It is just three months since BLS was formally inaugurated and your committee has had a busy time!

With a backlog of material inherited from BCA we have been adapting all the new member material, standards, codes and guidelines from their multi-camelid application to llama (or guanaco) specific. Many of the documents were prepared some years ago so we have also embarked upon a programme of updating. When all is complete we hope to have these printed into a rather more attractive and professional format and copies will be available for all members.

One less vital but still significant detail to complete the documentation will be the choice of a logo and ‘corporate identity’. We have received a number of very varied suggestions and our thanks go to those who took the trouble to design them. The ones we have received so far have ranged from cartoon style to impressionist to photographic representation... Light relief from some of the other issues we have to deal with at committee meetings, nevertheless they generated some lively debate on the committee. In the end, however, none have yet received the sort of unanimous instant appeal factor that we are hoping for. So, if you have submitted ideas but have more in mind or if you have not yet sent in yours, do keep them coming...

Our temporary website is up and running, and when more of the pages have been completed we will be handing it over to professionals to develop into an interactive format with a members’ only area.

Two main thrusts of our proposed development are regionalisation and focused interest groups and you will see there is more on these themes on the pages that follow.

Finally, I make no apology for repeating myself when I end by saying it is our desire that the new BLS be a friendly, active, communicative and fun Society. Most importantly, it is your Society, so do please consider how you might be more involved, and if you have any ideas or concerns, do let us know.

Paul Rose  
(chairman@BritishLlamaSociety.org)
BLS Buyer's Charter…

CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR THE SALE OF LLAMAS

As the camelid industry continues to grow apace, so too grow the number of cases brought to our attention of inappropriate selling or mismatching of camelid to owner; animals too young or over-handled or unhandleable etc. Invariably these cases involve sales by non-members.

Although from America, the letter on the left is not untypical. Regular phone calls... "The baby llama I was given for Christmas...etc" and enquiries... "Do you have any baby llamas for sale that we can put in our Pets Corner?..." all serve to underline the need for, and importance of, more education and awareness among potential sellers and buyers.

The BLS Sales Code of Conduct is designed both as a minimum standard by which all sellers should abide and, most importantly, as a guide for buyers, especially first time buyers, as to what they should expect and look for when visiting a seller and choosing a llama.

The Code covers aspects such as:

☐ Ensuring full and appropriate advice is given concerning
  o Purchase considerations
  o After care and facilities

☐ Understanding and practice of correct rearing

☐ Decision making and implications of breeding

☐ Standards for sales terminology ~ "Pregnant" to "halter-trained"

The Code is a most important element of the more serious side of the Society and a prime reason for owners to subscribe. The Code has been amended and updated, and a separate version is now available relating to Guanacos. It can be read on and downloaded from our website (www.BritishLlamaSociety.org and follow the links). Now that it is web-based it will be an ongoing document in that it can and will be amended as time and needs dictate. We are introducing too a three-yearly renewable Certificate system for signatories to help keep it active and alive.

Do take a look on our website and if you have any suggestions or comments, we would like to hear from you. Above all, if buying llamas from someone, then whether you are a first time buyer or an "old hand", do check that the seller is a BLS member and signatory to the code.

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BLS Society Show 2007

Currently under consideration is the possibility of holding our Show in September possibly at the Newbury Show or at Henley the day after their own.

We would welcome your opinion and alternative ideas for venues and events at our first show. If you have suggestions please let us know. Once we have established a format we would then, in 2008, like to make the show a regional event.

The only thing he is scared of is the water hose.

Please can you tell me if you have any idea as to why he is doing this and can it be stopped?"

“Please can you give us help with a problem we have. We rescued a Llama (male approx 2yrs old).

He was very sweet when we first got him, coming into your face and giving kisses. He loved kids the most, now he has started attacking them. He rears up on them and tries to stomp them to the ground.

Gelding and cutting of his canine (fighting) teeth should be done urgently, and together with some serious correctional training, this might help.

Until this has been achieved, no one should be allowed in his enclosure, especially children, except someone able to control him and who can exit very quickly if they cannot.

In the UK buyers are urged to buy llamas only from signatories to the BLS Sales Code of Conduct, which should help avoid such problems.
TB or not TB?

Over the years there have been a number of cases of Bovine Tuberculosis reported in UK camelids. Some of these have been detailed in past issues of the Camelids Chronicle. For camelids can and sometimes do catch this pernicious disease when in contact with infected bovines or where there is a heavy concentration of infected wildlife sharing or traversing their grazing.

Until February of this year, it was not obligatory to report suspected cases in camelids and as a result vets believe many incidents have gone unrecorded and unmonitored.

The unfortunate consequence of failing to acknowledge and address the problem is that little data has been gathered and the opportunity to learn and do more to combat the problem has been wasted.

In recent months, however, there have been more cases reported both in alpaca herds and in a large llama herd. The llama herd is mine, so I speak with personal experience when I say that it is a most appalling malady to witness and one from which we need to make every effort to protect the national herd.

Unfortunately, with vaccination not yet a viable option, the only way to stop the spread of the disease is elimination (or possibly in some cases permanent isolation) of the affected camelid and eradication of the source of the infection.

In the past few years tens of thousands of cattle, diagnosed as having BTB, have been slaughtered. Dairy herds have to be tested regularly and, since recently, cattle cannot be moved off farm without a pre-movement test. The success of this campaign has been seriously compromised, however, as the policy is not applied in any meaningful way to one of the major reservoirs of disease in some areas, the badger. This last point has become the centre of major controversy between farmer and the ‘badger lobby’. The latter vociferously insist it is cattle that have spread the disease to badgers whilst farmers consider the badger to be the perpetrator. It may be that in the beginning it was the other way around but either way, most vets agree that the one-sided policy of slaughter of cattle and blanket protection of badgers has ensured that the problem is perpetuated and a build-up of the reservoir of disease in the badger population carries on unabated.

So how do you know if your llamas are at risk?

Firstly, check with your local State Veterinary Service office (SVS is the veterinary arm of Defra) as to the extent of the problem in your area; some areas are disease-free, others are “hotspots”.

Secondly, if there are cases reported in cattle in your area, and especially in a farm neighbouring your grazing, ensure your llamas do not have nose-to-nose contact with them and do not share grazing with them nor are walked through the cattle’s fields.

Thirdly, if you are not in a disease-free area, check whether there are badger setts or badger runs across your land. If you are not able to ascertain this yourself then enrol the help of a local farmer or wildlife expert.

If there are setts please note that it is illegal to interfere with them or disturb the badgers but you can fence off your llamas from the setts or runs.

So how do you know if your llamas are affected?

Bovine TB in camelids is still a rare problem in UK camelids and it is statistically most unlikely that any of your llamas are infected, so do not worry or panic!

It is true that animals can live with TB without showing any signs, and live to old age with it at that, perhaps ultimately dying from some quite unrelated problem. This is because TB can affect different organs and they can also have the disease, become clinically unwell and then apparently recover before you are aware of the nature of the problem.

The following signs could indicate TB but please remember that they are all more likely to be the result of other, totally unrelated, conditions - so again do not assume and do not panic!

* Noticeable respiratory discomfort – flaring nostrils, heaving chest movement.
* Chronic weight loss.
* Coughing, spluttering, shaking of head, frequent guttural noises, dribbling.
* Lethargic slouchy posture, increased incumbency with ears mostly held back floppily.
* Loss of appetite, perhaps mouthing the ground rather than actually eating.
* Acute diarrhoea

If your llamas are showing any of these signs then, in any event, they should be checked by a vet who will most likely diagnose some other, hopefully curable, problem. It is most important, however, that the question is addressed - is it or is it not TB? For if ignored then the opportunity for the disease to spread is greatly increased. In the event of any death where the cause is not certain, we advise most strongly that a post mortem is conducted.

Paul Rose

A further article and update will appear in a later newsletter.

Defra Website Links
www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/abouttb/otherstpecies.htm#cam
www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/index.htm
WAWA - Helping some of Peru’s poorest children

The Wawa 2007 Calendar
Faces of Peru

Wawa raises funds to provide educational opportunities and improved medical care for some of Peru’s poorest children.

2007 Calendar
£5.00
(plus £1 p&p)

This calendar features truly enchanting and heart-warming photos of some of the children helped by WAWA.

The entire £5.00 cost will go to help more children in desperate need.

Send your cheque or postal order for £6 to

WAWA, c/o New House Farm, Mosterton, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3HE

BLS LOGO DESIGN

The logo on the front of this newsletter is just one idea to start us off!

We would like to adopt a new contemporary design, so if you have an artistic streak start doodling now and submit your designs - we would love to receive them.

SPONSORSHIP

Would you, your business or your farm, sponsor a BLS event, publication or product? Please contact Paul Rose for details.

Spot the Difference Competition

After many hours of gruelling negotiation, Nick Weber (left) and Paul Rose (right) sign the British Camelids federation agreement, paving the way for the launch of the British Llama Society. One of these two identical photos, however, has been subtly altered by digital computer technology...

Can you spot the difference? And which has been altered by liquid computer technology?

Answers on a postcard — to Nick only, please.

Or take advantage of a premium rate telephone line charged at £1.50 per minute (min 15 mins, max 45 mins).

Rules of the competition:
1. Postcards must be standard size but bear the new large size stamp.
2. Medium size SAE must be enclosed with the p.c, but check with your local post office re size of stamp
3. There is a minimum age to enter this competition
4. Members, their families, relations and friends may not enter.

Last date to receive entries: 30th September 2006 - no exceptions, no emails, no prizes.
Walking llamas on roads

The incident described on the right invokes great admiration for the member's devotion to his llama as expressed by his interpretation of good fortune!

However the incident could have been even more serious and I do remember not so long ago a llama being killed when out on a walk with his owner.

It is perhaps timely therefore to remind members to take utmost care when on the road leading a llama.

Society guidelines urge:

- Follow the Countryside Code and Highway Code.
- When leading on the road, face oncoming traffic so that you are between vehicle and animal.
- Use common sense, which side of the road to walk when negotiating bends/hills.
- Think ahead; know your route and what hazards can be expected.
- Do not walk on roads after dark.
- Avoid main roads and busy side roads if possible.
- If your chosen route does not have verges on which llama and handler can walk, do have a person walking in front and at the rear to warn traffic of your presence.
- Avoid walking in icy conditions or when fog or mist is expected. Consider carrying warning fluorescent bands for handlers and llamas in case you are unfortunate and get caught out in fog or mist.

Driving without a tachograph

Following recent legislation, there has been some confusion over the need for large livestock vehicles or cars pulling trailers, to have a tachograph fitted. The rules for vehicles over 3.5 tons train weight can be found at:

www.dvtafi.gov.uk/compliance/tachographfaqs.asp#10

Interpretation of the rules by NFU legal advisers suggests that these rules do not apply to vehicles being used for personal use for the non-commercial carriage of goods. This suggests that taking llamas to a show for example, would be exempt. It does suggest too, however, that the delivery of llamas in a vehicle over the prescribed weight and sold to a client would – technically – require the use of a tacho!

"My llama and I ran into trouble when a car hit us both when we were out walking. Fortunately I took most of the impact breaking several bones including my collarbone, but my llama now has a fractured foot and my vet is suggesting amputation of the inside toe on his hind leg. In your experience do you think he will adjust well to this?

I would expect your llama to adjust well to the loss of the toe, although he may no longer be able to walk comfortably for long periods.

Ultimately the change in balance may lead to arthritic and joint problems but that may be many years away, if at all.

"And have you ever had llamas with fractures before and have they made full recoveries?"

This is Greta and her calf Bonnie. If you are wondering why this photo follows after the second question above... then take a good look at Greta, and if still stumped (!) check the Back Page for the answer.

BLS 1st AGM – 31st March 2007

Please put this date in your diary and do join us on the day – it is a very important date in the BLS calendar, when your Steering Committee will step down and elections of a new committee will take place. Further details will follow in the next newsletter, and if you would like to stand for election please contact the Society Secretary for more information ~ Secretary@BritishLlamaSociety.org.

.5.
Llama-ing in Oregon

This summer, my husband, Tim, and I spent 16 days on the West Coast of USA, part sightseeing and part “llama-ing”. I have been fairly active in a US-based Internet llama chatroom for a year or so and quickly discovered that there is more interest in llamas in Oregon than any other State.

This is not really surprising since it is the home of the Hinterland Ranch and Kay Patterson, who was amongst the very first breeders in N America in the 60’s. Kay is still breeding and invited us to visit her magnificent Ranch and its 200 llamas, surrounded by glorious snow-peaked mountains. It was a memorable morning. I was reminded of giant poodles as most of her llamas had “barrel” haircuts with near-bare backs and, to my surprise, fibre-covered legs.

But the real purpose of visiting llama friends I’d made on the Net was to learn a bit more about llama-driving. I have had a great interest in training llamas over the last five years and I guess it was inevitable that, one day, cart-driving would capture my interest. Sadly, I could find no-one in UK who still drives. (If I’m wrong please get in touch.)

Also, I was having the most horrendous problems in long-reining my chosen llama. As he is my most biddable animal I was beginning to despair.

The outcome of our Oregon visits was that I was able to have several valuable lessons from drivers active in competition driving. I had instruction in the all-important long-reining and was able to drive Cowboy, the driving llama of Regional Champion, Fred Hamlin. It was a tremendous experience!

I also got to meet Jim Krowka of Lost Creek Llamas. Jim and I have exchanged many e-mails (some of them quite heated!) over the last three years on the subject of llama training. It was interesting to see Jim, in person, work in the very round pen which was so familiar to me in e-mails. He demonstrated several methods of off-lead work whereby the llama is required to move in certain directions in relation to the trainer. He was also able to give me experience of long-reining one of his driving llamas.

Now I am back home with renewed enthusiasm. And also the knowledge that the problems I had had with long-reining were purely the result of the common mistake in selecting my most biddable llama for driving. At this time of writing I am now daily ground-driving a female who I had long given up as untrainable. (I think I have described her on my training website as a “hopeless cause”; I must hasten to change it: she is responding superbly!). Tim has made me a travois which we are about to hitch to the harness. If all goes well, I hope to be acquiring a cart in August and take to the country lanes.

Terry Crowfoot
And, as the photo shows, so she did! Well done Terry, so good to see such initiatives taking place on this side of the pond. And if you might be interested in developing cart-driving skills and/or agility work, Terry would be delighted to hear from you – terrycrowfoot@btinternet.com

MIDLANDS GROUP
Social / Problem Solving / Q&A
All Members welcome
11am - Sunday 29th October 2006
BANGERS & MASH LUNCH
PLUS PUDDING ~ £5.00
Puckpitts Farm, Tredington, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire
RSVP Jane Brown Tel: 01608 661893
e-mail: secretary@BritishLlamaSociety.org
We would like to know events you would like organised for 2007, so please come along and tell us!

BLUECAPS LLAMAS
Quality animals for sale
from our prize-winning herd of llamas. 2 Championships this year to date. Advice given & follow up sales as required.
Llama trekking
Also picnic walks. New this year - cream teas, strawberries and Pimm's, champagne and chocolates, all taking place in our own private wood with the llamas.
Llama accessories
including various types of halters, packs, training aids etc.
Tina O'Donnell, Bluecaps Llamas,
Bluecaps Farm, Cousley Wood, East Sussex TN5 6QX.
Tel: 01892 785119 / 07711663800
www.bluecapsllamas.co.uk

“Clubs within the club…”

BLS is keen to develop its regional structure to ensure everyone can take advantage of our activities. We would also like to see 'cross-development' based upon specific, focused interests...

For example... many dog owners are members not only of a breed club, but of activity clubs that represent their breed's character—agility, sheep trials, obedience, gundog work, speed etc. etc.

Within BLS, this might translate into clubs or informal groupings such as a handicrafts club, agility group, trekking club etc. For example those interested in cart-driving, perhaps even riding, might form a group or club to develop their skills and activities, arranging their own events (open and publicised to all BLS members). I suspect that, like Terry Crowfoot (see article on left), many owners have been interested in cart-driving but perhaps not knowing others involved or where to get their carts, or how to train their llamas to the cart, have let the idea go. The same might well be true of those interested in using their llama fibre for spinning and knitting or perhaps felting. To meet like-minded members to learn or share ideas, techniques, patterns etc is surely what BLS should be all about.

By creating interest groups or clubs, specific interests can be nurtured and developed in an enjoyable and focused manner. They might even extend 'membership' to non-members for a small annual fee. After all, there are many people 'out there' who for one reason or another cannot (perhaps will never) own their own llamas, but it does not mean they would not enjoy being a member of a club where ownership is not the prerequisite.

Another club I would like to see developed is a junior club for the children of members and the many children outside of BLS who love llamas but, again, cannot own them.

On the back page of this newsletter is a list of contacts that include some of these activities; please get in touch with them to develop the aspects of llamas that interest you beyond ownership.

Recruiting new members...
Your continued support of BLS is the lifeblood of the Society, and the enrolment of new members the safeguard of its future.

We know that there are many llama owners out there who are not but could - should - be members! If you know any non-member who has llamas, or is interested in having them do please invite them to join us.

Three routes to membership
1. Send names and addresses to Jane Brown for her to mail out leaflets.
2. Ask Jane for a supply of leaflets to give out yourself.
3. Download the forms from our website or point the potential member to the website to download their joining form.
BLS Contacts
(S.C - Steering Committee)
Chairman: Paul Rose (S.C)
t: 01363 666056
e: chairman@britishllamasociety.org

Don Butler (S.C & Llamarabilia) t: 01737 823375
e: donbutler@dba-aviation.com

Liz Butler (S.C & Regional Co-ordinator) t: 01737 823375
e: llalafiz@hotmail.com

Terry Crompton: (Cant-Driving & Agility) t: terrencecrompton@btinternet.com

Fiona Davis, (Working with Fibre) t: 01495 774746
e: fiona.j.c.davis@bristol.ac.uk

Phil Davis, (Re-homing) t: 01495 774746
e: fiona.j.c.davis@bristol.ac.uk

Who’s missing from this list? Perhaps you are! Please contact us to add your name to our mailing list.

Maggie Dilley (S.C) t: 01732 700672 e: richard.stokes@btopenworld.com

Chris Eke (Trekkings & Handbreds Contact, South/South West) t: 01308 886874 e: jo@uktllamas.co.uk

Gwyneth Hogger (S.C) t: 01473 785529 e: fynnvalllehyghogger.fsnet.co.uk

Linda Johnson (S.C) t: 01825 712040 e: linda@lilamapark.co.uk

Yvonne Parfett, (S.C) t: 07971 377993 e: yvslamas@yahoo.co.uk

David Pryse, (S.C, BCA Displays & Re-homing) t: 01295 786676 e: david@llamatrekking.co.uk

Mary Pryse, (Trekkings & Handbreds Contact, Midlands) t: 01295 786676 e: mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

Orwell Safran (S.C) t: 01344 885857 e: orwell.safran@btinternet.com

Acting Secretary: Jane Brown
Puckitts Farm, Tredington, Shipton-on-Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4NH t: 01608 661893 e: secretary@britishllamasociety.org

Llama & Guanaco Registrar: Rodney Newth
The Old Laundry, Tyringham, Newport Pagnell, Bucks MK16 9ES t: 01908 610689 e: registrar@britishllamasociety.org

Acting Treasurer: Allen Brown t: 01608 661893 e: treasurer@britishllamasociety.org

Dates for your diary
Social Sunday 29th October
Puckitts Farm, Tredington. Warks.
Q & A's / problem solving / fibre / lunch and more. Jane Brown 01608 661893 e: jane.p.brown@btinternet.com

Business & Social BLS 1st AGM Saturday, 31st March 2007
Jersey Pavilion, Royal Showground

FOR SALE
Albus - ten month old male out of Charles & Georgina
Dudley - nine month old male out of Charles & Jazz
Both halter trained, good conformation and lovely temperaments. Could be stud or trekking animals.

Holly - four year old female out of Ordelamas Prince Charles and Georgina.

Charlie - Ordelamas Prince Charles - Proven stud male, super temperament and siring excellent stock. Progeny can be seen.

For further details or to arrange a visit please contact Ruth & Peter Vincent. Tel: 01837 89025 (Devon) or email courtneyrs@tiscali.co.uk

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Please send a quick email to Jane Brown with your email address if we do not have it already. You can help BLS save a lot of cost & manpower hours by electing to receive communications by email. When our website is fully up and running all email communications from BLS will also be posted in the members’ room so you can check and read the content there too – ultimately leading to the reduction or elimination of paper, envelopes & postage costs and the manpower involved in mail-outs.

STOP PRESS – Are you starting a new camelid venture in the West Country? Want to be on TV? Call Jon McEwan at TwoFour Broadcast: Tel - 01752 776766

We look forward to receiving your news, views, & articles

A warm welcome to new & re-joined members...
Rosemary Alexander: Chipping Norton, Oxon
Doreen Allison: Carnwath, Lanarkshire
Suzanne Benson: Harrogate, N Yorkshire
Lisa Blundell: Teddington, Middlesex
Judy Blythe: Oswestry, Shropshire
Christine Codd: Hemingstone, Suffolk
Mr & Mrs P Cope: Stafford, Staffs
Robin De Wilde: Dallingdon, East Sussex
Janet Dowson: Thornton, Leicesterhire
David & Annette Facer: Flint Mountain, Flintshire
Paul Fisher: Tarn, France
Ann Gravelle: Ammanford, Carm's
Paul & Clare Guile: Huntingdon, Cambridgehire
Jaime Hapburn: Treshwill, Cornwall
Mrs J Jeffery: Amailloux, France
Carol Lally-McCurdy: Corwen, Denbighshire
Gill Mellers: Oving, Bucks
Moreno Alpacas: Langham, Rutland
Michael Ramsey: Newcastle Emlyn, Ceredigion
Wendy Reynolds: Nantwich, Cheshire
Jessica Simkiss: Rishworth, W Yorks
Catherine Verde: Lamberhurst, Kent
Eleanor Waterhouse: Winchester, Hants

Tail end (See Page 5)
Greta broke her ankle earlier this year & had to have her lower limb amputated. Despite all the trauma, she still produced this very bonny calf!