

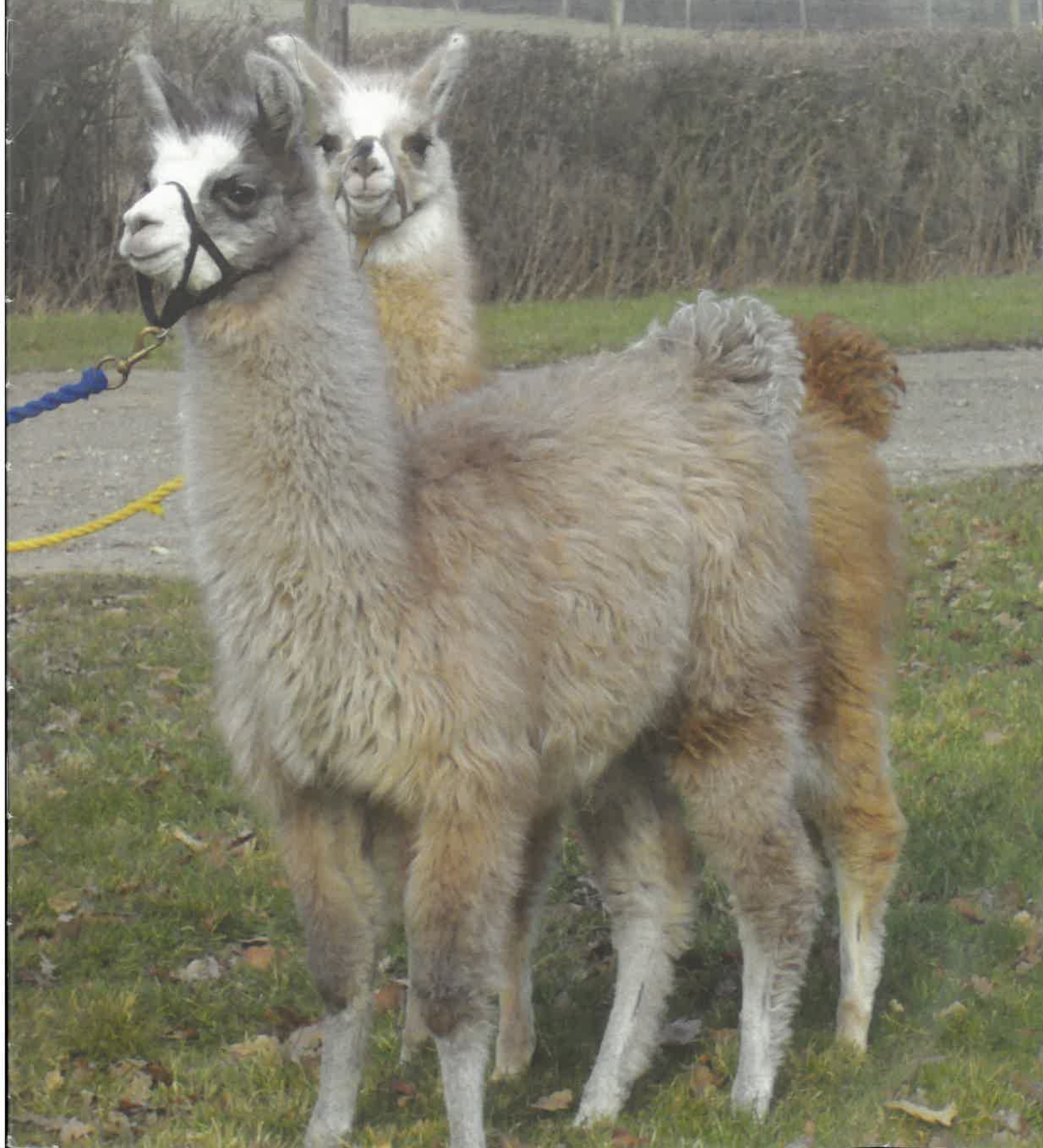


British Llama Society

www.BritishLlamaSociety.org

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March 2008



Hi Guys,

Well I really can't believe it. I have completed a whole year of Newsletters! Finally my knowledge of computers exceeds emails and ebay, although I have to say, not without a lot of sweat and more than a few tears! Anyway, I'm still here!

I have to tell you all – I'm SO excited! – and the reason is, very sadly for Pam Walker of Maplehurst Llamas, who has finally decided, due to ill health, that she really can't cope with her herd of llamas any longer. So she telephoned me to book an advert in the newsletter saying that her herd of llamas was going to be for sale. At this point I went very quiet and my brain started working overtime. Now we no longer keep sheep on our farm, we were desperately short of lawnmowers and needed a few mouths to keep the grass down, plus my passion for llamas is such that the more llamas we have, the merrier it is! Michael (my husband) and I had a short chat, and both being very impulsive, decided we would like to buy them. We are very honoured and privileged that Pam agreed to the sale, and so now we are going to have another 27 little darlings! We were tentatively looking for a new stud in any event, as I now have the daughters from our fantastic stud, Black Jack, and they too need a husband. Anyway, we are now going to have another 4 stud llamas and we are going to have so much fun marrying everybody off! We also will be the extremely proud owners of the twins, Aztec and Inca. We have 5 of Pam's weanlings here already, plus their babysitter llama and we have started training in earnest. We now have to collect the rest and it's a bit like organising a military operation! The worst part is going to be recognising everybody. It's all very well when your babies are born and you name them and of course know who they are, but to suddenly get an extra 27 llamas, of which some have similar markings, and then have to know who's who! I said to Pam that they would have to come with identity cards! Anyway, that's my excitement, so now I must try to calm down!

Well the Show season is once again looming and hopefully we will all be able to exhibit, bluetongue allowing. I certainly hope so, as it not just the showing we would miss, but the general camaraderie of the llama fraternity. It's so nice to catch up on news (and gossip!) The llamas enjoy it so much too.

Now I want you all to keep sending in your news and stories so that we can keep the newsletter fun and interesting. It doesn't take long to whiz off an email and any pics you have, even better! Also I am going to try to dream up some new ideas for competitions etc., and when I say dream, that's what I mean, as all this extra thinking tends to go on in the middle of the night when I'm meant to be sleeping! Definitely need more than 24 hours in a day – what with llamas, my Fell ponies (which I also breed), the business and of course not forgetting the newsletter, I don't know if I'm coming or going!

Anyway, must sign off for now. Off on the Orient Express to Venice on Thursday so need to get organised!

Llots of llama llove,

Tina

BLS editor

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United Nations Resolution - 2009 International Year of Natural Fibres

Millions of people around the world, among them some of the poorest people in some of the poorest countries, depend on the production and processing of natural fibres for their livelihood. Natural fibres contribute to food security and economic development for these farmers. The International Year of Natural Fibres will raise consumer awareness and strengthen demand for natural fibre products, improving the livelihoods of the farmers who produce them and revenues for countries that export them. At the same time, promoting the use of natural fibres will enhance the environment.

The wide range of natural fibres includes cotton, wool, jute, flax, silk, sisal, coconut and many others. Some are produced from plants, others from animals, and they are used in clothing and other consumer goods, as well as in industrial applications. Virtually every country in the world produces some natural fibres.

For most of us llama owners, our thoughts would probably turn to South America where Bolivia is the poorest country of all. Llamas provide an important role in the economy for these subsistence farmers. The terrain and climate is so harsh and vegetation so sparse, that llama farming is the only viable option open to them. Years ago, llamas were used to carry mineral ore from the mines in this region, to the ports in what is now northern Chile to be shipped to Europe. These were the Ships of the Andes, llamas standing up to 55 inches at the withers and weighing 550 lbs! The mines closed and the need for these beasts of burden diminished, so now the Indian population is encouraged to farm llamas for fibre and meat.

You can help! www.greatgifts.org is a website run by World Vision where you can buy a single llama for £45, or a pair for £90, in the Cochabamba region of Bolivia. These llamas will help to improve their herds to produce a higher quality of wool and also provide winter shelter, thereby improving their income. So if you have a birthday, anniversary or any other special occasion coming up, buy some Bolivian llamas, or keep it in mind for next Christmas.

Mary Pryse

Catanger Llamas.

ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF TWINS!

Some British Llama Society members may already be aware that a pair of twin llamas were born to Lulu, owned by Pam Walker of Maplehurst Stud in West Sussex.

Pam was absolutely stunned to find the new arrivals. With odds of 1 in 30,000 that twins could be born and with only approximately 2,000 llamas in the UK the event is nothing short of miraculous.

The twins were born on 19th September 2007 and weighed in at a healthy 13kg and 9kg respectively. They have been named Inca and Aztec. They are not totally identical although have similar markings. One is grey (Inca) and the other is brown (Aztec).

For proud Mum, Lulu, the twins became her eighth and ninth babies, and being some 19 years old herself, has decided maybe it's time to give up on having anymore babies. After all with double trouble, will a girl have any time free to spend with her young man! They have been keeping her very busy since their arrival - what with the constant whirl of feeding and the rest of the time playing. Doesn't give a girl much time for any shut eye! However, she is coping very well and looking forward to the time when they might be weaned to give her a break. (Shame us humans don't have the same luxury!)

As you can see from the photos, they are absolutely gorgeous and a real blessing.



Pam sharing a kiss with Inca



Double trouble for Lulu!



PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NEWS, VIEWS, ARTICLES, QUERIES, COMMENTS AND PHOTOS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

"We would love to hear from you"
editor@BritishLlamaSociety.org

NEW MEMBERS PROFILE

My name is Peter Marshall and I live in St. Abbs on the east coast in Scotland near the English border.

At the start of last year, I had never seen a llama in my life and now this year I have started a Llama Trekking business! How this happened is both long and short.

Ever since I was a kid it has been my goal to acquire a piece of land and have all kinds of animals living on it for no other purpose than to give them a good long life. I never saw this as a money making venture and instead concentrated on a career in art (after dallying with the idea of being a punk rock star!)

About the time my artwork was approaching maturity, for want of a better word, a friend of mine bought a guinea pig only to realise that the little one was going to have little ones of her own! I ended up taking two of the three babies and named them Loki and Odin. I really wasn't keen on them at first but within a few weeks it was clear to me that they were great little girls. What was also clear to me was that I had very little idea of how to understand their 'language' and although I learned quickly about covies, thinking about my animal farm and all the different kinds of animals I wanted to have, decided I should get educated about animal care. So the next step was to take a course at college on the very subject.

One day, we had an alpaca farmer visit the college to talk about them and we were invited to visit his farm the next week.

The alpacas were lovely but I was intrigued about her two llamas that were there as livestock protection. I was told that they were not too expensive and there is always the opportunity to trek them as a way of getting back and making money from them. Now there was an idea that got me thinking! I spent my dinner time researching llama trekking and was sure it was something I could do but didn't know who to approach.

The internet can be very confusing if you don't know where to look but fortunately a little while later I picked up a magazine which I thought might have something about llamas in it and sure enough there was one advert from a llama breeder. A 'phone call later and I was back on track and soon after drove down to the midlands to go on my first llama trek.

It was a great day and, encouraged, I started making a concrete effort to find out if llama trekking in Berwickshire could become reality.

The National Trust of Scotland own St. Abbs Head Nature Reserve, so I contacted the Head Ranger and he asked me to produce a short proposal with possible problems and solutions contained within it that he could present to his peers.

The land is rented out to farmers, so then I had to find out if I could acquire a good half acre anyway for the two llamas I was thinking of and when the word came back that I had the 'go ahead' from the Trust, the farmer and I agreed on an ideal spot for the paddock just inside the Reserve. It is easily visible from the road but far enough back so that the llamas are not unduly disturbed and is well sheltered on two sides.

I have done all sorts of jobs, so erecting a post and rail fence was no bother. I was going to build a shelter from scratch as well but because of time and eager to get my llamas, I bought a flat pack garden shed instead. I left the front open and used the side panels to extend the length and used the doors as a roof to this extension. I needed stable mats and when the horse place I went

to didn't have any, I went up to Argos to look for an alternative and found exercise mats that would do the trick so that was another box ticked.

I get offered all sorts of things in my handyman work and with a spare door and plastic sheeting given to me, I soon constructed a hay store. Berwickshire is full of farms, so finding a hay supply was not too difficult, especially as my dad used to work as a fencer, so all the farms round and about know who I am.

Finding a supplier of camelid mix was a bit more difficult, but just by 'phoning around I found one in Jedburgh. The Trust had a plastic trough lying about doing nothing so I was grateful they gave it to me for the llamas water.

So I had the fence up (with a gate large enough to get a vehicle in if need be). I had a pen inside, with their shelter and hay store contained, food and water troughs, hay, camelid mix and, of course, their exercise mats to keep them fit! (But really to give them a dry flooring of course.)

Everything was in place and on the 5th September 2007, the boys arrived and within no time had made themselves at home.

The only construction left to do is a welcome area for trekkers but there is no hurry for that as really it will be Easter before we get busy here again. Mind you, I am always thinking of things to make the llamas life better and have added a 'conservatory' to their shelter with wood and plastic sheeting! Just gives them a bit more room and doesn't make their shelter look as purely functional as it did before.

I have public liability insurance sorted of course.

I have to pinch myself sometimes that this has really happened as it is great to have a job with animals and especially as the animals enjoy it as well.

And that is what really counts. I want to make some money from llama trekking for sure, but far more important to me is that Nico and Sammy, my two boys, have a long and happy life at St. Abbs head.

By the way, me learning llama language has been the hardest part, but one way or another, I am getting there, but that's another story!

*Peter Marshall
Berwickshire Llama Trekking.*



Peter with llama Sammy



The boys with Peter. St Abbs Church in the background.

Selenium Deficiency in Camelids

In 2006 a question was posed to the Health and Welfare Committee as a result of the diagnosis of selenium deficiency in a number of alpacas. "Was 2006 a particularly bad year for selenium deficiency."

To answer the question, you need to know the role of selenium in metabolism

Selenium is an essential component of the antioxidant enzyme Glutathione Peroxidase (GSH-Px). Selenium also plays a role in the function of the thyroid gland where it is necessary for conversion of the thyroid hormone thyroxine. Selenium is also involved in immune functions. It is therefore an essential trace element, "nutrient" for camelids.

Selenium deficiency

Clinical signs in crias:

- 1) Crias that are born weak and fail to thrive or don't survive.
- 2) White muscle disease (signs include walking with stiff legs)
- 3) Impaired immune function.
- 4) Nutritional myodegeneration (heart muscle) which can lead to heart attacks.

Adults: In addition to the above symptoms:

- 1) Adults that don't reproduce well.
- 2) Retained placentas.
- 3) Failure to thrive.

All of the above symptoms are treatable with Vitenum or other similar products - please speak to your vet.

Crias are born almost devoid of fat soluble vitamins and need to receive them from milk/colostrum intake. Although selenium can be transported across the placenta, if the dam is deficient, a cria may have little if any selenium in its liver reserves.

To seek to answer the question posed to the Health and Welfare Committee, we must look at a number of clinical tests.

The tests (GSH-Px tests) were carried out on camelid blood samples by the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) between January 2005 and March 2007. The results are presented and interpreted below.

The test was based on the fact that selenium is an essential component of the enzyme Glutathione Peroxidase (GSH-Px) and it is this enzyme that was assayed. The reason for this is that whole blood selenium is a far more difficult test to carry out, and GSH-Px results are highly correlated to blood selenium anyway.

If we assume the range to be:

Normal	>30 U/ml RBCs
Borderline	20 - 30 U/ml RBCs
Deficient	<20 u/ml RBCs

It should be noted at this point, that this "normal range" for camelids has been extrapolated from the normal range for cattle and sheep, and these "normal ranges" can change over time.

2005 March)	2006	2007(to
34 tests	80 tests	43 tests
52.9% Normal	63.8% Normal	60.5% Normal
32.4% Borderline	25% Borderline	20.9% Borderline
14.7% Deficient	11.2% Deficient	18.6% Deficient

It is worth mentioning that these were routine blood tests taken on camelids, not specific testing for suspected selenium deficient animals. Some of the camelids could have been tested as part of a general health screening process. Others may have been animals with ill thrift that were tested for trace

mineral deficiency such as selenium, copper and cobalt.

It is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions to the original question posed as only a fairly small sample of the camelid population was taken and the reason for sampling is unknown. However, conclusions that can be made from the results are that 2006 was not a particularly bad year for selenium deficiency and in general only between 10 - 20% of camelids are likely to show significant deficiency on blood testing for selenium.

What can be done about Selenium deficiency?

- 1) Ask your vet if you are in a known selenium deficient area. Have your soil analysed. In soils, selenium is most often found in soluble form which can be leached out of soils by rain, and into rivers by runoff.
- 2) Feed a varied and balanced diet that includes bulk forage and hay, and where necessary supplementary feeds, vitamins and minerals.
- 3) Monitor any health problems/ill thrift/sudden and unexplained deaths and look for clinical signs of selenium deficiency. It is a good idea to get a post mortem done to know whether to test or treat other members of your herd. Get your vet to take bloods and have them analysed. Just as selenium deficiency may be the problem, copper, cobalt or even another mineral such as molybdenum deficiency might be involved.

Selenium toxicity

Selenium is added to all livestock supplementary feeds (including camelid), at levels which are strictly controlled in this country. The problem is that camelids may require higher levels of selenium in supplementary feed than other livestock because generally their daily intake is less. However, overdosing of selenium is possible. In excess, selenium is fairly toxic to most animal species.

This is complicated by the fact that there are numerous interactions between many minerals which can lead to secondary "induced" disease problems. As a result, expert advice should always be sought if mineral supplementation is necessary.

Examples of why this holds true are

- Too much calcium can exacerbate zinc deficiency
- High iron can interfere with copper availability
- High dietary potassium can interfere with magnesium availability.

Suggested dose of Selenium for camelids

Assume 80 - 165lb body weight (extrapolated from cattle and sheep) 0.4 - 0.6 ppm 0.3 - 0.6 mg/day

This is equivalent to an average requirement of 6 - 9 ng/kg Body Weight.

(These figures are taken from The Complete Alpaca Book by Eric Hoffman).

My thanks to Andrew Starnes of Howe, Starnes, Gatward, Blowey and Wood - Veterinary Practice for help and advice in writing this article.

Data kindly supplied by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Vicki Agar (joint Health and Welfare Committee)

NB. The article speaks about requirements of alpacas of a bodyweight of 165lbs (75kg) as needing 0.6mg/day. Fowler says llamas need about 1.5mg/day so assuming a llama weighs about 150-200kgs, I think you could extrapolate from that, the requirements for llamas are approximately the same on a weight for weight basis as alpacas.

Andrew Starnes.

Learning to Love Llamas

I'm not really qualified to write an article for a Llama Society newsletter as, until two months ago, my experience of camelids was limited to five days spent vainly persuading a camel named Michael Jackson to canter across the Indian desert, after which, I vowed I would stick to horses. So it was really by chance that I found myself applying for a job looking after a large herd of llamas and alpacas at Bluecaps Farm!

The first llama I met when I went for interview was Josephine. She minced over to us and glanced disdainfully over her nose before walking off. Not wishing to offend my potential employer, I stifled a laugh at the way she stiffly strutted her stuff across the field, like a catwalk model in heels three sizes too big. Yet despite her slight ungainliness, her aura of superiority seemed justified and her respectable name suited her perfectly. I was mystified by this majestic yet comical creature, and I wanted to know more!

Fortunately for me, it comes with the job! Tina has a large herd of llamas at Bluecaps Farm of all ages, colours and genders which has provided me with a great opportunity to get to grips with the basics of llama husbandry and to gain a little insight into what makes them tick. As well as breeding and showing her llamas, Tina offers trekking around the local countryside. Now, to the uninitiated, the concept of taking a llama for a walk may seem quirky, even a little bizarre. When I told people about my new job and the llama trekking, the response was invariably, 'but what for?' And I have to admit that this question left me somewhat baffled; the whole idea seemed only slightly more constructive than dragging an

unruly sheep round the block... Oh the philistine that I was! But then I tried it. Now in answer to the 'why' question I can extol the virtues of llamas. They are such peaceful souls, and make very pleasant walking companions as I'm sure I don't need to tell you.



Me with twins Aztec and Inca

But it is the weanlings that have really won me over. They are currently kept in a large barn away from the rest of the herd while they struggle through adolescence and we people-ise them. Perhaps because I'm more used to equines (who are rather more intellectually challenged) I'm continually amazed at how quick llamas are to learn new concepts and to adapt. I love their inquisitive nature; they are the ultimate nosy neighbours! Necks craned at impossible angles to peer round the corner, banana ears straining so hard they meet in the

middle and eyes bulging out on stalks, the little llamas drink in every detail of the different coloured horse, or the heron sitting in the middle of the grass. And even more astounding is their aptitude for flying over 5' fences... without even meaning to! We have already made many a secret mission into the neighbour's paddock to rescue a stray baby. I know I shouldn't have favourites, but I can't help it, I'm not a professional yet!

So, I have learned a lot in the past two months and my respect for llamas continues to grow. For me they have definitely made the transition from the (only mildly) ridiculous to the sublime!

Tara Sinha. Bluecaps Llamas.

MEMBER'S PROFILE

MARY WALKER

Mary Walker first 'got into llamas' by a happy accident when she went to collect two llamas from the late Chris Goodwin from Hereford that were to join the animal therapy team at Lords House Farm Special Needs Centre in Lancashire.... Mary is the Chief Executive and founder of the Charity which provides Equine and animal assisted therapy for disabled and disadvantaged adults and children in the community and have, since getting the llamas, started to use them very effectively to enrich the lives of autistic and disabled children.

Being given the opportunity to take them for a trek on the downs whilst there collecting them, Mary and her Husband Graham were immediately hooked on the concept of trekking with these delightful creatures and have now set up a Llama Trekking Centre ...Lakeland Llama Treks ..in the spectacular surroundings of the Lake District in Cumbria, working with their 26 llamas in the North Lakes area and more recently having a permanent site at Center Parcs Whinfell Forest. Mary and her husband, daughter and daughters fiancé, are now in the process of developing a small llama visitor centre and tea rooms near Keswick, so the public can 'take tea with a llama'....a very civilised thing to do!

Mary is married with three daughters and three grandchildren, 24 horses, 26 llamas, and a range of unusual animals including monkeys, emu, reindeer, snakes and reptiles and a herd of hand reared, tame fallow deer.

Mary's role as director for the British Llama Society will make use of her post graduate degree in business management and extensive marketing and fundraising experience to support the society's website in facilitating a wide range of information for its members, existing and new llama owners, interested public and llama lovers everywhere.

First instalment of a day in the life of a Lakeland llama or how much fun can be had on four legs!

A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE!

That is how our clients describe an afternoon communing with a llama. I don't know what makes this magic, I only know that everyone that we take out with us seems to have had a life changing experience...certainly a change in their expectations of what they thought would happen on their meander through the countryside attached (very loosely) to a nuzzling llama.

I have worked with people in a variety of capacities in the service industry all my life and it's so true that you can't please all people all of the time. Llamas however shoot that theory into a thousand pieces as I can honestly say that everyone that has been out with our llamas have all got this excited, exhilarated and happy demeanour and frankly what I can only describe as a feeling of privilege to be in their company (their words not ours).

We are always careful to do our research into our clients experience and all get 'homework' at the end of the trek in the form of a very simple questionnaire asking open questions about all aspects of the experience. They can't put yes or no so we get a good an honest opinion of how we can make their experience even better.

We ask for a rating of 1 to 10 for the experience ...10 being excellent...and without exception someone on the trek will cross out 10 and put 11.

Now I don't believe that this is just a reflection of the good customer service we try to provide....the llamas have a way of endearing themselves to their trek companion in a way that I have never seen another of Gods creatures able to do. Whether it is our William that just snogs for England...(man or woman...he doesn't care!) making people feel they are the only human in the world he wants to be with, or little Pixie who has a fluffy puff ball coat and a dreamy expression in his eyes and who's throttle is stuck at one speed...slow and is ideal for our little people on the trek.

The llama llove phenomenon really does exist and a number of our trek clients have gone on to be llama owners as a result of the feeling of being bereft when it comes to handing back the new love of their life at the end of the day.

Llamas cause a stir wherever they go...people are fascinated to see them....particularly in places they never expect to see something quite so bizarre like 7 llamas enjoying a paddle up to their knees in Derwentwater lake in Keswick Cumbria.

We never tire of seeing the look of surprise and sheer pleasure on the faces of people walking towards us whilst on the trek and of course hearing the standard quotes such as 'that's a big sheep' 'I knew I shouldn't have had a drink at

lunchtime' and please tell me,I have to ask, just why are you leading a llama through these woods?

It really is quite amusing that our clients tell us there seems to be two standard replies when they tell their friends or work colleagues they are going llama trekking. These are either...

Oh how brilliant..can I come too or WHY? The 'why' they get to know all about when their new trekker has been out with us...there must be so many people in the UK now having llamas as screen savers on their computers...they really are the most photographed animals in Cumbria I think.

William or Casanova as we like to call him, thinks cameras were invented for him and when ever he sees one is right in there...whether or not he is supposed to be on the photograph or not, he will muscle in. There must be so many Japanese tourists returning home to show their

photographs to family and having to explain just why there is a large hairy creature peering down the lens of the camera...I am sure they must think the UK has gone potty!

So now you can see I am sure, just why we are selling up and moving to Cumbria to live and work with our llamas...Like my family who are involved with our new venture all say... we can't believe we actually get paid for wandering around woods and lakes with such delightful company....llamas and people.

More instalments next issue of our anecdotes and tales from the Lakeland llamas.....Thought for the week...why do llamas like mince pies? We'll give you the answer next issue!

Mary Walker



A happy couple enjoying both the company of their llamas and the beautiful countryside of the Lake District



ooh - that's better. My feet are killing me!!

REGISTRATION

It will soon be a year since I took over from Rodney Newth, the former Registrar for the Society. I have to say that I am actually very much enjoying the extra involvement in the Society this duty has brought me – it is bringing me into contact with many owners and isn't it just wonderful to talk Llamas with people who have the same passion?

Unfortunately, December involved a disaster in that my Laptop crashed – beyond recall, I had to purchase a new one, which of course runs VISTA. It took almost six weeks and six brains to retrieve the database and bring me back "on line". 150 Llamas have been registered since 1 April 2007. Upon receipt of a registration form, I can enter the data and complete the registration at a rate of approximately 3 minutes per animal. However, if the applicant has not quoted a registered sire or dam Herdbook number, or quoted the wrong number – the registration process will possibly take me about 15 to 20 minutes!!

Similarly, when an applicant submits a Certificate to register the Transfer of an animal, please ensure you quote the membership number of the new owner if appropriate, as again a 3 minute job can turn into 15 as I retrieve the information from other tables in the database. If the new owner is not a member, please provide their full name and address as a letter will be sent to them inviting them to join and thus receive a Certificate for the animal.

The registration form also asks for Breed Type. More often than not, this box is not completed on the form. The breed type reference to quote is as follows :

CCARA CLASSIC – short coated

CCARA CURACA – medium woolled

TAMPULI for long fibred Llamas subdivided into :

TAPADA for heavy woolled and

LANUDA for heavy woolled with fringes on ears, head and abundant wool down the legs.

It has been agreed by the Committee that the colour reference required simplification. When completing this element on the registration form, only the following colours should be referred to : BLACK, WHITE, CREAM, DARK BROWN, LIGHT BROWN, DARK GREY, LIGHT GREY

No other colour references should now be quoted.

It is not a requirement, but it is a useful central record for identity purposes for you to lodge a photograph of the animal being registered. This photograph is affixed to the registration form and retained on file.

Occasionally, a registration form gives the names of a Sire and/or a Dam who are not registered. The Society wishes to encourage owners to register these

animals also, even where their parentage is not known.

Please also quote your Herd name and two or three letter Herd reference allocated to you if you have been notified previously of such a reference.

To ensure the register maintains a true and concise record of Llamas, please also ensure that you notify me of the death of an animal and advise the cause of death if known.

Almost everyone who renewed their subscription for 2008 completed the census sent out with the renewal notices. It is proposed to start the process of issuing each member with a copy of a

schedule of Llamas registered to them, so that the members can ensure the database is correct and bring it up to date as appropriate.

It is also proposed to write to the non-member owners, inviting them to join the Society and asking them to confirm the data on the animals recorded as being in their ownership.

I am still feeling my way into the responsibility of Registrar and of course do not have the benefit of the knowledge of the long serving Rodney – but please do not hesitate to call me if you have any queries at any time – and hopefully I will be able to assist you and you can help teach me!!

Vivienne S Ives
Bls Registrar

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Lorna Renshaw, t: 01651-806619
ArdoAlpaca@aol.com

11. N.Ireland & S.Ireland

Sue Somerville, t:+353 1 281 8253
stucker@tcd.ie

12. Overseas -France (6) USA (1) NONE

DELIGHT AT END OF A LONG BATTLE

We are delighted to confirm that after a long battle, Roseland has finally been declared free of Bovine TB. In actual fact it would seem that we have been clear of it for some fifteen months, and the length and tragic losses of this gruelling episode were more down to tragically and frighteningly inadequate testing resources plus a government department - Defra - that has totally lost its way in terms of its priorities and methodology (why is no one surprised to hear this?).

It took petitioning and appeals to two government ministers and a visit to our farm by the Efra Select Committee of MPs (the parliamentary committee that monitors Defra) to finally get Defra back on to the testing and compensation procedures that were agreed at the beginning of the problem but upon which they suddenly reneged mid-course. This victory sadly but inevitably meant that twelve llamas that had tested positive for TB back in March '07 had, finally, to be put down in December. This proved both tragic and good news at one and the same time because all proved to be negative on post mortem and on culture; a terrible loss yet showing that we had actually been clear for a whole year!

Now another final and completely clear set of tests has confirmed the good news! So fifteen months have actually elapsed free of all signs of illness! And having now passed a record number of tests, we have a happy and healthy herd with - the silver lining - some truly beautiful youngsters born amidst all the chaos!

Ironically this was the year that Judy and I had planned to downsize with a view to semi-retirement, reducing the herd

from a very personal but commercial enterprise to an even more personal hobby group; so one way or another we are back on track, enjoying our lovely llamas and very much open again for business!

Whilst the clouds have lifted over Roseland Llamas, sadly the issue of bovine TB continues to affect camelids - llamas and alpacas - around the UK. Our hearts go out to anyone affected. Given that there is a total absence (despite the endless reports and studies) of a valid policy to control t.b in wildlife and totally inadequate testing procedures both for suspect cases and for movements of camelids in general, it is feared the problem may worsen before it improves and vigilance in having ailing animals monitored by a vet and in having any deceased animals post-mortemed, is vital. If anyone has concerns about their own animals or is already in the throes of a TB breakdown, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance or support - paulrose@llamas.co.uk.

I shall be preparing and publishing a fuller account and information for members as soon as possible and hopefully this will be available at the Society AGM. Meanwhile may we take this opportunity to extend sincere and grateful thanks for the many good wishes and messages of support we have received over the months and which helped so much to sustain us through the nightmare.

*Paul & Judy Rose
Roseland Llamas, Devon*

DIARY DATES

SOUTH EAST ALPACA GROUP CAMELID BIRTHING SEMINAR

Saturday 12th April 2008

beginning at 12 noon at The Ashdown Forest Llama Park

A talk by Claire Whitehead about Camelid birthing including what is normal birthing and what is an abnormal or a difficult birth.

Claire is Lecturer in Camelid Medicine and reproduction at the Royal Veterinary College.

Directions The Ashdown Forest Llama Park is located on the A22 between Uckfield and East Grinstead, 250 metres south of the junction with the A275

CENTRAL REGION GROUP.

Sunday 13th April.

TREK at Catanger Llamas, South Northants. 10am.
BYO lunch. We can loan you a llama if you can't bring one.
Contact: Mary Pryse 01295 768676
e. mary@llamatrekking.co.uk

SOUTH WEST REGION

Our Spring Social will be held on **Sunday 20th April** at Barford Cottage, Spaxton, Nr Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1AF. Fanny and David James have kindly offered to be our hosts and will provide a map/directions if required. Tel: 01278 671425 or e. barfordllamas@btinternet.co.uk We will have the usual format. Turn up between 11.30 and 12 noon with a contribution for a shared lunch. This can be decided on (sweet or savoury etc) when you confirm with Fanny and David that you are coming. It's almost a year now since we all met up. Sadly our Winter Social had to be cancelled but Brenda has suggested we may like to visit late summer. This could be arranged at the coming Social. I can assure you of a warm welcome and a lovely day. A great chance to meet new members and catch up with 'old' friends. Look forward to seeing you. Jenny Rogers.

The 2008 North Somerset Show is to be held on **Monday 5th May**.
Contact: Norma Chandler Paterson on 01454 773533

SOUTH OF ENGLAND

ARDINGLY SPRING SHOW

Sunday 4th and Monday 5th May.

Llama and alpaca classes.

Contact: Liz Butler 01737 823375 e. llamaliz@hotmail.com

Llama Show at Mere Hall Farm, Staffs.

Sunday 1st June. By kind permission of Christine Armstrong.
Organiser Brian Haughton. Details to follow.

July 27th Mini trek and fun classes at Manor Farm, Notts.
Details to follow.

Aug/Sept.

TREK in Nottingham Forest. Details to follow.
Contact: Brian Haughton. Tel. 0775 2206481
haughton_brian@hotmail.com

DERBYSHIRE REGIONAL GROUP

Recently formed alpaca regional group who welcome llama owners to their meetings and events.

Their aims are to provide help, advice and support, education and knowledge sharing with speakers/courses and to organise fun and social events. They will be starting with 6 meetings a year. If you live in Derbyshire or surrounding counties, this could be of interest for you.
Contact: Lesley Howard e. lk.howard@homecall.co.uk

Llama Lland Open Day

Sunday 6 July 2008

10am-4pm

Julie Tripp, Llama Lland, Penare Farm, Shortlanesend, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DG

Tel No. 01872 540465 e-mail: info@llamalland.com

Cornwall Camelid Association Fun Day.

September 2008

Including trek and obstacle course

For more information contact

Julie Tripp, Llama Lland, Penare Farm, Shortlanesend, Truro, Cornwall TR4 9DG

Tel No. 01872 540465. e-mail: info@llamalland.com

First Meeting of the East of England BLS Group.

Sorry for the delay in writing this report...

The first meeting of the East of England Group took place on the 22nd September 2007. Despite the Foot and Mouth outbreaks and many of our members being on holiday, Chris Codd and I paid a visit to the Oasis Camel Centre in Norfolk, owned and run by Ray Smith.

We were welcomed very warmly with a cup of coffee while Ray spoke to us about his experiences of training and breeding camels over the past 30 years. We were then shown around the centre to meet his collection of camelids; his family includes not just camels, but llamas, alpacas and guanacos too!

Next we were in for a treat! Ray ambled over to us with Sonny, a camel he had bred and trained himself, and, as though speaking to a dog rather than a large Bactrian camel, he asked him to lie down. It was incredible to witness Sonny slowly lying down so obediently and gently. Chris and I gave him lots of pats while Ray answered our many questions.

After a lovely lunch we took two llamas out for a walk and enjoyed the local scenery.

All in all, we had a wonderful time and Chris and I are very grateful to Ray and his family for making it such an informative and enjoyable day.

Gwynneth Hogger - Fynnvalley Llamas.



Sammy having a chat with Chris



Sammy obeying instructions from Ray

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 Brenda Birmingham for her to mail out leaflets.
2. Ask Brenda 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.



British Llama Society

ENTERPRISE DIRECTORY 2008

Would you like to go trekking with llamas, or stay at a B&B where they keep llamas? Or perhaps you wish to visit a breeder with a view to buying some llamas?

Welcome to the British Llama Society Enterprise Directory, your best starting point.

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FIBRE & HANDICRAFTS

SOUVENIR & LLAMA ART PRODUCTS

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TREKKING

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GOONGOOSE CAMELIDS:

Mrs Anne Masters
Engoyse Farm Cottages, Helston,
Cornwall TR13 0QE
Tel No: 01326 572580

LLAMA LLAND

(For contact details, see under Breeders)

Three comfortable mobile homes to let. Guests welcome to visit llamas or trek with them by arrangement. Holiday craft courses available. *(See also under Souvenir & Llama Art Products and Breeders)*

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Robert Dewar & Amanda Huntley
Old King Street Farm, Ewyas Harold,
Hereford HR2 0HB

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Fax No: 01981 241579

E-mail: info@oldkingstreetfarm.co.uk
www.oldkingstreetfarm.co.uk

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Alison Taylor
Bordens Wood B & B, Stowting,
nr Ashford, Kent TN25 6AP
Tel No: 01303 812011

LONDON

WILLOWSIDE: P E & C Roddick

Picks Farm, Sewardstone Road,
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Tel No: 0208 529 1371

E-mail: r.roddick@btconnect.com
www.willowsidelakes.co.uk

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Tel No: 01608 661893 *(Llamas, Alpacas & Emus)*

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All entries in the BREEDERS section have signed up to the British Camelids Limited or British Llama Society Sales Code of Conduct

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ORDELLAMAS: Ordell Safran

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Tel No: 01344 885857

Fax: 01344 884398 *(Llamas)*

E-mail: ordellsafran@btinternet.com

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Stockleigh Pomeroy, Devon, EX17 4AY

Tel No/Fax: 01363 866056 *(Llamas)*

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MISTLEY LLAMAS:

Mrs Claire Scargill
Mistley Lodge, New Road, Mistley,
Essex CO11 2AQ

Tel No: 01206 395417

Fax: 01206 397116 *(Llamas)*

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Ian & Isobel Jackson
Stone Hall, Stone Street,
Stelling Minnis, Canterbury,
Kent CT4 6DD

Tel No: 01277 709232

Fax No: 01227 709232 *(Llamas)*

E-mail: ian.jackson6@btconnect.com

NORTHANTS

CATANGER LLAMAS:

Mary & David Pryse
18 High Street,
Weston by Weedon Lois, Towcester,
Northants NN12 8PU

Tel No: 01295 768676

Fax: 01295 760542 *(Llamas & Donkeys)*

E-mail: mary@llamatrekking.co.uk
www.llamatrekking.co.uk

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Tel No: 01159 375949

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Gwynneth Hogger
The Lodge, Valley Farm,
Strugglers Lane, Witnesham,
Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 9HS

Tel No/Fax: 01473 785529 *(Llamas)*

E-mail: fynnvalleyllamas@keme.co.uk

SURREY

NUTFIELD PARK LLAMAS &

ALPACAS: Don & Liz Butler
Nutfield Park Farm, South Nutfield,
Surrey RH1 5PA

Tel No: 01737 823375 *(Llamas &*

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Jennifer Smith

Strichen House, Strichen, Fraserburgh,
Aberdeenshire AB43 6TN

Tel No: 01771 637208/07875 033305

Fax No: 01771 637208 (**Llamas**)

E-mail: jenny.smith9@hotmail.com

www.jennyjennysmith9.spaces.live.com

LANARKSHIRE

LOWTHER LLAMAS:

Ann Knowles-Brown

Crookedstane, Elvanfoot, By Biggar,
Lanarkshire ML12 6RL

Tel No: 01864 505287 (**Llamas**)

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DRUMRAE LLAMAS:

Mrs Val Crank

West Drumrae Farm, Whithorn,
Wigtownshire DG8 8DU

Tel No: 01988 700518

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BREMIA FARMS:

Peter Bourne
Llanio Isaf, Tregaron, Ceredigion,
Dyfed SY25 6UW

Tel No: 01974 298327

Fax: 01974 298590 (**Llamas**)

NON-UK

FRANCE

LES LAMAS DE BRIANCE-

LIGOURE: Bernard Morestin

Masmoulineix, 87380 Glanges, France

Tel No: 00 33 (0) 555 71 79 20

(**Llamas**)

E-mail: BernardMorestin@aol.com

www.lamas.lamas.com

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Camelidynamics UK, Carthvean Farm,
Porkellis, Helston, Cornwall TR13 0JL

E-mail: taylor.browne@clara.net

www.carthveanalpacas.com

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We strongly recommend... before buying Llamas, do join the British Llama Society and ensure the seller is a BLS member and signatory to the Sales Code of Conduct

For more information on how to advertise in the Enterprise Directory please contact

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Lower Braundsworthy, Shebbear, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5TB

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The Importance of Correct Head Collar Fit In Llamas

Head collar fit in Llamas can have major implications for the feeling of health and well-being of your animal for two reasons:

- 1) Llamas are semi-obligate nasal breathers. This means they can only survive by breathing through their mouths for a short period of time (and even this has been shown to be like trying to drink a thick milkshake through a small straw)
- 2) When looking at their skull, the bone which forms the nose only extends a short way in front of the eye, beyond which it is cartilage.



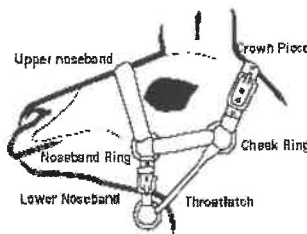
For this reason, llamas with an incorrectly fitting head collar can feel that they are either being or are about to be suffocated. This can cause behaviour that appears almost “brainless” in an otherwise very calm animal. Haltering issues such as these can easily be solved by checking and correcting (if necessary) the fit of your halter.

One reason for problems with halter fit is the variety of head shapes and sizes in llamas. Of particular importance is the variation in length of the part of the nose that is bone. Some llamas have very short heads and the heads of crias that have a lot of growing to do are sometimes not big enough to safely fit a halter on. (However this is more often the case in alpacas). Even with adult llamas, there is some variation in the length of the bone of the nose in front of the eye. **It is very important to check, by gently feeling the top of your llama’s nose – forward of the eye, if there is any doubt.**

Another cause of problems is the adjustability of your halter, and whether it can be safely and comfortably fitted to your llama – and whether it will stay adjusted in this way, no matter what.

A correctly fitting halter sits in such a way that the nose band remains permanently on the bony part of the nose. It should be fitted so that it crosses the nose just in front of the eye – see correct halter fit below – **the halter may appear that it is fitting too close to the eye, but this really is the best position.** Tightening up the nose band so that there is room to fit two fingers vertically under the jaw bone (in an adult) will ensure a snug fit. The nose band must not be able to slip off the bone and onto the soft tissue (or even be pulled forward if the llama scratches its face) under any circumstances. This would cause your llama to panic. The llama must be

comfortable without rubbing off fleece or skin, and the halter should allow the llama to eat, drink, ruminate, or even yawn – everything it would normally expect to do.



Types of halter:

NB It is worth noting that the size difference between adult llamas and crias means that it is not the case that one size fits all.

- A) Fixed Nose Band Head Collar:** With this halter type, the nose band cannot be adjusted. If the nose band is not large enough to slide up so that it fits snugly in front of the eye, then the nose band may sit too far down the nose. This will be of concern to the llama which may be able to think of little else than the pressure of the nose band over the soft tissue of its nose, or worse still its nostrils, affecting its breathing. While the crown piece can be adjusted, it still may not allow a nose band which is too small, to sit in the correct position. Therefore it may simply clamp the llama’s mouth shut, which could also stop it from eating, drinking and ruminating – and breathing!
- B) X-Style Halter:** With this halter type, the crown piece and nose band form a continuous loop & neither can be adjusted independently of the other. In this way, by loosening the crown piece, the nose band is also slackened, which can allow the nose band to slip forward and become unsafe. Without a variety of sizes available, it is difficult to obtain the correct fit, particularly for a llama which is being halter trained to walk for the first time on a halter. This can be inconvenient. However, this type of halter can fit a wide variety of head sizes and shapes.
- C) Adjustable Halter:** In this case, both the nose band and crown piece can be adjusted independently. A short cheek piece will prevent the nose band from slipping forwards, especially when in conjunction with the throat latch and nose band travelling through the same ring under the chin. If fitted with buckles, it is also more likely to remain in the original position.

The adjustable type of halter seems to offer the greatest versatility in fitting llamas of all head types – with both ease of fitting and safety paramount.

Fitting and adjusting a halter

- Adjust the nose band to its widest setting before putting it on your llama. In this way, it can slide up the nose to just in front of the eye, where it will be safest.
- Tighten the crown piece high up behind the ears – this will give maximum control and contact while you are leading your llama. Bear in mind that the halter has to stay high on

the nose – no matter what.

- Take any slack out of the nose band, allowing enough room for normal activity such as feeding. NB A larger llama will need more slack around the jaw. Generally, if you can get your index and middle finger between the jaw and the nose band, an adult should be comfortable. Less room is needed for a cria to ruminate etc.
- If the llama is in full fleece, the fleece will compress, and the crown piece will almost certainly need tightening in a few minutes.
- In hot weather, the material of certain halters can expand slightly (nylon can expand by 30% of its length), further necessitating adjustment after a few minutes.

In an unsupervised situation – such as in the field – it is not felt to be advisable to leave the halter on your llama (Joint Health & Welfare Committee 2006).

Llamas are intelligent creatures and can remember the experience of a badly fitting halter. This can make them reluctant to be haltered again, and can cause behavioural problems such as: cushing, bolting, rearing and/or panicking when the halter is put on. For all llamas (and especially crias) beginning their handling training, it is imperative to

- 1) Have a correctly fitting halter, and
- 2) To take the time to fit the halter correctly.

This will allow your llama to become quicker to train and easier to handle.

Please remember that even the correct size halter becomes dangerous and useless if not adjusted correctly.

This article has been written with the help and advice of Marty McGee Bennett (Camelidynamics)

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e. ordell.safran@btinternet.com

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e. llamaliz@hotmail.com

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Terry Crowfoot (Cart driving and agility)

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Fiona Davis (Working with Fibre)

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Chris Eke (Trekking and husbandry contact South/South West)

e. 01308 868674 e. jo@ukllamas.co.uk

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