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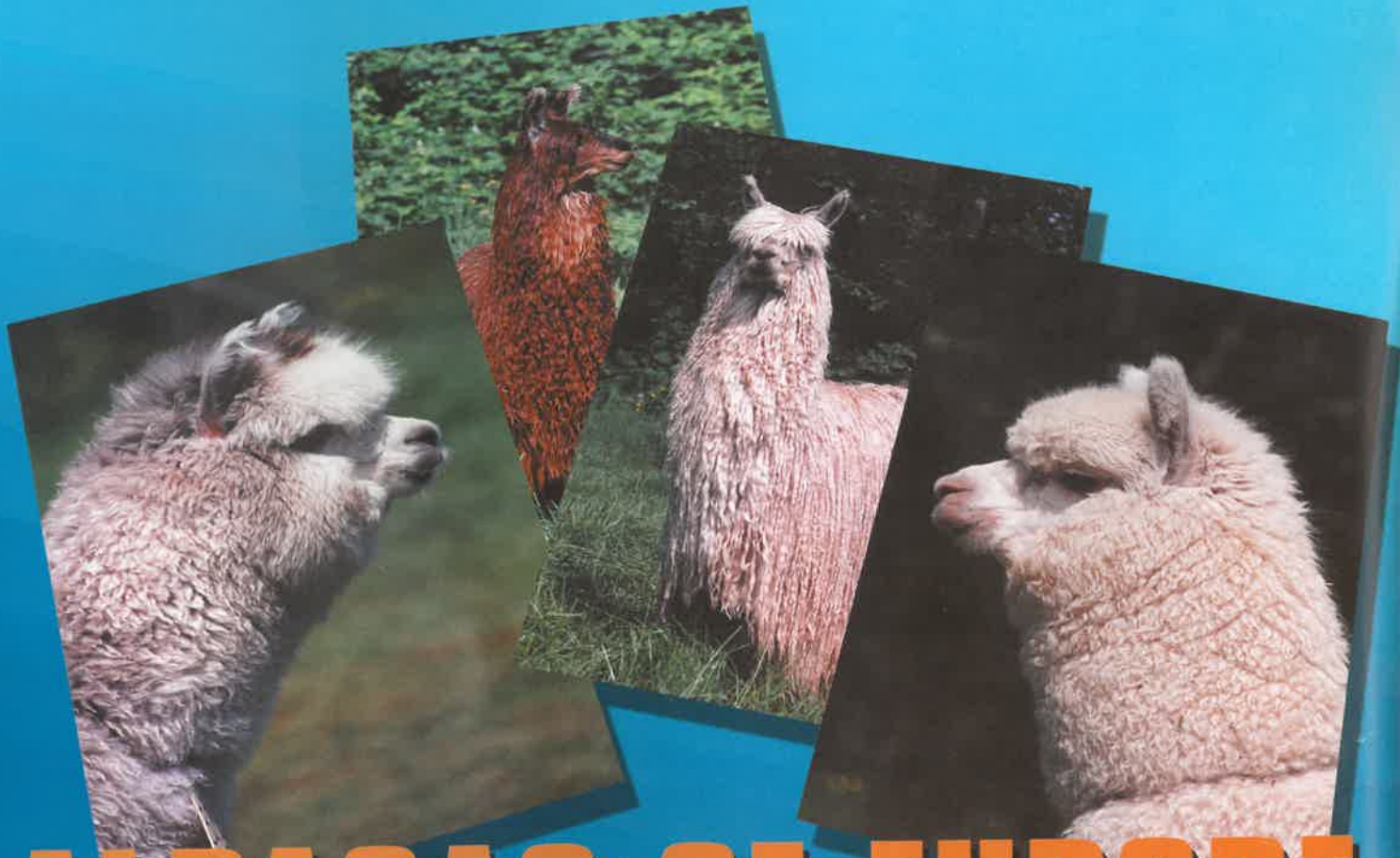
# Camelids

## Chronicle



Magazine of the British Llama and Alpaca Association

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# British Camelids



## The British Llama & Alpaca Association

### Council Members

**Joint Chairmen: Nick Weber & Candia Midworth**

**Mrs. Candia Midworth (Secretary, Chronicle Editor)**  
Banks Way House, Effingham Common, Leatherhead, Surrey.  
KT24 5JB Tel: 01372 458350

**Miss Lorna Renshaw (Treasurer)**  
Newseat of Ardo, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire. AB41 7HP  
Tel: 01651 806619

**Mr. Rodney Newth (Registrar)**  
The Old Laundry, Tyringham, Newport Pagnell,  
Bucks MK16 9ES.  
Tel: 01908 610698

**Mrs. Jane Brown (GALA, Breeders Directory, Regalia)**  
Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.  
CV36 4NH. Tel/Fax: 01608 661893

**Mrs. Michelle Goodhand (Website)**  
Ayscot, Squires Hill Lane, Tilford, Nr Farnham,  
Surrey GU10 2AD. Tel: 01252 782113

**Mrs. Joy Whitehead (Alpaca Contact)**  
Lower Hitch, Whitchurch Hill, Reading, S. Oxon. RG8 7NU  
Tel: 0118 984 3827

**Mr. Arish Turle (Alpaca Contact)**  
Lodge Farm, Batcombe, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. BA4 6DA  
Tel: 01749 850753

**Mr. Nick Weber (Alpaca Stud Assessment)**  
Orchard Farm, East Chinnock, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 9EQ  
Tel: 01935 863467

**Mr Bruce Wright (Treking Contact)**  
Wellington Lodge Llamas, Staintondale, Scarborough, North  
Yorkshire. YO13 0EL. Tel: 01723 871234

**Mr. Phil Davis (Llama Stud Assessment)**  
Hafod Wenog Farm, Cwmavon, Nr Pontypool, Monmouthshire  
NP4 8UW  
Tel: 01495 774746

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### Cover picture

Photo by Norma Miller or Lowroy Alpacas

### Layout by

Charles Hope at Woodside, KT24 6PF  
01483 283856 email: charles.hope@argonet.co.uk

### Other Association Officers

**Mr. Bob Pope (Membership Secretary)**  
Brackley Burn, Slinfold, West Sussex RH13 7RU.  
Tel/Fax: 01403 790493 e-mail: bandj.pope@ukonline.co.uk

**Mr. Dick Hobbs (Press Officer)**  
Tel: 01435 830092 Fax: 01435 830988,  
email: dick@hobbsonline.tv

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# Camelids

## Chronicle

### Magazine of the British Llama and Alpaca Association

## Council Matters

With the A.G.M. in mind we thought some guidance on standing for Council might be useful as there are four members retiring by rotation, one of whom is standing for re-election.

If you would like to join Council & help in the planning and running of your Association you will need to be a fully paid up member with either a single or joint subscription. You need to be proposed and seconded by other members and to indicate in writing that you are willing to stand for election.

Nominations, including a brief C.V. which should set out the member's Camelid interests, areas where their expertise will assist Council to carry out it's functions and their aims and objectives for the development of the Association should be sent to Jane Brown, Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour Warks CV36 4NH. by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March so that the CVs can be sent to members with the A.G.M. agenda prior to the scheduled date of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Applicants need to be aware of the duties and responsibilities that they will have assuming that they are elected. Copies of general guidance notes from both the Charity Commissioners & the Institute of Directors are available from Rodney.

Council normally meets between four & six times a year with location, dates & times agreed by the new Council at it's first meeting after the A.G.M. Council members will normally carry out certain executive or administrative tasks. e.g. they may sit on one of the breed sub committees, be asked to act as Treasurer, Association or Council Secretaries, co-ordinate the shows or help to arrange the biennial conference or seminars.

As you know Council is participating in a co-operative feasibility study with the B.A.S. under the chairmanship of an independent 3rd Party. A report from that study will be forthcoming by March 7<sup>th</sup> for discussion at our Council meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We intend to publish that report and your Council's recommendations which will also be sent with the A.G.M mailing. To help you further with this very important issue we make no apology for using several pages of the Chronicle for some of your fellow member's views on this subject, starting on Page 12.

Finally, the Llama/Guanaco & Alpaca sub committees are looking for volunteers to join them. Between 2 and 3 places on each will be filled by nominations from members at the Business Meeting following the A.G.M. Volunteers should own or have owned in the recent past, Camelids of the relevant species. Also, they should preferably register their animals with British Camelids and have signed the appropriate Codes of Conduct.

If all this has not put you off we should welcome an infusion of new blood on both Council and the sub committees. So contact us soon!

Candy Midworth & Nick Weber, Joint Chairmen

Navidad was so named because she came to me as a Christmas present from my husband during our first Christmas in Lima. I was completely bowled over by my first sight of her; she was so beautiful. My husband had vanished all morning, saying he would see me for lunch. At 2 o'clock I gave up waiting and had lunch alone. Eventually he arrived with a an enormous grin from ear to ear and said 'come and meet your Christmas present". I went outside and could hear a parrot calling so I was sure he had bought me one as he knew of my fascination with these birds. Just as I was looking for the parrot, a large grey head with a white face reared up over the flower bed and we just stared at each other. The biggest, bluest eyes staring at me, surrounded by a beautiful white woolly face. Her name in the Zoo where John had got her was 'ojos azules' (blue eyes). She was a cross between a Llama and an Alpaca (Pacallama) with grey and rust red colour on her body and a white strip at the front of her neck. She had been recently shorn so she seemed very skinny. I re-named her Navidad, spanish for Christmas, and she soon settled in to her new life in the Residence garden. (I should explain my husband was the British Ambassador in Lima at this time).



*Navidad & Me*

I am afraid the gardeners were apalled as Navidad soon began to re-shape the hibiscus bushes and once trimmed a hedge so efficiently that we could see clear through to Lima City. The gardens were huge, like a park, and were on several levels. Navidad found that she liked to sleep a couple of levels below the the main lawn where she had ducks and geese for company and we discovered the gardeners were trying to keep her down there by blocking off her pathways to the top garden. We quite understood their need to protect the garden so with some persuasion and future planning, we came to an agreement and she was allowed her freedom once more. It was a wonderful thing to wake up and find her looking into my bedroom window or trying to knock down the badminton net on 'her' lawn. We planted oleander bushes in front of the

hedge that she found so delicious because Oleander is poisonous and she avoided it, thereby saving the hedge. A



*Helping the gardeners*

few discreet fences were erected around sacred flower beds and a sort of truce with the gardeners was formed. I grew to love the 'topiary' she performed on the huge Hibiscus bushes and the sight of her coming towards me with a Hibiscus flower hanging from her mouth is one I will never forget.

The vet told us that she would eat carrots and they were like postre (pudding) for her. This was the case and she would come running if she saw carrots in our hands, making her superb humming and grunting noises. Peruvian carrots were organically grown and were huge so it was a real treat for her and she made short work of munching them from our hands. She loved to sniff me, all up my arms and into my neck, it was very tickly as she was very whiskery. She was usually very soft and gentle but sometimes she would give me a little nip on my arm but generally, she was very sweet to me. She could spit like a trooper when in a bad mood. I could see the signs so I would face up to her and say "don't you dare" and if the tone was severe enough, she would back off. I'm sad to say she would spit at some of the staff but they knew how to handle her and were good friends. She became especially fond of Teofilo, who was the number one





butler. He came from the high region of Peru and knew instinctively how to handle her. I remember one day, running out of the house in a panic during a very strong earth tremor and finding Navidad quietly sitting under a Frangipani tree chewing gently. She gave me such a look, as if to say, "relax, it is only an earthquake." It worked as I felt much calmer.

We tried to find her a companion as she should not have been alone, but the vet for "exotic animals" failed to find a suitable one, nor did our vet for "normal" animals. Navidad seemed to be quite content with all the attention she had and would follow the gardeners around while they were working. When they were bending down, she would snuffle their necks and they got used to having her around and seemed to live happily together. In her first week with us she decided to investigate the swimming pool, she stepped in not realizing that it was not a puddle but deep water. Luckily, Teofilo saw her fall in and radiod through to the guards and one came running, jumped in and rescued her. She really made her presence felt right from the start. Her love of water led to the lily pond where she ate all the water lilies and weeds out of the pond, much to the surprise of the goldfish. We eventually put a fence around the pond.



*Eating 'Bird of Paradise' plants on the main patio*

Navidad loved to come up to the windows of the house and stare inside. When the Art Group met once a week in the 'multi-purpose' hall that had large sliding window/doors, she would come into the hall and greet everyone. We kept a supply of carrots and apples beside our easels and many a drawing and painting was done of her. He disgraced herself one day by spitting at the wife of the Malaysian Ambassador and it took several washings to remove the evil stench. I had to train everyone to be careful to approach her from the front and not to make sudden movements around her. Happily, spitting at my Malaysian friend was the only blot on her artistic copy-book.

When I gave informal lunches on the terrace, she would come and inspect the guests ( I always checked first that this attention from a Llama would be welcome). So many wanted to feed her carrots and she was very spoiled by all this attention.

I paint flowers and the garden was richly endowed but I particularly wanted bird of paradise flowers so I planted them in the main patio where they grew brilliantly. Navidad took a real liking to the soft, spiky petals that came up fresh every morning. By lunchtime, they were denuded of these bright orange spiky flowers and left only the beak part, looking so sad.

I loved her dignity and the sounds she made. I spent a lot of time brushing her tangly woolly coat which we sheared off every two years. Sadly, our time in Lima came to an end after four and a half years and I had to leave her behind but I still miss her very much. She is still in the Residence garden and we were able to see her when we went back to Lima for a visit. Sadly, she has been restricted to a much smaller part of the garden. She came running when I called her in the way I always did. We fed her carrots and got a whiskery welcome snuffle and lots of smelly hot breath on my neck. It seems she spits at the present Ambassador so he keeps out of her way. We are going back to Peru next January and I am looking forward to my next sight of her. It was wonderful to be asked to write about her in this way.

The "Alpaca Fiesta 2003" (incorporating the IX International Festival of South American Camelids) will take place in Arequipa, Peru from 10th to 16th November this year.

This time you can be more 'hands-on' involved in the activities planned - animal judging, vicuña round-up (chaccu), fashion show, seminars and workshops. In addition, there will be two new events in our programme.

For further information visit our website: [www.aia.org.pe](http://www.aia.org.pe) ,or e-mail us at: [alpacafiesta2003@star.com.pe](mailto:alpacafiesta2003@star.com.pe)

or contact:

Francis Rainsford

President, Organizing Committee "Alpaca Fiesta 2003"

International Alpaca Association

Of. 104, Calle Jerusalem # 115

Arequipa, Peru

Tel: +51 54 202696



**ALPACA FIESTA**  
**2003**  
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10th to 16th NOVEMBER

**T**he newborn cria is remarkable in many ways. However, the neo-natal period (defined as the first weeks of life) is the highest risk period of a llama or alpaca's life. These neo-nates are susceptible to hypothermia, hyperthermia, hypoglycemia, septicemia, and congenital defects. The owner and veterinarian must work together to maximize the crias' ability to thrive. In our research in the Camelid Health Program at Ohio State University, we found that up to 36% of crias suffer some form of disease condition between birth and weaning, and that 2% of crias died before weaning. The most common disease conditions were diarrhea and infectious diseases. Crias born with difficulty were 4 times more likely to suffer a disease event. Crias born in the spring were the least likely to suffer from diseases. These research data show how important neo-natal health care is to the survival and ability to thrive of the cria.

## The First Hours

The first hours of life are a special bonding period between dam and cria. During this period, minimal to no human contact is needed. Take time to observe the bonding process if possible, but do not interfere unless absolutely necessary. The cria should be born within 30 to 60 minutes of the onset of Stage II (full strength contraction) labor. The cria will appear disoriented at first and struggle to sit-up within 5 to 15 minutes. The cria may flare the nostrils and may even appear distressed at times, but should not have any difficulty in breathing. Watch for abdominal and thoracic movements they should be in unison. If the thorax moves inward as the abdomen moves outward, there may be an obstruction to breathing. Observe the nostrils and face. If the nostrils are flaring widely and the cheeks "puff" as the cria exhales, there may be obstruction of the nasal passage. Crias do not breathe very efficiently through their mouths and may grow increasingly desperate for air. If these signs are noted, hold your hand or a mirror in front of the nostrils. You should be able to feel a gust of warm air or see the mirror "fog" with each exhale. The cria should begin to try to stand in the first 30 to 60 minutes. This can be an uncoordinated process, but the cria should be allowed to struggle unimpeded by human hands. The cria should try to nurse within 2 to 4 hours. If the cria has not stood within 2 hours or nursed within 4 hours, human intervention is warranted. At this time, I weigh the cria and "dip" the umbilicus with 2% tincture of iodine or thoroughly spray the umbilicus with chlorhexidine solution. This will decrease the chance of infection via this exposed surface. The umbilicus (navel) should be re-dipped or sprayed 12 to 24 hours after the first application. In cold weather (ambient temperature (40°F or 4°C) earlier intervention is warranted to prevent hypothermia. In hot weather (ambient temperature > 90°F or 32°C), shade is desired to prevent onset of

hyperthermia. Ingestion of colostrum is required for passive transfer of immunity from the dam (maternal immunoglobulins and white blood cells). The colostrum also provides an energy dense meal and has a laxative effect for the meconium. The cria should consume 5% of its body weight in colostrum within the first 6 hours of life and 10% within the first 12 hours of life to gain adequate protection from the dam. The udder of the dam should be evaluated to determine if colostrum is present, ensure that the udder is well developed, that the teats are open (wax plug released), and no evidence of mastitis is present. If the dam fails to form colostrum, supplemental immunoglobulins are needed. When supplemental immunity is needed, colostrum from another llama or alpaca is desired. Unfortunately, these are rarely available, but goat, sheep, or cow colostrum may be used as an alternative. These should not be given unless the dam does not have colostrum of her own. Plasma may be administered orally in the first hours after birth, but the absorption of immunoglobulins is often lower than expected via this route of administration. Also, plasma provides little if any energy and must be followed within 2 hours (but not sooner than 30 minutes) by milk feeding.

## The First Day

Once the cria is standing and nursing, little attention is needed during the next 24 hours. The dam and cria must have adequate protection from weather and the dam must have an adequate diet to optimize lactation. Great care must be used when trying to provide supplemental heat for crias. Only barn-safe heaters should be used to provide heat. I have seen several cria and dams injured or killed in barn fires and these are extremely unfortunate events. I prefer to weigh crias daily for 7 days, weekly for 4 weeks, then monthly until weaning. Crias will lose up to 1 pound during the first 24 to 36 hours of life. Much of this weight loss is because of drying of the hair coat and loss of internal fluids accumulated during intrauterine life. These fluids are lost by urination, defecation, and breathing. After this time, the cria should gain weight daily. Although crias normally gain 0.5 to 1 pound of weight each day, smaller weight gains are common. Failure to gain weight and, especially, losing weight after 36 hours is abnormal. The cause of weight loss must be identified and a determination made as to whether the dam is not lactating, the teats are plugged or not functional, the cria is not nursing properly, or the cria is unhealthy. We do see crias "stall", or fail to gain weight, for various periods of time for no apparent reason. This is considered normal if the cria is bright, alert active and thriving in all other respects. The cria should pass meconium, the first feces, within 12 hours. Colostrum has a laxative effect and facilitates passage of this "sticky" fecal matter. Crias that receive colostrum substitutes

instead of colostrum are more likely to have difficulty passing meconium. I do not advocate routine administration of enemas to crias. However, enemas may be helpful if the cria is known not to have passed the meconium within 12 to 24 hours or is straining to defecate. A "congenital defect check" should be done during the first day of life. Check for nostrils and air movement, check for the anus, vulva or penis, eyes, mouth, and limbs for any abnormality. A thorough auscultation of the heart and lungs should be done to determine if a heart murmur or any abnormality of the lungs is present.

### The Second Day

The cria is observed for behaviour. A normal cria will eagerly interact with the environment, people, and the dam. I prefer to vaccinate crias for *Clostridium Perfringens* types C and D and *Clostridium Tetani* between 48 and 72 hours old. This vaccine will prime the cria's immune system for a booster vaccine to be given 2 weeks later. If the cria is lethargic or seems depressed, a thorough physical examination including heart rate (normal range, 80 to 120 bpm), breathing (normal range is 20 to 40 and is effortless), and rectal temperature (normal range, 99° to 102°F) are indicated. Vaccination should be delayed until the cria is healthy and normal because these vaccines can be inflammatory. The immune system will not respond properly if the cria is stressed by disease or malnutrition.

### The Second Week

The cria should have gained 7 to 14 pounds (3.5 to 7 kgs) since birth. The cria should be running, playing and be vibrant. A physical examination should be done and a booster vaccine (CD&T) given.

### Weaning

Weaning can be done at various times and is influenced by the health of both the cria and dam. Many crias are weaned when they reach a "target weight" of 60 pounds for alpacas or 100 pounds for llamas. In many cases, these crias are too young to wean at this time. I advocate weaning no earlier than 4 months, but preferably at 6 months. This time allows for optimal development of eating habits and digestion and yields a healthier cria through the first year of life.

However, the health of the dam must not be sacrificed. Thin females must be allowed to regain their body weight and condition. I feel that body condition scoring (BCS) is a valuable tool to evaluate cria and dam. Thin crias are abnormal and a cause for poor condition should be found and corrected. Similarly, thin females are abnormal. If a female is exceedingly thin (BCS of 3 out of 10 or less), early weaning of the cria should be considered if the female has been bred back at 3 to 4 weeks post-partum,

this extra time will allow her to rebuild lost body condition in time to produce adequate colostrum and be fit to lactate for the next cria. Thin females are more likely to have poor quality colostrums and inadequate milk production.

### Ricketts Prevention

Ricketts is caused by low Vitamin D concentration in the blood. Vitamin D deficiency causes injury to the growth plates and is recognized clinically by crooked legs, arched back, reluctance to walk, lameness, lethargy, and poor growth. This condition is only seen in crias during winter months or when they are totally confined without access to sunlight. In general, crias born in the autumn need supplemental Vitamin D during winter months. The easiest form of supplementation is by injecting Vitamin D under the skin at 1000 units per Kg of body weight. Each injection will provide Vitamin D for a period of 60 to 90 days. I suggest injection of supplemental Vitamin D to crias < 6 to 9 months old in late November and again in February. Supplementation during Spring, Summer, and Autumn should not be necessary. Vitamin D toxicity is possible and dose attention to dose, frequency, and time of year is warranted.

### Neo-natal Diseases seen in Llamas and Alpacas

Hypothermia  
Hypoglycemia  
Septicemia  
Malnutrition  
Diarrhea (bacterial, viral, nutritional)  
Ill Thrift Syndrome  
Ricketts  
Congenital Defects

*David E Anderson is Director, International Camelid Initiative, The Ohio State University*

#### A correction to the Association Show results for llamas as follows:

Class 180A	Male or Female Llama	Up to 12 months
1st	Quickly	Catanger Llamas
2nd	Oona	Catanga Llamas
3rd	Noel	Mrs O Safran
Class 180B	Male or Female Llama	Over 12 months
1st	Calista	Mrs J Brown
2nd	Nappa	Catanger Llamas
3rd	Level	Mrs O Safran

Champion Llama	Quickly	Catanger Llamas
Reserve Champion Llama	Elgar	P & F Davis



An early start ensured that we arrived at the stately Moreton Morrell Hall in time for a quick "cuppa" before the day started at 9am. We were greeted in the entrance hall by lovely alpaca fabrics, clothes and other goods from the Alpaca Fibre Forum and Bozdown Alpacas, as well as books and association merchandise from British Camelids.



The whole of the first day was led by Brad Smith and Karen Timm, who wrote the book that was our bible as new Alpaca owners "Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care" (Ivan used to get some strange looks when reading this book on the commuter train into London!!).

As we were a smallish group, the atmosphere was very relaxed and Brad and Karen said right at the start, that they wanted the day to be more of a discussion than a lecture. The day was absolutely riveting; they had supplied some excellent notes, we didn't need to do lots of scribbling and we were able to ask questions throughout.

We covered the anatomy of camelids and the common anatomical problems such as teeth, mouth, tail, and legs and even ventured inside the animals to discuss stomachs and ulcers.

The lively debates continued over a hot lunch and very calorific desserts, served at large round tables in the panelled main hall.

We moved on to reproduction; what's normal mating behaviour, how long should we leave between matings and re-presenting the female to the male, what can go wrong etc. Later in the afternoon we went on to discuss the delivery of a cria, evaluation of the newborn, and how to overcome common problems.

The day had passed very quickly we were much wiser; we went our separate ways to check in to local B & B's before meeting up again for an excellent evening at the "The White Lion" at Tredington. We were joined by some delegates who were only attending on Sunday, and had a chance to quiz Brad and Karen one last time over dinner. The good food was liberally spiced with camelid talk and

very well lubricated by the wine which was included in the £20 price - excellent value and a great end to a very enlightening day.

It was fortunate that the clocks went back that evening, and coupled with a 9.30 start, we were well rested and "raring to go" for day two, despite the lateish night. It was a bit of a "hairy" journey for some, with the gales blowing trees and branches down along the route, but everyone made it. Several people only attended one day of the conference, so it was a quick hello to the new faces over coffee, before the day got under way.

Gian Lorenzo D'Alterio from Bristol University started the day by giving us an overview of the Ohio Camelid Veterinary conference - he picked out the topics that he thought would most interest us, from a packed five days and did a brilliant job. He then went on to tell us about the research work that he has been doing into Alpaca skin problems, and although this work continues, he did have some helpful advice that we can try.

Shortly before lunch, Gary Holter extolled the virtues and benefits for camelids of us returning our fields to medieval pasture. Gary didn't know very much about camelids and his no doubt valuable message was somewhat blunted for me, by the manner and attitude of his delivery.

Lunch was again served in the Main Hall and conversation was lively; discussing what we had heard in the morning and telling those only with us for day two, what they had missed the day before.

After lunch the group split into two, with about half the group going off to learn about packing with Llamas and Llama trekking with Bruce Wright and Mary Pryse, whilst we stayed in the warm to spend a couple of hours with Maggie Kreiger discussing fleece. Maggie gave us a wonderfully illustrated and compelling description of how to prepare our alpaca fleeces, not only for showing, but also for production of the highest quality end product. The pictures from her local mill showed how the two go hand in hand, and how badly prepared fibre affects its conversion into yarn.

The day ended with a cuppa before the journey home (with many of us finding that we had no electricity when we arrived there ..but that's another story!). Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved in organizing and speaking at the conference - it is a great deal of work. It was, as usual, a brilliant weekend; although we have been breeding for almost 5 years there is still so much that we can learn and its great to get together and "talk camelid" with others for a whole weekend!!!!

I was amazed that with the growth in membership of the British Camelids that there weren't more people there; they really missed a great weekend. I'm sure that the council would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to make suggestions for topics for future conferences or seminars.

# National Proficiency Tests Council

**H**azel Ames has been on a course organised under the auspices of the National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC). This course led, for successful participants, to the issue of a "Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines".

She has reported that the course was well worthwhile, and the test was not over-demanding. Those holding the certificate should feel that they have a degree of competence in understanding how to handle and administer veterinary products to animals. As such it should be a complementary skill to that of phoning your vet and saying "help", but of course it is no substitute for calling the vet when an animal is ailing, or injured.

Why not get your regional group to organise a sessions specifically for camelid owners.?

The contact details for the NPTC is NPTC, Avenue "J" , National Agricultural Centre, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. Web site [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk), e-mail information @nptc.org.uk or tel. 0247669 6553

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E-mail: [info@euro-alpacas.co.uk](mailto:info@euro-alpacas.co.uk)

## Auction Action

A group of four BLAA member farms have joined together to organise an auction of alpacas giving existing owners and new breeders a chance to purchase quality, mainly home bred, alpacas from knowledgeable owner breeders.

The venue is Oaklands College, St Albans, Herts and the sale will show students, the public and the farming community how alpacas can help the countryside. The sale is to be held in the Indoor Riding school, with related trade stands and refreshments nearby.

Viewing is from 3pm to 5pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March and prior to the sale from 9.30am to 11.45am, with the sale commencing at noon on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

The catalogue with photographs & details of the alpacas can be seen (and downloaded) from the website at [www.alpacas.org.uk](http://www.alpacas.org.uk). Animals can also be seen in advance. Further information can be obtained from any of the vendors:

Beechwood Farm - Stephen Smith - 01494 758661  
Chequers Farm - Garry Barnett - 01923 681144  
Livanti Alpacas - Liz Barlow - 01296 682605  
Morden Hall Alpacas - Peter Garner - 01763 853133 /853197

email: [blaa@alpacas.org.uk](mailto:blaa@alpacas.org.uk)

Those in the country who keep chickens will know that in no time at all their run will become a minefield, for the chickens will make hollows in which to 'busk' or have a dust bath.

In the garden we have one patch under a conifer which is a favourite of the pheasants, and anyone preparing a fine seed bed in the spring can expect numerous little hollows where sparrows have been dust bathing.

The usual belief is that they do this to clean their feathers. This has been found not to be quite true. I have just been reading a fascinating paper by Tom Hakbijl on the uses of ashes and dust as insecticides, and he reports that they are remarkably successful.

Insects have a special protective layer which effectively prevents them from drying out, but it was discovered that dust can actually interfere with this layer, and as a result insects will quite rapidly die of desiccation.

The treatment has been found most effective against adult insects and larvae, but not against insect eggs. Scientists testing different dusts found that those with a high silica content worked the best. They experimented with increasing the silica and giving the dust a positive electrical charge, and the success rate was greatly increased, proving extremely good at killing fleas and lice in particular.

It was interesting to learn that in early civilisations, and now in less developed countries, it is ash and not dust which is used. Some years ago it was noted that farmers in Cameroon always washed their ash before they used it, and when scientifically tested it was proved that washed ash really was a more efficient insecticide, although the reason is not yet clear.

The use of ash and dust to kill pests is far from new. When Joseph saved Egypt from famine by hoarding grain he ordered that the grain stores be dusted with soil from the fields, and in ancient Egypt houses were dusted with a mixture of charcoal and herbs to kill the fleas. It has been suggested that layers of ash on floors in caves and early houses may well have been intentionally spread to trap fleas. Unfortunately, although excellent, ash and dust are messy, and a nightmare for those trying to keep houses clean and polished. As the fleas carried by black rats are quickly killed by dust, people may have actually died of plague because they were too houseproud.

Eventually the use of dust was discontinued, but herbs were employed instead as insecticides. Our own common fleabane was burned to smoke out fleas, or wormwood would be used as described by Thomas Tusser "where chamber is swept and wormwood is strowne, no flea for his life dare abide to be knowne."

The exciting thing about writing this is that there is never any telling what the response will be, or how many resulting questions will lead into unexpected paths of exploration.

This is exactly what happened when I mentioned the fascinating paper recently written by the Dutch scientist Tom Hakbijl on the insecticidal properties of dust and ashes and how effective he found them to be against parasites such as fleas and lice.

Shortly after the article appeared, a telephone call was received from a farmer in North Norfolk who breeds llamas. These animals typically have long hair coats, which as she put it can be a pain. For every effort she makes to keep them clean and presentable is thwarted by the animals rolling in dust or ashes if they can get at them. She was puzzled by this habit but now realises why. However, in their natural habitat dust is possibly more readily available to the llamas. As the reader pointed out, those who import alpacas, which have longer, finer and more valuable hair, are sometimes finding problems with parasites on the animals. At present these can only be solved with the use of chemicals. Could a large bed of dry ashes possibly solve the problem?

For the second question, I had to consult a member of the local clergy, for whose help I am extremely grateful. A reader from Norwich drew my attention to the words in The Bible that after Job was afflicted he "took a potsherd to scrape himself and he sat down among the ashes". Could these work now be understood in a different way, and what actually was the affliction of Job? Could it perhaps have been scabies?

In earlier versions of the Bible we read that Satan "smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to his crown". In more recent readings boils are named as sores, and Job speaks of sleepless nights and worms under his skin.

All of this would make sense if the disease was scabies or similar condition. It is to be presumed that Job would be inflicted with one of the most irritating diseases possible, and this ailment certainly fits that description.

Unfortunately a badly infected person gets little rest, for the itching is always worse at night if left untreated, general boils and dermatitis will appear. The condition is caused by an insect which burrows under the skin. Burrows are large enough to poke a needle down and attack the offending parasite. Job's initial reaction was to sit among ashes. Perhaps this was the usual cure for such conditions, and perhaps it might be interesting to explore further "sackcloth and ashes" and purification ceremonies using ashes.



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We have been asked by our chairmen to give comments on the possibility of a merger with BAS, so here are my views.

BAS came into existence mainly to serve those who were importing and breeding alpacas and wished to exploit the UK market. It has always been money driven, which is why over the last few years, many of their members have drifted back to BLAA. Why? Well just maybe it's because we do things right. How? Well at least we encourage everyone to look carefully into all aspects of ownership before parting with their money and never, ever promote these animals as a financial investment. Thank goodness for our Charity status. We have updated our registration system and have a superb alpaca screening scheme and at least our fees are realistic! We also *talk* to each other.

Why is it that some alpaca owners are never satisfied? They left BLAA to start BAS, which has had a turbulent time in its short existence, why else would so many owners feel they needed to belong to both societies? Now they want to come back and change us. Can't anyone else hear the alarm bell of history repeating itself? How many societies/associations will they need to get through before they stop whinging? This problem is not confined to the UK, the USA have had the same problems for years. So I am not in favour in getting closer to a society that has such a deplorable record for looking after its members.

A central registration system obviously makes sense as would an elected group (which must include vets) to represent the interests of all camelid owners to governmental bodies. These are the only areas that I believe could work with any type of merger. The Fibre Forum and the Fibre Co-op are independent of either society, although I must point out that the Fibre Forum was spawned from a fibre day organised by BLAA and seems to be a great success. The co-op seems to be forever running out of money, even though it has had loads, or so I'm told by disgruntled members.

The other topic being mooted is about the need for a 'Llama Society'. It would seem that the ever-increasing number of alpaca owning members within BLAA is seen as undesirable, that llamas are getting overlooked in the great scheme of things. Our editor is completely fair about articles in the Chronicle coming from all members, the problem is, that not enough llama articles are sent in. There is much to talk about and discuss and I, for one, would love to read about how llama owners and breeders tackle particular problems, why they do things in a certain way, tips on training, medical matters etc. Council organise conferences, seminars and shows, but as with all other societies, it is always the 'few' who turn out. Most llama owners just want to stay at home. So how would a 'Llama Society' differ? BLAA already provide a registration system, a Stud Approval Scheme, a Code of Conduct for the Sale of Camelids and a Commercial Trekking Code of Conduct. All of these things have been very carefully thought out and discussed at great length to provide members with the best possible advice and to promote responsible breeding and informed ownership. If we had a single breed society, what would happen to the members who have both llamas and alpacas? Why should they be forced to join two societies when British Camelids have been serving them so well for 15 years?

There are some llama breeders who neither register their animals nor have signed the Sales Code of Conduct, which is a document designed to protect the best interests of owner and llama alike. The idea of a llama society run by such people sounds just like BAS, another vehicle for those trying to make money out of these wonderful creatures. Ask any breeder if they have animals for sale, the answer will be 'yes'. Do we really want to encourage breeding to the extent that we end up with scores of unwanted and unsaleable llamas? That is the problem in the USA and Canada and I know that our members do not want to see that happen here.

In the next two to three years we will be seeing many such like alpacas as owners get thoroughly disenchanted with the amount of money they have invested going down in value, and having fibre that no one wants to buy for anything like a commercial rate. The small owner/breeder cannot compete with the big marketing strategies used by the big importers/breeders so will not be able to sell their stock and get a reasonable return on their 'investment'. BLAA has always endeavoured to tell the truth to both members and would be owners.

In the end it's up to all members to decide what they want, but my gut feeling is, why change something that has worked for over 15 years.

Mary Pryse

Catanger Llamas

Dear Editor

## *Merger or Closer Association of the Two Societies*

*We are at present members of both Societies. We do not wish this to continue. We very much hope that both Societies can continue to exist; why? Because each has its own very distinct ethos, and what suits one camelid owner or breeder does not suit another. Personally we feel happier in the more animal-oriented and less formal atmosphere of the British Camelids.*

*The criteria for the continuing existence of both Societies are, we think, the recognition of each others' register, and therefore, when appropriate, of each others' screening process, and the recognition of these by DEFRA and RASE (the Royal Agricultural Society of England).*

*Recognition by DEFRA and RASE would then ensure recognition internationally.*

*Perhaps the main difficulty will occur when representations about camelids have to be made to DEFRA. For this the two Societies would sometimes have to work together. Does this mean there has to be an overall umbrella society, or could there simply be a committee formed from the councils of both societies to meet on these occasions and be the speaking voice for all camelid owners?*

*We recognise the fact that sorting all this out will be difficult and will require good will on both sides, but we feel it would be real tragedy if either Society should cease to exist.*

*Yours hopefully,*

*Michael and Val Stephenson*

*Crowland Alpacas*

Dear Editor

Re: The proposed merger of BAS with British Camelids As someone who was a supporter of the formation of a separate Alpaca club, and who worked very hard to get BAS started, I feel I must write to tell you that I believe this latest suggestion (to merge) is a very bad one indeed.

However you may be surprised by my reasons. One would expect an organisation styled the British Alpaca Society to have as its primary aim the welfare of alpacas in Britain but right from the inaugural meeting this club has concentrated on the owners, not their animals. BAS has a strong commercial 'feel' about it which is not compatible, I believe, with the other things necessary to make a successful society e.g. registration, training judges, and, in particular, welfare issues.

Alpacas have attracted to themselves a lot of successful businessmen who seem to think that livestock are just another financial product. Not surprising when in some cases alpacas have been sold as just that. Recently they have also been promoted as a way round the planning system. When I started (in 1994) every alpaca was precious, I believe that BAS with its glossy magazine full of adverts, stating how one or other breeders' animals are the best, is almost solely responsible for the scene now where it would seem all alpacas are no longer equal. The price of alpacas is current falling faster than the

stock market. A sound club is essential to prevent what could be a very unpleasant situation when owners who have bought with financial gains in mind try to offload their failing investments.

In addition it should not be forgotten what BAS did for alpacas during the foot and mouth crisis - got them classified with sheep!

I firmly believe that British Camelids is the sound, steady club which is best placed to look after the welfare of alpacas and I am certain that it should not be tainted by merging with BAS.

Yes it is ridiculous to double up on things like registration etc. May I suggest that British Camelids takes control of registration, training judges, making show rules and the all important welfare issues and that BAS, if it wishes to continue, changes its name to something more appropriate and pursues the purely commercial aspects of alpacas which obviously are dear to some peoples' hearts. And as such an organisation will doubtless have plenty of money it should pay a regular, significant amount to British Camelids to compensate BC for taking these responsibilities.

This is an absolute NO to a merger of any kind.

Sylvia Collyer

Meadowsweet Alpacas

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# And Then There Were Four

Veurne is a delightful town, the first you come to as you enter Belgium on the A16 from France. Well, that's not quite true as the first town is Adinkerke, home to the remarkably named theme park "Plopsaland" (originally based around honey and called Mele) and the end of the over 70 kilometre coastal tramway which will take you all the way to Knokke. No, honestly, look at a map. As it's 70 kilometres of huge sandy beaches and wall to wall moulés and chips it's well worth doing but has nothing to do with llamas or what I'm talking about so it was a bit of a diversion. Which it is. If you resist and travel just a few kilometres on you will find Veurne (remember Veurne?) and it's well worth it.

The market square is a tiny version of the fabulous Grand Place in Brussels and there are some delightful shops and restaurants. It was sitting in one of these enjoying a fantastic meal, that my wife and I were talking about mowers. Like you do. Belgian food is easily as good as French, if not better and, as it is the beer capital of the World, every menu has pages and pages of choice of said beverage. There are reputed to be 365 different varieties, one for each day of the year. Anyway, there we were, bemoaning the fact that the paddocks were out of control and we may need a bigger mower or try and find someone reliable to come and cut it for us. Well, you can

dream. Suddenly we thought, the llamas are brilliant at eating all manner of paddock growing stuff, why not buy two more of them? The deed was done, and a swift Westmalle Trippel (don't do this at home) sealed the plan.

A call to Ordell elicited an invite and duly we sped Ascotwards to view the flock. This is always a pleasure and I never cease to be amazed that you can turn up at the end of some lane or other and find yet more of Ordell's stock. Of course we had the choice, but, as always, Ordell tries to match llama to prospective owner, and it was inevitable really that we should agree that two girls, Natalia and Tinkerbelle, were for us. Or vice versa.



*Taking advantage of the new concrete, Licorice is in front of her new little chum Tinkerbelle*

Delivery was agreed and, being used to the drama, trauma and sheer awfulness of introducing new horses, cats and guinea pigs to each other, we, with great trepidation, asked about introducing llamas. "No problem, just put them into the paddock together and it'll be fine. Done it loads of times. No problem."

Have I mentioned Vinny? He's our tarmac and concrete man and we'd asked him to concrete the area by the stables. You see, we had a grandstand view of the 2000 floods in Kent and know when such happens, there's nowhere for our water to go so it sits in our paddocks. It gets very muddy. We don't get flooded like the poor folks down below, but we get seriously muddy. A good hard standing, we reasoned, would be useful. As the 2002 floods looked even worse from our vantage point, this was visionary.

What wasn't visionary was having Vinny and a six wheel concrete mixer at the stables when Nats and Tinks arrived. Still, couldn't be helped, and a diversion via the orchard brought them to the bottom paddock below where Jigsaw and Licorice, blissfully unaware of our plot were watching Vinny with curiosity, and, in Jiggy's case, a view to practical involvement. Suddenly there were two



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more llamas, what has Johnny Human been up to now ? OK, so one is a little brown thing, but one is a leggy blonde. We open the gate and off they all rush. We are delighted, we have a herd !

We leave them to it and go back later. All is not well. Jigsaw is on Natalia's case big time, he will just not leave her alone. She responds by spitting over him, we've not seen this before, and he is turning green! She is also making a din like a cross between an angry camel and a dinosaur. Well, such as I'd know. This is not good. We retreat. Let's see what happens in the morning.



*The leggy blonde, a seriously tall llama, Natalia.*

If you can imagine, it's even worse. Nats is being pushed against fences and Jiggy is extremely green and plagued by flies. We begin to worry about their safety. If she moves, he's after her, all accompanied by said soundtrack from Jurassic Park. "You've been gelded," we yell. It makes no odds. We ring Ordell in desperation. "I've never heard of that before," she says deeply concerned and genuinely at a loss to suggest other than a change of her phone number!

You'll remember the old farts. Next day, we are all off to Edinburgh to make a weekend out of the next gathering. Parents-in-law are looking after the house and Michelle is once again looking after the big animals. They have no inkling. "Look, there'll be two more llamas, no problem!" we quipped. What's to do? So we separate the boy.

The boy. The boy Jigsaw. The limboing llama. We move him two paddocks away then stitch the fence with string and bailer twine so he can't get his head through let alone his whole body. We do not want a call at the Athens of the North telling us he's got out. ( Incidentally, do you know Edinburghois refer to Athens as the Edinburgh of the South?). No call comes, we enjoy our Talisker, haggis and Royal Yacht (well worth a visit) llama free and return to find things have settled down. After a week, we move Jiggy down a paddock and do even more fence stitching. What must people think?

After another week, we have to make a decision. The three girls seem to be getting on fine but Jigsaw, our fabulous character, is an old ratbag. We don't want this, the new ones will have to go, so we give it one last shot and bung them all in together.

We hold various breaths. It works. Everyone settles down. A substantial dollop of relief slithers around. We break the news to Ordell who is delighted. Llamakind has moved on. With the benefit of peaceful reflection, we have concluded that, just like young children, they got in a state and couldn't get out of it. Added to that, everyone was a bit disturbed by the concreting and the fact that the stables had to be out of bounds for a few days. Once they had all calmed down, common sense prevailed.

It was our, so far, only traumatic time with llamas. It settled down and all is now well, and, you'll not be surprised to learn, completely bonkers. I haven't told you what new characters we have and how the existing ones have coped so that, BLAA willing, can wait for next time. As can the llama Eurotunnel train which I have yet to photograph. We have to keep going back to France and Belgium just for that.....

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True llamas can be introduced to packs as young as 18 months BUT they are NOT ready for commercial trekking at that age. I have trained several llamas for our business, the easiest have been geldings previously totally untrained at 3 or 4 years old. Why is this? Llamas, like humans, have a "teenage phase" and need to mature mentally and physically into steady, responsible adults. When a new llama has been trained to lead sensibly; to happily wear the saddle and panniers; to be totally relaxed with traffic on the road; to load into the trailer with enthusiasm, *even then* that llama will take several months to fully adjust to everything it meets, like groups of aggressive dogs, galloping horses, being encircled by inquisitive cattle as the trek crosses a field, the pheasant or grouse that takes off at its feet or even the noisy, over friendly customer who smells strongly of perfume or cigarette smoke. All this and much more is required before that llama is truly a reliable packer. I would NEVER let our llamas loose with the public unsupervised. To those who would, and think trekking must be an easy life, I suggest they talk to their insurers about assessing risks!

Llamas were developed as pack animals over thousands of years, riding them is a certain way to damage their spine and cripple them. Have you seen those articles in magazines from the USA showing young children riding llamas? I asked several trekkers and breeders on the other side of the pond for their views because I could not understand how the child could be taken off the llama, if for instance a grizzly bear or even a deer suddenly spooked it. They all told me it was highly dangerous and none was covered by insurance. Working with our own llamas over the years has been a great pleasure but I have learnt to always be constantly alert and to expect the unexpected, safety *has* to be paramount.

My wife, Ruth and I diversified our farm business, started commercial llama trekking at the beginning of April 1994 and have been operating ever since as a full time occupation; we trek throughout the year. Nine years constant experience of llamas and working with the public enables us to clearly understand the risks in this business.

Please take care, let the public enjoy reliable well trained packers so they can discover the amazing world of llamas. They will be hooked and every breeder and owner around the UK will benefit.

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# The British Camelids Register of South American Camelids

Last Autumn I was asked to write an article on the Association Registration system for Alpaca World. There are apparently many features in our system that both professional and hobby alpaca owners appreciate.

This exercise resulted in a rethink of what we are offering to members and their role in helping the development of the register. We must be getting a lot right as we have a continuous stream of new breeders registering their herds with us. We are always willing to consider improvements wherever they are practical.

We are unique in the UK in covering all four species of South American Camelids (although we have no vicunas registered) and also in having a section for cross bred animals. Our database uses Microsoft Access and was developed "in house" with a little help from professionals on the tricky bits. We have done our best to listen to what our members have to say to us regarding developments in the registration process.

The requirements differ very much from the llama owners who want delightful paddock pets to the alpaca owners who have large breeding herds, regular sales and an import/export business.

To satisfy the diverse requirements of our members five key principles underpin the Register:

- 1: It must be open and neutral, simple to register, simple to use, and where possible contain data that has been authenticated.
- 2: Fees must be low to encourage full participation.
- 3: Registration must not require an eartag. Microchip and/or eartag identification being required for alpacas but optional for other species.
- 4: Full parentage data must be shown on registration certificates where it is available even where parents or grandparents are not registered with British Camelids.
- 5: It must record data on **all** camelids yet support the breeding of only true to type breeds by actively discouraging crossbreeds or those with genetic defects.

British Camelids believe they have satisfied these criteria by offering some unique solutions in the structure of the register.

We are currently bringing together the various documents that we have issued over the years on registration and assessments into a manual. It is intended to distribute relevant sections of the manual to all members who have registered camelids in recent years and to make the rest available on request.

Registration of llamas, alpacas and guanacos is straightforward and relatively simple where both dam and sire are already on our register. Where one or other parent is **not** registered with us but is registered with another camelid breed society that we recognise, we can (subject to some checks) take the cria on as fully registered. The details of the non-registered parent will be entered into the register with a six digit reference starting with a "9". They will be recorded as not registered by BCL, but the breed group with whom they are registered will be included in the data on our registry. This is a new development and will enable much more reliable and extensive information to be available on the animal's pedigree and in particular will help in selective breeding aimed at improving the quality of the national herd.

Where one or both parents are not registered with us (or any other breed society), or are registered with a breed society that does not meet our standards it is now possible to have the animals assessed. Full assessment includes a veterinary inspection, a phenotype assessment and for alpacas a fibre assessment. Animals found to be true to type, of reasonable quality, and free from congenital defects will be taken onto the register as fully registered. Those with correctable defects will be provisionally registered until the defect is corrected. Those failing to make the grade will be listed in the database for information only and will not be given a registration certificate.

*We discourage breeding from cross-bred stock and animals which are simply listed rather than registered.*

To help maintain the quality of animals:

- Where unregistered camelids have been imported since 1 Jan 2000 an assessment is necessary. Details of current requirements from the llama or alpaca committee via the Registrar.
- Any progeny of a listed animal will need to be assessed as free from the defects of its listed parent before it can be registered.
- Let us have photographs of animals that may need to be assessed (front view, side view and rear view). Often this (together with known history) will be enough for us to decide if the animal appears true to type and can be taken onto the register. In other cases a full or partial assessment will be required. Alpacas are more likely to need to be fully assessed than llamas.



## Levels of Registration:

- 1 There are three levels of 'registered' status, these have evolved to indicate whether the camelid is born of a) registered parents, ["R" status] b) whether it has successfully passed the British Camelids assessment programme, [aRi or RS or RD] or c) whether it has provisional registration pending further assessment or data ["PR"]. Cria of a provisionally registered sire or dam will *also* be provisionally registered until its parents status has been upgraded or it has been assessed.
- 2 The "listed" status caters for those camelids not reaching the required levels for full registration e.g. they have a congenital defect, however their data is recorded. No registration certificate is offered for such listings.
- 3 The non-registered reference section enables us to record information on forebears that are not registered with us. This information is automatically picked up when such an animal becomes a grandparent or great grandparent. No registration certificate is offered for animals in this section.

## How to Register:

Registration is simply made by manually completing an application form or by entering data onto a purpose designed spreadsheet supplied to members which is then e-mailed to the Registrar.



### 2000th Alpaca Registered

*"Easter"  
born  
Good Friday 2001.*

*Owned by  
Rosalie Fiennes,  
Burcott Manor,  
Wells,  
Somerset.*

The registration fee for a British bred camelid is £5 with discounts for quantities greater than 10 and for computerised inputs. There is a nominal charge of £2.50 for transfers to new owners and for updating the register with additional or amended details and a late registration fee of £2.50.

Where there are additional details that need to be entered for non-registered parents or grandparents there will be a charge of £15.00 to cover the animal being registered and to include in the non-registered reference section of the data base information on up to 6 forebears.

**Fees** for assessing imported animals pre or post importation are available on request. Where they have been assessed to relevant standards by another recognised breed society the fee for initial registration will be £15.00 per animal (no discounts).

Members are able to obtain from the Registrar a complete set of sorted data for any camelid on the register. If they do not have an "interest" in the animal [e.g. it is the ancestor of one of their breeding stock, or they are a previous owner], then they should obtain the prior permission of the owner for the registrar to provide full data on the animal.

The registered status is clearly recorded on the pedigree registration certificate. Only camelids bearing a registered status are eligible to enter judged show classes. Re-grading of a status is allowed if subsequent examinations conducted under the auspices of the Association prove eligibility.

As stated above details of any parents or grandparents not registered with British Camelids are also shown on the certificate. With the recent imports of pedigree breeding stock into the UK (primarily alpacas) from first world countries the availability of such data is essential to members when making purchasing or breeding decisions.

### Current developments under way are:

- improving the ease with which the relationships between animals can be extracted,
- adding some additional security features to the database
- redesigning the registration certificate so that it contains details of great grand parents.
- Identifying unregistered sires and dams within the system and allocating them a six digit reference number starting with a "9".

Further information is available from the Registrar, Rodney Newth, on Tel: 01908 610698,

e-mail [info@alpaca.co.uk](mailto:info@alpaca.co.uk) / [info@llama.co.uk](mailto:info@llama.co.uk)

or visit the Association websites [www.llama.co.uk](http://www.llama.co.uk) and [www.alpaca.co.uk](http://www.alpaca.co.uk)

I am Charlie, an eight-year-old Guanaco of impeccable breeding and head of my herd consisting of one hundred and one goats (NOT Dalmatians!), my surrogate daughter Bambi (a deer), and four and a half llamas, Bombay (Bomber), Aztec (Azzie), Sabrina (Bomber's bit of fluff), Whisper and baby Alfie, not to mention sixteen rabbits and a whistling guinea-pig. Here follows my quarterly diary...

The end of September was full of trouble as usual. Leo, the Togg stud goat was proving more than a handful. The girls were queuing at the gate on a daily basis to attract his attention but Leo found it all too much: He is a young male, only six months old but as his father had met an untimely end at the beginning of the year, his services were needed sooner than expected. Having all these females bleating to him at once was driving him wild and the need to get out and meet all these willing "fans" was overwhelming him. He got out of the fencing by squeezing himself through the gaps, which at only 6 months old, he could do. The other male for the black goats could only look on in wonder, as he was far too big for these antics. However, Mistress foiled the plan and Leo got hauled back into the pen and wire was put across the larger gaps in the hope of keeping him in. Wrong! He was out again within half an hour, this time clambering on top of the water trough and springing himself over the fence. Mistress dragged him back in and put him into the smaller paddock. This time, he spent several hours working out his route of escape but indeed, he found one. Master was unloading that evening and there by the gate to the girls house was an ever-eager Leo. Unfortunately for Leo, it was dark and the girls thought better of bleating and wagging their tails to him, instead preferring to turn in for the night, leaving him out in the dark looking a bit sheepish for want of a better animal! Leo was not impressed and neither was Master who had to round him up yet again.

Alfie is growing up fast and now copying the antics of his Uncle Azzie. They both wallow in the dust bath together like two old buddies and he spends time with me learning the finer arts of being a llama. I taught him how to nibble the best bits off the tree trunk at the top of the field and how to spy on next-door's pot-bellied pigs. He quite enjoyed this bit, as he had never seen a pig before. It was

important to educate him about less-worthy animals such as pigs as well as us superior llamas if he is to be a leader at sometime in his future life. An important llama has to gather every piece of information he could, even if some of it, such as pigs seem rather trivial! As head of herd, he would be expected to know everything, as indeed, I do! I felt that with proper guidance (and getting away from his air-head mother!), Alfie has the makings of a head llama.



October dawned and with it the real onset of autumn. Leaves were everywhere and acorns were clattering down in droves. One night, at about 12.30a.m. Mistress was awoken from her slumber by a yelling goat. It continued for sometime so fearing it was in trouble, she donned her dressing gown and armed with the trusty torch (that kept going out at inappropriate moments!), she set off to the goat house. This was to set off a catalogue of events. On shining the light in the house, the kids all raced to the back of the stable and flattened themselves against the wall as if to say, "it wasn't me!" On the torchlight falling onto the llama pen, it was action stations ... Operation Burglar Alarm was put into effect. I stomped about looking menacing and breathing heavily; after all, burglars can be tricky things. Azzie was still asleep (only a large Atom

bomb could wake him) and the silly deer tore about like a headless chicken having one of her panic attacks. She does things like that in artificial light you know. I told you she was one steak short of a bar-b-que! Sabrina hummed ten to the dozen (whatever help that might have been in an attack situation) and Whisper stood behind me as back up, baring her teeth. The kid causing the problem in the first place, had now shut up but every goat was awake and pandemonium was breaking out. Suddenly there was a familiar "Q — U — I — E — T!" yelled above the din and all fell silent as we realised it wasn't a burglar in drag after all, it was Mistress! We were strongly told to "button it" and she stomped off back to bed. The goats were confused by the whole episode (well it doesn't take a lot to confuse a goat and Azzie never stirred throughout the whole thing. At least we now knew our emergency plans for a mass destruction attack were effective! A force to be reckoned with, I think.

At the end of October, the clocks went back and we all looked forward to sleeping in that extra hour. Wrong! Mother Nature had other ideas and bombarded the country with strong gusts of wind and storms. Our farm suffered three fallen oak trees, not to mention the complete disappearance of the plastic cover over the hay pile, the annihilation of Mistress' "triffid plant" (some form of lily I think) and the dustbin had hitch-hiked almost to Timbuktu! All day, Master and Mistress busied themselves clearing up and coping with no electricity for 24 hours. By the time the electricity was restored some time in the evening, Mistress was suffering the onset of frostbite! Worse was to come however some days later. The winds died down and towards the end of the week, the familiar green and yellow lorry could be seen trundling up our driveway bringing our coarse mix. The driver, (whom we like because he's a llama fan) off loaded the food and set off as it was getting dark and he had a long journey back to Cornwall. Would you believe that the nearest coarse mix to us now is Cornwall?! Ten minutes later, a desperate phone call was received in the house. The driver's lorry was trapped at the end of the driveway by a fallen cable which looked suspiciously like a main electric. PANIC!! All hooves on deck!! Everyone rushed down the drive to his aid, which in itself finished

off half the rescue team as our drive is over half a mile long and very bumpy, especially in the dark! Sure enough, there he was, lorry just stopped in time with a drooping cable in front of him. Our neighbour, who was in the rescue team and dressed especially for our autumnal weather in t-shirt, shorts and long boy scout socks (!) found himself a long pole, tied an empty plastic food bag on the end and was all for lifting up the wire to allow the lorry access. Somehow this didn't appear to be one of his better ideas and besides, if he were to be frazzled in this act, his dog wasn't legal to drive the land rover home! The Electricity Board was called urgently whilst our poor driver came home for a strong, sweet cup of tea. Some "speedy" five hours later the Electricity Board turned up in their numbers and lifted the wire to allow him out. They spent a further two days completing the work. It wasn't even our cable, as ours runs sensibly underground. A much better solution I think. To think that the goats say nothing ever happens up here! No comment! On that point of excitement, I think I shall have to close for this quarter as I have rabbitied on rather a lot this time.

Love Charlie

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e-mail: jwag73@hotmail.com



A number of people have contacted me regarding an article that appeared in the last edition of Alpaca, the magazine of the British Alpaca Society, headed "Aberrant Llama Syndrome" by John Mallon.

I have visited John's web site [www.mallonmethod.com](http://www.mallonmethod.com) and what a surprise there was the self same article under the title "Aberrant Behavior Syndrome (ABS)". The article was written for the American market where there are very many more llamas than alpacas, in the body of the article it refers to llamas where perhaps it should have been llamas.

Funny that there should be a mis-print in the title when the reproduction of this article was clearly intended by the editors of Alpaca to be a warning that alpacas are as prone to this problem as are any other South American Camelids, or is there a hidden agenda to belittle the "big boys".

The British Camelids Welfare Guidelines issued to all new members states:

*If it is necessary to bottle or tube-feed the cria, one must avoid the temptation to cuddle and pet it. This is particularly important with male llamas, as there is a risk of serious and potentially dangerous behavioural problems later. A hand-reared male llama should be gelded at the earliest opportunity*

And .....

*However, it is of paramount importance that the cria should not be cuddled, petted, or overly handled because of the very serious risk of its developing dangerous behavioural problems as it matures. This kind of intensive handling should not be undertaken until the animal is eighteen months of age, by which time it will have come to learn that it is a llama, will have developed a healthy respect for humans, and will not present a danger.*

The welfare guidelines were written when the Association had relatively few alpaca owners and as in John Mallon's article refers mainly to llamas. I have been in contact with John and he confirms that the syndrome is as relevant to alpacas as it is to llamas. The only major difference is that an animal weighing 150 kilos is a different proposition to one weighing 85 kilos, but then ask a sheep farmer just how dangerous a bad-tempered 85 kilo ram can be!

On a final note our one alpaca (a Bozedown baby) was bottle fed from one day old and our last male llama cria from two months old. Both were returned to the herd immediately after feeding, were not cuddled or made a fuss of and were gelded at 18 months. They are now 2 and a half and behaving just like any other well bought up camelid, except that the alpaca thinks he is a small llama!! We shall continue to keep a close watch on them for the next few years, both their registration certificates (in the notes section) say that they were bottle fed.

**LOOK!**

**NEW!**

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## Shows with Camelid classes 2003

Our Association Show is where the Champion British Camelids llamas and alpacas of 2003 are decided. It will be held this year on Sunday May 18th, in the Milton Keynes area. This is a time when we are out of public gaze, can concentrate on showing our llamas and alpacas, as well as having an enjoyable time together. We hope that as many members as possible will attend this one-day show, and compete for the top awards in our Association.

As you will see from the diary, there are plenty of other shows to take your llamas and alpacas to this year, which will help raise the profile of our camelids in the U.K. At each of the judged shows throughout the year, British Camelids registered llamas and alpacas will have the results of their British Camelids placings within that show published in our magazine. So please take photos of your winners and send them in!

# Tony says "Diversify"

There is a saying about business projects What ever you think it will cost.....double the amount. How ever long you think it will take to get there. ....double the amount of time you thought. How ever much you think you will make.....halve that amount ! Only too true

But to start at the begining. . . . . I farm approximately 80 acres, split into two blocks about a mile apart, half flatish and the rest going from sloping to steep, and all down to grass. I kept sheep, pigs and a few cattle for fattening. A few years ago 'President' Tony said to farmers that they must diversify into non main core farming as he can get all the food everyone needs far cheaper from his foreign friends.



So diversify into what? Non food crops such as energy, alcohol, etc? Well there would be no help from the government as we have seen. Tourism? At that time it was over doné here in the SW plus needed a lot of money to convert the buildings. Also I did not have the people skills as well as not being that sociable!

So it would have to be livestock but which ones? Angora Goats? Been and gone. Deer? Enough breeding stock around plus you are in the hands of the supermarkets. You also you need very strong fencing. What about Wild Boar then? Also getting saturated and also need very strong fencing above and below ground. Ostriches are also getting saturated. So what then?

Then a couple of years ago while visiting the Royal Cornwall Show I saw a stand with live Alpacas and that got me thinking. After several visits during the day and

picking the stand organiser's brains, I thought it would be a good enterprise especially as they are easier than sheep to keep, apart from the price that is, which was a lot more in those days!

Several months later a friend saw an advert in a farming magazine for Guanaco. After a lot of thought and some research - not enough in hindsight - I ended up telephoning Robin Pratt in west Wales. who I found out later was "The Man Who Knows with Guanaco's". Later I visited him in Fishguard with his 400 and it was arranged that 10 adult females and a stud male would travel down when all was ready to receive them after a bit of fencing etc.

They arrived in October and after a quick canter around the perimeter fence that was that and they got on with the job of having a feed after their long journey down from west Wales. About a couple of months later one did crawl under the fence but was more worried about getting back in than I was in trying to get her back, and I was bad enough!

Christmas Eve found me ringing our vet to see if he had a dart gun as one of the guanacos had scratched its eye on the haylage while eating and it was getting very weepy. But no the vet didn't have one and anyway the eye would have to be treated everyday for awhile! After two weeks of worrying about its eye it had cleared up all on its own and the cataract-like symptoms had disappeared. ...truly amazing. Over that winter three other ones had the same problem but they all cleared up as well..... a very good immune system.

I was also feeding a little bit of concentrated food to get them used to me and the handling yard although the crush had not yet been obtained. I now found that although they would eat the haylage side by side it was very different with the concentrates and then it was only two to a sheep's trough at the most, and then only with much spitting going on. It seems that more is spat around than eaten!

Spring time came and I was wondering would I have any cria born, and at last small udders would appear and then they were born, always during late morning or early afternoon. They would appear almost to be all legs but I suppose considering the height they need to reach the milk bar, it is not surprising really. One even managed it on a wet day and ended up in a mud puddle... the sort of conditions that would make even the strongest lamb think of dying. but next morning it was running around without a care in the world.

In the end nine of the ten had crias although two were premature, with one dead and another a few days later even after bottle feeding (and both me and the bottle getting spat at once each), then another died after about a month and I'm not sure why, it just went down hill quite quickly. So that left me with three males and three females which are doing very well. The male was seen to be mating so I thought the next year's crias are starting, but it was not to be and we are still waiting while experimenting with different ideas to try to overcome this problem.

That summer I went and got the drop floor crush for all the routine and other work that has to be done with them injecting, etc. and it is being adapted so I can shear them. I also found out how well they can pebble dash with their stomach contents!

Also that summer I was asked to take on a very nervous mother and her five year old Llama cross son. However she did not like being with the other llamas and especially the male and died of stress, I believe. Her son got in with the other male and had a really nasty fight though luckily no blood was drawn by the time I managed to separate them. And I had more fencing to do. I lost another which had wasted away due, I found out, to worms. So now I worm four times a year, twice with an injectable wormer and the other two times with a powder spread on their food to get rid of the worms the injectable one doesn't. During one of these worming bouts one of the females managed to hurt its eye and popped it out of the socket. Luckily she just sat down and I managed to put it back but I needed to put a stitch in the eye lid to keep it in. She is blind in that eye now and

does have some difficulty in seeing where she is going with just the one eye but she still manages to keep with the rest and move around the different fields.

I have had talks with the vet re the non births and wondered if it might be minerals or lack of, but when asked about blood tests, he said "what do we measure it against" and even getting the blood samples can change the blood chemistry. So we will have to keep on trying different things and hope!

That Autumn I went to Canada with my fiancée to visit my sister and her family and some aunties and uncles. While in Vancouver we got married and honeymooned around Vancouver Island where we saw many llamas and alpacas. and picked up a few ideas. On our return the llama cross male fell madly in love with my wife's alsatian female who teased him like mad much to the amusement of the other guanacoos!

Last summer we started to shear them - it ended up as a two person job as one was needed to hold the head firm to stop them hurting themselves, with the help of a jumper and coat wrapped around the head to keep them quiet. Although one managed to cut a vein on its leg and had to be let out quickly, whereupon the blood flow stopped and all was well, apart from the jumper hanging around its neck. No way was I going to let the whole village see that! Luckily they are such a forgiving animal and she calmly walked back into the crush within five minutes, much to our surprise! We managed to get most of their backs and sides clipped but not their legs as we found that the legs need some sort of restraint to do that.

The next problem was to process the fibre, just over 5.5 kilos in all. I had found some hand spinners that wanted it but it had to be dehaired first and I was beginning to think it would be a wet weather job, or a winter's evening doing it myself bit by bit. Luckily I had a phone call from Rachel Hebditch who gave me Alan Glover's phone number. After a few phone calls I visited him and his Mini-mill not far from Oxford and had a very interesting day talking and seeing their mill and the alpacas which are all looked after by him, his wife, and a friendly neighbour. So we are just waiting to see the end results from their mill with some fibre to go for hand spinning, and some to be ready for hand and machine knitting, both the same fibre, so if anyone wants some garments made up in the natural fawny-brown colour give us a call! !

Jon can be contacted on 01579 320726 or 07790 572253.



# Social Groups' News

## MIDLAND GROUP

No suitable venue has been found for the spring trek in the West Midlands, so if any members know somewhere that would fit the bill please let me know

SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JULY

Mini trek and fun day at Manor Farm, Leics/Notts border,

SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

Catanger picnic & trek South Northants

All members and friends welcome.

Contact Mary Pryse 01295 768676.

Email: [mary@llamatrekking.co.uk](mailto:mary@llamatrekking.co.uk)

Please note that the Pub Evenings are temporarily suspended until a new venue has been found.

## EAST GROUP

East of England Llama and Alpaca Group held their 4<sup>th</sup> bi-monthly meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January at The Low Farm, Letton, Thetford, Norfolk. Home of AzSu Alpacas and hosted by Su & Robert Lenk.

The meeting was enjoyed by 24 attendees and held in the games room where coffee greeted everyone on arrival. Demonstrations were given by David Hopkins of his pregnancy scanning machine and his method of micron testing of fleece using a sophisticated microscope. An informative talk was given by Livestock Risk Management Services on various forms of insurance available especially when importing.

Discussions were interactive and included the forthcoming Marty McGee Bennett clinic being held at The Low Farm in September, this year's alpaca and llama shows around the country, Fred Whites' forthcoming fleece show and local agricultural shows being held in our region. In particular, the Aylsham show which has agreed to hold alpaca and llama classes this year.

Then back to the house for lunch and a good old natter with lovely jolly likeminded people who share the common love of alpacas and llamas.

Next meeting to be held in March, so if there are any more camelid owners in this area who would like to join our merry group please contact Su Lenk.

Tel: 01362 820097 Fax: 01362 821333

Email: [su@azsualpacas.com](mailto:su@azsualpacas.com)

National Spinning Week

5 - 11 May.

The Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers is keen to recruit new members. Anyone in Bristol and the surrounding area who is interested should contact Fiona Davis on 01495 774746.

## SOUTH WEST GROUP

The Visit to Roseland Llamas proved very popular & we had a super day at Lake Farm with Judy & Paul Rose who made us all very welcome. We all managed to converge on our hosts within a short space of time, in spite of the fact that many had made journeys from Wales & Cornwall. As we enjoyed our coffee we took in the wonderful views that Paul & Judy enjoy from their beautiful home, with the llamas grazing the surrounding paddocks and hills beyond.

Delicious hot soup preceded our 'shared' lunch, which, once again proved to be a great success. So much so, that we spent too much time enjoying all the goodies and chatting that by the time we accompanied Paul to see his llamas, the weather had somewhat deteriorated. However this didn't spoil our enjoyment of standing surrounded by so many llamas, an experience I for one, do not encounter often! Sheer magic, in spite of the rain!

I believe that the Llamas had never met such a crowd as us either, and were just as intrigued, (especially by David in his 'dayglo' waterproofs!). I am sure many of us were tempted to scoop up one of his enchanting youngsters under our waterproofs, especially the ones with the extra long eye-lashes that Paul seems to specialise in. Thank you Paul & Judy for a lovely day, you really spoiled us.

It's really encouraging that we are attracting new members to our get togethers, so much help and information is to be gained from swapping experiences at these informal meetings, and we try to vary the venues to accommodate everyone in our huge region.

We have two dates for your diary, the first is our Charity Trek along the Jurassic Coastal Path in Dorset on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Full details available from Jo & Chris of U.K. LLAMAS Tel: 01308 868674 or see page 31.

Our next visit is to: Fiona & Phil Davis, on Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May, at Hafod Wenog Farm, Cwmavon, near Pontypool, Monmouthshire NP4 8UW Tel: 01495 774746; e-mail [phil@hafodwenogfarm.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:phil@hafodwenogfarm.freeserve.co.uk)

Please contact Phil & Fiona for directions and an idea of contributions for the shared lunch. We haven't managed 101 sausage rolls yet, but it could happen.

Also in the pipeline, a repeat of the trek across Woolacombe Sands in aid of Childrens Hospice S.W. that was so successful and enjoyable in April 2000. This should take place some time in September (date to be finalised) so watch this space. Looking forward to seeing old friends & new in the Spring. Jenny Rogers Tel: 01837 82747.

## SOUTH EAST GROUP

Our main energies are being directed to the preparations for Fred White's Cowfold Fibre Show, details on page 29.

**W**e are Linga Longa Llamas, a small llama trekking venture on the Isle of Harris in the Western Isles of Scotland. We are hoping that someone reading this article may be able to shed some light on a mystery we are struggling to solve. Two days before Christmas two of our llamas died within a day of each other and we have not as yet been able to establish what killed them. Our vet conducted a post mortem and brain tissue was sent away for analysis, but to date no-one has been able to determine the cause of death.

Both llamas were gelded, Santiago, who came from a Scottish breeder in June last year was two years old and Oscar, from Dorset, was three years old. Oscar was ill for four days where as Santiago died within 12 hours of showing the first symptoms.

Initially our vet thought it was Louping ill, as their symptoms indicated some neurological disorder. The first symptom both displayed was to wander away from the herd on their own and either lie down or just keep wandering in an agitated fashion. They became unaware of their surroundings and not concerned that the other llamas were not nearby, and not at all interested in food. After a period they lost perception to one side and circled in a highly agitated manner. This continued until having lost all strength they laid down and died. During this whole period the head was held high or slightly backwards and once lying down the head and neck were very stiff and the head was flung backwards.

Oscar had no temperature at all throughout, his gum colour was normal, as was his breathing up until near the end. Santiago went down very quickly, ran a temperature and staggered a lot quicker and more than Oscar.

The vet said whatever caused this affected the brain and was symptomatically similar to mortalities in sheep and cattle here with the tick borne disease, Louping ill. We have a fair amount of ticks in this area and it seemed highly probable that these two could have contracted the disease. But the laboratory analysis has so far ruled out a viral or bacterial cause.

The chance of a deficiency of some kind causing two deaths from such acute symptoms with two days of each other is remote but can't be completely discounted.

The vet and the laboratory are still investigating all other possibilities, including some form of poisoning over a period of time that has accumulated in the system. We have looked into their feed, which is either a rabbit mix or sheep pellets, (fed more as a treat whenever they are worked, not as a regular concentrate) and ad lib hay, as well as the local grazing. The chance that they ate a toxic plant is not entirely discounted by the vet but it was midwinter, he has a good local knowledge in dealing with ruminants and it is thought unlikely.

We are determined to get the llama trekking business off the ground this summer, but dare not bring any more llamas onto the island until the mystery of what caused these fatalities is solved. The remaining three llamas are fine so far.

If anyone has had a similar experience or who could suggest anything please could you phone me at 01859 511102 a/h, or email me at [trev.pip@ntlworld.com](mailto:trev.pip@ntlworld.com)

Our address is:

Pippa Gibbs  
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Tel: 01403 864683 Fax: 01403 864338  
[www.llamas-uk.co.uk](http://www.llamas-uk.co.uk)

Will somebody please enlighten me? There is an often-repeated statement that llamas can carry one third to half their body weight on their backs. A fully grown male llama weighs about 350 lbs, which would make the load 110 — 175 lbs. A few years ago, at a seminar at Ashdown Llama Farm, Dr Julio Sumar told us that 55 lbs was the maximum weight for a llama to carry. Several members questioned this, surely he meant kilos? No, he meant pounds. This was confirmed on my visit to South America at the beginning of 2002, all the information I read about llamas referred to the 55 lbs maximum weight. Here in the UK a 12 hh (48 inches) pony or donkey weighs considerably more than a llama but is only allowed to carry 112 lbs. The proportions of equines are much better suited to carrying weight on their backs than llamas. Now I can understand that things may be different in Peru, where llamas are working at high altitude and in mountainous terrain, but where did this huge weight for llamas come from?



From Left: Michael Brooke, Nick Weber, David Pryse on the Association stand at the Smithfield Show, Dec 2002.

## Volunteers please!

You will see in the Diary Dates that there are lots of Shows this year where we can have a British Camelids presence. The general public loves to ask us about our wonderful llamas and alpacas. And of course we like to share our enjoyment of them, and spread the word to prospective owners. We depend on you, the members, to man the stand. Remember, if no-one volunteers, we may not get invited back, so we're relying on you. Please let me know which Show(s) you may be able to attend to represent us. Joy Whitehead, 0118-984-3827, or email: joy@bozdown-alpacas.co.uk

## QUIPU

Proprietors Chris & Mary Bunney

Quipu is a small family business. We import a wide selection of craft-goods directly from the families that make them in Peru, and by carefully observing a 'Fair Trade policy' we are able to offer good quality products at sensible prices.

We stock many items in alpaca including Knitware, scarves, ponchos, shawls, jackets and model llamas. Costales, woven alpaca carrying bags for llamas, are available to order, as are authentic rugged ponchos and decorative pull-on hats.

Why not visit our website at

[www.quipucrafts.co.uk](http://www.quipucrafts.co.uk)

or at our shop, **Quipu**, Brewers Quay,

Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8TP, UK

**Telephone (0044) 01305 788474**

For further information e-mail:

mary@quipucrafts.co.uk

Telefax (0044) 01308 485207

We also raise funds for our Good Cause, WAWA, to help poor children and young people in Peru

## BOOK REVIEW

Recommended by Hazel Ames as "well worth investing in – a very handy guide."

The 2002-2003 copy of the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH) Compendium of Data Sheets for Veterinary Products is now available.

"It contains data for more than 1000 products, providing information for vets and the public," says Steve Dean, chief executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

The compendium helps to ensure animal medicines are used effectively and safely and a withdrawal period table has been added to this edition, says NOAH.

Copies, costing £26, are available to all users of animal medicines (0208-3673131; fax 0208-3631155).



# Diary of Events

## March

- Sat 15 Alpaca Auction, St. Albans.  
*Garry Barnett - 01923 670015*
- Sun 30 Charity Trek- Macmillan Cancer Relief, Dorset  
*Valerie Wallace - 01747 821669*

## April

- Sun 27 AGM, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

## May

- Sat 4 / South of England Llama & Alpaca Show,  
Sun 5 South of England Showground, Ardingley, W  
Sussex *Liz Butler - 01737 823375*
- Sat 10 Seminar - Preparation for shows, Winkfield,  
Berks *Mary Pryse - 01295 768676*  
*Ordell Safran - 01344 885957 (after 25 Mar)*
- 15/16/17 Devon County Show - *Display only*
- Sun 18 British Camelids Association Show - venue to  
be decided
- Wed 28 / Bath & West Show - Alpaca Classes -Shepton
- Sat 31 Mallet *Tim Hey - 01254 821499*  
or *Nick Weber - 01935 863467*

## June

- 13/15 East of England Show, Peterborough  
*Display only*
- 15/17 3 Counties Show, Malvern, Worcestershire
- 20/23 Royal Highland Show, Ingleston, Edinburgh
- Sat 21 Open Day & Sale, Great Milton, Oxon  
*Phillipa Wills - 01844 279895*
- 29/2 July Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

## Social Groups

Edinburgh	Contact: Doreen Marsh	0131 445 3438
North East	Contact: Bruce Wright	01723 871234
Midlands	Contact: Rodney Newth or Mary Pryse	01908 610698 01295 768676
East	Contact: Su Lenk	01362 820097
South East	Contact: Candia Midworth or Bob Pope	01372 458350 01403 790493
South West	Contact: Jennifer Rogers	01837 82747
West	Contact: Norma Chandler	01454 773533
Midlands Group	Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of the month except June, July & August	
South East Group	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 7.30pm	
West Group	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, at The Wheatsheaf Inn, High Street, Winterbourne, Bristol. 7pm	

## July

- Sun 6 Windsor Park Trek  
*Henry Safran - 01344 885857*
- Fri 11 / Kent County Show - Camelid Classes  
Sun 13 *Linda Johnson - 01825 712040*
- Sat 19 / Wykeham Country Fair, nr Scarborough, North  
Sun 20 Yorkshire. *Heather Archer - 01723 866600*
- Sun 27 Llama Fun Day & mini trek, Manor Farm,  
Gotham, Notts  
*Melvyn Osbourne - 01159 830844*

## August

- Sun 3 Cranleigh Show - Camelid Classes  
*Judy Troughton - 01306 712050*
- Sun 24 North Somerset Show - Camelid Classes  
Richard Cooksley - 01275 375559
- Sun 24 / Edenbridge and Oxted Show - Llama Classes  
Mon 25 *Pam Walker - 01403 864683*
- Mon 25 Aylsham Show - Camelid Classes  
*Su Lenk - 01362 820097*
- Sun 31 Cowfold Fibre Show, Fibre classes **See below**

## September

- Sat 6 Morton-in-Marsh. Camelid Classes?
- Sun 7 Midland Group Autumn trek and diy BBQ —  
Catanger Farm,  
*Mary Pryse 01295 768676*
- Sat 13 Henley Show - Camelid Classes  
*Una Dawes - 01491 572416*
- 20 / 21 Newbury Show. *Display only*
- ? Charity Llama Trek on the beach at  
Woolacombe, North Devon. *David James 01278*  
*671425* Date to be confirmed

## October

- Sat 25 / BCVS Conference - Dr. David Anderson of Ohio  
Sun 26 State University
- Sat 31 / The David Anderson Seminars for BCL  
Sun 1 Nov *Joy Whitehead 0118 984 3827* or  
*Jane Brown 01608 661893*

### COWFOLD FIBRE SHOW - 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST

Judging of llama, alpaca & guanaco fibre, both on the  
animal and sheared. Spinning & weaving  
demonstrations, equipment for sale.

Guinness Book of Records multiple spinning attempt!

General enquiries: Fred White: 07802 248 653 - pm only

#### Entries

Fibre on the Hoof: Liz Butler - 01737 823375

Spun & Sheared Fibre: Irene Taylder - 01273 542074

# Welcome to New Members

Dr & Mrs Stephen Adams Parslow, Buckinghamshire  
 Ms Lisa Armstrong Lydney, Gloucestershire  
 Mrs Margaret Ashton Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire  
 Mr Chris & Mrs Michelle Atkins Ledbury, Herefordshire  
 Mr Michael Berry Bodfari, Denbighshire  
 Mr Gareth & Mrs Lindsay Bliss Colchester, Essex  
 Miss Carolin Board Wigton, Cumbria  
 Mr Ray Charlton Netherseal, Derbyshire  
 Mr Colin Dean Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire  
 Mrs Rosalie Fiennes Wells, Somerset  
 Ms Valerie Fowler Felbridge, Surrey  
 Mr Alastair & Mrs Moira Fraser Chepstow, Monmouthshire  
 Mrs Sarah Graham Bridgnorth, Shropshire  
 Mrs Valerie Greenaway Cupar, Fife  
 Goodenbergh Country Holiday Park Lancaster, N Yorkshire  
 Ms Melanie Hall Stractoft, Leicestershire  
 Mr & Mrs M Higgins St Agnes, Cornwall

Mrs A J Homa Ilfracombe, Devon  
 Miss Georgina Hunter Stirling, Stirling District  
 Mrs Ishbel Jones Whitland, Carmarthenshire  
 Mrs Lucy Keeler Axminster, Devon  
 Mr Jim Kerr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire  
 Mrs Cheryl Kill Dolgellau, Gwynedd  
 Ms Jane Lake Chatteris, Cambridgeshire  
 Mr Christopher Moor East Meon, Hampshire  
 Mr Andrew Read Ulverston, Cumbria  
 Ms Clare Robinson Leominster, Herefordshire  
 Mrs Rosie Pajovic Kenton, Devon  
 Mr Geoff Skerritt Childer Thornton, Cheshire  
 Ms Sandy Simpson Lower Beeding, West Sussex  
 Mr Trevor Stables Boston, Lincolnshire  
 Mrs Hillary Taylor Brinsley, Nottinghamshire  
 Mrs Meriel Weston Staplecross, East Sussex  
 Mr Ricky Winton Lostwithiel, Cornwall

## Registration Fees

Animal Registration Fee	(per animal)	£5.00
10 or more all registered at same time		10% discount
10 or more all registered by computerised input		20% discount

## Council Members e-mail addresses

Rodney Newth [bcl@mkllamas.clara.co.uk](mailto:bcl@mkllamas.clara.co.uk)  
 Jane Brown [jane.p.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.p.brown@btinternet.com)  
 Michelle Goodhand [michelle.goodhand@virgin.net](mailto:michelle.goodhand@virgin.net)  
 Joy Whitehead [joy@boztdown-alpacas.co.uk](mailto:joy@boztdown-alpacas.co.uk)  
 Phil Davis [phil@hafodwenogfarm.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:phil@hafodwenogfarm.freeserve.co.uk)  
 Nick Weber [nick@westways-alpacas.co.uk](mailto:nick@westways-alpacas.co.uk)  
 Lorna Renshaw [ArdoAlpaca@cs.com](mailto:ArdoAlpaca@cs.com)  
 Arish Turle [arturle@netcomuk.co.uk](mailto:arturle@netcomuk.co.uk)  
 Bruce Wright [Info@llamatreks.co.uk](mailto:Info@llamatreks.co.uk)

## Annual Subscription Rates

Single subscription (EU - 1 person, 1 vote) £30  
 Family subscription (EU to cover 2 people with-2 votes) £45  
 Overseas annual subscription (outside EU - Chronicle only) £35  
 Professional affinities (vets etc) EU/Full Time Student £20  
 Professional affinities overseas £25

Membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year.  
 New members joining after 1st July pay 50% normal rates.

Payment to be made to **British Camelids Limited** by sterling cheques or international money order in sterling.

Subscriptions can also be paid by Standing Order and/or Gift Aid.

## Association Internet sites:

[www.llama.co.uk](http://www.llama.co.uk) & [www.alpaca.co.uk](http://www.alpaca.co.uk)

# Charity Trek

On Sunday 30 March 2003, Chris and Jo Harwood will be leading a sponsored trek between Charmouth Heritage Centre and Lyme Regis in Dorset. The walk will last approximately one and a half hours along the South West Coastal path. The coastline is famed for its heritage, and this particular section is renowned for its fossils and prehistoric interest.

The walk is being planned in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Relief in memory of the life and work of Michael Bassett. Having leukaemia himself, Michael was known for his work with other cancer patients, and particularly for his therapeutic work in taking his llamas into cancer units in local hospitals.

There is already a lot of support for the walk from other llama owners, who are happy to come from all over the south west to take part. Chris, Jo and Macmillan are inviting a number of celebrities to come along and support the walk as well.

Everyone is welcome — please bring family and friends and join us the trek along the lovely Dorset coast.

For further details of how to take part, please contact:

Valerie Wallace at the Macmillan Cancer Relief Dorset Office on 01747 821 669,  
or Chris & Jo of UK Llamas on 01308 868674.

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### FEMALE ALPACA

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Contact: victoria wigan  
Tel: 01825 712753 (Sussex)

### WANTED

2 young unrelated male llamas  
with stud potential.

Good temperament, conformation & fibre essential. Colour less important.

Please e-mail or call:

Paul Rose at Roseland Llamas  
roseland@llamas.co.uk  
tel/fax: 01363 866056. www.llamas.co.uk

### MALE ALPACAS

Three young male alpacas  
White, brown and grey.

Contact: C Sainsbury, Glascoed Alpacas  
(Monmouthshire)  
Tel: 01495 785243

## GALA

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

To advertise animals for sale, goods or services, please use this form. All advertisements cost £15.00 per insertion. Cheques should be made payable to "British Camelids Ltd". Send your advertisement to: Jane Brown, Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4NH

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Wording \_\_\_\_\_



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*24th May ~ Bozedown Stud Day*  
*Guest Speaker; Eric Hoffman*

*contact Joy Whitehead, Mary-Jo or Alison*

*Bozedown Farm, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7QY*

*Tel; 0118-984-3827*

*Ans/Fax; 0118-984-3737*

*e-mail; joy@bozedown-alpacas.co.uk*

*www.bozedown-alpacas.co.uk*