



Camelids Chronicle

NEWS-SHEET OF BRITISH CAMELIDS LTD., OWNERS AND BREEDERS ASSOCIATION



I THOUGHT SHE'D INVITED US IN TO READ THE CAMELIDS CHRONICLE!

Letter from the Chairman of the Steering Committee

Over the last few months I have come across the expression 'Pet Markets'. Now I think this terminology, when applied to our animals is incorrect. There is no way they should be kept as pets; they are herd animals and, from my experience, kept singly they become so imprinted on humans they can become extremely troublesome. Keeping Camelids is very enjoyable - they are superb companion animals - but as pets - please - NO! When you know that their life expectancy is possibly thirty years, whether you keep them for fun or farm them commercially, you are going to get attached to them. They all have their own mannerisms and idiosyncracies and are not the easiest of animals to control; if you can keep them healthy and happy you are a good stock-keeper.

The shows this year have been excellent and well attended. This is important, so that we can meet, look at other animals and discuss any problems that we may have. Showing is vital; we have got to see and find out what is the ideal animal and breed to that end. We obviously have to be careful we do not 'go down the same road' as a lot of dog breeders. We must breed pure, healthy, well-boned animals, avoiding cross-breeding. These shows teach us how to handle and lead our animals; this will be very important when we start to own large herds. Being able to brush and blow clean them is also necessary, for when we commence fibre production in commercial quantities it has got to be clean; and when I say 'clean', I mean 'clean'; there must be no particles of straw or seed in their coats. The wool industry will require quality fibre and if their employees have to use tweezers to pick out bits and pieces from the cloth produced it will dramatically decrease the value of our fibre.

I should like you to think ahead to the next A.G.M.; being of idle disposition I should like to retire as Chairman so please consider this and decide who will be my possible successor to lead you through the coming years, which I feel are going to be exciting and, I hope, profitable to us all.

Peter Knowles-Brown

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Once more the shows have finished and one has met numerous people wanting information on keeping Camelids, how to obtain them and last, but by no means least, "How much do they cost?"

South of England Show

Starting with the South of England Show; Jenny Cobb had a lovely stand where she spun, answered questions and sold fleeces, as well as displaying her alpacas. I heard that one of the questions she was asked; (a recurrent query asked of us all when we are at shows), was "Can you eat them?"; not an easy one to answer as we all know one can, but few of us fancy, or indeed can afford to pop our friendly llama in the freezer.

Llama Khana day at Peter's Issac's was also great fun and enjoyed by all. Thank you Peter.

Llama Auction

On June 24th. Pat Bentley held an auction sale of llamas. The animals looked very smart and certainly behaved themselves. The sale was well attended and people had travelled many miles to buy stock. Prices varied but when it comes to "the crunch", people buy what they fancy at a price they can afford. I should think prices were in line with the current scale of prices paid for animals being sold privately. I should like to say thankyou to Pat for providing the British Camelids with a table and space to attract new members and to enable Peter and me to chat to existing ones. We welcome the new members and hope that those who bought animals are enjoying them.

Royal Show

The Royal Show soon followed and the hot weather was a welcome change from the previous year. Our Chairman did his usual job, keeping the llamas clean and tidy and generally trotting round the rest of the Committee with food and drink. May I take this opportunity of thanking Yvonne Parfett and Rod Bridgland for the loan of the stand backing and its transportation. It was also a pleasure to meet Mrs. Tudgee who made the long journey from her home in Bristol to take part in the spinning demonstrations and I must also thank members of the fibre Co-operative who helped to man the stand.

Spinners were again kept busy and were a constant source of interest, as was the loom upon which Una Dawes wove silk and guanaco fibre; so many thanks to Ann, Jenny and Una. On the Thursday of show week we welcomed Mrs. Gerry Smart (from the local Guild) who had offered to spin for us on an electric spinning wheel; it was certainly different but does not have the lovely rhythm or appearance of the traditional wheel.

Day With Llama Friends

Unfortunately I was not able to attend Ordell Safran's 'Day with Llama Friends' as I was busy with the East of England Show. May I say how sad we were to hear that Ordell was unable to be there due to the death of her father in the States, but she can rest assured that the day was in good hands and everyone enjoyed the day,

especially the llamas sporting their beautiful rosettes, (or so mine told me!)

East of England Show

The East of England Show heralded another few sweltering days but this did not deter people from coming to visit the stand and we enjoyed quite a lot of media publicity for 'Tommy' the alpaca and the llamas. People appeared to be much more interested in the fibre this year, so perhaps we are slowly winning the battle.

Llama/Deer Day

Just before writing this Gerald and I held our 'Deer/Llama Day'. Forty-seven people attended together with around 47,000 wasps at lunch time, but we survived without too many stings; it was pleasant to see some new faces amongst the members. Now that the shows are over I have returned to an over-flowing In-tray, besides all the other jobs with which I have not had time to cope.

Registration & Tagging

The main thing which must be done is to settle the question of tagging and registration of animals before the sale in October. Jenny Cobb and Jennifer Spooner have been 'beavering away' trying to sort out different methods and tags, but as the subject has many ramifications we have decided to hold a General Meeting, which we hope members will attend and give their own views before final decisions are taken. If you have any other subjects you would like to hear discussed, please ring or drop me a line, so I can put your ideas on the agenda. The meeting will be held at the Penguin Hotel, Weedon, Northants on Sunday 10th. September at 1.00 pm.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 23-24** Pat Bentley's Llama Weekend, Penrith.
- October 11** Llama auction, Stoneleigh.
Animals welcome from all members.
- Molly Badham, Twycross Zoo.
To be arranged.

Pam Walker

We welcome the following new members to the Association:-

- Mr. T. Adorian, Carlisle.
Mrs. T. Adorian, Billingshurst, Sussex.
Mr. & Mrs. A. Case, London NW2
Mr. & Mrs. M. Duran, Barnet, Hertfordshire.
Ms. Y. Fitzgideon, Little Yeldham, Essex.
Mr. A. Graham-Stewart, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
Mr. J. Halpin, Australia.
Miss C. Massey, Bromesgrove, Worcs.
Newham City Farm, London E16
Mr. J. Thornborrow, Leamington-Spa.
Mrs. P.J. Whitehead, Reading, Berks.
Mrs. A. Wright & Mr. D. Tootal, Tiptree, Essex.

Cover Photo: SARAH WELLS, LITTLE WITLEY, WORCS.

LLAMA KHANA

All roads lead to Bildeston in sunny Suffolk, or at least they did on June 10th. for Peter Isaac's Llama-Khana day.

Both the national and local media were on hand, together with some estimated 1,000 curious spectators, to join in an event which heralded an outstanding P.R. exercise for the llama community at large, as witnessed in the amazing coverage which followed over the course of the next two weeks.

Rather than attempt to emulate the journalistic skills of some of these articles, I have selected the article which appeared in the East Anglian Daily Times which I feel entered into the spirit and fun of the day and this is enclosed as a photocopy insert.

A thoroughly enjoyable day was experienced by both participants and spectators alike, and Peter Isaac's extremely hard work has now benefitted the whole of the U.K. camelid interests.

Classes are detailed as follows:-

Llamas in Hand

1st	Pamela	Dr. & Mrs. D. Chandler
2nd	Percy	Mr. J. Bryden
3rd	Alpha Highwayman	Yvonne Parfett

Cross Country

1st	Merlin	Dr. & Mrs. D. Chandler
2nd	Goliath	Dr. & Mrs. D. Chandler
3rd.	Alpha Highwayman	Yvonne Parfett

Obstacle Race

1st	Dr. Zhivago	Mrs. Pam Walker
2nd	Liz	Peter Isaac
3rd	Alpha Highwayman	Yvonne Parfett

Michael Warner

LLAMA/ DEER DAY AT MAPLEHURST FARM

Wednesday 2nd. August 1989

Having been unable to attend the last two open meetings of the British Camelids Association, it was a lovely surprise to receive an invitation to an open day with Gerald and Pam Walker, to see their farming enterprise with Red Deer and llamas.

I was also delighted to see that we now have a Diary Co-ordinator, Rachael Jaye. Her invitation on behalf of the Walkers, and directions to Maplehurst Farm, made me feel that the day was not only to meet friends, but would be informative, fun, and we should all learn something about keeping Deer and llamas.

On arrival we were met by the Walkers and enjoyed a lovely cup of coffee. It was wonderful to see so many friends again, and also to meet new members who had just started with llamas, and yet others who were there to learn about these delightful animals.

After a brief introduction by Gerald Walker, we spent a very pleasant and interesting time looking at his deer. One could see that here was a man who had given very careful thought to the layout of the farm for this enterprise, and had researched well this type of farming. He explained to us exactly what he was trying to achieve and one felt he was very knowledgeable on this subject.

We were then entertained to a ploughman's lunch, accompanied by a glass of excellent wine. Members sat around tables and on straw bales, talking about their morning, and of course - llamas. I feel these open days are vital for the Association, as so much can be learnt from members' questions and details of their experiences in keeping Camelids.

After lunch Pam took us on a tour of the farm, stopping to look not only at llamas, but also at guanaco and alpacas. In Pam we have a person who really understands these animals; with the assistance of her helpers one could see the correct methods of llama farming. This, as we all know, has become a new venture in this country and I am sure we, as breeders of these fine animals, are on the threshold of something really exciting. Let us grasp this opportunity.

We were shown some special llamas and alpacas all beautifully groomed; it was a real joy to hear owners talk with pride about their animals. Pam and Gerald have kept camelids for a number of years and their knowledge, I feel sure, could be beneficial to us all.

Another highlight of the afternoon was to walk across the fields to see one of the finest herds of Longhorn cattle in the country.

After a most pleasant afternoon, we were then entertained to tea and an informal discussion took place regarding many aspects of llama farming. New members were keen to learn and ask questions on both llama and deer farming. The general feeling was that we must persuade all members to register their animals with the Association, so that new members wishing to purchase animals will know where to obtain good stock and hopefully, in-breeding etc. will be eliminated. I feel one cannot stress this point too much, and look forward in the near future, to the establishment of a Herd Book.

On behalf of all the members and friends at the meeting, a very grateful thanks to Gerald and Pam Walker, their family and helpers who gave us all a memorable day; I feel sure we shall all wish to return to see and learn more about these beautiful creatures.

Derek J. Williams

Perfect surroundings enhanced a splendid day of llama fun, at Forest House, Winkfield. The only disappointing fact was that Ordell Safran, the main power behind the event, could not be there, a family crisis forcing her to travel back to the States.

I, for one, was delighted with the lady judge, Mrs. Saulsbury, (President of the IOWA Llama Association), she was informative, kind and charming. We all, I am sure, learnt much from her good common llama sense! I am afraid that some of the more active events were more of a test for the handler than the llama. Next year may we have an over 50's class? (Owners of course).

The weather was wonderful and it was an excellent opportunity to renew friendships and discuss llamas without feeling too much of a bore. Henry Safran deserves special points for holding the whole event together and making a splendid day.

Finally, may I apologise to all the lady llamas so rudely approached by my stud llama 'Rupert'? He was desperately offended by a quiet remark, made by the lady judge, which questioned his completeness, I think he felt obliged to prove his masculinity to every female present.

Peter Isaac

CONFORMATION CLASSES

Juvenile Males (under 18 mths)

1st	Anon	Mr. & Mrs. Safran
2nd	Cesar	Pam Walker
3rd	Cedric	Mr. & Mrs. Safran
4th	Flopsy	Mr. & Mrs. Safran

Juvenile Females (under 18 months)

1st	Andes Mirabelle	Peter Bourne
2nd	Blenheim	Mr & Mrs Safran
3rd	Brimscome Hecuba	Mr & Mrs Marshal
4th	Opal	Pam Walker

Adult Males

1st	Winston	Mr & Mrs Safran
2nd	Goliath	Dr & Mrs Chandler
3rd	Hector	Mr & Mrs Warner
4th	Ambassador	Mr & Mrs Midworth

Adult Females

1st	Vicky	Dr & Mrs Chandler
2nd	Pamella	Dr & Mrs Chandler
3rd	Lucy	Elkie Craig
4th	Elloise	Dr & Mrs Chandler

CONFORMATION CHAMPIONSHIP

1st	Winston	Mr & Mrs Safran
reserve	Andes Mirabelle	Peter Bourne

SHOW JUMPING

1st	Winston	Mr & Mrs Safran
2nd	Lucy	Elkie Craig
3rd	Cesar	Pam Walker
4th	Guenivere	Dr & Mrs Chandler

Obstacle Course

1st	Lucy	Elkie Craig
2nd	Ambassador	Mr & Mrs Midworth
3rd	Pandora	Sarah Wells
4th	Inca	Pat Bentley

SUPREME POINTS CHAMPION - LUCY -Elkie Craig

Dear Editor,

With reference to your article in the June issue of Camelids Chronicle, on Alpacas (page 7 paragraph 3), "twins being deemed virtually impossible".

Two sets of twins have been born at Twycross Zoo. The first pair were stillborn on 27.9.85 and the mother was ten years old at the time of the birth. She eventually died in 1986 at the age of eleven years.

The second set were born on 14.7.87 and are just coming up to two years old and they can be seen by anyone visiting the zoo. The mother was nine years of age at time of the birth and both sets of twins were by different sires.

As a point of interest, our oldest alpaca lived until the age of twenty years, and her last calf was born at the age of eighteen.

Miss S.N. Evans
Director,
Twycross Zoo.

LLAMA CALVING

A note from the Camelid Research Unit run jointly by the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, and the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Edinburgh.

I am happy to be able to report a successful 1989 calving season for the llamas at the Rowett following the natural mating period described in my article a year ago! To re-cap, in July 1988 we introduced to a group of 13 female llamas males A (our own "Snowball") and B ("Ambassador", generously loaned to us by Gerald and Pam Walker) alternately according to the following schedule: Days 0-11, male A; Days 11-15, no male; Days 15-22, male A; Days 22-30, male B; Days 30-36, male A; Days 36-85, male B. The final pregnancy rate, confirmed by ultrasound scanning and plasma progesterone profiles, was 11/13 (85%). Mating dates were either observed directly or estimated from the time of elevation in blood plasma progesterone concentrations. No less than 10 matings occurred in the first 11 days (in spite of the fact that 2 year old Snowball was a first-timer!) resulting in 8 conceptions between the 4th. and 15th. of July 1988. In 1989 these calves were then successfully delivered between 16th. June and 3rd. July. A ninth llama mated on 2nd. August 1988 (Day 29 - at last Ambassador got a look-in!) and duly calved on 15th. July 1989, while at the time of writing we await parturition in the remaining two later-conceiving animals. Gestational length ranged from 346 to 356 days, averaging 349, and, contrary to popular belief, none of our llamas gave birth between dawn and noon! All births (so far) have occurred between noon and 7 pm., averaging 3 pm. The complete placenta was then expelled on average approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes later. Now, with 9 living llama calves on the ground after 9 parturitions we are counting our blessings - 6 of them are female!

Dr. Clare L. Adam
Rowett Research Institute.

ASK

LLAVINIA



(I'M ALL EARS!)

Dear Aunt Llavina,
I wonder if you can help me? At the risk of sounding really silly, I must admit that I find it very difficult to tell if my new baby llama is a male or a female. Before you fall about the floor laughing, I should point out that her mother is extremely aggressive, and I dare not get too close. Is there a simple way one can tell from afar?

Clueless

Dear Clueless,
Please do not feel badly about this. You are not unique; in fact someone phoned me only last week, to report that his delightful female llama had turned out to be a male and it had taken him two months to discover his oversight. If you cannot get close enough to your new baby to observe its accessories, the best idea is to watch over it until it urinates. Regardless of sex, it will adopt the same stance, back arched with tail curved upwards, back legs apart and forwards, at the same level as the front ones. However, in the male, the stream will be more or less straight downwards from the back of the abdomen, and will be fairly feeble. With a female, it will be more vigorous, and come from behind. If you can train your binoculars on the animal, or get close enough, when the baby feeds from its mother, its tail should curve upwards, and you should be able to see the difference clearly. The females have a 'V' shaped lip underneath the anus. The males have only the appearance of a 'seam', rather like a fastened zip. I hope you can now decide and that the baby is thriving.

Dear Aunt Llavina,
We are expecting our first baby alpaca quite soon. I get very worried in case it should need bottle feeding at any time. Could you give me any tips on what to use and how to proceed?
Fumblefingers

Dear Fumblefingers,
The most important thing to know is that unlike all the other farmyard animals with which one is likely to deal, baby camelids only take the tip of a teat into their mouths when bottle suckling. One expects the whole teat to be sucked in, but if you encourage this, you may cause trouble. An ordinary baby teat and bottle could be sufficient as a standby in emergencies - baby permitting! As to what milk to use - camelid milk is sweeter than cows' milk, therefore sweetened goats' milk

can be used quite satisfactorily and can be stored in the freezer. Add sugar until it tastes slightly sweet, and the animal should enjoy it. When giving a bottle, make sure you copy the natural suckling position of the animal, i.e. with a pronounced 'V' shape in the neck. If you try and feed the bottle too high, you risk letting the milk go down 'the wrong way'.

Dear Aunt Llavina,
Now that we have bought an alpaca, we cannot wait to get going with the spinning wheel. We are rather alarmed at the thought of shearing, and wonder about the idea of brushing out the wool. Have you any thoughts on this?
Bizzy Lizzy

Dear Bizzy Lizzy,
I can quite understand your enthusiasm to get going, but would beg you to consider the way your animal's fibre grows. It does not get shed like a sheep's every year, but continues to grow. If you rely on grooming, you could be causing the animal discomfort by pulling some of its fibre out by the roots. Try it for yourself! However dramatic the fuss, in the long run it will be far less painful for the animal if you shear it like a sheep.

Dear Aunt Llavina,
Please, please help me! My animals have formed this enormous dung heap. When there were only two of them it was amusing, but now their numbers have increased the whole thing has gone beyond a joke, and is threatening to swamp the entire field. Also they insist on clogging up their sitting room! Is there anyway you can think of to control it?
Desperate Daniel

Dear Dan,
If you keep the llamas constantly on the same area of land you are bound to get a build up of manure (and probably worms too). If possible they should be moved from field to field allowing time for the dung to break down and the grass to re-grow. We find the llamas usually establish two or three latrines in each paddock and one in their sleeping quarters. We usually clean out their shed regularly and find the manure is very good on strawberries (in the garden not on the table!). You could try bagging it and selling it, after all it is organic.

Dear Aunt Llavina,
Our year old llama had suddenly started looking all sorry for herself, and walking around with her neck in a pronounced 'V' shape. She lets the others push her around. Is she ill, should I call the vet?

I think she might prefer a hunky husband. It sounds as though she's in season!

If you, or your camelid, have any veterinary, behavioural, husbandry or personal problems(!), or suggested remedies for the above queries, please send them to the editor before 7th. November. Names and addresses of owners will not be published so do not be afraid of sending unusual questions.

**INTERNATIONAL LLAMA ASSOCIATION
(ILA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

June 14-18, 1989
Salt Lake City, U.S.A.

Dr. Clare Adam, project leader for camelid research at the Rowett Research Institute, was fortunate to be sponsored by her employers to attend the ILA Conference earlier this year. We are pleased to be able to publish her report of the meeting, written from a scientific point of view.

Llamas are big business in USA! The ILA is the association for llama (camelid) owners and breeders in North America and these people show an overwhelming enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge about their beloved animals. Indeed there were over 700 delegates at this, their eighth annual conference. I found my visit extremely useful and stimulating, learning both the present international state of play regarding scientific research into the camelids and the views of the rest of the world, USA and South America in particular, on their uses and potential. Invaluable contacts were made with key people in camelid research and development.

The 5-day conference was beautifully organised throughout with major presentations, parallel seminars, practical workshops, Q&A panels, and meal-times punctuated with slide shows, as well as extensive commercial exhibits and a llama "Pack and Performance Festival". A wide range of subjects was covered: from past and present breeding of alpacas and llamas in South America to marketing, economics and herd management in USA, from the use of llamas as pack animals through veterinary notes, nutrition, reproduction, neonatology and genetics to selection and management of quality wool.

It was stressed in an introduction that there are no llama "experts" but a lot of experience which could now be shared. Speakers fitted into the following categories: (i) USA llama research veterinarians - "perennials" LaRue Johnson of Colorado State University and Murray Fowler of the University of California, and a more recent recruit to llama research, Greg Adams of the University of Wisconsin; (ii) "Keynote speaker" Julio Sumar, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at San Marcos University, Peru and leading authority on llamas and alpacas in S. America; (iii) USA llama veterinary practitioners; (iv) "new angle" speakers, considered experts in their own (non-llama) fields which are of relevance in principal to llama breeders, viz. conformation, form to function in the horse; health benefits of human-animal interaction; genetic defects and inheritance in domestic species; (v) a new llama geneticist researcher, Julie Koenig, from Oregon State University; (vi) USA llama and alpaca owners and breeders (with anything from 4 to 24 years' experience).

It became clear that the basics of llama husbandry are no longer a mystery, however there is a paucity of

published scientific data on the species. Nutrition and reproduction were identified as important areas for research. Topics apparently of greatest concern to USA breeders recurred in different guises throughout the conference, namely reproduction (how to deal with breeding problems) and genetics (how to avoid genetic defects and what to select for).

To North Americans, llamas are special, worth a lot of money and can provide a good income and lifestyle. Owners keep llamas either for breeding (live sales, stud services, pets, some interest in wool) or as 'packers' (i.e. for carrying back-packs on wilderness treks, either commercially or hobby). There are currently approximately 25,000 llamas in USA (and 1,300 alpacas). Interestingly only 7% of owners have more than 25 breeding female llamas, 44% have 6-25 and 49% have 5 or less. This is a marked contrast to the situation in their native South America where camelids, far from being mollycoddled pets, represent the bread-and-butter of existence for whole communities in the Highlands. Alpacas are farmed for fibre production, with some co-operatives owning over 50,000 animals. Llamas, traditionally beasts of burden, are now being selected and farmed primarily for meat production. Having been somewhat overshadowed by the importance of the alpaca industry, the million-or-so llamas in S. America have endured remarkably little selection pressure over the past 4,000 years; indeed the imposed selection pressure in USA has done more more to 'mould' the llama during just the last 10 years! It is important for the future welfare of the species that the North American breeders proceed responsibly, with educated selection interference.

Of particular relevance to the Rowett/Macaulay camelid research were the presentations of Julio Sumar and Greg Adams. In South America, Julio Sumar has for several years co-ordinated alpaca and llama research at La Raya High Altitude Research station at Cusco, Peru. Research topics include reproduction, improved feeding, disease control, improved genetics and selection, all with the sole aim of increasing income for the breeders/subsistence -farmers in the S. American Highlands. Alpacas are selected for quality and quantity of fibre; 60% of the Peruvian national herd is white (favoured by the British textile industry) but all natural solid colours are favoured (ie. all-over blacks and browns etc.), and all piebalds or skewbalds are strongly disliked since the colours must be separated in the shorn fleece. Llamas are selected for live-weight gain and body size. They yield an average carcass weighing 85 kg and containing lean, healthy meat! The llama-alpaca cross-breed is not liked since it retains the best qualities of neither species, but matings of female alpacas by wild male vicunas are encouraged since the progeny has a beautiful, expensive and marketable pelt.

The breeding efficiency of alpacas in S. America is lamentably poor, with average annual calving rates of 40-50%. there is therefore room for improvement and much scope for research! The research at La Raya to date has provided invaluable basic information on

reproduction and breeding management of llamas and alpacas, however as a government-funded establishment it has its problems - for example, the facilities were burned down by terrorists earlier this year. Some studies on embryo transfer in alpacas were carried out in the 1970's. Their aim was to establish alpaca-alpaca transfers with a view to attempting to use alpacas to carry valuable vicuna embryos. However success was limited (5 pregnancies from 40 alpaca-alpaca transfers), politics prohibited the use of embryos of the protected species vicuna, and so the project was discontinued. Some successful studies on artificial insemination have been carried out, but no work yet on suitable extenders or cryopreservation of camelid semen.

More recently (1988-89) IIA has helped to finance research on reproduction biology at the Department of Veterinary Science, University of Wisconsin, partly in collaboration with Julio Sumar at La Raya. These studies by Greg Adams have developed the use of ultrasound technology to study normal reproductive events in llamas and alpacas. The technique allows repeated non-invasive visualisation of the internal anatomy of the reproductive organs (uterus, cervix, ovarian follicles, corpus luteum) and embryo (as early as 10 days post-mating). Following invaluable discussions with Sumar and Adams, it became clear that, with the addition of such ultrasound data to integrate with our growing wealth of endocrinological, behavioural and rectal palpation data, the Rowett is poised to take a leading position in the international field of camelid reproductive research.

The Rowett/Macaulay camelid research programme aims to investigate the potential of the guanaco in the UK, and to develop embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) as techniques to assist both in the introduction (importation?) of new genetic material and in the more rapid propagation in the UK of the more valuable camelid species for research. Two major points of relevance arise: (i) there was no mention of exploring the potential quality fibre production from the guanaco in north or South America; and (ii) the Americans are not actively researching ET and AI techniques for camelids: There is little demand in S. America and research progress at La Raya is apparently limited by the volatile politics in Peru. North Americans, however, are actively against the use of these manipulative techniques since they believe it would encourage excessive use of particular "superior" animals for breeding, thus restricting an already small gene pool in USA (llamas and alpacas).

Lastly, most impressive was the enthusiastic and effective way in which the IIA raises money for direct funding and research. It has a Research Committee which, apart from lobbying breeders to alter their wills appropriately(!), arranges fund-raising events such as raffles and auctions. Donated items are substantial (eg. a stud service, or a live llama) and a special auction at the main conference dinner raised a cool \$32,500 in a little under an hour! The IIA is evidently well-organised and wealthy, with a great deal

of influence over the USA camelid industry and research, both now and as it develops in the future.

Clare L. Adam
July 1989

SELENIUM DEFICIENCY

Having experienced a trauma with a recently purchased two year old female llama, I have detailed the following as a guide should any other llama owners experience similar symptoms with their animals.

Following collection and a 350 mile journey, the llama appeared to be stiff at the rear end and slightly 'cow-hocked'; and these early characteristics were put down to both journey stress and its own general confirmation.

As time elapsed the condition did not improve, leading within seven days to shaking of the rear legs, with the animal finally going down and staying down.

Following research with my vet we checked with the previous owners and found that a llama had died some two years earlier, having shown similar symptoms; this was diagnosed as a condition known as White Muscular Deficiency Disease; if not treated death ensues. The area from which the llama was purchased showed a selenium deficiency in the grazing area. Following the llama's death the remaining animals were given two supplementary injections per year in Spring and Autumn by an inter muscular injection of Deposel. Our female llama's second injection was due in August and we believe the stress of re-location together with the journey may have accelerated the condition.

Following an injection of a carefully measured amount of Dystosel, (the accurate weight of the llama is critical in determining dosage), she is now recovering, but our vet estimates it will take a full week for her to be back to normal. We are advised that if these symptoms are recognised within twenty-four hours and the llama injected, recovery will take place within twenty-four hours. Following further checks we were advised that with our East Anglian pastures, we do not require Selenium supplement by injection. However, it may be as well to check your own grazing conditions and regional area, and whether or not a mineral lick is sufficient.

Maggie Warner

**LLAMAS,
HAVE VERY WOOLLY PYJAMAS,
WELL SO WOULD YOU,
IF YOU LIVED IN PERU!**

George Bunton

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale:

4 Male Alpacas born 1989

Two ginger colour, grandsons of "Gingerbread Man" later called Rusty who was awarded the Best Alpaca in U.S.A. and purchased for \$29,000.

The other two males are very dark brown with white markings.

Price £5,000 each Ex Kilverstone.

1 pair llamas £6,500 Ex Kilverstone

1 llama imported blood - price on application.

Kilverstone Wildlife Park, Thetford, Norfolk. Tel. 0842 755369.

Alpacas, Alpacas, Alpacas,

Registered in America, For Sale.

Enquiries: G. & N. Halpin, Capalba Park Alpacas, RMB 4820, Seymour, Victoria, Australia. Phone or Fax 61-57-969266.

Imported Male Llamas

Quality animals unsold at the recent Penrith auction.

2 proven sires (lots 7 & 16)

4 2-3 yr. olds (lots 2,5,19,21)

suitable as performing pets.

All friendly and easily managed.

Offers to Syke House Alpacas.

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TRAINED LLAMAS

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