Jane Brown (See contacts Page)**

## GALA advertisement sizes

A box this size will contain  
30 words for just £6.00

A box this size will contain  
45 words for just £9.00.

Please contact Jane Brown  
to book your ad.

A box this size will contain  
60 words for just £12.00.

Please contact Jane Brown  
to book your ad and please  
don't forget to enclose your  
cheque!



# Camelid Queries...

*I found that one of my two four year old female llamas got very thin after suckling her second calf. Should I put her on any special supplements? And why did she lose so much weight whilst my other female did not?*

**Camelid Vet Gina Bromage replies:**

Weight loss during lactation is usually a combination of the inherent tendency of the mother and the nutrition she's receiving. It is common for females of many species, camelids included, to "milk off their backs" and it is not necessarily a problem as long as they have the opportunity to make up their condition before the next lactation. Often these mothers who lose a lot of weight also "do their offspring well". In other words, the crias grow very well because they are getting comparatively more milk, which is where the mother's fat store is going. Usually females milk better in their second and subsequent lactations than they do in their first, and will therefore tend to lose more weight. It would be interesting to know which cria of the two here grew best. If it was the one whose mother lost more weight, then it's probably just that she was putting more resources into her milk, if not, then there is possibly another problem which needs addressing. In any case, I would be aiming for her to get close to condition score 4 out of 5 in time for her next lactation, by making sure the current baby is weaned in good time and extra feeding with a ration balanced for camelids if necessary. Bear in mind, though, that other conditions, such as nutritional deficiency, parasites, and being bullied off hay or concentrate feed could all be playing a part.

On the subject of "fading camelids" i.e. those which gradually get thinner and thinner, the reason you see few specific articles is that the situation is complex, with many possible causes. I vividly recall a quote from David Pugh on the subject: "First, make sure he's getting to the feed bunker, then check his teeth." Other reasons include current and long-term parasitism and parasite damage (sometimes dating back to pre-importation), mineral or vitamin deficiencies, liver disease, stomach ulceration, and stress, to name only a few. Cancers and TB can cause the same general picture.



*I have a pure white llama age 7 months. Her toenails are all white as well. Can pure white llamas be prone to deafness like white cats and dogs can be?*

**Camelid Vet Gina Bromage replies:**

Deafness has been reported in llamas and alpacas where both the coat colour is white, and the iris of the eye is blue (i.e. lacks pigment). Blue-eyed coloured camelids have not been reported to be deaf. However, not every white, blue-eyed animal seems to be affected and the genetics therefore, are not clear. It is possible that the three characters (i.e. deafness, whiteness and blue eyes) are linked on the same chromosome, so

that once they are together, they will tend to be handed on together, but if they are not together in one individual, they won't be.

- We would be interested to compile statistics on this point and would like to hear from members who have experience of white blue-eyed camelids as to whether or not they are/were deaf.



**Breeders, Vets, anyone in the know... suggestions are requested for the following two queries...**

- Last year I put five maiden alpacas to two of my stud males. Three put to one stud male calved 11 months or more later. The other two, mated to the one male, did not calve at all though several other of our females produced calves from that same stud so he has no problem! The two females who failed to calve are not related. Is it likely they are not fertile? How could I tell and is there anything I could do? Should I try putting them to a different stud (I really would so like to put them back to the same stud)?

- I have a trio of llamas two girls and a boy, who I worm with individual sachets of granules. When it comes to clostridial vaccinations it is very expensive because I have to buy enough for 25 or get my vet in to do it! It says on the bottle use within 7 days once opened. My query is, when I have my first calves who will need two doses a month apart will I need to buy a second bottle? I am told if I seal the opening airtight with clingfilm it will keep. Obviously I do not want to risk their health for a few pounds but it would be a useful saving if I could use the same bottle a month later.

**Do you have a camelid query that you would like to air? Veterinary, behavioural, training, husbandry? And if you see a question that you would like to answer, or a reply you wish to add to or comment upon, we would love to hear from you also. We will keep any issue open for as long as feedback is coming in. Over to you...**

**Important Disclaimer:** Replies to questions are general considerations only and do not constitute definitive veterinary or formal advice. In the case of concerns with an individual animal, the owner should seek advice from his or her own veterinary surgeon, who will be able to perform a proper examination.

## **STOP PRESS!!! Dr Julio Sumar visit**

Dr. Julio Sumar - regarded as the world's most experienced judge and a vet who has spent many years researching and teaching alpaca related subjects at Le Raya, the principal camelid research station for Cusco University - has very kindly accepted an invitation to judge the alpaca and fleece classes at this year's Royal Bath and West Show, and carry out three workshops in the week following. The workshops will incorporate a full day's training in all aspects of husbandry and herd improvement through breeding selection. **Book early, places are limited.**

Dates, venues and contacts are:

- **6th June:** Alpacas of Wessex at Clouds Park, East Knoyle. (Michael Brooke on 01747 830 120 or mpbrooke@onetel.net.uk)
  - **8th June:** The Alpaca Centre at Penrith. Joy Stevenson on 01768 891 40
  - **10th June:** AzSu Alpacas, Thetford, Norfolk. Su Lenk on 01362 820 097 or su@azsualpacas.com
- Costs will be in the region of £50 for a couple or £30 for a single to include coffee and a light lunch.





# Camelid Care

## Protecting against clostridial diseases

Clostridial diseases include enterotoxemia, tetanus, and blackleg. Many people do not vaccinate their camelids against clostridial diseases, yet they can kill your camelids - suddenly and without warning.

British Veterinary Camelid Society President Bob Broadbent explains "We do still have some owners with llamas and alpacas who do not vaccinate and who have never had a problem. Fingers crossed there. But there can be little or no warning with clostridial disease, just sudden death, and even if you do get a sick animal, treatment is often prolonged and ineffective.

*Each individual flock/herd ought to vaccinate in accordance with local disease prevalence. This is something that local farmers, local vet and the local DEFRA office will all be able to provide information on. Prevention as ever is better than the cure".*

The incidence of clostridial infections varies around the United Kingdom, and some areas suffer more than others.

It is advised that you start animals with a first dose followed by a second dose 3-6 weeks later, the animal to be at least 12 weeks of age at the second dose. Pregnant females vaccinated six to eight weeks before calving will pass on immunity to their calves until they are old enough to be vaccinated themselves. Thereafter most people use once yearly boosters. In areas where there is a major clostridial problem or where animals have died of a clostridial disease when getting close to the time for an annual booster, then it might be assumed that the vaccine does not last twelve months and twice yearly boosters can be adopted. Bob

**Clostridial diseases can kill your camelids, suddenly and without warning**  
**A course of two injections followed by an annual booster should be sufficient to protect them from the various types of infection.**

points out, however, that none of his practice's clients (in the Cotswolds area) have had to do so despite severe problems in sheep and cattle in the area

There are a variety of clostridial vaccines on the market including Heptavac, Ovivac, Covexin and Lambivac. Some have "-P" after the name indicating that they also give coverage for Pasteurella but Bob explains "I haven't yet met anyone who thinks that Pasteurella is a widespread problem in camelids so plain Heptavac or Ovivac rather than the -P variant is adequate."

The vaccines are often referred to as "seven way" or "eight way" and there is a new Covexin vaccine in the U.S which is "ten way", which means that they have antigens to cover that number of different types of clostridial infection.

Clostridial vaccines have been known to cause reactions at the injection site including abscesses and some concern has been expressed that the vaccines with many antigens can cause an adverse reaction in camelids but Bob states "the bottom line is that there seems to be no evidence that the higher number of antigens produces a poorer response. It is quite possible too that the abscesses are caused by poor injection technique or from dirty needles, especially when large numbers of animals are injected without regular changes of needle."

It is important to remind owners that as with all other veterinary products used with camelids none of them are licensed for camelids and hence the automatic and necessary caution that you use them, or have your vet use them, at your own risk. The vaccination is given subcutaneously and the dosage is that prescribed for sheep - the immunologists say that a dose is a dose irrespective of size in order to stimulate a suitable response.

## Llamas... are llamas... are llamas... are lanudas?

## Defining llama types

If someone were to tell you that they own or breed dogs or terriers, the statement is likely to lead to a polite enquiry as to what type. Faced with an answer such as "Jack Russells", more detail might be yet more interesting or even helpful! Smooth-coated? Rough-coated? Short-legged? Long-legged? I'm sure you get my drift...

Yet ask in the UK what type of llamas someone owns/breeds and you are quite likely to get the reply. "Type? Well, I don't know! Actually I didn't know there were types. Lots of colours yes, but types???"

Ask the same question in mainland Europe or Australasia - and you are almost certain to get the answer "Classics" or "Woollies", or "Ccara... Curaca... Lanuda... Tapada..." In the U.S and Canada they may well add "Silkies, Chileans, Bolivians, Argentinians, miniatures (and they do not mean alpacas!), or Suris..."

And in South America... well actually that's for the next issue, for this is just to oh-so-gently introduce the idea that there's more to llama types than meets the eye! Whether these ideas are right or wrong, good or bad, is open for debate. One thing is for sure, they are alive, well and flourishing in the rest of the camelid world. So is it time we caught up?



Paul Rose

The debate is on - please join in. And if there are other topics you would like aired, we would like to hear from you.

# Case history

*Mrs J Baxter writes about her llama Gem*

In mid-December I went to feed my three llamas and found that one, Gem a 4 year old, was down and couldn't rise. We did the usual layman's checks and could find nothing really wrong except that he seemed unable to move or use his hind legs. We rang the vet, who luckily is our daughter and therefore knows something about llamas, and after examining him she agreed it was his hind legs (both) and that his stifles were swollen and his patellas clunking and luxating. He was given an injection of Finadyne, 10ml, the first of three and in the morning he was up and for the rest of that week appeared almost normal, even achieving a little canter on one day.

The only warning we had been given that anything might be untoward previously was a quivering of his hind leg and an odd movement when he turned to go to his feed during the previous weeks. However the following Monday he was down again and stayed down. Being used to horses and cattle this seemed awful and he was still bright and eating his feed and his hay and drinking and dunging. He was given more Finadyne, 3 x 10ml, and then a course of bute, 1/2gm daily, two injections of multivit 10 days apart, a course of 15ml Clamoxyl antibiotic injections in case he had an abscess, joint infection of Lymes disease, the connection being arthritis, but with no result.

My llama friend and breeder told me that llamas can stay down for long periods with no ill effects and she was right. However after checking with a vet, who is a Camelid expert at Bristol University Vet School, we tried to sling him but he just hung there and wouldn't try to put his legs down and use them. We then had him x-rayed in the field. The first plates were over exposed, it being difficult to judge the exposure for an unusual species and they were repeated next day with success. They showed that his growth plates had not closed and there were arthritic bony changes within the joints. He had been castrated at 18 months which I believe is generally thought to be the right age. He had not grown long in the leg and out of proportion. The x-rays were sent to the Bristol vet who kindly looked at them with a colleague and confirmed the arthritis and open growth plates secondary to the patella luxation. He has seen two other llamas like this – one a young male who had been castrated early, the other a 20 year old female. Such cases can apparently be operated on to tighten the joints but with the amount of arthritis present in Gem one wonders how much pain he would suffer in later years. Our local practice could have operated but did not have the correct equipment to anaesthetise a llama, which would have meant a long journey to Cambridge or Bristol with no guarantee of long term success, so we sadly decided to euthanase him.

Perhaps this may help some other llama/owner.

- **Thank you Mrs Baxter.** At a "breeding workshop" given by LaRue Johnson some years ago, he stated that 2 years was the optimum age for castration – unfortunately a rather late age from the practical point of view of many breeders. We would be extremely interested to hear from vets and others with knowledge/experience of the subject with their views and experience with camelid castration, the side effects and age considerations etc.

# Obituaries

## Gerald Beaumont Walker

*24 December 1930 – 11 March 2004*

On wet, windy March 19<sup>th</sup> a small contingent of Association members joined a congregation of over 300 people at Nuthurst Parish Church to pay their final respects and farewells to Gerald, whose death, after a brief illness, had shocked us all.



Although a Scot, (who looked great in the kilt) Gerald studied agriculture at Chadacre College in Suffolk, where he obtained his Diploma in 1949.

Almost by accident, as the result of arranging quarantine for some German stags, he was bitten by the deer farming bug. He soon became one of Europe's foremost breeders and exporters and started the Federation of European Deer Farmers, to keep the interests of venison producers before the agricultural pundits in Brussels. While it was allowed, Maplehurst Farm deer travelled beyond Europe and are now to be found as far afield as North America and New Zealand. Only this year he was awarded the British Deer Farmers' Association's Engraved Antler for services to the industry.

But it was not as a businessman or local worthy that most of us knew Gerald – rather as Pam's helpmeet and support, his skill with animals invaluable with the llamas that became her interest. Beyond that, he was always ready with hospitality or shrewd advice when asked by anybody interested in livestock. His urbanity, good humour, and good sense will be remembered and sadly missed by everybody who knew him. Our thoughts and sympathy go to Pam, Pippa, and George and his family, at this time of their great loss. An abiding memory, and not only for me, I'm sure, is of leaving the church to the strains of Nat King Cole's "Smile" – one of Gerald's favourite tunes and one that summed up what he inspired in all his many friends.

*Joyce Pope*

## John Watson

It is with considerable sadness that we advise of the recent passing of John Watson who was taken ill while on holiday in early March in Panama. Fortunately, Sheena (an ex-nurse) managed to get him back home, where he passed away peacefully, aged 70.

In the frenetic years of the late eighties in the Association, John and Sheena enthusiastically joined a small band of dedicated people, travelling to and supporting most events around the country.

In those early days when everything about llamas was new to everyone, we both look back with very fond memories on the fun we all had together, particularly at the East of England Show at Peterborough in that very hot summer in the early nineties, when 22 llamas and their handlers in full South American costume performed twice daily in the main arena.

John was a quiet unassuming man with a delightful sense of humour, who will be greatly missed by all those who were privileged to know him.

*Maggie and Michael Warner*



# Your Association Contacts

## Council Members

### Chairman: Nick Weber

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BA22 9EQ  
t: 01935 863467  
e: nick@westways-alcapas.co.uk

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### David Pryse, Llama member

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### Paul Rose, Co-opted member

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EX17 4AY  
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e: roseland@llamas.co.uk

## Other Association Officers

### Secretary: Candia Midworth

Banks Way House, Effingham Common,  
Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 5JB  
t: 01372 458350

## Llama & Guanaco Registration:

### Rodney Newth

The Old Laundry, Tyringham, Newport Pagnell,  
Bucks MK16 9ES  
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## Alpaca Registration: Libby Henson

British Alpaca Herdbook & Registry,  
P O Box 251, Exeter, Devon EX2 8WX  
t: 01392 437788 Fax: 01392 270421  
e: libby@grassroots.co.uk

## Regional Groups Co-ordinator:

### Bob Pope

Brackley Burn, Slinfold, West Sussex RH13 7RU  
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## Llama & Guanaco Advisory Group

### Chairman: Liz Butler

t: 01737 823375 e: llamaliz@hotmail.com

### Vice Chairman: Ordell Safran

t: 01344 885857 e: o.safran@dial.pipex.com

### Secretary: Jane Brown (See Council)

### Phil Davis (See Council)

### Linda Johnson

t: 01825 712040 e: info@llamafarm.co.uk

### Paul Rose (See Council)

### Pam Walker

t: 01403 864683

### Una Dawes

t: 01491 752416

## Alpaca Advisory Group

### Chas Brooke

t: 01398 361616  
e: chas@mileendalpacas.freemove.co.uk

### Michael Brooke (See Council)

### Mary-Jo-MacDonald

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### Hilary Shenton

t: 01568 750396 e: hilaryshenton@aol.com

### Arish Turle (See Council)

### Karen Oglesby

t: 01489 878663 e: info@mvalpacas.co.uk

### Nick Weber (See Council)

### Su Lenk (See Council)

## GALA - The Guanaco, Alpaca & Llama Advertiser

### Scanning Service

Ian R Bates, fully experienced large and small animal pregnancy scanning service. Tel: 07771 915304 or 01260 224400 for a friendly service.

### Llamas for sale Due to owner's ill-health

Large Cream Female, 6 years old, in cria - due 21 July.

Medium Brown/White proven stud Male, 5 years old.

Medium Cream with terracotta blaze on face, Male 2 years old

Cream Male Yearling. All gentle and halter trained. Delivery to any destination in UK.

All weather coats and spinning equipment also for sale.

Contact: Jeanette Wilson, Tel: 01851 860337 (Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides).

Digital pictures can be requested by e-mail: jeanette.wilson1@ntlworld.com.

### Llama Driving Harness, Exercise

Cart and Instruction Video  
£300 + VAT

Tel: 01295 768676 e-mail: mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Welcome to new members

(Interest: A = Alpaca, L = Llama, G = Guanaco)

Isobel Callen: Ford, By Lochgilphead, Argyll (A)

Ruth Denning: Dorking, Surrey (L)

Derek Hauton: Whitland, Carmarthenshire (A)

Jim Howson: Ashbourne, Derbyshire (A)

Mr & Mrs J P Lewis: Walpole, Halesworth, Suffolk (L)

Mr P L Mascaux: Broxted Dunmow, Essex (A)

Miss C Pedder: Long Ditton, Surrey (A)

Mrs Ann Potts: Wirral, Merseyside

Sally Sanford: Christchurch, Dorset (L)

Mrs Marion Saul: Walton, Nr Street, Somerset (A)

Mr & Mrs J Seale: Whitchurch, Hampshire (L)

Mrs Julie Tripp: Truro, Cornwall (L)

Adrian & Elizabeth Weston: Llanfechain, Powys (A)

Angela Whittle: Preston, Lancs (A)

Jeanette Wilson: Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides (L)

## Corrections to Llama Registrations

In the event of members discovering errors the register will only be amended when the registrar receives a written and signed instruction to do so from the original breeder. If the original breeder is no longer a member or there is any doubt about the amending information then all available evidence will be collected and Council will be asked to decide whether the register should be changed after consulting with the Llama and Guanaco Advisory Committee.

Cotswold CrackerJack: His sire was originally entered for registration as Chaku L50206, (Regn no LCT387 whereas the correct sire is Topa. (herdbook number L51487).

A free correction will be made to certificates where Crackerjack appears as a grand sire if members return the original certificate and a SAE to Rodney Newth, Registrar Llama & Guanaco Register (see contacts page).

## Deadline

The deadline for copy for the next Association publication will be 7<sup>th</sup> June.

# 2004 Show dates

## North Somerset Show

Bank Holiday Monday 3 May 2004  
Bathing Pond Farm, Wraxall  
Llama & Alpaca Classes  
Judge: Richard Wear  
Contact: Norma Chandler  
t: 01454 773533 or  
David James, t: 01278 671425

## South of England Spring Show

Sunday 2 and Monday 3 May  
Alpaca & Llama Classes  
Judges: Alpacas: Liz Barlow & Val Fullerlove. Llamas: Irving Pallister & Nick Harrington-Smith  
Contact: Liz Butler  
t: 01737 823375  
e: llamaliz@ hotmail.com

## Royal Welsh SH & GF Show Builth Wells

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 May  
Llamas & Alpacas - Display and Demonstrations by Welsh members  
Contact: David Pryse  
t: 01295 760542  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Devon County Show

20, 21 & 22 May  
Llamas and Alpacas - Display only  
Contact: David James  
t: 01278 671425  
e: james.barfordllamas@btopenworld.com

## Royal Bath & West Show

Wednesday 2 – Saturday 5 June  
Alpaca Classes – Judge: Dr Julio Sumar  
Contact: Nick Weber  
t: 01935 863467  
e: nick@westways-alpacas.com

## Warwickshire Country Fair/ Kenilworth Show

Sunday 6 June  
Display only  
Contact: Jane Brown  
t: 01608 661893

## East of England Show

18, 19 & 20 June  
Peterborough  
Display only  
Contact: David Pryse  
t: 01295 760542  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Cheshire County Show

Tuesday 22 – Wednesday 23 June  
Alpaca Classes Judge: tba  
Contact: Sandra Stowell  
t: 01829 261644  
e: calveleyalpacas@aol.com

## Melton Mowbray Show

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 June  
Display only  
Contact: David Pryse  
t: 01295 760542  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Royal Norfolk Show

Wednesday 30 June – Thursday 1 July  
Alpaca Classes – Judge: Val Fullerlove  
Contact: Su Lenk  
t: 01362 820097  
e: su@azsualpacas.com

## The Royal Show

Sunday 4 – Wednesday 7 July  
Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

## Newport Show

Shropshire  
Saturday 17 July  
Display only  
Contact: David Pryse  
t: 01295 760542  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Please come & support us

These shows offer us the opportunity to show off and promote our camelids to the general public and are also great social occasions to meet up with like-minded people.

Please make every effort to support your local shows and those farther afield, either by entering the classes, offering help or just showing up! Enjoy your animals and have a great day out at the same time.

And please send in (email or disc) your digital photos of the classes, winners and their owners!

## Fordingbridge Show

Sunday 18 July  
Alpaca Classes – Judge: Su Lenk  
Contact: Karen Oglesby  
t: 01489 878663  
e: info@mvalpacas.co.uk

## Kent County Show

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 July  
Llama Classes - Judge: Clare Hastings  
Alpaca Classes (17<sup>th</sup>) – Judge: Su Lenk  
Contact: Linda Johnson  
t: 01825-712040  
e: info@llamapark.co.uk

## Cumberland County Show

Saturday 17 July  
Alpaca Classes – Judge: TBA  
Contact: Mike Griffiths  
t: 01539 567922  
e: alpacas@euphony.net

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Llama & Alpaca Fun Day

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2004  
Manor Farm Animal Centre & Donkey Sanctuary, Castle Hill, East Leake, Nr Loughborough, Leics  
Contact: Mary Pryse:  
t: 01295 768676  
e: mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Royal Lancashire Show (TBC)

27, 28 & 29 July  
Display only  
Contact: David Pryse  
t: 01295 760542  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Mid Devon Show

Saturday 31 July  
Alpaca Classes – Judge: Val Fullerlove  
Contact: Chas Brooke  
t: 01398 361616  
e: Chas@mileendalpacas.freemove.co.uk

## Cranleigh Show

Sunday 1 August  
Llama Classes - Judge: Clare Hastings  
Contact: Pam Walker  
t: 01403-864683

## Edenbridge & Oxted Show

Sunday 29 and Monday 30 August  
Llama Classes – Judge: TBA  
Contact: Pam Walker/Liz Butler as above

## Moreton-in-Marsh Show

Saturday 4 September  
Display  
Contact: Jane Brown  
t: 01608 661893

## Catanger Llama Trek

Sunday 5 September 2004  
Weston by Weedon Lois, Towcester, Northants.  
If you can't bring your own llamas, loan llamas available! Alpacas also welcome.  
Contact: Mary Pryse  
t: 01295 768676  
e: mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

## Henley Show

Saturday 11 September 2004  
Llama & Alpaca Classes: Judges: TBA  
Contact: Una Dawes  
t: 01491 752416

## Newbury Show

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 September  
Display only  
Contact: David Pryse  
t: 01295 760542  
e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

