



**The *British Llama Society* and Showing: Past, Present & Future**

**A Report into the Background, Current and Prospective Demand,  
Comparative initiatives, Solutions and Ideas for Planning Ahead**

**By Dr Richard Cox, *Hillview Llamas, Frodsham***

# Executive Summary

## Executive Summary

- 
- Shows remain a key way in which the British Llama Society (BLS) can meet its objectives of promoting awareness and interest in llamas, educating the public, widening ownership, recognising and promoting standards in breeding stock and in so doing developing the breed.
- There appear to be issues affecting the willingness of breeders and owners to show their animals that are associated with bio security, logistics, nature of classes and the judging.
- There is doubt that the standard of llamas currently shown at the BLS Show represents the best of the national herd; ensuring it does should be an important goal if there is to be any suggestion that the winners of halter classes are reflective of good breeding stock.
- There are some positive features of the current Annual Show aimed at PR and fun such as audience judgement and performance classes which should be continued and possibly expanded/enhanced.
- Some of the ideas around alternative formats such as 'Virtual Shows' need to be trialled in order to test their feasibility.
- Bio-security continues to be a key issue to would be exhibitors. Eliminating/Reducing this and other potential obstacles to showing need to be explored as well as incentives, such as additional classes and auction sales for encouraging participation.
- New show classes need to be introduced to cater for new and growing trends around types and purpose to recognize and stimulate wider interest.
- Fun classes are popular, stimulate new interest and should be continued and possibly developed to help broaden the owner demographics, especially around age (i.e. to engage youth involvement).
- More detailed Definitions and Guidelines for each class need to be produced and circulated to breeders, competitors and judges.
- Introduce criteria for qualification and selection of Show Judges.
- Introduce templates for Show Judges on which to score the critical, weighted, attributes possibly with absolute scales.
- Sponsor an experienced judge from overseas to officiate at the BLS Show and hold a training workshop OR sponsor a would-be judge to attend an *International Llama Registry (ILR)* judges course and develop similar in the UK.
- Organise a workshop to train would be judges and establish a pool of suitably qualified judges for the different show classes.
- Consult with the BAS to explore common ground for show judge training.
- Put special effort into promoting a show in the North of England and one in the South to test the market and also act as qualifiers for the National Championship event.

# Executive Summary

## **Abbreviations:**

ALSA – Alpaca and Lama Show Association

BAS – British Alpaca Society

BLS – British Llama Society

ILR – International Llama Registry

RBS – Royal Berkshire Show, *Newbury (venue for the Annual BLS Championship Show)*

Tb – Tuberculosis

# Contents

## Contents

Prelude	1
1 Part One- Past	
1.1 The Recent Evolution of the Domestic Llama Breed in the Western World	2
1.2 Livestock Shows and Showing Llamas	7
1.3 A Few Definitions	8
2 Part Two – Present	
2.1 Current Demand and State of Affairs	
Issues	10
Logistics	10
Bio-security	10
Venue & Timing	10
Show Classes & Judging	10
3 Part Three – Future	
3.1 Moving Forward - Some Solutions and Ideas	14
3.1.2 Logistics	14
Bio-security	14
Venue & Timing	14
3.1.3 Show Classes & Judging	16
3.2 Some comparisons with the showing of other animals	18
Postscript	19
4 Appendices	
▪ 4.1 Show Guidelines	21
• 4.1a- <i>BLS Guidelines on Showing Llamas, Rules, Conditions &amp; Classes p21.</i>	
• 4.1b- <i>ILR Show Division Guidelines 2017 – Contents list</i>	25
▪ 4.2 Recognized Llama Types	31

# Contents

• 4.2a - <i>Italian Association of Llama &amp; Alpaca Breeders and Keepers</i> <i>Recognized types</i>	31
• 4.2b- <i>ILR</i> Halter Classes Descriptions.	33
▪ 4.4 –Judging	43
• 4.4a <i>ILR</i> Judges’ Training.	43
• 4.4b-ALSA Characteristics of a Good Judge	47
• 4.4c-Show Definitions and Judging Criteria	48
▪ 4.5-Ccara Llamas	51
• 4.5a-Overview	51
• 4.5b Traits in Detail	53
• 4.5c Registration Requirements/Form	68
• 4.5d- Judging Score sheet	69
• 4.5e- Scores explained	70

## Prelude

This Report was requested of me by the BLS Board following concerns I had expressed in a brief article for publication in its magazine *Llama Link*. I knew that whatever I wrote would probably upset some members of the Board who have put time, effort and money into supporting current practices in showing. I also appreciated that if my finding suggested the Society had not got it right, that the winning llamas neither represented the best in Britain nor would fail to impress overseas, they could take it very personally and prove too big a pill to swallow. However, I hope that the majority can rise above such emotionality and understand the rationale for moving forward in a positive way, especially so far as breeding is concerned.

We all love our llamas, often in a way nobody else can ever appreciate because they do not live with them on a daily basis or have not shared the same experiences you have with them. If they are pets it should not matter what others think; each and every one of you are the beholders of beauty. My *Donte* is a badly knock kneed llama and therefore would not stand a chance in the show ring. He is also a mischievous but a very likeable rogue. He is so funny the way he tries to lift me off the ground by the scruff of my neck, given half a chance run off with the sack of feed and just gives me lots of companionship and pleasure. As such he is leading a happy, valuable life and justifies his place in my herd, as a castrate. The big difference in showing is when there is a commitment to breeding llamas and improving the herd. Here I believe the owner has a responsibility to develop and improve future stock. I therefore ask the reader, for the time being at least, to put themselves and their llamas aside from their thoughts. Forget about how the proposed changes might affect you and your current llamas winning rosettes, sales or other vested interests and put the future of the llama herd in the UK first.

I hope the reader does not feel overwhelmed with the size of this report and put it aside. The critical reading is contained within the first 20 pages. The lengthy and detailed appendices are included to provide background and illustrate the many examples of good practice cited, some of which may be robbed, stolen or borrowed to help draft new BLS equivalent rules, regulations and training materials

Hopefully, the structure of the Report with its past, present and future sections is simple to follow as are the appendices as guides comparing the existing regulations, show definitions, class types, judges, judging and training elsewhere in the world. The appendix on cara llamas is to example one particular type in detail, the most common one in the UK.

## 1 Part One – The Past

### 1.1 Recent Developments in Selective Llama Breeding as the Catalyst to Llama Showing

My limited research, based largely on the hearsay of several long established breeders suggests that llamas were first introduced into the UK via zoos in the early 20th century, they were of various types originating from a variety of countries in South America. Licences were first granted for the ownership of llamas outside of zoos in 1964 after zoos, most notably Whipsnade and Basildon, applied to sell surplus stock to private individuals.

For many years there were still only a few llamas in the UK and those interested in breeding them had a very limited gene pool on which to draw, often resorting to inbreeding and crossing with their ancestral phenotype - guanacos and the related species - alpacas. Not surprisingly, various hybrids emerged with 'new' and mixed traits compared to those still living in the wild or farmed in their native countries, such as proportionally shorter necks, thinner bone structure, weaker legs, etc.

Figure 1 Some specialist native llamas in South America



Figure 2 A herd of the most typical UK llamas



It is only in recent years that a few enlightened breeders looked further afield and imported llamas from South America and the Continent to develop and enhance their stock. Paul Rose of Roseland Llamas and Annie Austin of Watertown Llamas being the most notable examples. However, I think I am correct in saying that they were only interested in purchasing the more woolly varieties, often referred to as Tampuli llamas. Up until this time, the llamas in the UK were essentially of the ccara or more commonly termed 'classic' type. This type still predominates in the UK today but very few, if any, resemble the native or pure type as defined by the Ccara Llama Association (see Appendix 4.5).

What happened in the UK was almost paralleled in the US although generally speaking there had been more imports into that country from South America due to the logistical possibilities of transporting them overland. Writing in 2005, Daniel Powell expressed concerns about what he described a 'chaotic breeding free for all' and 'the desperate need for a sophisticated and ethical approach to llama breeding'. As a stockman with a passion for breed development and breed presentation he was disheartened by 'the rampant out-crossing and mix & match approach' that the typical llama breeder had hitherto employed.

*'It was as if llama breeders existed in a vacuum, isolated from all other livestock industries as well as from the breadth of that knowledge those industries had to share'*

Following the mass importation of llamas of specific types from South America before it was widely banned and extensive breeding of those already in the US via Embryo Transfer, the size of the national herd multiplied almost overnight. It also became more defined in types of which it comprised with breeders focussing on selectively promoting the distinct features and valuable traits of each one. More specialist llama breed societies emerged and more detailed definitions and standards introduced. Some but not all followed the lines of the native farmers in South America. Hence, Ccara llamas followed the trends of trekking herd bred in South America, the Argentine llamas the trends of the fleece llamas in South America, but the Miniatures were effectively a new type based solely on height (they could be Ccara like, Argentine like, etc.)

Llamas gained considerable popularity and for some opened up profitable commercial opportunities in breeding, trekking, guarding, therapy and fleece use, all of which in turn gave rise to an extensive programme of showing llamas in order to win recognition for their breeding programmes, profile their services, attract wider interest, etc. Today, there is a show somewhere in the US on just about every weekend from April through to November (see: <http://www.alsashow.org/nshows2003.asp>), supported by an extensive education and training programme for exhibitors and judges, in a wide range of classes and activities. This includes regional and national stand alone llama shows and llama classes as part of regional/state agricultural/livestock fairs. Classes contested are many (up to 50+) with entries in excess of 500. The halter classes are rigorously defined by type (Ccara, Heavy Wool, etc. we shall see later) and there are competitions in agility, handling, etc. regardless of type.

Some shows include an auction of stock with prices fetching up to a record \$200,000. The International Llama Registry (ILR) Show Division oversees much of this activity. The following pictures example some of the fine, well defined, show winning llamas now to be found in North America.



Figure 3 Argentine – note height, solid bone structure, stance, quality and volume of fleece. Excellent Temperament.



Figure 4 Classic or Ccarra Llama



Figure 5 Suri – Note volume and quality of fleece (not possible to show in photo)



Figure 6 Silky Llama (8'+ tall) Note strong bone structure, body proportions etc.



Figure 7 Driving Llama



Figure 8- Mini Llamas

## 1.2 Livestock Shows in the UK and the Introduction of Llamas

Historically, livestock shows in the UK have fulfilled similar functions: opportunities to exhibit animals in the hope of proving their quality and enhance the breeder's profile, opportunities to meet like minded people to share knowledge and information, educate and promote awareness/profile of the breed amongst a wider public all within an affable atmosphere. Such shows have operated at local and regional (usually county) level often qualifying winners to compete in national best of breed championship shows. As well as rewarding breeders with recognition for their efforts in developing the national stock, animals get a chance to receive a lot of devoted attention from their owners via detailed health inspections, thorough grooming and interaction with their handlers, judges and public visitors.

Less developed commercial animals; llamas in the UK first started to make their appearance in agricultural shows at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as exhibits rather than contested animals. Llama were presented at the Royal Agricultural Show, Royal Welsh Smallholders, Great Yorkshire, West Midlands, Bath and West, Devon and Cornwall shows and possibly a few other regional ones before contested at Edenbridge and Oxted, North Somerset and Royal Berkshire Shows (RBS). Sadly, the number of shows appears to be dwindling due to a lack of commitment to showing and thereby rendering such contests un-viable.

Alpaca showing has been hit by shows blanket banning all camelids for fear of spreading Tb (e.g. the Royal Cheshire) but nowhere to my knowledge for lack of entries; Indeed, they continue to flourish with many regional and national events; at one National Show they had as many as 450 entries. Sixteen events already appear on the 2018 calendar.



Figure 9 Supreme Champion BLS National Show 2016

### 1.3 Llama Show Definitions

Before exploring the current state of affairs and offering solutions and ideas for moving forward, it may be worth first clarifying (via *Wikipedia*) the traditional purpose for showing livestock and protocols generally adopted by breed societies. We have already seen some of the purposes they serve for llama keepers but generically, a livestock show is an event where animals are exhibited and judged on certain phenotypical breed traits as specified by their respective breed standard which is overseen by the breed association.

A **breed standard** in animal husbandry is a set of guidelines which is used to ensure that the animals produced by a breeder conform to the specifics of the standardized breed. Breed standards are devised and defined by breed associations and are written to reflect the use or purpose of the species and breed of the animal. Breed standards help define the ideal animal of a breed and provide goals for breeders in improving stock. In essence a breed standard is a blueprint for an animal fit for the function it was bred - i.e. fleece, trekking, guarding, therapy etc. Breed standards are not scientific documents, and may vary from association to association, and from country to country, even for the same species and breed. There is no one format for breed standards across all species, and breed standards do change and are updated over time. Breed standards cover the *externally observable* qualities of the animal such as *appearance*, *movement*, and *temperament*. The exact format of the breed standard varies, as breed standards are not scientific documents and change as the needs of the members of the organization which authors them change. In general, a breed standard may include history of the breed, a narrative description of the breed, and details of

the ideal externally observable structure and behaviour for the breed. Certain deviations from the standard are considered *faults*. A large degree of deviation from the breed standard, an excess of faults, or certain defined major faults, may indicate that the animal should not be bred, although its fitness for other uses may not be impeded by the faults. An animal that closely matches (conforms to) the breed standard for its species and breed is said to have good conformation.

For example, see Appendix 4.5.

**Breed type** in this context means "qualities (as of bodily contour and carriage) that are felt to be breed standards of perfection allow for comparisons and the selection of the best breeds to raise. Examples [of *breed type*] include the shape of the ears, length of neck and are "in a sense, a trademark".

**Conformation** evaluates the degree of correctness of an animal's bone structure, musculature, and its body proportions in relation to each other. Undesirable conformation can limit the ability to perform a specific task. Although there are several universal "faults" a llama's conformation is usually judged by what its intended use may be. Thus "form to function" is one of the first set of traits considered in judging conformation.



Figure 10 Supreme Champion and Reserve BLS National Show 2013

## 2.1 Current Demand

The BLS expresses as one of its objectives (2.6):-

*To organise and facilitate on a national and/or regional basis social, forums for discussion, training classes, educational sessions, treks, shows and exhibitions, conferences, demonstrations and lectures.*

Shows can also contribute indirectly to some of its other objectives such enhancing the breed.

As regards current demand within the BLS, the results of the membership survey in 2017 are somewhat ambiguous in answering questions about shows and showing. Based on a 40% member response rate (approx. 40 people), 60% said they wanted the BLS Annual show at Newbury to continue (ie. 60 members). However, only 23% of this 60% gave a categorical “yes” to the question of whether they would be prepared to bring llamas to the show (i.e. less than 14 members which also equates to current exhibitors). 55% gave a categorical “no” and the remaining 21% were undecided. The report of the results on the website does not give the results of their reason why not the other 12 members would not show their llamas.

[https://issuu.com/fasterlentellamas/docs/and\\_try\\_this\\_one\\_f33f2c8bdb5498/20?ff=true&e=17215597/51547502](https://issuu.com/fasterlentellamas/docs/and_try_this_one_f33f2c8bdb5498/20?ff=true&e=17215597/51547502)) These results may have been helpful in giving a clue as to whether there were changes the owners were seeking.

Different members, may of course, have different motivations or priorities for shows and showing. Some may seek no more than a fun, social gathering; others confirmation of the success of their breeding programme, others to promote their services or the sale of their stock etc. All have some validity, but how the owners perceive current shows and what they want to see in future may well be very different from each other.

The reasons why some owners of fine llamas do not consider it worth their while or have other reasons for not partaking need further exploration and is one of the objectives of this inquiry

## 2.2 Current Issues and Reasons for not showing

In the course of writing this Report, I have attempted to delve deeper into the issues by consulting a number of llama breeders and keepers (members and otherwise) to discover some of the reasons for the lack of entries in BLS and other shows in the UK and means of attracting new, as opposed to committed/repeat exhibitors, in the future.

### 2.2.1 Logistics

#### Bio-Security

We live in an age where highly contagious diseases amongst cloven footed animals are rife and threatens the lives of animals and livelihood of many farmers. Some agricultural shows, like the Royal Cheshire, introduced a blanket ban of all camelids from the show ground a few years ago for fear of the spread of Tb to some of the nation’s premier dairy herds in, at that point, a relatively Tb free area.

There are also some vets who for the same reason of bio-security strongly advise llama breeders do not take them to shows. The official view of the British Camelid Vets Association is ????

Even where care has been taken to maintain minimum spaces between pens, it is virtually impossible to prevent animals coming into close quarters during parades or being in contact with potential carriers including human beings who like to rub noses as it were with the llamas.

## 2.2.2 Venue & Timing

Whilst few llama owners would describe their animals as being highly strung, many would readily accept that they are sensitive souls. Putting them in trailers, dragging them along congested highways for long periods, placing them in strange settings away from their herd mates and amongst strangers is a step too far.

Sadly I have had the unfortunate experience of finding a friend's stud male dead in the livestock trailer I was towing after transporting it no more than 20 miles. That was 8 years ago and I am now forever nervous, just in case one is spooked by the experience and accidentally self-harms. There has to be a compelling reason for me to take any llama anywhere!. A member commenting on the experience of their llamas at the RBS wrote

*They came to the show, stood transfixed by the exit to their pens (or tried to get out) for the entire weekend and one of them was impossible to halter for six months after the event and hasn't been in a trailer since.*

Any single venue has the consequence of making it a long journey for some. The llama community is widespread across the UK although membership is probably skewed towards the South and West. The RBS has been chosen to host the BLS Annual Championship Show, however, not so much because it is accessible via the motorway network and within acceptable travelling time of the majority of members, but because the organisers of the RBS were very welcoming and generous in providing the necessary facilities. Other venues have not yet been tried but it would appear that anywhere beyond 2 hours travelling time is a distance too far for the majority which just about marginalises anyone North of Birmingham.

By way of comparison llamas in North America are transported distances well in excess of 2 hours travelling time. Indeed it sometimes takes several days. It could be said that North Americans are generally used to driving longer distances, have wider roads, cheaper fuel and more luxurious trailers for their animals with water, feed and air conditioning on board.

Most llama shows around the world take place in the Spring and Summer seasons with the major national championships staged towards the end of the calendar year.

The RBS is traditionally held in mid September which is a busy time in the farming calendar. This is likely to be inconvenient for those llama keepers who also harvest crops. Sadly, the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, held the first week of July, might have been a more central and timely show with bigger attendees but no longer exists.

## 2.3 Show Classes & Judging

At first I thought I could address these topics separately but soon realised that in current circumstances at least, they are inextricably intertwined.

It has already been noted that the motivation for taking or wishing to take part in BLS shows are many and varied. For those wanting as well as those entering into shows in order to exhibit the physical superiority of their stock, it is important that their animals are seen to be judged fairly in respect of qualities and traits or standards representative of the best of that type. Currently, the BLS does not differentiate at its shows between llama types, but has different classes only for age and gender. Leaving aside for now the arguments about what, and indeed whether, different types can be distinguished, I have witnessed dissatisfaction with the results by some over the years.

Accusations range from favour towards a particular breeder to appeasement for a prominent breeder/personality having been overlooked in the past, and from a dislike of woollies to a preference for solid colours. Irrespective of the truth, such perceptions are undesirable and unlikely to encourage more exhibitors and sponsors alike.

There is no place for personal favour in any fair, open competition. Differences of opinion amongst owners are to be expected to some extent, it's like a baby show - every baby is, and should be, the best in the eyes of its mother. However, in the serious categories of livestock shows it is unacceptable if decisions reached are the consequence of classes being too broad and/or judgements that are largely subjective.

Winners at the RBS have traditionally been ccara or classic types. This may be reflective of those entered and/or the proportion or number of other types in the population at large in the UK. However, I have heard a member of the Board state that the woolly variety of llamas is not suited to the British climate and should not be brought here. Others have expressed preferences for the ccarra type because of the purpose for which they are being used, owners not having the time to groom them and stay on top of their appearance, etc. As a way of learning, a few years back I sought the reasoning behind a judge's decision at the show and they were quite open in telling me they have a dislike of woolly llamas. Armed with this kind of evidence and the free rein afforded to judges at BLS shows (see below), it is not unreasonable to think such individuals may have a vested interest in retaining the pre eminence of their 'type' or of it impacting on the way they view and select judges and/or winning llamas. Even if it did not, and allegations are unfounded, it is important that scope for subjectivity and bias is kept to a minimum.

One major problem is that breeders of particular types of llama often do not consider the traits valued and bred for in their preferred type as being comparable to those bred for in another type (indeed they might be opposites) and therefore receive no acknowledgement for it. By way of a simple example, a typical breeder of woolly llamas is usually aiming to achieve 'a woolly face, with hairy ears, a good beard, heavy eyebrows and a good top knot, plus a long fleece all the way down the legs to the ground and hairy toes to finish'. The typical breeder of ccarra llamas, ones that have 'clean faces', wool that is extremely short even on the main barrel and sheds naturally. The failure to differentiate these types has stopped or prevented some breeders/owners from exhibiting. It may even have been divisive in creating the dichotomy amongst some members.

Fortunately, both sides of the divide appear to agree on the importance of essential common and generic traits such as good health, strong limbs that allow fluid and correct movements, good teeth and proper chewing action, gentle and social temperaments, etc. but nothing beyond these features. Its the fact that critical judgements appear to sometimes be made on type specific qualities that causes the trouble.

Not everyone has such biases or entrenched views and I for one have two breeding lines, one of each type. I am trying my best to bring full Argentinians to the UK but cannot develop a personal liking for suris.

BLS's Italian equivalent organisation the *Italian Association of Llama & Alpaca Breeders and Keepers* recognises 5 types of llamas in their show classes expressed in terms of Blade (*see Appendix 4.2*)

The ILR Show Division, BLS's North American equivalent, recognises the following 10 types for showing in what they term their 'Halter Classes':

- Suri
- Silky
- Classic
- Light Wool
- Medium Wool
- Moderate Heavy Wool
- Extreme Heavy Wool
- Working Non-Breeder
- Fleece Non-Breeder
- Miniature

Halter classes, of course, are but one category. The ILR also recognizes Fleece classes (Shorn, coat on, 2oz sample, final product divisions) Performance Classes (with Open, Advanced and Novice divisions) in Trail, Public Relations, Obstacles and Driving classes; Production and Showmanship classes as well as Best in Show.

The expressed goal of the ILR is to compare animals of similar phenotype and fleece characteristics and keep the competition comparable for all competitors.

If we are to be academic about what types can be identified as separate entities in their own right, scientific research conducted by MW Bruford, JC Wheeler and R.Rosadio (1999) has demonstrated that most of these specimens are the result of crossbreeding and therefore are hybrids of one form or another. There are no separate phenotypes. Perhaps going forward we had better just refer to llama 'types'.

Rather than theoretical discourse, however, failure of the BLS to recognize or introduce classes for different types at its annual show may be no more than the fact there too few entries to make it viable. However, it may be because of different objectives and priorities as expressed by one prominent member of the Board who wrote:

*"I have banged on for years about the benefits of showing and the importance of conformation and phenotype when selecting animals for breeding. It has always fallen on deaf ears. 'They are just pets' is the constant reason. I think there is an embarrassing ignorance among our members and maybe even some breeders regarding what is desirable and what is not".*

Fun classes form a significant part of the programme at the BLS Annual Show and appear popular with owners and the public, attracting interest and questions on key topics such as buying llamas, their husbandry and uses. There is nothing ambiguous in a straw poll amongst the audience for the prettiest llama. The competition is only about the 'Wow' or 'Ahhh' factor and should not be taken to stand for anything more, because the winner might have relatively no neck and ears like pixies'.

For some would be exhibitors, whether the 'winning llamas' at the RBS, compare favourably with many that are not exhibited (for whatever reason), is important otherwise their claim to being the best of the British herd is limited. Any comment on whether winners at Newbury are reflective of the nation's best is too sensitive an issue for many to dare take on since it will inevitably upset some llama breeders/owners who made the effort to support and attend the Show. However, I am not one to shy from the truth and as someone who has travelled far and wide both in the UK and abroad visiting llamas, I have to say that in my opinion the BLS winners do not; the main reason being some owners of outstanding llamas choose not to show. It would be irrational of me to say the judge failed in accurately placing the llamas on any of the generic features or traits listed above and below but I would be confident in saying that none of the llamas on show or even in the UK would match up to the best of the llamas in Canada, Italy or in the US.

I think I am correct in saying that historically, there have been no BLS set criteria for selecting a judge. BLS appointed an 'Alpaca Judge' [not on their current list] for its 2017 Annual Show. A question which naturally arises out of this is 'can someone trained in judging alpacas judge llamas? Although I have noticed some common ground in ILR training for both alpaca and llama judges (relating to protocols, etc.), there is additional significant specialist llama content for those wanting to be llama judges. So far as I am aware, there is no generic Camelid qualification. It could be that going forward the BLS considers working with the BAS for making use of its current training content of a generic nature rather than re-inventing the wheel for those components.

I also think I am correct in saying that the judge at the BLS Annual Show is more or less given free reign as to what types and traits/characteristics they value most, yet this is a trend that has been removed from the judging of many other species because of the way it allowed biases to creep in and cloud judgement. Instead, breed societies have identified more types, with traits that reflect the ideal or fitness for purpose, ranked these in order of importance and allowed the judge to score their interpretation of quality along these lines. (See Appendix 4.5d&e in relation to ccarra llamas)

Theoretically, with calibration, this should mean that a prospective buyer, or whomever, has an absolute scale on which to put a value. The drawback for some, is that it might devalue their or their animal's achievement in winning at particular shows but with relatively few points. However, this is no different from any other form of competition. Winning a Gold medal in swimming at the Moscow Olympics in 1980, boycotted by the Americans, will never have the same prestige as Gold medals won at the 2000 Sydney Olympics that were not boycotted by any nation state; the winners in some classes in Moscow would not have made the final of the US trials in 1980.

The BLS written guidelines identify only a few basic traits but do not weight any of them against other traits and judges are not provided with templates for scoring any of these traits. (See Appendix 4.1). The one and half sides of A4 guidance compares to a manual in excess of 180pp produced by the ILR *Show Division Guidelines* for its judges (See Appendix 4.1a&b).

At ILR shows, judges have to follow detailed definitions, examine set features and are expected to make sure the whole process is as fair and transparent as possible by informing observers of their thinking and judgement at every stage in the form of a running commentary. Attributes are scored in line with accepted protocols and prioritised features.

The *Judges' Handbook* offers class definitions such as:

- Conformation -- The form or outline of an animal to include the relationship of form to function. Conformation is the key to an animal's method of progression. Proportions of the body conformation as compared to the limb conformation may determine whether or not there will be any interference of the limbs during progression.
- Body type -- An inherited characteristic of an animal or breed that best fits it for a specific function.
- Balance -- The common denominator of function, type and conformation.
- Axial alignment -- As viewed from the top, a line drawn through the withers down the centre of the back to the tail head should divide the body into separate halves.
- Body balance -- A line drawn from the point of the elbow through the centre of the stifle should be parallel to the ground. Also, vertical lines drawn from the front of the stifle to the front of the hip and the point of the elbow should be perpendicular to the ground and divide the body into equal thirds. The head and neck act as a balance arm for the body and should be proportional to the length of back.
- Conformation of the limbs -- The animal should be observed from a distance as well as up close, and at rest and in motion. The limbs should be proportional to the height, depth and length of the body. The gait can be evaluated by studying the feet as they leave the ground, during flight and as they land. As viewed from the front and the rear, a vertical line from the point of the shoulder and from point of the hip should bisect the limbs.
- Front legs: as viewed from the side, a vertical line dropped from the centre of the elbow should bisect the limb and the back of the heel.
- Rear legs: as viewed from the side, a line from the point of the hip should line up with the back of the hock, run down the back of the cannon bone and land just behind the heel of the foot.

The ILR Show Division *Handbook* offers clear Guidelines for all classes. (Also see Appendix 4.2b)

. a) Halter classes will be judged based on the conformation of the animals in the class as viewed from the front, rear and the side while in motion and at rest. The overall conformation & balance will be considered as well as evaluation of the smoothness of gait while in motion. The judge, at his/her discretion may assign a small portion of the overall evaluation to fleece. It is the job of the halter judge to evaluate the animal as a whole based on positive attributes of individual fibre types. The fleece is a positive attribute and should be acknowledged; however the judge should not lose sight that overall conformation, balance and movement are of critical importance.

# Present

---

b) Judges will be asked to give oral reasons for all halter classes. In classes with multiple judges, only one judge will be asked to give oral reasons and the judges and show management can define a plan to facilitate this.

c) All first and seconds in each class return to be placed for Grand and Reserve Champions and the entire champion class be placed by the judges and awarded points, however, ribbons/awards need only be given to the Grand and Reserve.

d) Points awarded for the championship group be based on the total number of animals in the entire fleece and sex division, and these points be awarded in addition to the class awarded points.

e) Animals may show in only one approved halter class. Points will be recorded for ILR-SD members.

## Forelimb Conformation Faults –

- Base Narrow (feet too close)
  - Base Wide (feet too wide)
  - Toed In (dishing)
  - Toed Out (splay footed)
  - Backward deviation of the knees (calf knees)
  - Forward deviation of the knees (Buck knees)
  - Inward deviation of the knees (winging)
  - Outward deviation of the knees (dishing)
  - Lack of shoulder angulation (post legged)
  - Camped under in front – limb below the elbow is too far behind perpendicular line
  - Camped out in front – limb below the elbow is too far in front of perpendicular line
  - Abnormal fetlock/pastern angulation – too vertical or too much slope
- Rear limb Conformation

## Faults –

- Base Narrow (rope walking)
  - Base Wide (feet too wide)
  - Toed In (pigeon toed)
  - Inward deviation of the hock (cow hocked)
  - Excess angulation of the hock (sickle hocked)
  - Excessively straight leg (post legged)
  - Camped under behind (leg too far forward of vertical line)
  - Camped out behind ( leg too far behind vertical line)
  - Abnormal fetlock/pastern angulation – too vertical or too much slope
- Conformation of Top Line –
- Top line should be level as viewed from wither to hips and parallel to the ground.
  - The rump should have a slight slope with the base of the tail (tail set) near the front of the hip bone.
  - Animals should exhibit normal external reproductive organ development.

Judges are also issued with a template to complete scoring the various attributes, thus reducing the potential for subjectivity and ambiguity. (For an example see Appendix 4.4)

As already mentioned judges are expected to justify their reasoning to the assembled audience for all halter classes.

To qualify as a judge on the ILR circuit it is necessary to undergo significant formal training. Once qualified, the judging apprenticeship starts at local shows shadowing an experienced judge before judging under supervision and further mentoring.

Training to qualify as a ILR judge is intense. Candidates have to attend a workshops of approx. 12 hour duration covering the ALSA - it's growth and purpose, pre-show preparation, show behaviour and practices, after-show evaluation, conformation, practice evaluation of animal structure and movement, and halter and performance practice evaluation. This is under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee. Additionally, there are required to attend a:

**5 hour Halter clinics** offered as part of a local organization's conference, a county fair program, or as part of an ILR Show. The programs are shortened versions of the Show Clinic with emphasis on conformation and showing in halter classes.

**Performance clinics** also five hours in duration covering all key aspects of showing an animal in performance activities, including confirmation as it pertains to the performance animal.

#### **Combination Show & Beginning Llama Judge's Clinics:**

These clinics are exactly the same as the Show Clinic for the first 12 hours. After the first 12 hours, those interested in applying for the Judge's Apprentice program remain for an additional day and a half of instruction. The second part focuses on ALSA Handbook rules, Judge's responsibilities at shows, methods of giving oral reasons for placements, evaluation of performance activities, and other pertinent information essential to becoming a professional ILR Llama Judge.

#### **Advanced Llama Judge's Clinics:**

An Apprentice must meet certain criteria for becoming a Judge, and a Judge must meet certain criteria for remaining certified as an ILR Judge. The Advanced Clinics evaluate individual performance records and knowledge of Apprentices and Judges while bringing all attendees up to date on current regulations, shared concerns, ethical responsibilities, and overall changes in ILR programmes.

#### **Show Clinic for Llamas & Alpacas:**

These clinics are 8 or 12 hours in duration and introduce participants to ILR, it's growth and purpose, pre-show preparation, show behaviour and practices, after-show evaluation, conformation as taught to Judges, practice evaluation of animal structure and movement, and halter and performance practice evaluation. The llamas portion of the program is under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee while the alpaca portion is under the jurisdiction of the Alpaca Committee.

More details are to be found in Appendix 4.4.

## Present

---

The *British Alpacas Society* (BAS) also provides a rigorous training and certification programme for judging halter and fleece classes. This is additional to the 1 day alpaca evaluation course, the two day alpaca assessment Foundation course and the three days Advanced Course.

It retains a team of 10 judges who are required to undergo compulsory calibration clinics (to maintain conformity) and triennial re-certification courses.

All shows are run to strict BAS rules which adhere to the accepted worldwide standards for showing alpacas and fleece. They are updated on a regular basis in consultation with the BAS judges' panel, the BAS National Show Committee and the show organisers.

The judging of fleece using standard measures is far less controversial. The British Wool Marketing Board has tables such as the *Bradford Count*. These include fineness, staple length, presence of outer hair, lustre, crimp, vulnerability to chemical damage etc. For the purposes of comparing llama fleece, the fineness chart which gives the diameter of the fibre in microns would be sufficient.

Judging the fun classes is less of an issue, especially if the competition rules are made clear and followed. The ALSA obstacles are more structured than BLS's (ie a set of common obstacles and scoring/deducting points system) but essentially aim to test the same type of skills and attributes. I have not witnessed general public chosen competition winners such as for the prettiest looking female llama, other than at the RBS, but have seen how valuable it can be in engaging visitor participation and reward. The Egg & Spoon Race is a very British cultural tradition.

## 3 Planning for the Future - Some Solutions and Ideas

### 3.1 Logistics

#### 3.1.2 Bio-Security

It is important to all existing and prospective exhibitors, that safe Bio-Security practices are continued and policed - that is in every respect – close by parking, adequate distances between secure pens, control of visiting pets such as dogs, availability of fresh water, foot baths, no dogs, etc. The RBS at Newbury certainly attempts to satisfy most of these requirements but Tb is such a potent bacteria it is doubtful whether anywhere can be made entirely bio-secure. Even if skin and blood tests had been carried out on all entrants a few days prior to the show this cannot be taken as proof that these animals do not have Tb or are incapable of passing it on as carriers. Often animals showing no signs of Tb after the first test show up next time.

At shows, owners and members of the public regularly greet the llamas by placing their noses in close proximity. Whilst pens should be sufficiently apart to prevent llamas doing this amongst each other, humans can help spread the disease and so should be discouraged.

Potential exhibitors should be warned of these facts, in case they do not already know and be-required to bring footbaths and disinfecting hand washes, or BLS provides them.

#### 3.1.3 Venue and Timing

The RBS is traditionally held in mid September which is a busy time in the farming calendar. This is likely to be inconvenient for those llama keepers who also harvest cereal crops. The Royal Show at Stoneleigh, held the first week of July, might have been a more central and timely show with bigger attendees but it no longer exists

Finally, in respect of venue, I propose that a northern venue (for example The Great Yorkshire Show), is explored providing they can meet the other requirements and draw sufficient visitors. Even if it does not catch on it will have been tried and tested and members cannot claim to have been marginalised by virtue of location.

In my experience with other animals and with llamas in the US, auction sales alongside shows attract considerable interest and attention. It can also offer convenience to both buyers and sellers.

### 3.2 Show Classes & Judging



In recent years, imports have led to an increase in the variety of llama types in the UK and subsequent breeding has increased the numbers in these groups or types. Woolley or tampuli llamas

of the part Argentine or Chilean type have increased in popularity and number and now we are starting to see suri and silkie types on our shores. The last decade has witnessed an increased in llama trekking businesses and in recent years llama therapy practices. On the basis of this, the points made in Part One (i) that different types should be recognized (ii) that classes and standards should evolve and be subject to regular review, there is a strong argument for the introduction of new and more classes to accommodate these different types and purposes and to encourage related activities such as spinning and garment making from llama fibres; also as discussed later, classes aimed at engaging children and other underrepresented groups.

I suggest that a small task force is appointed by the Board to agree more detailed definitions and identify at least half a dozen types of llama to reflect popularity and purpose and generate new interest. This might include – Classic/Cacara Llamas, Heavy Woollen (mainly Argentine, Landula, type), Light Wool (Tampuli), Therapy (based around temperament), Trekking Llamas (based on structure and movement) and if they take off in the UK, Suri Llamas. Perhaps temporarily, there also needs to be a General category for the llamas, historically typical of the UK, which for reasons explained in Part One, are neither one nor another of the above categories but more of a mix.

Appendix 4.5, outlines and then details the traits of a cacara llama demanded in order to be recognized as one by the Cacara Llama Association and a scoring system to judge them. These could be useful in drawing up the standards and judging criteria for that designated type here in the UK.

To promote the interest in fleece for spinning llama wool, garment making, etc. then perhaps there should be more than the existing 'fleece on the hoof' fleece class.

The existing fun classes and exhibition stands should continue as they are in order to exhibit other key features of llamas such as behaviour and generate public interest. If anyone has ideas for developing or extending new formats these should be seriously considered. Initial thoughts coming to my mind are based around opportunities for members of the public leading llamas. This is building upon the popular audience interaction in judging the prettiest llama, etc.

Something I sometimes struggle with is who most deserving of the prize is. Theoretically, the winner could always be s/he who can afford to buy the best available. Although an astute owner could have pre-judged traits the breeder had not already detected and therefore kept the llama for their own breeding programme, the talent is in breeding that animal - matching appropriate parents to achieve the right balances, etc. For this reason, I think that the breeder and possibly sire and dam should at least be acknowledged in the programme and announcement of winners.

I strongly believe llama judging in the UK needs updating and suggest a small task force is appointed by the BLS to draft more detailed regulations, definitions (of the different types and desired traits), guidelines and scoring charts pertaining to showing and judging. I am sure no one would welcome a tome of 180 pages (as is the ILR's) but I believe breeders, exhibitors (and potential exhibitors) would appreciate being better informed of the processes and what qualities will be looked for and apportioned

As a first step, I think much is to be gained by the BLS either:

Funding an experienced, well respected llama judge capable of delivering an informed and entertaining commentary to do the honours at a future Newbury Show. They could possibly also run a workshop to help train would be judges for the future.

Or, funding a would be judge attend the ILR National Show in the US in November. In return they would be required to finalise and deliver a similar one for other would be llama judges in the UK.

Funds currently used to sponsor two vets to attend the annual camelid veterinary convention in the US might be used if there are limited alternative sources although the current reserve balance in the Bank looks quite healthy. The Board needs to assess the relative impacts.

The BAS should also be approached to seek cooperation on making use of its generic training material, courses and tutors regarding preparation and showing and the BLS build on this the more specific llama features.

Finally, a feature I admire about the ILR shows is that there are classes for youths in Showmanship and Judging. Some owners offer training for a fee or favour in kind (e.g. maintenance) and the youth does not even need to own a llama. There are equine liveries the length and breadth of the UK which are inundated with young volunteers. If they had discovered llamas before ponies they may well have sought such opportunities on llama farms. I know of an alpaca farm in Yorkshire with such volunteers, keen to get the experience. I think that the BLS should initiate similar initiatives as those of the ILR above at it's shows. I suspect it will help modify the llama owning profile (currently middle aged) and image from rare, novelty animals to more common, highly respected ones.

My suggestion is a simple competition for youths to show their handling skills in haltering, grooming, leading and presenting 'their' llama. Another competition would be for them to score half a dozen llamas on show in key traits using a modified version of the judge's template and rewarding the one coming closest to ranking the animals in the same order as the official judge. This would be followed up with a short lesson from the judge.

Finally, I also think that a concerted effort should be made to attract the younger generation. This is common in poultry and cattle judging so why not llamas. I appreciate that the typical demographic is middle aged and female but attracting a younger ownership would be encouraged by organising showmanship and judging courses for them. Ultimately, this would elevate llamas from rare novelty animals owned by hobbyists to prized animals valued in a number of roles.

### **3.3 Alternative formats?**

In 2017, an idea was proposed by one new member, who for various reasons was not in a position/willing to show: this was to promote virtual shows using videos (and perhaps fleece samples) submitted for judging. This would overcome concerns relating to bio-security, time and stress but it met with some stern criticism. Opponents felt that it did nothing to promote public awareness and education, face-to-face interaction, etc.

The idea was that members with llamas that they would like to show would take a video of their llamas being led around a "ring" in the same way that llamas would be led around a real show ring. They would then ask a judge to look at the various videoed llamas to place them in the virtual show. The videos could be augmented by posted samples of the fibre so that could be part of the

judgement should we want to include fibre, however note that we have judged fibre separately at the more recent Newbury show.

The advantages are:

- we could attract a larger number of members to enter their llamas since they would not have to travel to shows.
- Bio-security would not be an issue.
- Livestock trailers would not be needed.
- it could be done in the winter to brighten up the winter months.
- such shows could offer a wider range of classes, for woolly and ccara llamas for instance.

In support of this concept, another member drew attention to the potential wider audience

*'... the number of visitors at these shows who actually make it over to the llama pens and actually engage are sadly quite small.... The material that a virtual llama show would generate would be so useful for online PR as it would be ready made material in the right format for that media'.*

The proposer acknowledged there were potential problems such as:

- the quality of the videos might be highly variable
- the judges might not always be able to see exactly what they wanted
- it would be more difficult to judge the temperament of the llamas

but some members had strong opinions, one commenting that:

a virtual show would be so meaningless in value as to be hardly worth doing...and worse than that, materially undermine the live shows.

surely the whole point is the viewing public, that they have the chance to engage with the animals and learn from the owners. That they gain confidence from touching them and seeing them being handled. How will we ever encourage new owners remotely...I understand that the idea is as well as, rather than instead of, live shows...but it will make current exhibitors wonder if its worth bothering if prizes can be won....a lot more cheaply to themselves !

one of the most important elements of the show is performance on the day in the challenge of an alien environment. I think animals that are not shown lose the opportunity to grow emotionally and display that growth by the way they perform on the day. it's not just a beauty competition, that has so little value. Judges need to feel condition, see stance and gait, examine bone structure.

Clearly there are strong opinions on both sides of the divide regarding alternative formats in the form of a virtual show by video. In line with what the majority of responders appeared to suggest, I am inclined to recommend that the BLS trial a modest version of fun categories in the first instance. With the exception of the greenest spitter, perhaps along the lines of the suggestions made by another prominent member of the Society:

*a class for the best smile, the longest ears , the greenest spitter ! and the best llama biscuits or llama cup cakes, the best homemade toy llama , the best llama painting or sketch, best llama joke. Llamas in pyjamas and other funny outfits, and of course agility / obedience on or off lead.*

After all some members effectively do it already via 'llama' items of clothing or Christmas tree decorations they have seen/purchased and posted on the BLS *Facebook* site. I also like the idea of it providing some form of fun to get us through the increasingly wet winters if those classes were held at this time of year. Some readers may have seen the collection of over 500 llama drawings and paintings I have placed on my website. Some are outstanding, and I would love to see a competition for different age groups on this theme.

I agree with a member's comments that

*a show animal needs to perform and show themselves to the judge on the day. A judge is looking for so many different aspects, conformation is form and function so needs to watch the animal from all angles and see how everything moves and check for correct movement and tracking when walking away and towards him. Teeth need to be checked and male o animals should have their testicles seen.....*

and so would reserve the halter or confirmation classes for the 'live' shows. However, I do not support the view expressed that virtual shows are 'worthless or undermining of the live shows'.

Other features such as an auction of llamas, as often accompanies llama shows in North America, poultry shows in the UK, may attract more members, stimulate more owners, although considerable care would need to be taken to protect the long-term welfare of those sold and bought,. also, perhaps use the opportunity for re-homing llamas in need of rescuing.

The financial aspects are not to be addressed at this stage although it is appreciated that the existing BLS Annual Show is dependent on the goodwill of the Royal Berkshire Show and that there may be limited capacity for expansion there and elsewhere without considerable expenditure.

## 3.4 Some comparisons with the showing of other animals in the UK

Since the initial drafting of this Report I have managed to chat with judges from several other species and breed societies in the UK. Some of the features and concerns I have mentioned in this Report are mirrored in the showing of other animals.

- For reasons of cost and bio security, showing is on the decline for most forms of large livestock. This is less of an issue for small animals (cats, poultry, rabbits & cavies, etc.) which remains very popular.
- Prize money is only significant at a small number of big shows and therefore more icing on the cake for those who win than motive for taking part.
- Judges in few animal classes receive formal training/qualification. Most breed societies, however, have progression through the ranks often with junior judges being mentored.
- All I spoke to appear to have many defined types/breeds of animal within their species and traits judged including for specific purposes (eg. muscle depth, fat, growth for beef cattle).
- For breeding cattle, new measures/indices such as *Estimated Breeding Value* or *Genetic Breeding Value* have been introduced to help provide a better guide to the animals' value in the commercial world and comparative data between different shows.

## Future

---

- Cat shows operate a points system which gives an indication of the relative merit of a show win. [Over to you Vikki]
- Most are agreed on some key traits as important in judging but still some leeway for subjectivity.
- Known preferences of individual judges can influence breeders to show or not to show where it has been announced who the judge will be.
- Sometimes individual animals/breeders do dominate shows across the country and sometimes for several years putting others off entering.

It may be that some of these features are peculiarly British mentality/tradition.

### Postscript

I have attempted at all stages of this Report to be honest, at times even brutally so, and I have to conclude that whilst it has got to the bottom of some problems and come up with a few ideas to move things forward, it remains a chicken and egg scenario as to whether people will vote with their feet, volunteers offer their services and others allow change to take place. Personally, I believe that so far as developing showing is concerned, it will come down to the extent to which the BLS is dominated by serious breeders with stockman mentality or hobbyists more interested in the novelty value of llamas as pets. This point could not be better illustrated than when a current exhibitor, on listening to my thoughts, rejected the ideas for fear of their llamas being ‘assassinated’ by an experienced foreign judge. I guess that if imported llamas or their offspring are deemed superior there is also a chance that those who have made the investment will dominate the scene and in so doing discourage others from entering. The results of the national llama show in Italy show that a single breeder (who also imports llamas from South America) has consistently dominated the podium, taking 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in almost every class for well over a decade. Logically, there is no way of faulting this but some may emotionally consider such a monopoly – demoralising, etc. That said, no breeder can remain viable without selling some of their offspring and at least a few might pass through the net. It is that old political dilemma ‘pull up from above or build from beneath’, on which opinion both historically and cross culturally is always split.

## Appendices

The Appendices which follow are included to illustrate the status quo for the UK and ILR in terms of guidelines for types, etc. It is not suggested that one should replace the other but have been included in considerable detail to provide guidance of what might be usefully extracted to enhance and develop what is currently practiced in the UK. The Appendices dealing specifically with Ccara Llamas are in greater details because this is the type most common in the UK and for the foreseeable future will dominate the British Llama show scene.

## Appendix 4.1a – BLS Leaflets



British Llama Society

# INFORMATION LEAFLET

## Guidelines on showing llamas

---

### General Procedures

Most of the show classes take place at an established Agricultural Show, e.g. Salisbury, Ardingly, North Somerset, Newark etc, whose rules may supersede these guidelines. The Secretary of the Show makes the arrangements, and issues the entry forms; entry forms have to be returned to the Show Secretary by a specified date. Normally the Show Catalogue will give the name of all the competitors, and details of their animals (including dates of birth). From 1999 the Association has requested Show Secretaries to stipulate that only animals registered with the British Llama Society will be eligible to take part. Show Secretaries may liaise with the Registration Officer to check that all entries are registered animals.

The Judge's role is to judge the animal as he/she sees it on the day. It is an accepted principle that the Judge has no information about any of the animals before going into the ring. If the Judge requires more information he/she will ask the Ring Steward. After making his/her decision the Judge will be asked to say a few words to the competitors and public giving his/her reasons for the order of placement.

The Judge makes his/her own notes and the results of the classes are written in the

judging book by the Ring Steward; when the Judge has approved this he/she signs it. It is not normal practice for the Show Secretary to send a list of results to the Society unless a specific request is made. We must therefore ensure that we have requested this information from the Show Secretaries.

### Ring Procedures

a) Dress code: **Smart** trousers/skirt, shirt/blouse, and white coat; shorts, sandals and casual hats e.g. baseball caps will NOT be regarded as SMART. Any competitor not suitably attired will not be allowed in the ring. The owner/handler has a responsibility to his/her llama to be smartly dressed; if you look shabby you are letting your animal down and are being disrespectful to the Judge. Entry numbers are to be displayed as directed by the Ring Steward. No advertising is permitted in the ring on either animal or handler.

b) Animals must wear correctly fitting head collars and be easily led around the ring. If an animal is being disruptive the Judge may ask the Ring Steward to have it removed from the ring.

c) Stringent stewarding is required to ensure competitors and their animals are well behaved. Competitors must pay attention to the judge. There must be no chatting among competitors, or between competitors and spectators. All mobile phones **MUST** be switched off.

## Appendices

---

d) Handlers and their animals must be ready for their class and be prepared to enter the ring as soon as the previous class has been completed; if they are not ready they risk being excluded; the judge should not be expected to wait, nor should the ring steward be expected to search out competitors. Competitors must walk clockwise around the ring, leading their animal from its left-hand side unless directed otherwise by the Ring Steward or Judge.

e) After leaving the ring competitors must take the animal they have shown away from the ringside so as not to cause a distraction to animals still in the ring.

f) Where possible the Ring Steward should collect some dung and form a 'decoy' dung pile in the collecting ring; animals must be encouraged to use this dung pile before entering the main ring in order to minimise delay and disruption to classes from unscheduled collective 'toilet stops'.

g) Crias under the age of six months and lactating females must not be brought to the show ground.

h) Having mature males and females in close proximity can cause disruption at Shows. In order to avoid such a problem, classes for mature males and mature females, should be kept as far apart in time as is possible.

i) It is obviously very important that we have effective Ring Stewards. Sometimes these will be provided by the Show itself and other times they may have to be provided by the Society. The role of the Steward is to enforce the Rules and to ensure the smooth running of the Show. Competitors must follow instructions given by the Steward. The Association must always provide a Steward as back up to stewards provided by the show organisers.

j) Advertising within the curtilage of your pens may be permitted by the Show Organisers. This could include leaflets in holders and small banners giving your details. No product selling may take place. Your pen area is your responsibility and must be kept tidy at all times. If you wish to advertise on your pens it is advisable to check with the

show organiser as to what is permitted as each show could be different.

k) For Fleece on the Hoof classes animals must be able to stand quietly to be examined by the Judge who will feel and part the fleece. Judges also need to take a small fleece sample from the animal

l) Jaw alignment will be checked by a judge. This may be a visual check, or some judges may prefer to ask exhibitors to display the animal's jaw line. Bio-security measures should be followed.

m) Grooming: no commercial or non-commercial product may be used on your animal. If an exhibitor is seen using any product, a steward should be informed and the animal may be disqualified from the ring.

n) Woolly/Non-Woolly llamas: Judges to be informed that a woolly llama is acceptable and is a llama.

o) Champion Gelding: BLS will award a cup for the Champion Gelding on a points system. Show Secretaries should send results, together with full details of llamas, to the Regional Co-ordinator. The cup will be awarded at the Annual Meeting, based on points accrued since the previous meeting. This does not prevent a show presenting a Champion Gelding award if it wishes.

p) A small sample of fleece may be removed by the judge from animals in the ring.

q) As a general rule, children under the age of 14 years are not normally allowed to be handlers.

r) All show results and details of llamas should be sent to the Regional Co-ordinator.

## Appendices

---

### **BLS Annual Show - Rules and Conditions relating to the Llama Classes.**

#### ENTRIES ACCEPTED FROM BRITISH LLAMA SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY

All entries must be accompanied by correct remittance and are received on the condition that the Organisers accept no responsibility for any loss or damage or accident etc. which may be sustained to vehicles, animals or persons or any property whatsoever.

All Exhibitors must warrant that the animals entered have been in a fit and healthy condition for the last six months. Animals showing signs of infection or other disease of any kind must be immediately removed from the Showground on Veterinary Instructions.

All exhibitors must comply with all animal health and transportation regulations set out by the organisers and DEFRA.

Pens will be provided by the organisers and allocated according to number of entries per exhibitor.

1. The Show will be run in accordance with the BLS Rules
2. The Organisers reserve the right to cancel or combine any class with five or less entries. (If cancelled refund of fees will be made).
3. The age of the animal is at the date of the Show.
4. All animals **MUST BE PENNED** by 0800 on day of class and **MUST NOT BE REMOVED** from the Showground until 1700 the same day. Animals arriving after 0800 may be disqualified. Animals may stay on site overnight. Security will be provided by the Organisers but no responsibility can be accepted. Owners wishing to leave animals overnight **MUST** liaise with the Chief Steward.
5. Animals must not be walked round any area of the showground other than the area allocated to them by the Stewards. Once finished in the showing ring all animals must be removed from the ring area immediately and returned to their pens.
6. The Decision of the Judge is final.
7. All Llamas **MUST** wear head collars at all times.
8. No mobile telephones are permitted in the show ring.
9. In the unlikely event of a serious accident to an animal and on the recommendation of the Show Veterinary Officers that the animal be slaughtered all efforts will be made to contact the animal's owner for consent to slaughter. If the owner cannot be found within a reasonable period of time a police officer on site will be asked to provide written authority as empowered under the Protection of Animals Act 1911.
10. Animals should be shown in a clean, well presented, but natural manner. Exhibitors must keep the pens allotted to their animals clean, and give proper attention to their stock throughout the show.
11. Exhibitors must provide their own feed as well as feed and water containers.  
Llama Exhibitors may be interested in a Sheep Section Class. There is Class 840 in the Sheep Section of the schedule for 'All wool skein, from any animal fleece, natural coloured, plied'.
12. Entry Fees Saturday classes BLS Members £5.00 per class  
Sunday classes BLS Members **FREE ENTRY**  
Pens Up to 2 animals £5 more than 2 animals £10  
Entries close August 1st. 20\*\*.

## Appendices

---

### ***Saturday Llamas***

Rosettes to 3 places

Class 1001 - Female Llama Junior 6 - 18 months of age

Class 1002 - Female Llama Intermediate 19 - 30 months of age

Class 1003 - Female Llama Adult over 31 months of age

Class 1004 - Male Llama Junior 6 - 18 months of age

Class 1005 - Male Llama Intermediate 19 - 30 months of age

Class 1006 - Male Llama Adult over 31 months of age

Class 1007 - Llama Supreme Championship

Supreme Championship open to winners of above classes

The 2nd. prize winner from the class which contains the Champion may

be invited to contest Reserve Champion

Championship and Reserve Championship Rosettes

Class 1008 - Gelding of 18 months and older

Class 1009A - Male Llama

### ***Sunday Llamas***

Entries may be taken on the day if space is available in class

Sunday Classes are Free entry

Rosettes to 3 places

Class 1010 – Best turned out llama (No entry fee)

Male, female or gelding

Class 1011 - Most handsome male llama (No entry fee)

Any age (audience vote)

Class 1012 - Most pretty female llama (No entry fee)

Any age (audience vote)

Class 1013 - Fleece on Hoof (No entry fee)

llama to be 2 years old and over, male, female or gelding

Class 1014 - Pack Carrying (No entry fee)

For llamas 2 years and older. Pack to be put on in the ring for judge to assess overall behaviour and suitability for purpose.

Class 1015 - Obstacle Competition (No entry fee)

Obstacle race against the clock over a course containing jumps and obstacles for llamas 6 months of age and over

Class 1016 - Egg and spoon race (No entry fee)

# Appendices

---

## Appendix 4.1 B – ILR Show division *Guidelines 2017*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 A. Mission Statement	
1 B. Governance	
1 C. Committees	
ILR-SD Committee Guidelines	
Committee Member Eligibility/Election/Appointment	
Term Length/Limits	
Committee Member Code of Conduct	
Current ILR-SD Committees	
Fleece Committee	
Finance Committee	
Halter Committee	
Judges Committee	
Performance Committee	
Rules and Guidelines Committee	
Youth Committee	
Show Superintendent Committee	
2 Animals	
2A.Registration Rules for Showing	
2B. Health, condition and fitness	
2C. Requirements for Awards:	
Exhibitors AND LLAMA ENTHUSIASTS	
Individuals who may not exhibit	
Superintendents, Judges and Apprentice Judges	
Recommendations for Showing	
Attire	
Conduct	
General	
ILR-SD Membership.	
No membership fee required:	
Membership fee payable by January 01 required:	
Judges and Apprentices	
JUDGES AND APPRENTICE JUDGES PROGRAM	

# Appendices

---

- Judges/Apprentice Dues
- Fast Track Apprentice Program for Approved or Experienced Judges
- Judging Apprenticeship Program (Halter, Performance, Showmanship, Youth)

## Fleece Judges

- Judges/Apprentice Dues (see Part IV.A.1.a)
- ILR-SD Teaching Fleece Judges (approved to accept apprentices)
- Fleece Judging Apprenticeship Program
- ILR-SD Teaching Judges (approved to accept apprentices)
- ILR-SD ADVANCED TEACHING Judge
- ILR-SD Seminar Leader/Facilitator

## Show Management

### Guidelines for Holding An ILR-SD Show

- Sanctioning Requirements
- Dual Sanctioned Shows – ILR-SD Sanctioned Shows held in conjunction with another show.
- Protests
- Procedure for making a protest
- Procedure for appealing a protest decision

## Performance

### Performance Guidelines

#### Performance Safety

#### Performance Classes

#### Suggestions for Optional Performance Classes

#### Performance Guidelines for Obstacles / Tasks

#### Performance Handling

#### Novice Performance Animals: Novice refers to the animal's ability

#### Performance Judging

#### Performance Youth

#### General Performance Guidelines

#### Performance Champions

#### Performance Obstacle Guides and Gauges

#### Performance: Trail / Pack Division

#### Description of the Trail / Pack Division

#### Packs

#### Suggested Tasks for the Trail / Pack Division

#### Recommended Pack Placement

# Appendices

---

Performance: Public Relations / Companion DIVISION  
Description of the Public Relations / Companion Division  
Suggested Tasks for the Public Relations / Companion Division

Performance: Freestyle-Obstacle Challenge DIVISION  
Description of the Freestyle Obstacle Challenge Division  
Suggested tasks for the Freestyle Obstacle Challenge Division

Llama Driving Division  
Description of the Llama Driving Division  
Approved Driving Classes/Trials  
Optional Driving Classes/Trials  
Guidelines for the Driving Division  
Driving Division Scoring  
Recommended Tasks for Open Road Pleasure Driving (or ground driving)  
Recommended tasks for Obstacle/Maneuvering Driving

ILR-SD Performance Scoring  
Performance Scoring Overview  
Performance Scoring Definitions and Guidelines  
Performance Scoring system

Camelid Companion Certification

Fleece  
Types of Fleece classes  
    Shorn Fleece Classes  
    Coat On/Fleece On the Llama  
    Two-ounce Fleece Sample  
    Finished Product Classes.  
    Shorn Llama Fleece Classes  
    Shorn Fleece Divisions  
    Shorn Fleece Age divisions  
    Sub-divisions by Gender  
    Shorn Fleece Guidelines  
    Shorn Fleece Judging Criteria  
    Coat-On and Fleece-On Fiber Evaluation  
    Coat-On Divisions  
    Fleece-On Divisions  
    Coat-On and Fleece-On Age divisions for llama at date of shearing  
    Coat-On and Fleece-On Subdivision by Staple Length  
    Coat-On and Fleece-On Further Sub-divisions by Gender

## Appendices

---

Coat-On and Fleece-On Guidelines  
Two ounce fleece sample  
Two Ounce Fleece Sample Procedure  
Two Ounce Fleece Sample Entry Requirements  
Guidelines for Fleece Products  
Fleece Products classes:  
Fleece Product Exhibitor Age or Experience Subdivisions  
Fleece Product Fibre Content Subdivisions  
Fibre Product Guidelines  
Fibre Product Yarn entries:  
OPTIONAL COLOR CLASS: (Non-point)  
optional Merit system: (Non-Point)  
Definitions for Llama Fleece Evaluation

### Halter

APPROVED HALTER Classes  
Approved Halter Class Guidelines  
Approved Halter Divisions:  
Show Order for Halter Classes  
Halter Class Age Divisions  
LR-SD Approved Halter Class Descriptions:  
Suri  
Silky  
Classic  
Light Wool  
Medium Wool  
Moderate Heavy Wool  
Extreme Heavy Wool  
Working Non-Breeder:  
Fleece Non-Breeder  
Miniature: see section XIV

### Production Classes

Purpose of Production Classes  
Approved Production Classes

### Best in Show

Best in Show Guidelines

### Halter Class Definitions

### Composite Award

Purpose of the Composite Award  
Eligibility for the Composite Award

## Appendices

---

Implementation of the Composite Award

Method for scoring:

    Showmanship

    Showmanship is a skills based class

    Showmanship Procedures and Judging

Showmanship classes

Miniature Llama Guidelines

About the Miniature Llama Division

Purpose of the Miniature Llama Division

Requisites for Llamas to show in Miniature Classes

Miniature Llama Halter Classes

Miniature Llama Judging Guidelines

Miniature Llama Fibre Divisions

Miniature Llama Breeder Classes

Miniature Llama Non-Breeder Classes

Miniature Llama Performance Classes

Miniature Llama Performance Class Guidelines

ILR Youth Division

Youth Mission Statement

Youth-specific Guidelines For Showing

Offering Youth Classes

Youth Age Divisions

Animal Eligibility FOR Youth Classes

Approved Youth Point Classes

Youth Class Descriptions and Guidelines

Youth Showmanship Classes

Youth Performance Classes

Optional Youth Classes

ILR-SD Youth Judging Competition

Participants

Fees

Classes to be Judged

Process

Recognition

Youth Awards

Youth Champion and Reserve Youth Champion

Youth Sportsmanship

Youth Year-End Awards

Youth Scholarships or Grants

Eligibility and Criteria

Suggested Youth Scholarships or Grants.

# Appendices

---

Guidelines Modification History

APPENDIX A: Sample Forms

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 4.2 a - Italian Association of Llama & Alpaca Breeders and Keepers Recognized Types

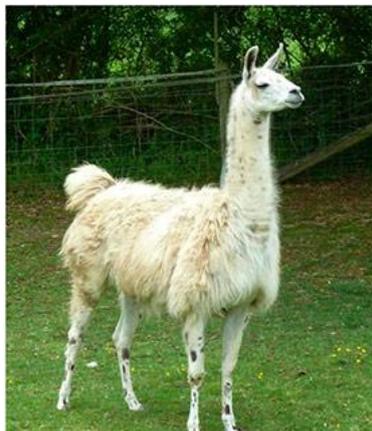
#### **The Classic blade**

A solid animal with a rather long head, straight or slightly "banana" ears. The hair remains short on the head, ears, neck and legs. On the body, instead, the hair is thick and forms a thick and homogeneous coat. On the neck, but also on the body, the hair is characterized by the strong presence of "crazy hairs", more 'long, frizzy and thicker than the rest, to form a kind of mane along the neck. On the body, on the other hand, the hair is distributed in two layers: a hair shorter and shorter below, and the "fur pile", more 'long, frizzy and thick above (double-coated).



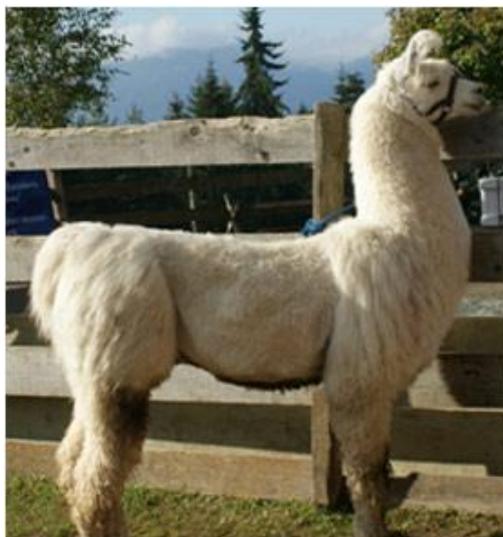
#### **The Medium blade**

An animal of medium or large size, with head and ears similar to those of the classic. Also in this case the hair on the head and on the legs is shorter, and longer on the body and on the neck, sometimes even the hair is so long to cover half of the legs. The fiber is fine, even in this case there are two layers of hair, the lower one is shorter and the upper one is longer. The length of the hair is greater than the classic.



## Appendices

---



### **The Woolly Blade**

It is the specimen from the smallest size among the llamas, and morphologically there are also several types: from the more delicate aspect, with a small and elongated head (common characteristics among the Chilean llamas) up to the most 'massive, with heavy head (typical of Argentine llamas). The hair is thick from the ears to the hocks, often even up to the feet of the animal. The fiber is thin, sometimes slightly ruffled; the length of the hair is greater than the mediums.



### **The Suri blade**

Also in this case the dimensions are more 'noticed. The elongated head, the thick hair, from the ears up to the hock, in some specimens even up to the feet. The coat falls along the finachi of the animal, giving it a particularly long-limbed appearance. The fiber is uniform, shiny, without crimp (ripples). The hair strands can be straight or wavy. The hair is very long.

# Appendices

---

## Appendix 4.2b ILR Halter Classes

### X. HALTER

#### A. APPROVED HALTER CLASSES

1. Approved Halter Class Guidelines
  - a) Halter classes will be judged based on the conformation of the animals in the class as viewed from the front, rear and the side while in motion and at rest. The overall conformation & balance will be considered as well as evaluation of the smoothness of gait while in motion. The judge, at his/her discretion may assign a small portion of the overall evaluation to fleece. It is the job of the halter judge to evaluate the animal as a whole based on positive attributes of individual fiber types. The fleece is a positive attribute and should be acknowledged; however the judge should not lose sight that overall conformation, balance and movement are of critical importance.
  - b) Judges will be asked to give oral reasons for all halter classes. In classes with multiple judges, only one judge will be asked to give oral reasons and the judges and show management can define a plan to facilitate this.
  - c) All first and seconds in each class return to be placed for Grand and Reserve Champions and the entire champion class be placed by the judges and awarded points, however, ribbons/awards need only be given to the Grand and Reserve.
  - d) Points awarded for the championship group be based on the total number of animals in the entire fleece and sex division, and these points be awarded in addition to the class awarded points.
  - e) Animals may show in only one approved halter class. Points will be recorded for ILR-SD members.
  - f) ILR-SD sanctioned shows are not required to offer all halter classes. Classes may be combined as needed to achieve adequate numbers for optimal points or if entries in a particular class are very small, or may be split into two classes if entries in a particular division are too large. The goal of combined classes is to compare animals of similar phenotype and fleece characteristics and keep the competition comparable for all competitors.
  - g) Animals are encouraged to be shown in any optional specialty classes offered by show management; however, no points will be assigned for optional classes.
2. Approved Halter Divisions:
  - a) The purpose of these divisions is to sort groups of animals exhibiting similar phenotype and fleece characteristics for judging, and keep the competition fair and to optimize the available points for all competitors. The judging of ALL divisions will be based on conformation and the use of positive fleece characteristics in close pairs (as stated in section XI.

ca

## Appendices

---

### Halter, part 1a).

- b) Note: show management has the discretion to combine any of the approved divisions and/or split the combined approved divisions based on entry numbers or exhibitor demographics (as stated in section XI, Halter, part 1f). Classes may be combined as Superintendents so choose.

- (1) Suri
- (2) Silky
- (3) Classic
- (4) Light Wool
- (5) Medium Wool
- (6) Moderate Heavy Wool
- (7) Extreme Heavy Wool
- (8) Working Non-Breeder
- (9) Fleece Non-Breeder
- (10) Miniature

### 3. Show Order for Halter Classes

- a) "Classic", "Suri" and "Silky" are descriptions of fleece *characteristics*. The other classes consider fleece *coverage*. Thus, so that animals that, per the judge, fail to have the desired fleece characteristics for a class in which they have been entered may then be moved to the appropriate fleece coverage class, halter class order should be:
- (1) Suri
  - (2) Silky
  - (3) Classic
  - (4) Light Wool
  - (5) Medium Wool
  - (6) Moderate Heavy Wool
  - (7) Extreme Heavy Wool
- b) Judges have the discretion to move animals out of the exhibitor – registered fleece divisions if the animal does not fit with the rest of the animals in the class.
- c) Miniature and non-breeder classes may be placed *anywhere* in the show schedule at show management discretion.

## Appendices

---

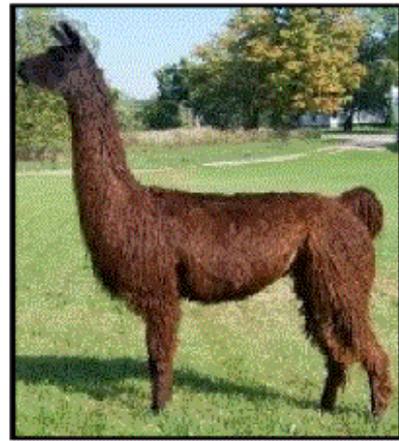
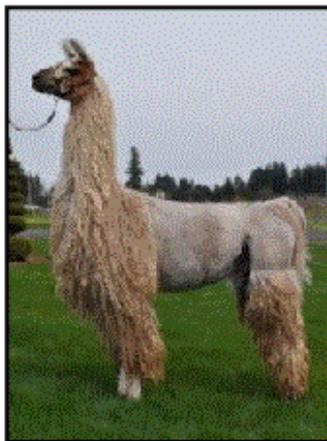
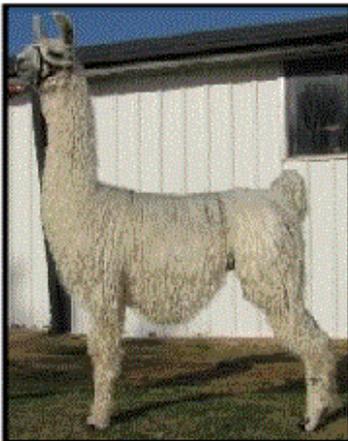
4. Halter Class Age Divisions
  - a) Show management should determine the age divisions appropriate for their part of the country to provide exhibitors with classes that will optimize the number in each class to maximize points and competition.
  - b) Animal age on day of show will be used to determine appropriate class.
  - c) Suggested age divisions include:
    - (1) Juveniles – 5 - <12 months – may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age, i.e. junior juvenile and senior juvenile
    - (2) Yearling – 12 - <24 months - may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age, i.e. junior yearlings and senior yearlings.
    - (3) Two-year olds – 24 - <36 months may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age.
    - (4) Mature – 36 months or more. May be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age.
  - d) Show management may combine or divide classes as needed to optimize points and evenly distribute ages of entries.
  - e) All mature animals would show in the show-assigned class, but points would be awarded to “producing mature animals” (animals with ILR registered offspring) and “non-producing mature animals” (animals without ILR registered offspring).

## Appendices

---

### B. ILR-SD APPROVED HALTER CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Suri
  - a) Fiber exhibits a distinct locked architecture with luster
  - b) Fiber hangs straight down from the midline on the back
  - c) Consists of locks that form close to the skin
  - d) Fiber exhibits independent movement
  - e) Fiber exhibits a cool, slick handle
  - f) Fiber exhibits no crimp
  - g) Fiber exhibits no loft
  - h) Coverage may vary from light to heavy
  - i) Ideally entries exhibit the majority of these criteria

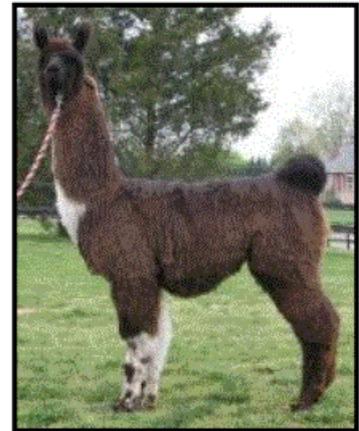
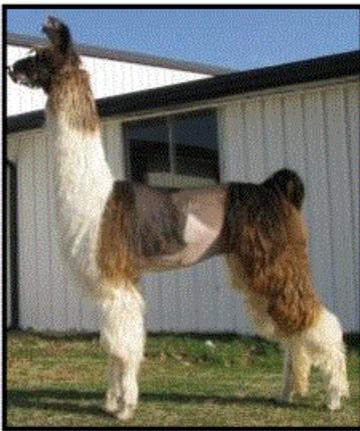


Suri Llama Examples

## Appendices

---

2. Silky
  - a) Fiber exhibits a very soft or silky handle
  - b) Fiber may exhibit some wave or crinkle but not crimp
  - c) Fiber may exhibit some loft
  - d) Fiber may exhibit luster
  - e) Guard hair is nearly indiscernible
  - f) Coverage may vary from light to heavy
  - g) Ideally entries exhibit the majority of these criteria

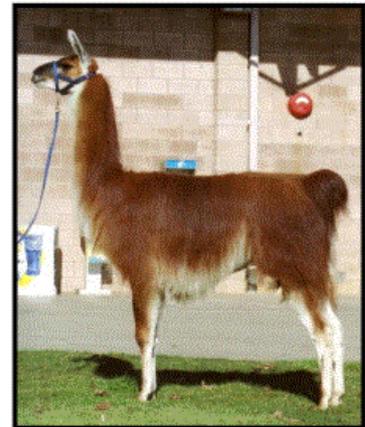
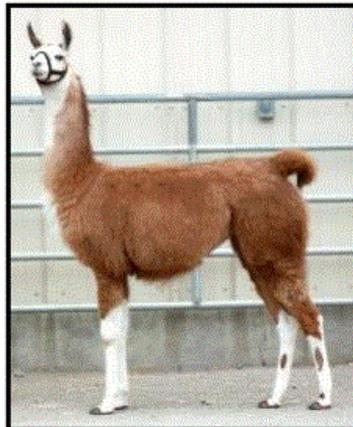
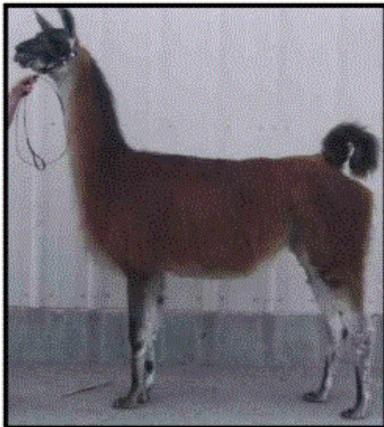


Silky Llama Examples

## Appendices

---

3. Classic
- a) Abundant guard hair visible on the body and neck of the animal, with short and minimal “downy” undercoat
  - b) The presence of a guard hair “mane” on the back of the neck.
  - c) A natural change in the fleece at the level of the elbow/stifle, with the fleece below this point being very short.
  - d) Natural windows of short fleece – brisket, belly, flank.
  - e) Minimal Fleece on legs/head with characteristics like guard hair, not the downy undercoat.

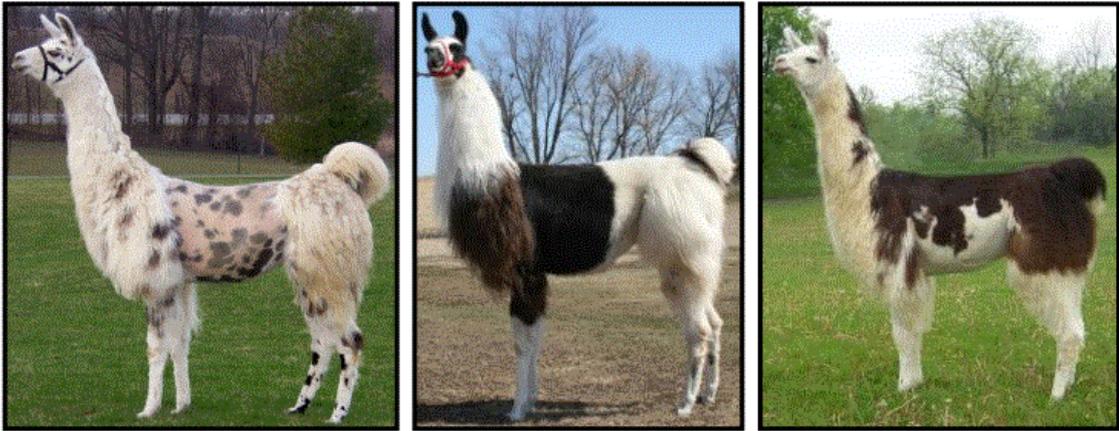


Classic Llama Examples

## Appendices

---

4. Light Wool
  - a) Most will have double coat with moderate density but short length
  - b) Fleece coverage should rapidly decline below the elbow/stifle, and be very short below the knee/hock
  - c) Most animals will exhibit obvious guard hair that is longer than the undercoat.

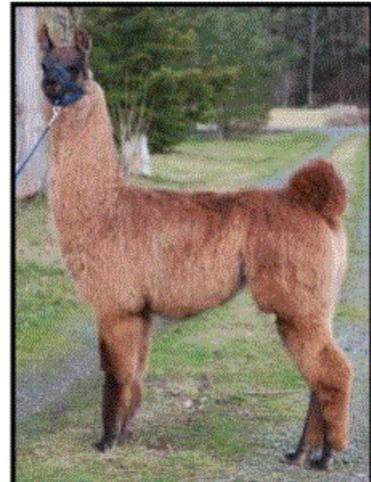
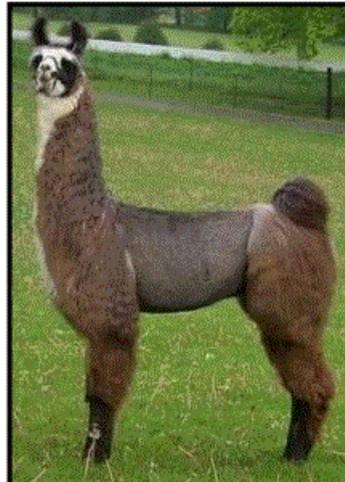
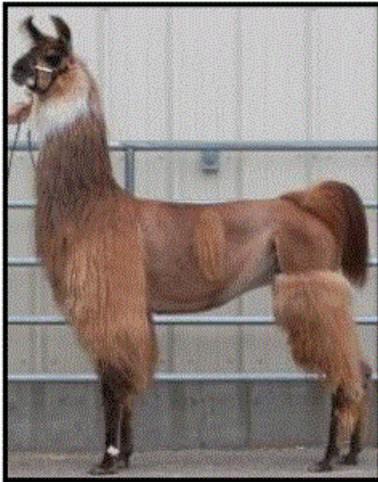


Light Wool Llama Examples

## Appendices

---

5. Medium Wool
- a) Animals may be double coated with moderate density and length.
  - b) Front legs may exhibit coverage extending down the leg with minimal coverage below the knee.
  - c) Rear legs may exhibit coverage extending down the leg with minimal coverage below the hock.



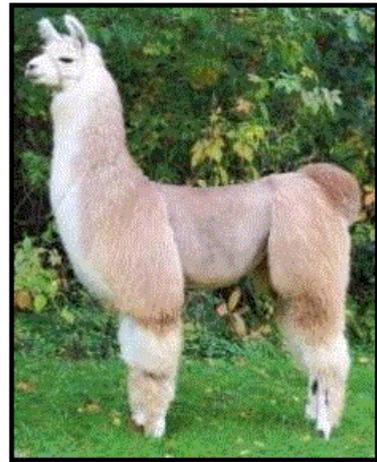
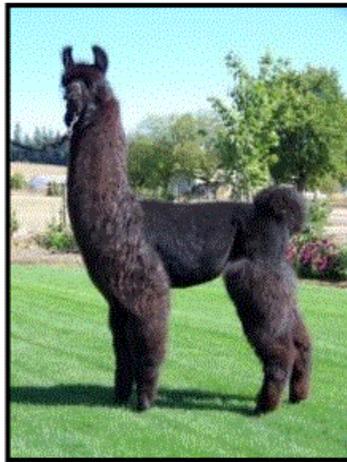
Medium Wool Llama Examples

## Appendices

---

6. Moderate Heavy Wool

- a) Animals will exhibit even neck fleece that blends into body fleece of moderate density and length.
- b) Front legs will exhibit coverage down to the knees, potentially down to the toes with a decline in coverage below the knees.
- c) Rear legs will exhibit coverage down to the pastern on the back of the legs with minimal coverage on the front of the legs.



Moderate Heavy Wool Llama Examples

## Appendices

---

7. Extreme Heavy Wool
  - a) Will exhibit abundant neck and body fleece
  - b) Front legs will exhibit coverage down to the toes maintaining heavy coverage below the knees
  - c) Rear legs will exhibit dense coverage down the back of the legs along with fiber on the front side of the legs



Extreme Heavy Wool Llama Examples

8. Working Non-Breeder:
  - a) Gelded males or Spayed females meeting the fleece descriptions for Classic, Light Wool or Medium Wool.
9. Fleece Non-Breeder
  - a) Gelded males or spayed females meeting the fleece requirements for Suri, Silky, Moderate Heavy or Extreme Heavy Wool.
10. Miniature: see section XIV.

# Appendices

---

## Appendix 4.4a – ILR Judges Training Course

### JUDGES AND APPRENTICE JUDGES PROGRAM

#### 1. Judges/Apprentice Dues

a) Effective January 1, 2013, the annual Judges/Apprentice dues will be \$35.00 and this will include a copy of the current Guidelines book. Dues must be paid by January 01 of each year. Judges whose dues are not paid by January 01 will have their names removed from the active Judges list. See section J below.

b) Anyone entering the ILR-SD Judges program, either with the intent to Fast Track or as an Apprentice, along with all current Judges needs to pay the annual Judge/Apprentice dues.

#### 2. Fast Track Apprentice Program for Approved or Experienced Judges

a) Criteria for entering Fast Track Program:

1) Send letter of request to the ILR-SD Judges' Committee to enter the program, via email: [judgescommittee@lamaregistry.com](mailto:judgescommittee@lamaregistry.com).

i) List qualifications and experience.

ii) Include at least three (3) letters of recommendations from ILR-SD certified judges.

b) If accepted, complete at least one of the following criteria:

i) Attend one or more days of an ILR-SD Educational Seminar, completing all areas in which to be certified.

ii) Complete a mentorship under an ILR-SD approved Teaching Judge using one of the following methods: a. Mentor with an approved Teaching Judge at a sanctioned ILR-SD show.

b. Mentor with an approved Teaching Judge at a farm.

c. Mentorships must consist of a full day of judging activity at either a farm or show. A full day is defined as a minimum of 8 hours spent actively working together.

iii) One or more criteria may be required after receipt of evaluation from the above criteria. Once approved & recommended by the ILR-SD Judges' Committee and approved by the ILR-SD Governing Board, the following will apply: a. Once permanently certified, there will be **no** further paperwork or requirements with the exception of an open book ILR-SD Guidelines

Test sent at the beginning of each year to be completed and returned to the Judges' Committee not later than February 28 of each year.

#### 3. Judging Apprenticeship Program (Halter, Performance, Showmanship, Youth)

a) Complete one Sanctioned ILR-SD Educational Judging and Refresher Seminar

## Appendices

---

b) Complete one current ILR-SD Guidelines open book test

c) Receive satisfactory evaluations from all Seminar Section Leaders/Teaching Judges.

(i) Seminar attendees who wish to enter the judging program must participate and be evaluated in all sections of the seminar in which they wish to apprentice.

d) Receive approval to seek apprenticeships with ILR-SD approved "Teaching Judges" and permission from show superintendent to apprentice at their show.

(i) Apprenticeships or mentorships must be with a Teaching Judge. Certified judges, not approved as Teaching Judges, may **not** accept an apprentice in the show ring even as an observer for experience only.

(ii) Apprentices may participate in an open show for experience ONLY under an ILR-SD Teaching Judge. Comments received from the Teaching Judge will be added to the Apprentice file. A minimum of one or more apprenticeships will be required at an ILR-SD sanctioned show. a. No apprenticeships are permitted at "The Gathering" (considered a National show).

e) No apprentice may act as a second judge in performance at the first apprenticeship. Apprentice will request approval from the ILR-SD Judges' Committee before accepting assignment as 2<sup>nd</sup> judge in performance classes. If during an apprenticeship after completion of first apprenticeship, the Teaching Judge approves the apprentice as 2<sup>nd</sup> judge in performance classes for that show, request to judges' committee will be waived.

f) A minimum of three (3) apprenticeships will be required at ILR-SD sanctioned shows, under at least two (2) different Teaching Judges.

g) Provisional Variation: Upon request and subsequent approval from the ILR-SD Judges' Committee, an ILR-SD member wishing to serve as an apprentice (who has obtained permission from Show Superintendent and Officiating Teaching Judge) may do so **once**, prior to participating in an ILR-SD Seminar.

h) Interested parties may enter the apprenticeship program any time during or after the year of their 18th birthday. Upon satisfactorily completing Items "a"

a. Attend an ILR-SD Fleece Clinic Workshop b. Complete a mentorship under an ILR-SD approved Fleece Teaching Judge using one of the following methods: i. Mentor with an approved Fleece Teaching Judge at a sanctioned ILR-SD show

ii. Mentor with an approved Fleece Teaching Judge at a farm through "f" above, the apprentice will be named on the ILR-SD Approved Judges' List. After completing at least one year as an approved Judge, having judged at least three (3) shows, and upon reaching their 21st birthday, a request may be sent to the ILR-SD Judges' Committee for Permanent Certification status.

# Appendices

---

## B. FLEECE JUDGES

### 1. Judges/Apprentice Dues

a) Effective January 1, 2013, the annual Judges/Apprentice dues will be \$35.00. This will include a hard copy of the current Guidelines Book.

b) Anyone entering the ILR-SD Judges' program, either with intent to Fast Track or as an Apprentice, along with all current Judges needs to pay the annual Judge's Dues.

### 2. Fast Track Program for Approved or Experienced Judges

#### a) Criteria for entering Fast Track Program:

1) Send letter of request to the ILR-SD Judges' Committee to enter the program via email: [judgescommittee@lamaregistry.com](mailto:judgescommittee@lamaregistry.com).

i. List qualifications and experience.

ii. Include at least three (3) letters of recommendation from ILR-SD certified Fleece Judges.

**iii. Mentorships must consist of a full day of judging activity at either a farm or show. A full day is defined as a minimum of 8 hours spent actively working together.**

b) If accepted, complete at least one of the following criteria:

a) One or more criteria may be required after receipt of evaluation from the above criteria. Once approved & recommended by the ILR-SD Judges' Committee and approved by the ILR-SD Governing Board, the following will apply: i. Once permanently certified, there will be **no** further paperwork or requirements with the exception of an open book ILR-SD Guidelines

Test sent at the beginning of each year to be completed and returned to the Judges' Committee not later than February 28 of each year.

### 3. ILR-SD Teaching Fleece Judges (approved to accept apprentices)

c) The following steps need to be completed by those wishing to become an approved teaching judge:

(1) Submit letter to ILR-SD Judges' Committee requesting consideration

(2) Example of teaching experience or reason you feel confident in your ability to assist judges in using & understanding the ILR-SD Guidelines at ILR-SD sanctioned shows.

(3) List at least two ILR-SD fleece shows judged and at least four other activities, such as open or sanctioned shows judged within last 4 years (excluding 4-H or Youth only shows), fleece workshops, conducted educational seminars, speak at lama conferences.

(4) Not be on probation for judging or ethical improprieties

## Appendices

---

(5) Attend an approved ILR-SD Fleece Judging Clinic or complete a mentorship under an approved teaching judge

d) b) It is important that this association is seen as conscientious in approval and training of ILR-SD certified judges, thus assuring exhibitors of qualified and experienced judges. Following this ONE TIME certification process of Grandfathered fleece qualified judging applicants, the only future specification would be an open book test on ILR-SD guidelines to be completed and returned by February 28 of each year.

### 2. 4. Fleece Judging Apprenticeship Program

a) Complete one Sanctioned ILR-SD Fleece Judging Clinic.

b) Complete one ILR-SD Fleece Open Book test.

c) Receive satisfactory evaluations from all Seminar/Clinic Instructors.

d) Seminar attendees who wish to enter the judging program must participate and be evaluated in all Fleece sections of the seminar in which they wish to apprentice.

(2) Those wishing to enter the apprenticeship program must pay current Judge's Dues.

d) Receive approval to seek apprenticeship with ILR-SD Fleece Teaching Judge and permission from show superintendent to apprentice at their show.

(1) Apprenticeships or mentorships must be with a Fleece Teaching Judge. Certified Fleece Judges, not approved as Fleece Teaching Judges, may **not** accept an apprentice in the show ring even as an observer for experience only.

(2) Apprentices may participate in an open show for experience under an ILR-SD Teaching Judge; however no credit will be given. 15

(3) A minimum of three apprenticeships will be required at ILR-SD sanctioned Fleece shows, under at least two (2) different Teaching Judges.

(4) Apprentices need to have evaluated a total of 50 Shorn and 75 Fleece On and one dozen Fleece Products during this time.

(5) No apprenticeships are permitted at "The Gathering" (considered a National show).

e) Interested parties may enter the Fleece apprenticeship program after the year of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Upon satisfactorily completing items a through d above, the apprentice should then write to the Judges Committee requesting to be placed on the ILR-SD Approved List of Fleece Judges. After completing at least one year as an approved Fleece Judge, and having judged at least 3 ILR-SD Fleece shows, and upon reaching their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, said judge should request to the Judges Committee to be placed at Permanent Certification Status.

**Also see: <http://www.alsashow.net/youthjudging.pdf>**

## Appendices

---

### **Appendix 4.4b - ALSA CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD JUDGE**

**1. Judges are knowledgeable.** They know what type of lama they're looking

for: what the ideal is . They recognize good free movement: how the feet and legs are supposed to work together. They know where to look for faults, unsoundness and blemishes.

**2. Judges have keen powers of observation.** They know how to look at a class and where to stand to see what they need to see. They have learned to observe and evaluate the whole lama and all his parts.

**3. Judges have learned to make comparisons.** They compare each lama to their ideal as well as to the other lamas in the class. They know how important a fault, or good point, is and how strongly to consider it in making their decision. They have learned to see not only that they have a difference, but *how different* it is.

**4. Judges are able to make decisions quickly.** Taking a long time to make a decision may lead the audience and the entrants to think you're not sure.

Developing your. Knowledge of lamas, your powers of observation, and your ability to make comparisons (the first three (characteristics) should enable you to make timely, informed decisions.

**5. Judges defend placings with reasons.** A good set of reasons is dependent on:

- accurate observation.
- an effective vocabulary of relevant terms.
- an orderly system.
- the ability to convey your thoughts in a convincing manner.

**6. Judges possess integrity.** Never let anything other than the lamas in your

class influence your decisions. The handler (unless you are judging a performance class), the audience, or your own knowledge of how a

particular animal has placed previously should be neither a positive nor

negative factor in your decision making process.

**7. Judges are always positive.** Remember that your job in the show ring is to

select the best lama in the class, not the worst. You must spend a lot of time learning the correct parts of the lama and how they interact.

But you must also learn about the deviations from these norms. Although

you must discuss faults in your reasons, you must give equal weight to the

positive characteristics that offset these faults.

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 4.4c ILR Definitions and Judging Criteria

**Soundness:** Free from flaw, defect, disease or injury.

**Unsoundness** :Physical disability that prevents the animal from being used for the purpose intended.

**Conformation:** Appropriate arrangement of body parts.

**Balance:** Proportionate shape or contour of the animal.

**Movement:** A reflection of the balance and conformation of an animal.

**Blemish:** A noticeable imperfection that does not affect the function, purpose or soundness of an animal.

**Disposition:** Mental attitude of an animal showing willing responsiveness.

**Condition:** Amount of finish or fat on an animal.

**Style:** The blending together of all body parts. Into an attractive package.

Measured at the highest. point of the withers

(top of shoulders) or **Height:** hip (top of rump).

#### **Breeding**

**Unsoundness:** Any condition preventing a male from impregnating the female or the female from delivering live, normal young.

**Overall Appearance:** Should be symmetrical, well balanced and proportioned forage.

**Head: Llama:** The head should be carried proudly and alertly.

Ears should be erect, fine and banana shaped. .

Jaws should have properly aligned teeth.

Neck should be in proportion with body.

Front legs should be straight with forward facing toes and strong, upright pasterns.

**Side view:** Rear legs should be relatively straight from hock to fetlock joint.

**Rear view:** Rear legs should be straight from hip to fetlock.

Toes should be forward facing and pasterns should be strong and upright

## Appendices

---

**Movement:** All limbs should move freely and smoothly in a correctly aligned pattern.

**Body:** Back should be strong, and have a reasonably straight topline.

Llamas should have adequate width and depth of chest, fullness of heart girth, and arch to the ribs (spring of rib).

**Fiber:** The fiber should exhibit. Healthy condition, uniformity, fineness, and density.

**Reproductive Organs:** Intact male testicles should both be visible and uniform in both size and placement. They should be of adequate size for the age of the lama.

Female genitalia should appear normal and of adequate size for age.

Style, presence, and wool coverage may all contribute to the eye appeal of the animal.

**Disposition:** A pleasant and tolerant demeanour is highly desirable.

**Eye Appeal:** Style, presence, and wool coverage may all contribute to the eye appeal of the animal.

### JUDGING CRITERIA: NEGATIVE TRAITS

**Angular Limb Deformity:** Excessive lateral or medial deviation of the bones and joints of the front and rear legs.

**Hump Back:** An increased convexity or upward curvature of the topline of the back.

**Sway Back:** An increased concavity or downward curvature of the top line of the back.

**Scoliosis:** Lateral curvature of spine and/or tail.

**Post-Leggedness:** Essentially a straight line from the stifle joint to the fetlock without the normal zig-zag pattern of the hind leg joints (as viewed from the side).

**Dropped Fetlock or Pastern:** A weak pastern, possibly resulting in the fetlock and/or pastern touching the ground.

**Cow Hocked:** The hocks are too close to the middle line as viewed from behind.

**Sickle Hocked:** An exaggerated zigzag pattern of the hind leg joints.

**Body Condition:** Excessive thinness or obesity.

### SERIOUS FAULTS

**Etopic Testicles:** One or both testicles not found in their usual location.

**Jaw Malocclusions:** The upper jaw is too short or the lower jaw is too long, contributing to protruding lower teeth. Occasionally the lower jaw is too short or the tipper jaw is too long.

## Appendices

---

**Female External Genitalia Abnormalities:** The lips of the vulva may be more horizontal rather than the normal vertical plane. The tip of the clitoris may be tipped up or too small.

**Umbilical Hernia:** A soft bulge at the site of the umbilicus.

**Ears:** Short, stubby ears that are not due to frostbite.

**Gonadal Hypoplasia:** Smallness of either one or both testicles.

---

# Appendices

---

## Appendix 4.5a Ccara Llamas Traits in General

Until recently, ccara or classic llamas were the only type in the UK. However, for all the reasons discussed above they no longer represent a distinct type in the UK, at least as they are defined by the Ccara Llama Association where they are expected to be distinctly athletic llamas capable of carrying packs. Below are the key traits identified by the Ccara Llama Association, followed by more in-depth discussion and illustration of these traits and finally a judging template complete with a weighted scoring system.

### The overall look and balance

The Ccara llama is, above all, a working animal and an athlete. The overall look should be one of power and grace, with an energy-efficient way of going. There will be no obvious deformities and the llama should move smoothly with a relatively long free stride. There will be an infinite range of body types from the streamlined lean and lanky frame to the more solid look with heavier bone and more bulky muscling.

#### 1. The feet and pasterns

The working llama needs a good base of support for continued soundness. Small dainty feet have no place in the world of the pack llama. It has been suggested a foot with a broad heel and short toes with a moderate 'vee' (not exaggerated as with a splayed foot) between the toes is desirable. It would seem likely that long toes would shift the animal's weight towards the rear of the foot, putting additional stress on the structures of the pastern

#### 2. The leg bones

Leg bones are the levers that propel the animal forward. The length of the various bones and their angles of attachment are a major factor in determining the length and mechanical efficiency of the stride. Angulation also determines the degree of shock absorption in the various joints.

#### 3. The front quarters

A long sloping shoulder provides for great range of motion, mechanical efficiency and excellent shock absorption when combined with a long upper arm (humerus). In a llama with these traits, a plumb line dropped to the ground from the base of the llama's neck will sit well ahead of the front legs.

#### 4. The hindquarters

Power for locomotion – the thrust – is provided by the hindquarters. Long upper leg bones maximize the area for muscle attachment. Long, well anchored muscles are needed here for the powerful and rapid contractions that will propel the loaded llama with ease. A long thigh (hip to stifle) and/or gaskin (stifle to hock) with good angulation in the hip and stifle joints provide the necessary shock absorption and range of motion capabilities. As with the

## Appendices

---

shoulder, a long sloping (as opposed to short, steep) hip, or pelvis, in the rangy llama is associated with efficiency of stride - endurance over distance.

### 5. [The back](#)

A strong back is essential in a pack llama and generally speaking, short backs are strong backs. Think of a long unsupported roof span with a heavy snow load.

### 6. [The neck](#)

The llama's neck acts as a counterbalance. Watch the llama lying flat on his side as he positions his body to rise. The first motion is a sort of flinging of the neck to gain the momentum to roll up to the sternal position. Llamas that have rigid horizontal necks resulting from spinal injuries are sometimes unable to rise from a prone position without assistance.

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 4.5b Ccara Llamas Traits in Detail

The Ccara llama is, above all, a working animal and an athlete. The overall look should be one of power and grace, with an energy-efficient way of going. There will be no obvious deformities and the llama should move smoothly with a relatively long free stride. There will be an infinite range of body types from the streamlined lean and lanky frame to the more solid look with heavier bone and more bulky muscling.

Light bone & muscling



Heavier bone & muscling



A relatively narrow stance with legs longer than depth of girth (See diagram of body Sec 7.) is a characteristic that has been related to athleticism in the working llama. A high leg length/girth depth ratio is associated with efficient use of energy; in other words, maximum work accomplished with minimum effort. The llama that uses less energy to perform a task because of an efficiently-designed body will last longer on the trail (i.e. more stamina.)

The llama's normal traveling gait - the pace - is accomplished by bringing the legs on the same side forward together as lateral pairs rather than moving the legs as diagonal pairs as do most equines. At the pace, the entire weight of the body is shifted from side to side with each stride. Stability of the pacing animal is enhanced with a narrow base of support, thus reducing the distance of the arc through which the topline of the animal travels with each stride.

#### The Feet and Pasterns

The working llama needs a good base of support for continued soundness. Small dainty feet have no place in the world of the pack llama. It has been suggested a foot with a broad heel and short toes with a moderate 'vee' (not exaggerated as with a splayed foot) between the toes is desirable. It would seem likely that long toes would shift the animal's weight towards the rear of the foot, putting additional stress on the structures of the pastern.

Dropped pasterns are a serious problem in the llama, putting an effective end to his packing days. Although various mineral supplements have been found helpful in the treatment of fallen pasterns,

## Appendices

---

strong pasterns are thought to be a heritable characteristic. Nutrition during development is likely a factor as well.

The llama with strong pasterns will not exhibit any marked degree of slackness or sag in the pastern as he strides along. Some very tall leggy llamas seem to have longer pasterns and perhaps they need the extra length for cushioning. Such pasterns may have some degree of spring or bounce but they are still very strong.



*Longer springy pasterns on a tall Ccara*



*An injury has resulted in this soft pastern on one front leg. A dropped pastern will result in the fetlock joint actually dropping right to the ground as the llama walks.*

### The Leg Bones

Leg bones are the levers that propel the animal forward. The length of the various bones and their angles of attachment are a major factor in determining the length and mechanical efficiency of the stride. Angulation also determines the degree of shock absorption in the various joints.

Some thought needs to be given to optimum bone size as well. Muscles are only as strong as the bones to which they are anchored. A llama too fine and light in the leg bones may have difficulty remaining sound over years of packing. A llama with extremely heavy bone may suffer from reduced

## Appendices

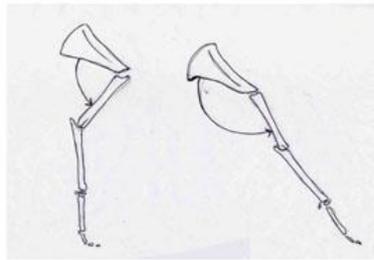
---

endurance. Optimum bone size has been determined in many equine breeds by measuring the circumference of the front cannon bones below the knee, and relating this measurement to long term performance.

Perhaps in time we will be able to determine optimum range of bone size in the working llama by this same method. A seamstress's tape measure pulled snugly around the front cannon bone just below the knee will do the trick. We have measured a light-boned llama at 5 ¼" circumference, a medium-boned llama at 5 ¾", and a heavier-boned llama with 6 ¼" cannon bones. Both the medium and the heavier-boned llamas are males, both proven high-end packers. The light-boned llama is a female.

There is likely a much wider variation in bone circumference than the figures given here. These are just a few llamas we did measure, and it is not known at this point how – or even if - bone size affects strength or stamina in the working llama.

Long upper leg bones for range of motion (reach and leverage) and short cannon bones for strength are very desirable.



The llama with a long sloping shoulder and long upper leg bones will have excellent range of motion and a long stride. Long strides require less energy to cover a given distance than do short choppy strides.



The lower the output of energy to cover a given distance, the greater the animal's stamina will be.

A *slight* toeing out both in front and behind is considered to be normal in the working llama. This is quite different from angular limb deformities such as knock knees and cow hocks, which are to be avoided.

It is important that the joints of the leg - the stifle, hock and fetlock joints behind, and the elbow, knee and fetlock in front - all be aligned in the same vertical plane to minimize stress on any one joint. If, for instance, the llama's hind toes point slightly outwards, then its stifle joints should also angle outwards slightly, and the hock joints slightly inwards.

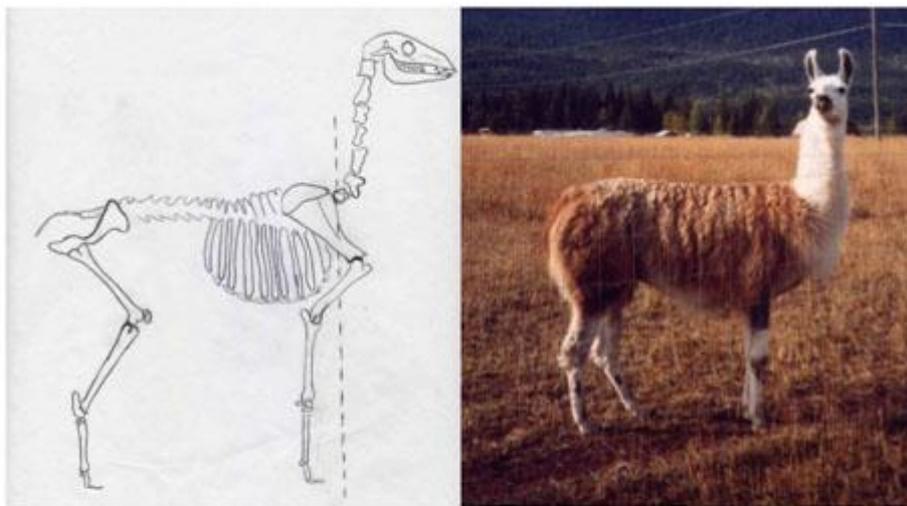
The Front Quarters

## Appendices

---

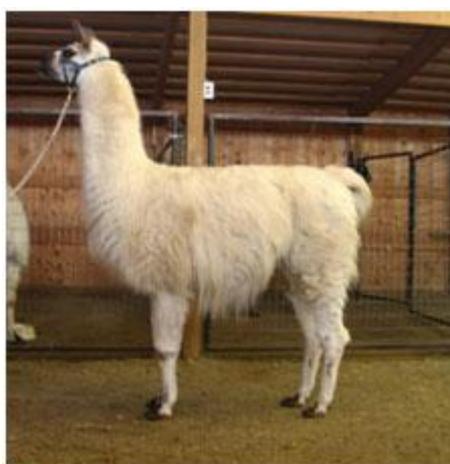
The athletic pack llama with great endurance will be able to reach forward like the llama pictured leaping off the boulder, to give it a long free stride.

A long sloping shoulder provides for great range of motion, mechanical efficiency and excellent shock absorption when combined with a long upper arm (humerus). In a llama with these traits, a plumb line dropped to the ground from the base of the llama's neck will sit well ahead of the front legs.



With a long sloping hip & shoulder and long upper leg bones, this rangy llama would likely have a long efficient stride and be suitable for long-distance packing.

A slightly steeper shoulder provides, perhaps, for greater load-bearing strength. If combined with long upper leg bones and good angulation at the 'elbow' joint, good range of motion will still be in evidence. Such a llama may have this plumb line closer to the front legs.



Again, long upper leg bones are associated with an energy-efficient way of going – i.e. athleticism.

## Appendices

---

Llamas with steep shoulders, short upper leg bones and short necks such as the ones shown below would have limited range of motion and probably would not stand up to heavy packing. These llamas do not have energy-efficient bodies.



The front legs and shoulders on a llama carry the bulk of the animal's weight, perhaps as much as 2/3 of the total. Powerful muscling at the attachment of legs to chest is critical to long-term soundness in an animal that spends much of its life packing heavy loads in the mountains. There is a tremendous amount of stress to the shoulders when a packed llama is tackling steep downhill terrain, with sudden and frequent changes in footing and direction.

Consider also the stress to the front legs and shoulders when the loaded llama, on a steep uphill climb over loose rock, loses purchase with his hind feet and has to claw his way upwards with his front toenails. In this instance he needs to immediately shift into 'front wheel drive.'

Look closely to see the excellent muscling at the inner attachment of front legs to chest on these boys below. The twin shadowy bulges of muscle are clearly shown in the llama on the left, and on the white leg of the right-hand llama.



## Appendices

---

Here's a close up of another young male with excellent chest muscling:



Heavier bone may be an advantage for the llama packing big loads in the mountains. The lanky, rangy, streamlined llama on the left, below, does well at a fairly rapid pace with moderate loads. He would rather run than walk. The more compact-bodied, heavier-boned llama shown here on the right, excels carrying maximum loads over rugged terrain. He is an unusually powerful animal, as is the dark brown and white llama shown on the right, earlier. All three are high-end packers.

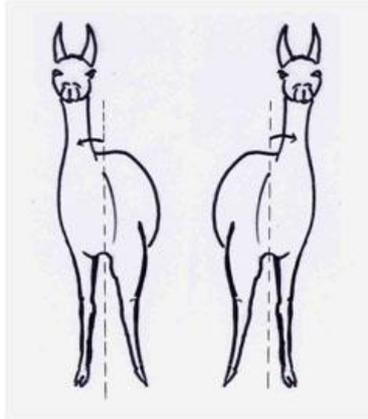


Both the above boys have excellent leg-length/girth depth ratios, both are comparable wither heights (48" – 49"), and both are cut up high in the flank. Both are lean and fit with a relatively narrow stance. Both have excellent length and angulation in the upper leg bones, although the proportions differ quite considerably between the two. The brown llama appears to be exceptionally long from stifle to hock, and from the point of the shoulder to the elbow. The white llama appears to have exceptional length from hip to stifle, and from withers to the point of the shoulder. Both are smooth moving, long striding athletes.

## Appendices

---

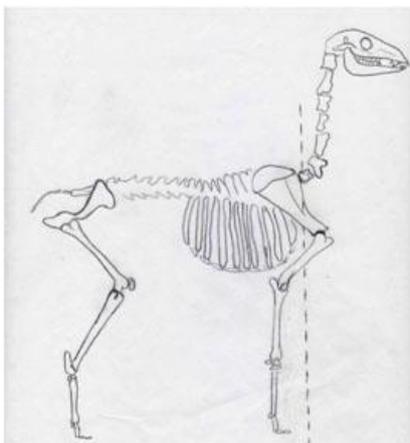
The white llama has heavier bone (6 ¼" below the knee compared to 5 ¾" on the brown boy) shorter cannons and a more compact body. He outweighs the brown fellow by at least 50 lbs, has heavier muscling and is likely a more powerful llama



A broad chested llama with a base-wide stance that travels with a noticeable lateral sway when carrying a loaded pack will expend more energy in propelling himself forward than the narrower animal, thus tiring more quickly.

### The Hindquarters

Power for locomotion – the thrust – is provided by the hindquarters. Long upper leg bones maximize the area for muscle attachment. Long, well anchored muscles are needed here for the powerful and rapid contractions that will propel the loaded llama with ease. A long thigh (hip to stifle) and/or gaskin (stifle to hock) with good angulation in the hip and stifle joints provide the necessary shock absorption and range of motion capabilities. As with the shoulder, a long sloping (as opposed to short, steep) hip, or pelvis, in the rangy llama is associated with efficiency of stride - endurance over distance. The more compact-bodied llama with a steeper pelvis likely has more power (load-bearing strength), and with length and good angulation in the pelvis and upper leg bones, is a different style of athlete."



## Appendices

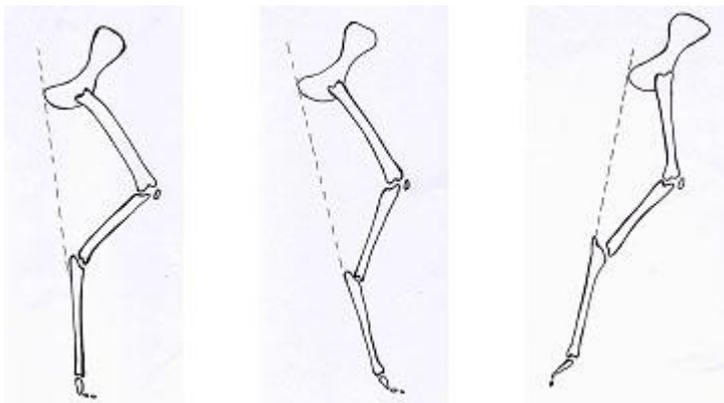
---

*Long sloping hip & shoulder*

*Short, steep hip & shoulder*

The combination of a short steep pelvis and short, rather straight upper leg bones (poor angulation) may not be the best type of conformation for long-distance packing. If combined with thickness through the loin, then short strides and poor range of motion would likely be the result. Such a llama would have little stamina.

**Maximum efficiency is directly related to angulation** in the hindquarters. The cannon bones and hock joints need to be directly under the pelvis for most effective use of the power generated by the muscles. Think of yourself moving a heavy weight. You would not try to lift at the end of your reach, but rather, position your hips, shoulders and back as directly under the load as possible.



*Well conformed hind legs **can be assessed at almost any point in the stride**. A line extended up from the cannon bone will touch, or come close to, the point of the buttock.*



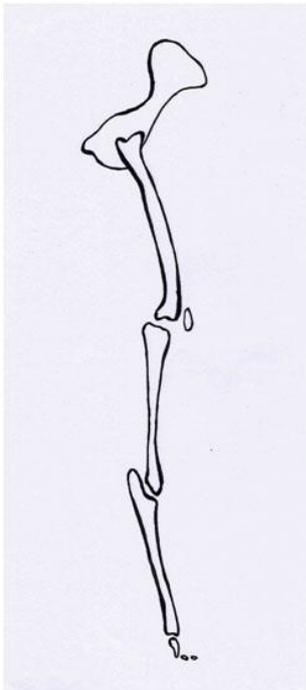
## Appendices

---

*This athletic female has very well conformed hindquarters. Maximum thrust is provided directly under the hips. She is, perhaps, a little light-boned.*

Long upper leg bones in the Ccara llama are very different from the alpaca type structure. Many people who have limited experience with the working llama wrongly interpret length in the upper leg bones as being a 'post-legged' type of conformation. The Ccara, with his long thigh and gaskin (tibia), typically has little angulation in the hock joint. The more pronounced angulation in the hip and stifle joints together with these long upper leg bones are what give the Ccara his superior range of motion.

**Be very sure you can distinguish between 'post-legged,' and simply long-legged and rangy.** The truly post legged llama will have very limited angulation in the hip, stifle AND hock joints, resulting in a *severely restricted* range of motion. (Short stride)



### ***Post-legged (Photo from Niki Kuklenski's website)***

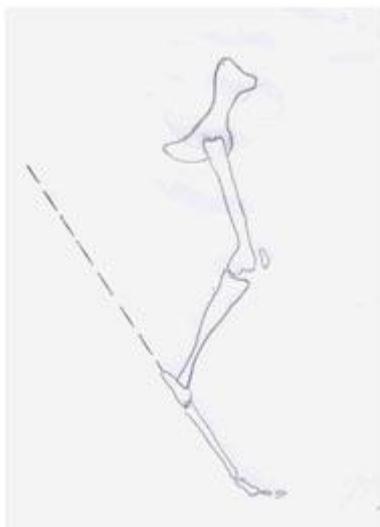
The athletic llama with good angulation and long upper leg bones will have a very superior stride length and above average stamina.

### **Sickle hocks and the 'camped out behind' type of conformation should be avoided in the working llama.**

Some alpacas and llamas have unusually long gaskins without the corresponding length in the pelvis and femur. This results in an abnormal, "crouchy" stance. This llama below is sickle-hocked:

## Appendices

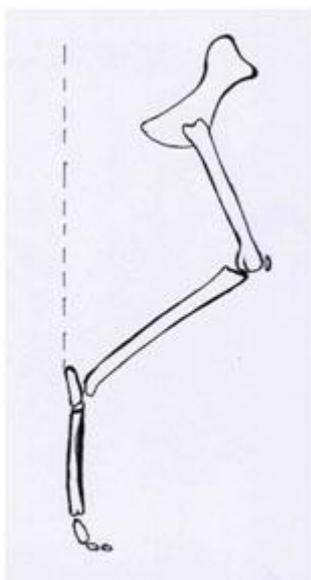
---



### *Sickle hocks*

A sickle-hocked llama is unable to fully straighten his hocks, thus reducing the thrust needed for efficient locomotion.

The llama who is “camped out behind” is able to straighten his hocks, but much of the thrust is lost when the hock joints are placed so far behind the hips.



### *Camped out behind*

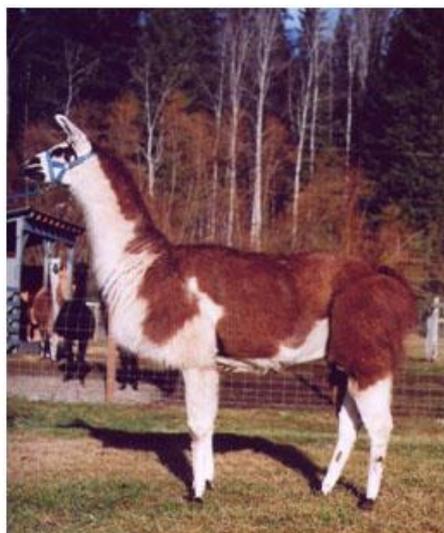
Llamas that are cut up high in the flank have ample unrestricted room for the forward motion of the hind legs and generally have more stamina than thicker-bodied animals.

*A thick-bodied llama.*

*Cut up high in the flank*

## Appendices

---



One final comment on hip slope: show ring judges discriminate against female llamas with the vulva more on a horizontal plane than a vertical plane. This is a carry-over from the horse world where fecal contamination of a more horizontal vulva (common in Thoroughbred mares) has occasionally resulted in uterine infections.

The long sloping hip which gives Thoroughbred mares their long rangy stride is associated with the shelving of the vulva. The long sloping hip is *a desirable attribute* in the working llama, as it is with Thoroughbred mares.

Older llama females with the long sloping hip who have had several pregnancies and a resulting slackening of muscle tone will show this tendency of the vulva to lie on a more horizontal plane. We do not consider it to be a fault – quite the opposite.

On the other hand, some females with a steep, vertical hip slope have been observed to suffer from urine scald during the winter months. Although urine scald is diet related, we have never seen a case in a female with long sloping hips. With this type of conformation there is less likelihood of urine running down between the buttocks and causing irritation.

*Urine Scald on a female  
with a short steep hip*

*The shelving vulva on a older female  
with a long sloping hip.*

## Appendices

---



Muscling on the inner thighs should appear as well defined bulges of different muscle groups, when viewing the llama from behind. Even the overweight llama or the thin llama should show this definition to some degree. Llamas with a smooth line from the inner thighs to the hock, (no definition at all) are likely weak in the hindquarters. The female in the photo, above left, has very little muscle definition on the inner thighs even though she is slightly overweight.



*Nice muscling on an immature male.      Poor muscling, little definition*

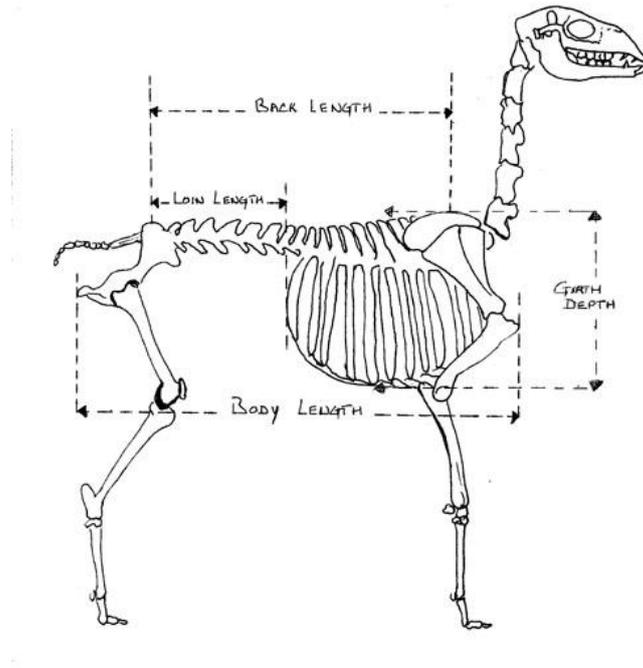
### The Back

A strong back is essential in a pack llama and generally speaking, short backs are strong backs. Think of a long unsupported roof span with a heavy snow load.

## Appendices

---

The actual back length is the distance between the withers (highest point of the shoulder, or shoulder blades) and the point of the hip, just above the lumbo-sacral joint. A long sloping (as opposed to short, steep) hip and shoulder may give the appearance of a long back, but in fact such an animal has a long *body* – not the same thing at all. Body length is measured from the point of the buttocks to the point of the shoulder. The first clue to a long back is a long ground distance from front feet to back feet – a long ‘wheel base’.



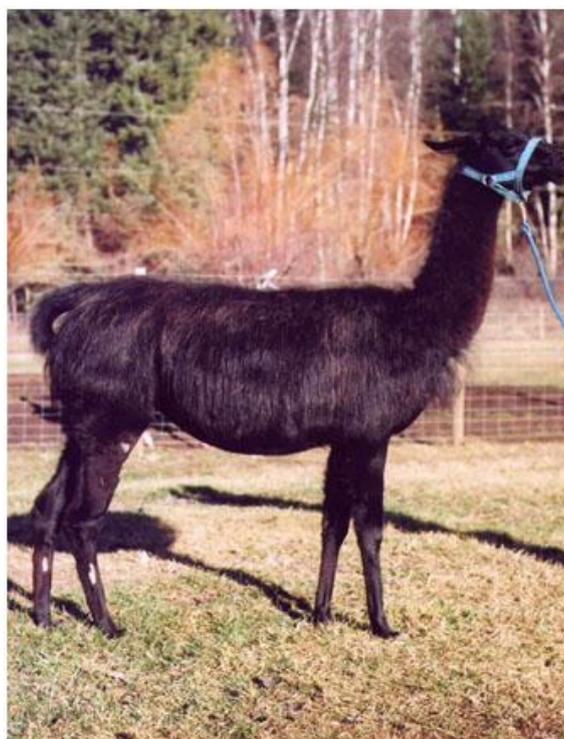
This boy below has a long sloping (as opposed to short, steep) hip and shoulder, giving him a long overall *body* length. His actual back is relatively short.



## Appendices

---

A llama with a long back may be lacking in strength. The photo below shows a long-backed llama. Look closely and you will see that she is long in the area of the loin (from the last rib to the point of the hip), and she has a long 'wheel base' when compared to the llama above. This llama is quite athletic but her stamina and weight-bearing capacity are probably limited.



This conformational trait leads to a loss of the power being generated by the hindquarters. In a short-backed llama this power is directly transmitted through the lumbo-sacral joint and structures of the back (think of the drive train in a vehicle) to the front quarters. In a long-backed llama, much of the power is lost in the weak coupling of the loin. A strong, flexible lumbo-sacral joint is essential in the working llama.

A good back will also be relatively A-shaped in cross section – with a spine that is easily felt and a good slope down from each side. Llamas with flat backs in cross-section (from overweight, different muscling or with more curvature to the ribs) are hard to fit with a packsaddle. Girths (cinches) need to be done up very tightly to hold the load in place and this is tiring to the llama. A good back holds a saddle well. One does have to be careful though, to ensure there is *ample clearance* between the spine and the saddle tree on a sharp-spined llama. A sway back or a roach (slight upward curve) back is undesirable. The sway back tends to be weak in the middle, and saddles tend to slide forward on roach backed llamas.

Hip height and wither height should be relatively equal. It is more common for llamas to be slightly higher in the hips but again, loads have to be well-secured to prevent them from sliding forward over the shoulders. The rare llama with a shoulder higher than the hip is very desirable and seems to carry a pack well with little need for crupper or breeching. Much more relaxing for the llama.

## Appendices

---

### The Neck

The llama's neck acts as a counterbalance. Watch the llama lying flat on his side as he positions his body to rise. The first motion is a sort of flinging of the neck to gain the momentum to roll up to the sternal position. Llamas that have rigid horizontal necks resulting from spinal injuries are sometimes unable to rise from a prone position without assistance.

The neck and head also act to counterbalance the body on uneven terrain or during fast directional changes. Instant adjustments can be made to the body's center of gravity by repositioning the neck. This is why a longish and very flexible neck in the working llama is considered desirable.

Show ring judges have determined that the ideal neck is  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the back, but as with breeds of dogs, there are many variations in body proportions among individual breeds. We feel that as long as the neck is proportional to the body, all is well. The longer legs that are so desirable on the working llama are best if balanced by a longer neck, and a long-bodied llama needs to be balanced by a long neck.

It has been observed that llamas who move with a very erect neck and head carriage also tend to be short-strided in front, and have short, steep shoulders. The truly athletic llama travels with his head and neck slightly forward - slightly ahead of the vertical.



*The yearling female on the left and the two-year-old male on the right are beautifully balanced, athletic youngsters and are excellent examples of the Ccara breed.*

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 4.5c Entry Form for Registration

#### Entry Form for Registration

Llama owner:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street or mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State or Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip or Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name of llama applying for entry into CLR \_\_\_\_\_

ILR registration number of llama \_\_\_\_\_

ILR Member Owner Code (e.g. AB 123) \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date of llama (Must be at least three years of age

To qualify) \_\_\_\_\_

Height of llama measured from the ground to top of shoulder (withers height) \_\_\_\_\_

**Llama must be at least 43” tall to be eligible. Under 43” is a disqualifier.**

(See Appendix “A” for measuring instructions)

Height of llama from ground to highest point of hip (hip height) \_\_\_\_\_

Leg length of llama from chest floor (brisket) to ground \_\_\_\_\_

Girth depth of llama (Withers height minus leg length) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Note: Leg length must be at least 2” more than girth depth. Less is a disqualifier.** Llamas with a high leg length/girth depth ratio are considered desirable.

**Llama shows a distinct double coat, with top layer of coarse guard hair and a relatively short layer of finer insulating fibre. Yes \_\_\_ (No is a disqualifier)**

Neck wool shed out at some point prior to screening. Yes \_\_\_ (No is a disqualifier)

Llama shows reasonable conformation with no obvious anomalies or deformities. Yes \_\_\_ (

**Note: dropped pasterns are a disqualifier.)**

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 4.5d – Ccara Judging Score Sheet

**1.** Llama shows correct alignment of limbs with an overall trim athletic appearance of grace and balance, with a narrow stance and a long, smooth free-moving stride. Neck, legs and face are free of wool, and the body is covered with a layer of guard hair. There is no obvious lateral rocking motion of the shoulders and neck as the llama walks. The neck length is approx. 2/3 the length of the back. Neck and head are carried slightly ahead of the vertical when llama is in a relaxed stance and viewed from the side.

Max. score 10 \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** Llama has a relatively lean build and the spine can be easily felt. Back slopes down at an approx. 45 degree angle from each side of the spine. (Upside down ‘V’ shape)

Max. score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Topline is relatively level.

Max. score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**4.** The llama walks with no obvious deviation of the legs and feet from the midline as it travels.

Max score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** Pasterns are strong and relatively short and upright

Max score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Well-developed muscling is apparent on the forearms and at the attachment of the front legs to the chest when viewing the llama from the front, and on the inner thighs when viewed from behind.

Max score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** Feet are of adequate size and configuration to support the llama.

Max. score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**8.** Head gives the appearance of alertness with widely spaced eyes, longish erect ears, a straight profile when viewed from the side and correct jaw alignment with lower incisors meeting the upper dental plate. Head demonstrates bilateral symmetry when viewed from the front.

Max score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**9.** Llama exhibits a calm demeanor when approached by humans.

Max score 5 \_\_\_\_\_

---

Total Score (out of 50) \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendices

---

### Appendix 4.5e - Ccara Llama Screening Score Explanations

#### 1. 10 Points

**Wool on legs, neck and face is permissible if minor. If present – subtract points.**

There are very few breeding llamas left which possess both the true Ccara coat and athletic structure. When screening the first llamas, the NACA Board of Directors saw a few exceptional working-type llamas with more wool than is defined for the true Ccara coat. At this point the decision was made to allow – at least in the foundation stock – a little more wool than was considered to be ideal. The contribution to the gene pool being made by these few woollier athletes appeared far too valuable to eliminate them from the registry.

Because of the scoring system, such animals will need to excel in other areas to qualify.

Smooth gait is essential to stamina and performance. Llamas with short choppy strides or llamas whose necks and shoulders rock from side to side at every step do not generally have adequate stamina over the long haul. **Subtract a point** for a wide stance, if combined with a lateral sway.

Slight lateral rocking motion of head/neck when viewed from the front, **subtract 1**.

Obvious lateral rocking motion, **subtract 2**.

Relatively long necks are desirable for balance. A neck and head carried slightly ahead of the vertical is preferable to an erect, vertical neck, and is usually associated with a long stride. Erect neck carriage (particularly when combined with a short, choppy stride) when viewed from the side, **subtract 1**. *Llama must be viewed in a relaxed stance to assess this.*

Disproportional short or long neck, **subtract 1**.

Angular limb deformities are exaggerated and stress on joints is intensified when the llama is carrying a load. **Subtract points** for knock knees, calf knees, over at the knee, cow hocks, sickle hocks, bowed legs, excessively toed in or out.

Long stride appears to be associated with bone length and joint angulations. Long upper 'arm' bones (humerus, radius, ulna) and long upper rear leg bones (femur, tibia) are desirable in the working llama, as are short strong cannon bones. Overly heavy bone is not considered desirable for endurance, but may be balanced by exceptional muscling in some llamas. Fine bone may not have adequate strength.

Overly heavy bone, **subtract 1**.

Overly light bone, **subtract 1**

Short choppy strides, **subtract 1**

Long backs in llamas may be a weakness but are difficult to assess. While long-backed llamas may be lacking in strength, what *appears* to be a long back may simply be a long sloping shoulder blade and pelvis, (seen in the lanky type of athletic llama) resulting in a long *body*.

Unlike the horse, the llama's neck does not rise up at an angle from the withers, but extends forward on a horizontal plane for a short distance, giving the appearance of a long back.

## Appendices

---

Back length is the distance from the highest point of the withers to point of the hip (lumbosacral joint). Body length is the distance from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks.

### 2. 5 points

Llamas need a V-shaped back to hold a saddle well. Llamas with broad flat backs will need to be tightly cinched to hold a pack in place and this is stressful for the animal.

45 degree slope down both sides from the spine is optimal. **Subtract points** according to decrease in slope. Steep slope may be a result of underfeeding – do not penalize.

Flat or rounded backs may be a result of poor conformation or overfeeding.

### 3. 5 points

Llamas with a topline which is level or slightly higher at the shoulder seem to hold a pack better than those with high hips. A slight arch to the back (roach back) does not seem to detract from performance but if extreme it is hard to keep pack in place. Top points for back which is level or slightly higher at the shoulder.

**Subtract points for abnormally high hips, roach back or a swayed back.**

**4. 5 points** The llama's foot needs to leave squarely from the ground, travel straight, and land squarely. A foot that twists as it leaves the ground and swings inwards or outwards puts undue strain on the fetlock, knee & hock joints.

If Llama swings feet out or inwards from the midline (winging or paddling), **subtract one or more points** depending on severity. **Study carefully.** Llamas are amazingly flexible creatures and may *appear* to walk abnormally, particularly if they are not used to being handled and are being studied at close range by humans. Try to study this from a distance so the llama is more comfortable.

**5. 5 points** **Dropped pasterns are a major fault in working llamas and heredity is thought to be a factor.** Some degree of sag is tolerated in older females who have produced many offspring.

Pasterns should be relatively upright and strong – not slack. A llama, and particularly, a young llama, who demonstrates upright pasterns when standing in a relaxed stance, but whose pasterns stretch and drop noticeably at the walk or under a load, may have difficulty at a later date. Some very tall, long-legged llamas do seem to have long springy pasterns. Perhaps the length is necessary absorb the shock, but these llamas must be studied carefully at the walk to determine strength of pasterns.

There is a noticeable

difference between the *spring* in longish strong pasterns, and the *sag* in weak pasterns. Study this carefully, with the llama both standing and walking.

**Subtract points** for pasterns that 'sag' at a walk depending on degree of severity.

### 6. 5 points

Many different types of llamas excel at packing, from the lean and lanky animals to the heavier boned, more compact bodied llamas with heavier muscling. All must have adequate strength for the job however, and these two locations seem to be indicative.

Lack of muscling in these locations, **subtract points** depending on severity. *Do* study the animal in an attempt to determine if lack of muscling is simply due to poor nutrition.

## Appendices

---

### 7. 5 points

A broad foot with short toes and toenails is preferable to a long narrow foot. Some llamas who have been pastured on wet ground (i.e. slushy spring snow) will have spongy or broken pads.

Foot size needs to be adequate to support a packed llama in a variety of terrain.

**Subtract points** for crooked or malformed nails, unless this is a result of an injury.

**Subtract points** for excessively small feet.

### 8. 5 points

Misalignment of lower incisors and upper dental pad is a common fault in llamas.

**Subtract one or more points** depending on severity. Check for overall balance and bilateral symmetry of head, when viewed from the front.

Ears slanted too far forward – **subtract points**.

**9. 5 points** Spitting, excessive 'friendliness' or aggression are severe faults. **Disqualify if excessive.**

Try to determine the handling background on the llama if it appears shy or frightened.

## Appendices

---

A harsh but critical question is how might these exhibits have fared at Newbury and vice versa?