



Llama Link

The British Llama Society's quarterly magazine



Issue No 52
Spring 2019



Welcome

This edition of Llama Link has truly been a Team Effort (with capital letters!) and I would personally like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, effort and material to ensure that this magazine landed on your doorstep in a timely and interesting fashion.

Our previous editor Tina Gambell has stepped away from Llama Link due to other commitments and so, as a new season dawns, so does a fresh new editorial panel who we hope will carry on Tina's good work and keep filling the pages of Llama Link with interesting features, news and views. Thank you Tina for your efforts over the past few years.

This edition contains, amongst other things, an informative insight into how llamas first arrived in the UK by Dr Richard Cox; a really useful article by Annie Austen on correcting umbilical hernias in cria and a detailed piece by Suzanne Benson, explaining the need for the newly redrafted Trekking Guidelines

And finally, may I extend a very warm "Welcome" to new members: Vanessa Allen, Daniel Hartz and Samantha Eatwell. "Congratulations", goes to Leigh White who has been voted onto the Board of Directors and a huge "Thank You", to Matt Yorke who has stepped up to become our Welsh Regional co-ordinator.

Caroline

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Chairman's Notes



■ Caroline Pembro

Taking Over

Well, it's been a hugely busy few months on the llama front! Who knew so much work went on behind the scenes? I will keep this section quite short - suffice to say, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Crowfoot for all the work he's done over the past 10 years as Chairman of the BLS, and for easing my transition into the role by way of a multitude of emails containing valuable information as to how I should be doing things. I will get round to reading them all before long, I promise!

As Llama Link goes to press, we are seeing the completion of two massive projects, namely the changes to the Trekking Guidelines (which was a joint project between BLS and BAS); and the publication of the Llama Breed Standards and the Judging and Showing Report. Both reports were huge undertakings and a very grateful thanks goes out to everyone involved who gave up a huge amount of time, effort and expertise to ensure we have the correct guidelines in place to protect our beloved animals both now and going into the future. In due course we will be welcoming feedback from the membership on all aspects, as well as ensuring the Board revisit them on a regular basis to ensure they continue to reflect the needs of the membership and our animals as time goes by and National Policies alter.

Looking into the future, we have almost imminently, the North Somerset Show (held at Wraxall, near Bristol), so if you're nearby and fancy a day out on the first Bank Holiday Monday in May - pop on down and support those competing.

Preparations are also well underway for our Members'

Day at Watertown Llamas in May and places are filling fast. Please book your space now and let us know if you have any special dietary requirements. If you have any llama products for sale or a business to promote - you are encouraged to bring along a sales table or business cards. It'll be a great place for networking as well as socialising and having lots of llama fun. Fingers crossed the weather stays fine - but we've contingency plans for that too!

Newbury Show plans are well underway too, for our main show in September. The entire show is dedicated to the llama this year - not just our little corner of the Showground. Read all about it on p20 and we really do hope to see you there - with or without your llamas!

We are always on the lookout for people to assist and if you have time and/or inclination to get involved, we really would love to hear from you. We are needing help with public relations, social media, rehoming, extra regional coordinators and also help on the editorial panel for Llama Link. Speaking of Llama Link, we want to see more pictures of your llamas and stories of what you've been up to lately so do drop us a line - it doesn't have to be much and please share your llama stories. Thank you.

A final heartfelt Thank You, for everyone who took the time to congratulate me for taking over the role of Chairman from Tim. I really do appreciate your support and will do my utmost to do my best on behalf of members and llamas alike. Contact details for myself and all the other members of the Board can be found on the back page so please do not hesitate to get in touch with one or other of us if you need help or advice, or have something to say.

Happy Llamas to you all!
Caroline

Can You Help?

Are you good at Communicating?

The BLS is looking for a new PR Officer to help with Social Media and to respond to queries from Press and other external sources.

Full support from the Board is given.

Experience not necessary, but a sense of humour and enthusiasm is a must!

Is your vet aware of the
British Veterinary
Camelid Society?

Please pass on this link:

www.camelids.org

Don't forget to microchip!

Microchips are available from the
Registrar, Vivienne Ives
for just £4.15 + p&p

please see back page for
contact details

Thank You, to BAS



In response to the growing number of dog attacks on their members' alpacas, The British Alpaca Society designed and commissioned an eye-catching sign.

They very generously donated enough to BLS for our members too



Jack, of Hillview Llamas (Cheshire)

Photographed by Catherine Craven

PLEASE NOTE - We have a limited number of surplus signs, so if you need any more, please get in touch and we can arrange to send more out to you.

Badger Attack

Val Crank writes of her traumatic experience

Last year, we had what we originally thought was a dog attack, on a small group of our sheep, that we had grazing in the same field as our llamas.

One of the ewes had to be euthanised by the vet because her injuries were so severe. Her front shoulder was dislocated and torn; her jaw was totally dislocated and her sinus tracts pierced. The vet believed the dislocations were caused by her trying to escape from the strong jaws of her attacker.

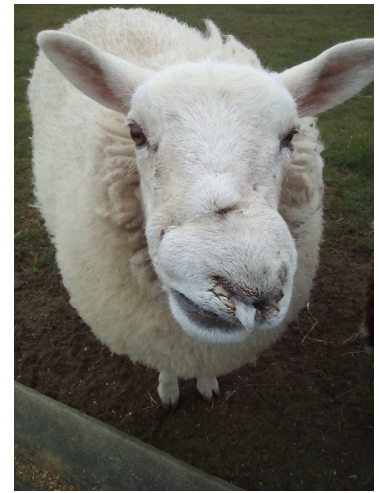
Another ewe, as the picture shows, had her jaw dislodged, but not totally dislocated. Her sinus tracts were pierced too. She has, surprisingly, survived. We haven't

put her to the ram this year because we feel it would be too much for her, but she's quite happy just living life and getting fat!

The llamas that were in the field with the ewes didn't show any signs of having been physically attacked, but they were traumatised for days and wouldn't come anywhere near the gate for their feed.

Shortly after the attack, at lambing time, we had several lambs killed. They didn't display signs of your classic fox attack and the lambs that were killed were big, healthy lambs, not newborns, so not normal fox predation.

We believe the culprit(s) to be



badger(s). I bought an infra-red wildlife camera and have since caught badgers on it several times.

I'm writing this just to make people aware that, if they do have badgers around, it's not just the bTB to be worried about! Badgers are ferocious killers, as we have experienced. They have no predators and are protected by law! Crias would be easy prey for them.

No more sore eyes

Charlotte Wheatley shares their vet's clever treatment

Recently, over on our Members' Facebook Page, a conversation popped up about llamas scratching their eyes on haylage.

To prevent this from happening, several people recommended using nets to prevent llamas from pushing their heads right down into the middle of the bale.

Once damage has occurred however, Charlotte Wheatley, (from Nidderdale Llamas), described their vet's targeted treatment for scratched eyes.



"In terms of treatment, our vet takes a blood sample from the llama; spins it to extract the plasma and then mixes the plasma with antibiotic drops to make eye drops specific to each llama. The plasma encourages healing as there is no direct blood supply on

the surface of the eye. Healing is usually pretty quick and takes place within about 7-10 days!"



This treatment can be seen on The Yorkshire Vet, Series 7, Episode 7 and fortunately, Bolly the llama (above) makes a full recovery.

Ouch! How did she do that?

Caroline Champion's Cassie gets injured

One February morning, I arrived at my llama field, to find that one of my llamas, Cassie, was looking very sorry for herself. She had managed to rip open a chunk of muzzle that was now hanging down. I called the vet, who said that the muzzle would probably need to be stitched, or else the hanging part, cut off. I wasn't sure that Cassie would approve of either option and I suggested the vet bring plenty of sedation since Cassie is both tall and weighty.

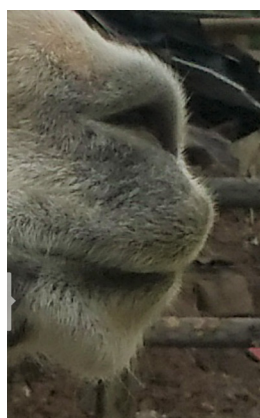
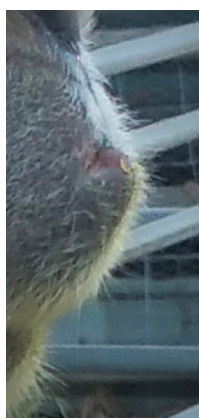
The vet arrived and tried to examine the injury. Cassie wasn't impressed and, in her efforts to escape, broke her head collar and fled across the field. I didn't think she would allow me to halter her again, so I put a neck collar on her and then hung on grimly as she proceeded to drag me round the field for a few minutes. Eventually I was able to lead her back to where I could anchor her firmly on the horse box and the vet injected her with long-acting antibiotics and long-acting painkillers, with a, "feel good element".



What a difference! She became totally calm as the pain went and in my anthropomorphic way, I imagined her feeling peaceful and just a little 'fuzzy around the edges'. In the end the injection was her only treatment! The vet didn't think that stitches or removing the flap were necessary since a full anaesthetic would have been involved and the injury was cosmetic rather than structural. Neither did he want to set her off over the field again using purple spray. I admit that I wondered if a lack of further treatment was a cowardly way out, but in retrospect it seems a good decision.

Two days later, when the pain killers had supposedly worn off, I was watchful in case further treatment was necessary, but Cassie didn't display any further signs of discomfort. In fact, she was eating whilst being seemingly oblivious to the bits and pieces that were getting lodged on top of the cut area. I dosed her with turmeric (anti-inflammatory) daily and she got busy doing her own healing. In the event, there was no swelling or sign of infection. I am amazed how well Cassie has healed. As regards the cause of the injury I went over the field with a fine toothcomb but I didn't find any sign of blood or a place where I thought Cassie could have hurt herself. The vet said this sort of thing happens 'all the time', that it wouldn't have been a dog attack and that she had probably pulled her head up sharply - but against what, I have no idea. I wonder if she could have got her muzzle down into a llama hurdle loop? It's all I can think of. If only she could tell me what did happen.

The pictures below show the cut at the time of injury (left); a week later (centre) and after a month (right)



We need YOUR
llama stories
and/or photos

Please send them to:
cpembro@gmail.com
for inclusion in the next
Llama Link

Spring 2019

Babe and Dolly

A tale of their rehoming



Photos and words by: Caroline Bennett

Babe and Dolly, a slightly minxy llama and her shadowing alpaca, eventually arrived at Will's Cottage in January 2018. Their arrival had initially been delayed a few times by snowy weather.

They didn't actually have to come very far to move in with us. Their previous owner lives just three miles away, but their complex health issues meant that this pair needed a new home, and fairly quickly.

The 'llamapac' settled in very quickly. They didn't quite take to our ram, Errol, who they had to share a field and stable with and infact, they still don't like him very much now! Babe tends to use him for spitting target practice but, thankfully, he's very tolerant and seems to take it all in his stride!

It took my partner and I a little while to adjust to having camelids again after losing our twenty-ish year-old boys the previous year. Babe's tendency to spit can be a bit trying but it is lovely to have such beautiful creatures running around our land again. And, to be fair, as she's settled down here and found herself to be happy, she's been a lot better on the spitting front. Though I'm not quite so sure that Errol would agree!

We've never kept an alpaca before, but we were quickly won over by Dolly, who has an endearing face and a sweet temperament. She is a much quieter soul than Babe, who can be a little too pushy at times. By comparison, Dolly tends to just follow in Babe's shadow, trying

not to draw too much attention to herself. Both animals have the same inquisitive nature that we'd grown used to with our previous camelids.

As Dolly needed shearing last summer, and I've only ever hand sheared llamas before, we decided to ask our sheep shearer, Phil to do it for us. Luckily, he was more than happy to, having shorn alpacas before. Phew!

Dolly behaved extremely well and Phil made speedy work of it. We brought Babe with Dolly to the shearing spot, thinking this would help to calm Dolly, which I think it did, though as you can see from the picture (below, right), Babe didn't seem too impressed by it all!

I bundled all of Dolly's fibre up for a neighbour who spins, but this year I will try to get her shorn a little bit more methodically, so that 'the best' can be separated from 'the rest' – legs and belly sheared first, then the neck, then the highest quality 'blanket' area kept separate.

Babe will also need to be shorn this year. That will be interesting...

Photo captions:

Top Left: Babe and Dolly

Bottom Left: Phil (fireman and shearer) makes light work of Dolly's summer shearing.

Right: Dolly looks on imperiously, whilst Dolly gets her haircut

Could you help to find a loving home for the next llama or llamas in need?

The British Llama Society is often called upon to assist with rescuing or rehoming llamas and has a policy of only rehoming to BLS members.

We are currently on the lookout for someone who is happy to take over the role of Rehoming Co-Ordinator. Please get in touch if you'd be interested in helping.



No cause for alarm-a!



Suzanne Benson, from Nidderdale Llamas, has put pen to paper to explain the need for the recently revised Trekking Code.

This was a joint project between the British Llama Society and the British Alpaca Society and was the result of many months of hard work.

As we are all aware, llamas and alpacas have suddenly become very popular - a real 'fashion' item with llama / alpaca prints and designs commonplace in retail outlets up and down the country.

Great marketing for those of us with llama and alpaca experience / trekking businesses, as it has prompted folk to want to learn more about our amazing animals. In fact, we couldn't have asked for better publicity of our woolly friends!

Recently, we have seen both brand new trekking businesses springing up, as well as the more established farms starting to offer walks too. This is fantastic, as long as we all go about this with thought and don't put lining our pockets as priority above the welfare of our animals!

I hear it time and time again, from folk who think running an animal business must be a dream come true! And yes, realistically, for me my childhood dream did come true, as being a farmer's wife was my 'day dream' as a child! However, as those of us who are lucky enough to work with animals are aware, it isn't all it's cracked up to be!

Working long hours and out in all weathers, with precious little chance of spontaneous holidays or time off. You have to be fully dedicated and 100% committed to your animals.

Prior to starting up Nidderdale Llamas, I used to have a 'normal' full time job, as well as working on the farm, lambing and calving; three children to raise and a very sick husband to care for.

Buying my first llama many years ago, (a spontaneous decision at a sale!) was a hidden blessing for me. It gave me the inspiration to try and move away from the 'normal' job and be on the farm full time. I worked late into the night, researching llama welfare and grabbing any bits of spare time that I could, in order to read up on these fascinating creatures!

We then bought another couple of llamas and went on to breed a few too.

Looking back, they certainly weren't 'quality' animals, but they taught me loads and familiarised me with llama behaviours.

After six years of research, I made the decision to develop a

llama trekking business. It was hard going and initially very tough to overcome negativity from locals. Comments such as, "That will never work!" and, "Who on earth would want to walk a llama?" were common. However, I kept going and I'm very proud to say that this April, Nidderdale Llamas, celebrates its 10th anniversary. We have grown from our initial 5 llamas and 1 alpaca into a herd of 80 plus llamas and alpacas - and with 12 cria due this year, we certainly have our work cut out looking after them all!

We have always held a Performing Animal Licence, which was not difficult to get hold of. Originally, in fact it was just a fee of £14 and a form to complete, that was it! No official checks or interviews - just permission granted on the receipt of a completed form. I did question, 'Why?' in my head! What was the point? It was simply a paperwork exercise to extract money and to keep somebody, somewhere in a job. It certainly didn't consider animal welfare in any shape or form. So, in September, 2018

when I heard about the new licensing laws that were due to be implemented, I was relieved. Yes, more paperwork but at least this licence might stand for something!

Over the last couple of years, I, and no doubt many others, have been increasingly concerned over the way in which some animal businesses were being run. They certainly didn't seem to have animal welfare elements high on their agenda.

With Local Authorities being the instrumental body in granting these new licences, it made sense to liaise directly with them; although, 'the walking of camelids on leads' remains a grey area, with many LA's still somewhat unclear on quite how to deal with us! Nonetheless, members of societies or larger groups who look towards developing good practice voluntarily, are looked upon very favourably.

The previous BLS Code for Trekking, was clear, concise and adequate, however after consideration of how many new llama and alpaca trekking and walking enterprises had started up I thought that the current code required some more 'meat on the bones'.

After raising this thought with Tim Crowfoot, Chairman of the BLS, he reassured me that I was not on my own and that others were also concerned that some of the newer enterprises didn't appear to be particularly aware of their responsibilities towards either their clients, or the work capabilities of their animals.

The British Alpaca Society, was also beginning to raise concerns about the number of alpaca centres, who were now buying llamas to lead treks, and I learned that they too, were in fact considering introducing a code of conduct for alpaca walking /

trekking businesses.

Many alpaca centres have started to purchase llamas, under the assumption that llamas make good leaders. Some do, but not all do - and this misconception is concerning to the extent that some llamas could end up being over worked; broken when too young to work, or rebelling and throwing behavioural problems. This will only result in llamas being unfairly looked upon in a negative way.

So, this is why, under Tim's instruction, Mary Pryse (who played an instrumental role in writing the BLS's original Trekking Code of Conduct) and I began liaising with Neil Payne and Doug Stein from BAS with the aim of developing a Code of Conduct suitable for both llamas and alpacas.

The task has by no means been an easy one! In fact it's taken over 6 months of discussion meetings and then more research into current HSE requirements before we have been able to finally publish a document that applies to both llamas and alpacas and is acceptable to the needs of both the societies.



Suzanne, off on a walk
with Dobby!

The idea behind the code is that anybody who operates a llama and/or alpaca walking or trekking venture; whether this be in a commercial or a non-commercial manner to consider their methods of operation under 4 key areas.

These are grouped as:

- GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE including the basic requirements such as HSE legislation, insurance, biosecurity and welfare licences.

- ROUTE GOOD PRACTICE ensuring you have obtained relevant permissions from land owners; you've risk assessed the route and maintaining respect for the environment.

- PUBLIC/CLIENT/LLAMA HEALTH & SAFETY GOOD PRACTICE basically demonstrating a duty of care towards your clients, the public and of course your animals.

- LLAMA AND ALPACA WELFARE including a responsible welfare structure. Ensuring welfare is considered above income and demonstrate good care both on the premises and whilst out walking.

The code is not enforceable, it can't be policed and nobody is forced to sign up to it. However, both BLS and BAS are keen to encourage members to sign up, in recognition of the need for good practice. The guidelines will sit on both of the Society websites and be available to all trekking and walking enterprises to sign and display either at your premises or on your website.

Behind the 4 main key areas we have developed 'guidance'. The guidance is ONLY guidance, we are certainly not attempting

to instruct anybody in how to run their business or small enterprise, but it is in place to help and assist with decision making in various areas. The document makes reference to the current guidance endorsed by the HSE and it is important that individuals read and are guided by this.

As we all know, legislation changes, and it is vital to protect yourself in whatever type of business that you run, by staying abreast of current legislation and being aware of changes to the rules. It is the responsibility of every business owner to ensure this and the world of llama and alpaca trekking is not exempt!

Both societies are hoping as many members as possible sign up to the guidelines. If you are in the process of being assessed for your Welfare Licence, as a signed declaration, it can be added to your paperwork collection,

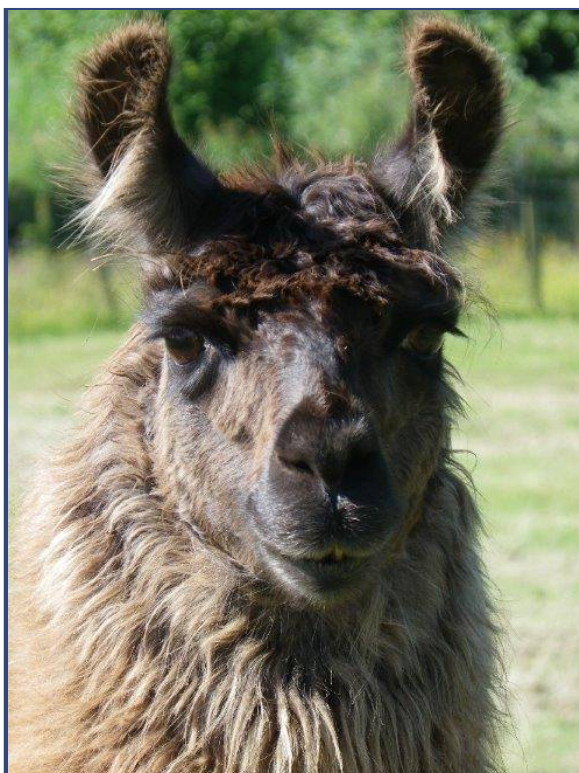
demonstrating that you are keen to follow good practice.

The societies are keen to unite in this field in order that our animals are protected and their welfare is prioritised over anything else. Both are also keen to ensure our customers taking part and the public are considered and protected within the industry and that all llama and alpaca enterprises give a positive experience. This in turn actually helps to promote all the business within the UK as if people engage in a positive experience at one centre, they are much more likely to then visit another one in a different area.

The media can be a brilliant tool for promoting positivity, but it can also be very damaging if negative publicity occurs and as we are in a very unique leisure-based industry, any form of negative publicity can have a huge detrimental effect on us all.

For those of us who have put lots of hard work, resources and dedication into developing a business, including many hours of training animals, we owe it to ourselves and our colleagues to follow good practice and learn from each others' experiences in order to maintain a positive light throughout and endorse this prime time in the popularity of llamas and alpacas. I trust everyone who has a passion for their enterprise agrees with this and will sign the code with pride!

We respect that some people may want to comment on the code and/or guidance therefore we have set a review date for November 2019 to reflect on how many people have signed and also to consider any views and/or suggestions received once this has been rolled out to the wider membership.



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The use of turmeric to treat joint problems

by Terry Crowfoot



“I would be very interested to hear of any other owner’s experience of using turmeric to treat camelids”

T.C.

Over the last couple of years, David - my 18-year old llama, has become increasingly stiff in his rear joints. It is quite difficult to determine exactly where the problem is: is it with his back? Or his leg joints?

The problem was mainly seen when he was in the act of kushing, which he did very, very slowly indeed. One could almost feel the stiffness in him. Interestingly though, getting up was still as quick as any previous time. Movement around the field was slow and he was spending a great deal of time sitting down.

At this stage we tried giving him turmeric because we had heard so much about its anti-inflammatory potential and indeed, we did see an improvement. However, after a few weeks we wondered if we were

doing the best for David and whether a vet could improve things further.

The vet had a look at David and for quite a long period, Tim injected David with Loxicam every three or four days. Whilst there was no deterioration, we couldn’t see that he was doing any better than he had been when taking turmeric, so we stopped the injections and reverted to the turmeric tablets which, incidentally, he would kill for! We are still giving him the tablets today and I feel sure there has been an improvement on two years ago.

The kush is still slow, but he is moving about the field quite readily now and is sitting less.

DON'T FORGET! 12TH MAY, 2019 is
MEMBERS' DAY

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

EMAIL: cpembro@gmail.com

A potted history of Llamas in the UK

part 1

The Early Years - 19th Century

By Dr Richard Cox

It has proven impossible to find out exactly when the first llama, dead or alive, arrived on British shores. Where they came from (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru?), whether directly from South America or via other nations such as Spain, with what intention and for what purpose.

However, somehow and for whatever reason some unmistakably got here but probably in small numbers alongside other products shipped home from South America. Early references to llamas in the media include mention in the *Morning Post* (March 23, 1805) of a llama exhibited at Brooke's Menagerie in the Haymarket, Piccadilly London where visitors paid two shillings each to see these odd animals. An article in *The Observer* (6th April 1806) claimed these same 'Peruvian Sheep' to be the first imported into the UK. Shortly after, newspaper reports referenced llama appearances at agricultural fairs and shows such as at Norwich and Yarmouth (*Ipswich Journal*, 30th April 1814).

Possible next mention of a llama (referred to as an 'Elapho Camelus') is on a poster bill for Wombwell's Touring Menagerie, undated but thought, by virtue of a written note on it, to be 22 August 1825.

Whether these ones were one and the same llama(s), since there is more than one claim to be the first ever imported into the UK, I have failed to clarify but a further poster for Wombwell's Menagerie quoted in an article in *Llama Link* (Winter, 2011, p.10) by Tracey Glasspool, thought to be 20 August 1828, suggests there was more than one *Elapho Camelus* (note slightly different spelling) in the show.

What appears clear in these descriptions is that these animals were hitherto unknown to UK audiences and largely a novelty item appealing to natural human curiosity with no specific 'serious' purpose in mind at that point in time. They certainly aroused much interest and speculation as to their character, behaviour and care.

Goldsmith, in his famous *History of Man and Quadriceps* (1838, p. 326) claims that George III had several llamas at Windsor Park but not were long lived. Perhaps the answer lies in what he writes:

'It appears formed for that indolent race of masters which it is obliged to serve: it requires no care, nor no expense in the attending or providing for its sustenance; it is supplied with a warm covering, and therefore does not require to be housed; satisfied with vegetables and grass, it wants neither corn nor hay to subsist; it is no less moderate in what it drinks.'

First mention of a llama in a zoo I found was at the London Zoological Society Gardens in 1829, only a year after it first opened. It was described as a brown and white one but photography had not yet been invented and so there are no other illustrations to give us a clue to what they looked like (*Guide to the Gardens of the Zoological Society* 1829, pp. 8-9). Unfortunately, for those of us who have grown to love and appreciate these animals, they were usually described negatively as morose and stubborn animals with an unpredictable mind of their own. It is probably out of ignorance, especially not being able to predict and understand their actions having not previously had the chance to get to know them. This is a trend that has continued to the present day in some circles and one can but wonder if such early comments were responsible for tarnishing their reputation for the years that were to follow.

After independence came to parts of South America in 1820, Britain deliberately sought to replace the Spanish in economic and cultural affairs. Businessmen flocked in their droves to some of the new South American nations in response to their desperate call for foreign investment and trade. It seems reasonable to assume that this may have grown the interest and trade in llamas alongside other South American camelids (alpacas, guanacos and vicunas) and commodities.

Clearly they were growing in number and appearance. In 1835, the "List of the Animals in the Liverpool Zoological Gardens" tells us some thing about the llama and mentions it was donated by a Mr Charles Tayleur who kept them not far away at Parkfield, the Dingle, Liverpool. In fact, he had at least five of them which may or may not have been quite an odd site for the Dingle residents.



1 - The Llama Hut was one of the earliest buildings on-site, it was designed by Decimus Burton. It was the first animal house to be built from brick and was completed by 16 May 1828. A clock tower was added in 1829. The building still exists today as a First Aid Centre

Later that same year, a llama residing at the Liverpool Zoological Gardens was reported to be making it's appearance in the town at the Christmas pantomime – Blue Beard (Liverpool Mercury November 27, 1835) which one might reasonably assume was the same one. The extent of llamas and alpacas nationwide is reflected in Robert Kemp Philip's *The History of Progress in Great Britain*, Volume 1, (London: Houlston and Wright, 1859, p. 121) which suggests that in 1841 there were around 79 in the UK. Unfortunately, the balance of camelids (alpacas, guanacos, llamas, crosses) is not indicated and so we cannot rely on how many exactly were llamas.

+ There have been several llamas and alpacas introduced at various times. In 1841 there were in England: - at The Earl of Derby's, Knowsley Hall, Lancashire, 16; at the Marquis of Breadalbane's, 6; Duke of Montrose's, 3; Earl Fitzwilliam's 1; Zoological Gardens, Dublin, 6; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, 2; J.J. Hegans's Esq., Harrow Hall, Cheshire, 7; Charles Tayleur's, Esq., Parkfield, near Liverpool, 5; John Edwards' Esq., Pye Nest, Halifax, 6; Mr Stephenson's, Olan, 6; Wm. Bennett's, Esq., Farringdon, 12; Surrey Zoological Gardens 1; Zoological Gardens, Liverpool 3; travelling caravans 4

2- Extract from *The History of Progress*

As can be observed from narrative of the time, these were often associated with country estates (where it was fashionable to show off something 'different' or unique for purposes of conspicuous consumption), zoological gardens and travelling fairs. The *Morning Post* (26/12/1851) suggested that Lord Derby had 21 llamas and alpacas (again not sure of the respective numbers) roaming his estate in Liverpool (today's Knowsley Safari Park). This was further described as being unrivalled in Europe, although this might have related to quality rather than number and possibly with a view to promoting a local sale event since this is a Liverpool based newspaper.

On Lord Derby's death in 1851, some of these were sold alongside other exotic animals from his menagerie at a sale and from here went to various

countries of the continent and other parts of the UK including the estate of Sir Titus Salt in Yorkshire who was to go on and make his fortune from alpaca wool.

According to the *Morning Post*, '1 llama sold for £28 to Mr Atkins, Liverpool; 1 llama (old), past its best days sold for £26 to Jamrach, a German from Hamburg; 1 llama, females sold for £33 to Herring of London for Sir W. Fielding, Fenniscaule, Lancashire, 1 llama female sold for £30 to Mr Atkins for out of the country; 1 llama female (fawn) sold for £28 to Mr Vekeman, Antwerp Zoological Society'. Mr Fielding had a menagerie at his country estate in North Lancashire.

A passion for natural history : the life and legacy of the 13th Earl of Derby (edited by Clemency Fisher, Liverpool: National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside, 2002), gives us the first clue as to what these animals looked like. What these illustrate is quite a diversity and one supposes cross and hybrid breeding in their native settings.



4 - Lithograph of llamas at Knowsley Hall drawn from life December 1844 by B. Waterhouse Hawkins, Plate LI

Writing in 1836, Goldman (ibid) had mentioned the versatility of llamas when he wrote:

Their flesh is excellent food, their hair, or rather wool, maybe spun into beautiful clothing and they are capable, in the most rugged and dangerous ways, of carrying burthens, not exceeding a hundred weight, with the greatest safety.

Interest in these animals by industrialists like Sir Titus Salt marked a significant development in the history of camelids in the UK since it was now recognized they might have commercial possibilities. The great hope by now was that these hardy animals, along with alpacas, capable of surviving on bare scrub in the Andes could populate the moorlands of Lancashire and Yorkshire, the Welsh and Scottish mountains providing a ready, reliable, voluminous source of quality fibre for the burgeoning textile industry, especially now that techniques for processing at more specialist fibres had been invented. The idea was

this would reduce the cost of importing raw fleece from South America and hence profitability. Numerous adverts appeared in the press for garments made of llama wool which were described as warm and light and available in exclusive outlets. The Scotsman (11/12/1862) also carried an ad. for the sale of a stuffed female llama, presumably to grace a wealthy household.

Unfortunately, the llamas, alpacas and various cross breeds failed to prosper in the UK which was thought to be from a lack of suitable vegetation. In countries like Bolivia and Peru they flourished on coarse grasses (ichu and alfalfa) and clover (George Ledger The Alpaca: Its Introduction Into Australia, and the Probabilities of Its Acclimatisation there Melbourne: Acclimatisation Society of Victoria Acclimatisation Society of Victoria, 1861). It was for this reason Sir Titus Salt decided to send a breeding male and two female llamas to Adelaide, South Australia to see if they would fare any better on their vegetation and climate. He and others had already experimented with alpacas in this respect with some positive results. The successful rehabilitation of imported llamas later on suggests it may be more to do more with the long and intrepid journeys (several weeks) and lack of understanding how to feed and look after them. One is reminded here of the fate of the Windsor Great Park llamas

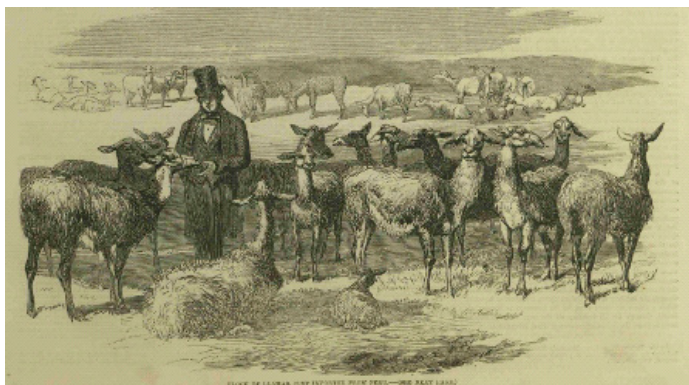
With the prospect of llamas providing a much in demand raw material to the textile industry, not surprisingly entrepreneurs started to spring up in all parts of the supply chain. Peru had imposed sanctions preventing the export of live animals in 1836 but Frenchman Eugen Roehn managed to smuggle a large number of selected animals from the northern slopes of the country through neighbouring Guayaquil, Ecuador and across land almost 4,000 miles to Panama. From here they were shipped to New York City aboard the steamer Santiago. The animals were detained in Aspinwall, Panama for three weeks whilst waiting for a shipping vessel to take them to Baltimore in the US. In the heat of the summer that year around 20 lost their lives to snakes, scorpions and poisonous herbage. The ship they ended up being transported in was inadequate for the number of llamas resulting in the death of another two cria. On arrival in New York, via the port of Baltimore, the 42 final survivors were in very poor condition due to the long trek and very confined accommodation on board ship (New York Tribune, 23 March 1857). They were wintered on Manhattan Island in an attempt to build them up for resale and also test their ability to deal with the harsh New York climatic conditions. Although most survived the heavy snow and freezing temperatures, they barely prospered as the keepers struggled to find suitable fodder. Hence the interest and sale price was disappointing for

the agent. After exhibition at the Crystal Palace, New York they were auction at Dykman Farm on the 20th of March, 1858. (The Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday 3 August 1858).

Interest was very disappointing and many of the animal lots failed to reach their reserve. A newspaper report of the time suggested that the poor choice of venue and lack of promotion was partly to blame. Mr Benjamin Whitehead Gee, originally from of Acton (London) but currently living in New South Wales (Australia) and a representative of the NSW Agricultural Society, purchased the surviving 38 llamas (of which 23 were female) and had them shipped to Glasgow aboard The City of New York steamer where they were exhibited at the local agricultural show ground at a charge of 6d each and had Interest was very disappointing and many of the animal lots failed to reach their reserve. A as many as 1200 visitors. He then showed them in Birmingham on the occasion of Queen Victoria's visit before moving them onto London where they were pastured in Ealing (Birmingham Daily Post, June 17 1858). The idea no doubt was that this might stimulate awareness and interest adding to their re sale value. Eventually, he sold two to a Mr Patterson, two to a Miss Angela Burdett Coutts (who later became a major figure in the RSPCA) and ten to a Mr George A Lloyd of London who it is reported sold them on for more than twice the original £25 each. These were shipped to Sydney in June 1858 and arrived on the 28th of November where they were sold for £600 and move to live in Moreton Bay. (Robert Kemp Philip's The History of Progress in Great Britain, Volume 1, London: Houlston and Wright, 1859). 23 were purchased by Australian merchants Messrs McKinnon and Westgarth and shipped to Melbourne, Victoria, arriving in February 1859. (10). A Mr E. Wilson of Melbourne took the remainder of the herd at a rate of £23 per head

The Illustrated London News (July, 1858) carried an engraving of what these imported animals looked like but it is hard to tell what is what. Again, this is not helped by the fact that alpacas, llamas, guanacos and even vicunas were often referred to as one and the same or their names regarded as interchangeable and of course many were also cross breeds as herdsmen/farmers experimented with pooling the desired traits from several into the one animal. Llamas were traditionally bigger and therefore the potential to carry more fleece, alpacas and vicunas on the other hand generally had finer quality fibre without the coarser guard hair to separate. In principle at least, this made them overall more suited to the textile industry and is why they were imported in greater numbers. Interestingly, there is debate in the press of the time as to exactly what some of those bought by Mr Gee were. (alpacas, llamas, cross breeds). My best guess, is that they were very much a mixed bunch. It is also known that indigenous Peruvians often tricked European merchants

and sold them only old or hybrid stock.



8 - Imported Llamas, Illustrated London News, 29 May 1858

As already alluded to, problem in the early days had been transportation of live animals. Very few survived the long and torturous sea voyage over thousands of miles crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Worse still was the journey to the far off colonies of the British Empire. Of the two males and three females Sir Titus Salt sent to South Australia one of each sex died in transit although one also gave birth to what in those days they referred to commonly as lambs.

Only 280 of the 322 alpacas and llamas shipped from Chile to Australia in 1858 survived the journey and 29 of the 42 llamas shipped to New Zealand directly from New York also died in transit but these were far more successful results than some of the earlier voyages such in 1842 when 270 alpacas aboard the Sir Charles Napier died from inhaling guano fumes. In another expedition organised by Alexander Duffield only 1 out of 1,500 alpacas survived and another transportation in which all the 400 died in transit to Europe (Danson *ibid*).

Helen Cowie, in her excellent book (Llamas London: Reaktion, 2017), mentions pioneering work by Liverpool scientist Alfred Higginson in understanding camelid metabolism. He was the first to professionally dissect an alpaca which led to a better understanding of camelid anatomy and physiology which in turn helped

inform their dietary processes and needs. Discussion and debate between scientists and the farming community ensued in the Liverpool Mercury. Liverpool naturalist Thomas Atkins who had overseen llamas and alpacas at his Liverpool Zoological gardens wrote technical guidance notes on the welfare of these animals including during transit. Increased interest in these animals also led to even greater diversity in objectives for these animals and selective breeding to meet different needs.

Better informed naturalists also started to travel further afield and spread the word to shepherds in far flung parts of the British Empire.

As the textile boom of 19th century declined and processing moved overseas, interest in llamas also started to wane. Decline of the manufacturing industry also manifested itself in the decline of the aristocrats and nouveau riche who could no longer maintain their extravagant estates with menageries of exotic animals and walled gardens with their orangeries growing exotic fruits. Although a few have survived to the present day by opening their grounds to the paying public (eg. Knowsley Safari Park, Longleat, Woburn, etc.) many did not and ended up selling their exotic animals, including llamas, to zoos. Same too with travelling fairs. Glasspool (*ibid*) makes reference to auction of Wombwell's menagerie at this point owned by Alexander Fairgrieve, in Edinburgh in 1872 at which a llama was sold to a Mr Charles Jamach for £15. This was, in fact, the same German who bought at the 1851 sale mentioned earlier. He turns out to be a London based exotic animal dealer who often bought animals at auctions. His main competitor was a William Cross of Liverpool, who also imported quite a lot of llamas in the late 19C, though it is not clear who bought them.

This article is the first of 3 that have been abridged from an introductory chapter on 'Llamas: Past and Present' in a forthcoming book on llamas written by the author. A time line has been produced to accompanying this article indicating detailed sources of evidence and in some cases reproduced images at : <http://www.hillviewllamas.co.uk/chronology-of-dates.php>.

What's your llama story?

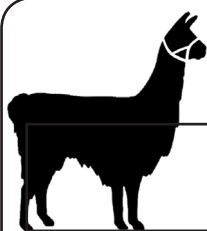
Do you have a story to tell about your journey into llama ownership? Perhaps you have a photo of your llamas doing something strange, startling, funny or just plain cute, that you'd like to share in Llama Link with other members?

Please contact Caroline Pembro on cpembro@gmail.com

Llama Love

A year ago I did not know a single camelid,
I think they've been a secret that some of you have hid.
Then one of Terry Crowfoot's friends said "Come on everyone,
Our U3A Adventures Group should find a walk quite fun"
The Crowfoots, Tim and Terry both, are generous and kind,
"We'll walk through Bere Forest, and we hope that you will find
That llamas are lovable", they said, and so we went,
And those of us who did that walk could see just what they meant.
I fell head over heels with Terry's llama herd.
I go each week up to their field - and all my friends have heard
How wonderful these creatures are, and how they make you feel -
Much happier and calmer, for such is their appeal.
So come on, all you llama folk, I think you have a case
To spread the word that llamas make the world a better place.

GJS



Sunday 12th May

by Kind Permission of **Watertown Llamas**
Watertown, Chittlehamholt, EX37 9HF

Members' Day 2019

FREE! For members of the BLS. Friends and relatives welcome too, for a nominal fee of just £5 each (payable on the day). Booking for everyone is essential!

An exciting programme is currently being put together and will include:

- Chance to meet all of Annie's fabulous llamas - including the newborns!
 - Demonstration of camelidynamics by Julie Taylor-Browne
- Llama walks around the lake • Hand Shearing • Display of uses for fibre
 - Chance to try your hand at llama agility • Chute demonstrations
 - Chance to meet and exchange ideas with other llama owners
- Chance to network with other llama business owners - bring your business cards to swap!
- A shopping area! Stock up on llama halters, leads, equipment, llama gifts etc
 - Also incorporating a short AGM - your chance to have a say!

Lunch and refreshments provided

for further info or to book a place,
please email Caroline on: cpembro@gmail.com or tel 01749 841359



2019: The Year of the Llama

The 2019 Royal County of Berkshire Show

21st – 22nd September

at the

Newbury Showground.

CALLING ALL BLS MEMBERS: PLEASE DO COME AND TAKE PART IN THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE SHOW'S YEAR OF THE LLAMA!!

This is the home of the British Llama Society's annual showing event, where we have our very own marquee. This year we will also be taking part in what the Show Organisers have called, 'The Year of the Llama', recognising and promoting our fabulous animals.

Our plans are now well underway and we can announce many ways for members to get involved. We would love to encourage as many members as possible to enter and show their llamas. If you have not done this before, please do not worry, there is plenty of support available leading up to and during the show to make it a fun, enjoyable and stress free occasion for both you and your llamas.

There will be Saturday Showing Classes in separate categories for male and female llamas, both sub-divided into three age categories, with the winners from each class going forward to compete for the Supreme Champion Title, as well as classes for Geldings and if present, Guanaco.

We are really pleased to announce that Julie Taylor-Browne, renowned camelid breeder and camelidynamics expert has kindly agreed to be our judge for the showing classes this year and will award cups and rosettes to the winners and placed llamas.

For those of you who prefer a less formal environment to show your llamas, the Sunday, Funday classes will include Best Turned Out Llama, Fleece on the Hoof, Pack Carrying and other Handling competitions.

You are invited to enter classes on either, or both days and it is a fantastic learning experience for the llamas, as well as giving all llama owners the chance to showcase both their animals and any associated llama businesses to the public too. Also running across both days will be the return of our popular arts and crafts competition, more details on that to follow shortly.



TOP: Wearing white coats for the more formal, Saturday classes

ABOVE: Dressing down for the less formal, Sunday fun classes

LEFT: entries for the craft and photo classes

BELOW: one year, we even managed to persuade a Peruvian band to perform for us!

For the first time ever, due to the show's special year, we will be offering the public a chance to walk with a llama for a small fee and give them their very own taste of llama handling. The llama theme continues with the showground supporting the BLS in a llama-themed tombola and we are proposing a competition to win a llama trek for two. This will be sponsored by the BLS and the prize can be used at any llama trekking businesses registered with the BLS who would like to participate in the prize. Costs will be covered by the Society and the idea is that the winner will contact the BLS who will share a list of available trekkers with whom they can exchange the voucher.

If any members can support the tombola by donating llama themed prizes, we would be really grateful. All proceeds will go the BLS llama welfare and re-homing section.

Entries for the showing days will open soon via the Royal Berkshire Show website –

www.berkshireshow.co.uk

Of course, you don't have to enter the main show classes to attend – you are welcome to bring your animals for a small fee for which you will have an individual llama pen in the BLS marquee for your animals for display during the event. The Royal Berkshire Show provides BLS members with the opportunity to share their love of llamas and reach out to public to show the excellent work of the BLS. It is a great promotion opportunity for those with businesses and for those tempted to become llama owners to find out a bit more.

You don't need to bring your llamas though. We also welcome members who may just want to attend to see what the show is all about. Come and join in - help show other peoples' llamas - extra sets of hands are always needed. Soak up the atmosphere, help with marshalling in the marquee, whatever you are happy doing, come along and join in! It is a fun weekend with the chance to meet fellow BLS members, enjoy the show everything it has to offer – we would love to have a strong turnout this year and encourage all members to join us, whether visiting the show or even better – bringing your llamas and taking part.

If it's your first time to the show and you would like to find out more, or are interested in the tombola or being part of the llama trek prize please call Barry Brosnan on 07850 619834, or email him on: barryBLS@llamaadventures.co.uk or get in touch with the show direct to place your showing entry. Here is a gallery of pictures from the past few years to show our members in action and give a taste of the llama experiences at the show.





An alpaca cria demonstrating the correct positioning of a hernia belt

The Importance of the Umbilicus!

Article by Annie Austen of Watertown Llamas

Annie Austen describes the treatment for Rafikis's umbilical hernia.

In my book, the most important inclusion in any birthing kit is a strong iodine solution. Its use is recommended for every single birth and indeed, should really be applied as soon as possible after birth. Iodine is very cheap to buy and to ensure that it is readily available, during the birthing season, I usually have two or three bottles hung on the fences in the delivery paddocks as well as another back at the yard. It doesn't matter whether you dip the navel, or spray it, as long as its done very thoroughly.

So, as soon as I've checked that the cria is breathing well and that all mucus has been cleared from his airway, I like to spray the navel and the cord comprehensively and from both sides as my next priority. The aim is to seal and protect the navel against infection and to encourage the cord to dry up as quickly as possible. I repeat the process after a couple of hours and again the next day as this is a key measure in the prevention of naval or joint ill. This is a very unpleasant condition caused by bacteria entering the bloodstream via the umbilical cord at, or soon after, birth and most commonly settling in the leg joints which will become hot, stiff and swollen.

Treatment for the newborn then is a lengthy course of antibiotics, continuing for quite some time after the symptoms have cleared up. In the worst case scenario the bacteria can spread to the brain which usually results in death. Therefore, clean birthing conditions and prevention (lots of iodine as soon as possible!) is definitely better than cure!

Another issue to look out for, although very rare, is excessive bleeding from the umbilical cord. Being an astringent, a

good coverage of iodine will usually stem it, but when that fails it will need to be clamped or tied off. I've only had this happen once but it was pretty scary. Fortunately, I had sterile locking forceps in my kit and was able to use them, but the alternative if you don't have a clamp might be a length of dental floss!

It's important to check the navel at birth and subsequently for any signs of infection or hernia. Any soft swellings noted, need to be checked thoroughly. If the swelling is caused by a build up of pus, the area will need to be thoroughly cleansed, with antibiotics given for good measure. An umbilical hernia can also manifest as a soft bulge around the naval area, and is caused by a defect in the muscle and tissue of the abdominal wall that prevents it from closing up properly.

A small hole may well seal itself, over the course of a few days or weeks, but the intestines can push against this hole, creating a hernial sac which contains a loop of gut that has the potential to become trapped. So, it must be monitored. When you press against the bulge, you will be able to feel the hole, like a ring that you can push your finger through! You can actually push the contents of the sac back through the hole.

Some hernias are detectable almost at birth and some appear in the first 24 to 48 hours. More rarely, they can

develop after a couple of months. Unusually, one of my crias developed an umbilical hernia quite a while after birth - when he was over 2 months old. When I examined him, I found that it was more than just a small one finger hole, and as I could easily push the contents back up into the abdomen, it definitely needed some correction.

In very extreme cases, surgery is needed under anaesthetic; cutting through the skin and muscle to expose the gut, trimming away the excess skin or sac, poking the gut back inside and stitching over to create a flat tummy. It's quite a big deal, with a lot of after care too, but I remembered reading a post by a friend of mine who breeds alpacas, and she recommended using hernia belts instead, custom made by a lovely lady in East Sussex.

Fixing a hernia by external means seemed infinitely preferable to surgery, so I took some measurements of my boy and sent them off to Shelley who very promptly made her first ever llama hernia belt! The next challenge then, was to fit it correctly on a lively cria who by now was nearly 3 months old, but not yet halter-trained or handled! It took three of us to get the straps correctly positioned and the belt secured, not helped by the cria's beautiful woolly fleece which was like a magnet to the velcro on the straps!

The pad on the belt has a central disc which has to be centred on the

hernial sac in order to apply pressure in the right place. The straps needed to be secure enough to keep the belt in place day and night but not so tight as to impede movement or breathing. The cria then had to wear the belt for 6 weeks, during which time he was growing quite rapidly so I made periodic checks to ensure that the straps were loose enough to allow freedom of movement and minimal discomfort. It was with some trepidation when the day came to remove it that I nervously checked his navel. To my huge relief the sac had gone - with just a small bump left to show for it. His naval was now sealed, no longer a problem and with no surgery needed. Thank goodness!

Credit To:

[Shelley Froggatt \(07963 969 720\)](mailto:Shelley.Froggatt@07963969720)
threadshedss@aol.com

who made the hernia belt. She also makes bespoke cria and llama coats.

☺If you are in any doubt as to the health or condition of your cria's naval; always err on the side of caution and consult your vet. Both hernias and infection can usually be resolved fairly easily, but can prove fatal if left unattended. Annie

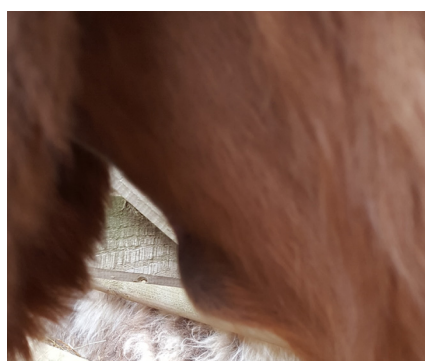


ABOVE: The hernia pad in situ

BELOW: Rafiki



Photos by: Annie Austen



Rafiki's Hernia



The hernia close up

Cross Breeding

by Mary Pryse, of Catanger Llamas

In recent years it has become very fashionable and even desirable to cross breed some of our dog breeds. We are all familiar with labradoodles and cockerpoos, but have you met a pitsky? That's a pitbull/husky cross... or a chug, which is a pug/chihuahua cross. A schnoodle is a schanuzer crossed with a poodle, and a bullpug is a pug and a bulldog. Sometimes I think the new mashed-up name is more popular than the actual dog.

I have been fascinated with mules and hinnies for some years. A jack donkey and female horse produce a mule, but a stallion horse and donkey jenny produce a hinny. Now to most onlookers these look alike, but there are some differences that make each more suitable for different kinds of work. Hinnies are always smaller because a donkey will only produce a foal she is capable of bearing. Because horses and donkeys have different chromosomes the progeny is always sterile.

At one of our camelid conferences some years ago we had a company present a feature on DNA testing. Obviously, there are uses to establish true parentage, but this company had done extensive testing in South America to determine the origins of llamas and alpacas and how pure they were today. They only tested llamas that looked like llamas; anything with any telltale signs of the other breeds were left out. A healthy 40% tested were pure llama whilst only 4% of alpacas tested were pure.

This did not surprise me because in South America there are no fences because there are no raw materials to make them and the subsistence farmer could not afford it even materials were available. The llamas graze on the mountain side, herded by women and children and without segregation. They can quite easily mate with vicunas, guanacos or alpacas. Since the male llama is the biggest and strongest of all the breeds, he was always going to get the most girls! Even in Santa Cruz Zoo in Bolivia, the wild species are housed separately, and the domesticated breeds are kept together. It is openly accepted in South America that most llamas are in fact huarizos (which means 'cross breed') or 'pacollamas'.

When I became interested in keeping these wonderful animals, I really wanted alpacas, but there were only around 1200 in the UK at that time and a right motley bunch they were, with a very expensive price tag. We just couldn't afford them; so after research on the ability of

llamas to guard other livestock, I opted for Angora goats and got a 2-year-old gelding llama to protect them. In visiting various herds around the country, I witnessed a llama breeder who had acquired a few male alpacas and it was obvious what was happening. They wanted heavier-fleeced llamas; a reduced size offspring did not seem important and these animals were sold as llamas.

Cross breeding has always been frowned upon and most of the time I would agree. But, as long as any progeny are clearly identified as such and put on the cross-breed registry, I don't see the problem. For a long time I have wanted to study a first-cross llama/alpaca so I can experience just what they look like, which traits are inherited, how their fibre can be handled and processed and more importantly, what their temperament is like.

I have always kept a few gelded alpacas alongside my trekking boys so that our customers could see the difference between the two species, but in 2013 I bought an entire male with the sole purpose of breeding him with one of our girls. Now my ladies looked upon this interloper with disdain, so we had to get creative. Whilst another female was being mated by one of our stud boys, alongside the fence as they so often do, we let our unsuspecting female into the adjoining mating paddock and true to type she lay down beside the female who was being mated on the other side of the fence. We then allowed the stud alpaca in and he mounted her immediately and she, wonderful girl, accepted him.

Fortunately, our female llama conceived from the single mating and the next summer (2014) a female cross-breed was born that we called Vanilla because crias from her female line are always named after puddings or sweets. She was smaller than the other llama crias; her ears were slightly smaller (but not arrow-shaped like her dad's) and as she grew she got fluffier, developing a topknot. She really did look half and half. Her temperament has always been more llama-like, although we find alpacas that live with llamas often get bolder when there are no other alpacas around. Vanilla was full of beans, a great character and very easy to halter-train and lead. Her fibre was halfway too; it has a more defined crimp than a llama's but not as defined as an alpaca's and the density is far greater than that of the average llama. Vanilla has the alpaca trait of being a true water baby, often standing with her front feet in the water trough and she simply adores

being hosed down. She doesn't move an inch, whereas my llamas think we have gone bonkers and run away.

The summer she turned two we mated her with one of our llama studs and her first cria was a male that we called Waffle. Waffle looked very much like his mum and now that he is coming up to two years old we think that he looks more alpaca-like (he is $\frac{3}{4}$ llama $\frac{1}{4}$ alpaca) than his mum, who is half and half. They are both on the cross-breed register. Waffle will need shearing fully every alternate year with a barrel clip in alternate years. The amount of fibre is overwhelming but is beautiful to spin. Vanilla had a second cria a year later and he is called Hobnob. So far he looks like being a re-run of Waffle, but with a darker fleece. I have rested Vanilla this year but will breed her with our other stud boy this spring



Vanilla and Waffle

Reading up on cross-breeds, some say that a male llama and female alpaca is a 'huarizo' and that a male alpaca and female llama is a 'misti'. If it looks more like a llama it is a 'warilla' and if it takes more after an alpaca, then he is a 'taqa'. Far too complicated for me!

After the success of producing our cross-breed, the male alpaca was gelded. This was not something we wanted to continue doing, but I was intrigued to find out if a mating the other way around would produce something



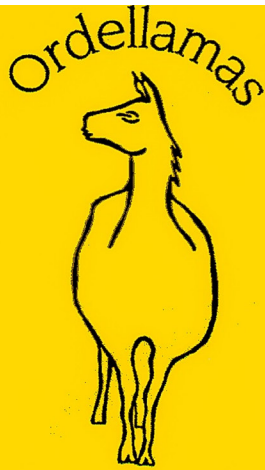
Hobnob with his peers, showing how much smaller he is.

that looked different again. I bought a female alpaca, but despite her having produced crias earlier in her life she has been mated by one of our boys two seasons running but has not conceived. I think she has become barren because she's getting on a bit, so we have stopped trying. One of our studs would have nothing to do with her; in fact, I think he may have harmed her, whereas Oscar, our number two stud, was happy to oblige and she was very willing to kush for him.

"If anyone has a cross-breed from a female alpaca and llama stud I would be most interested in seeing what they look like and how their temperament and fibre compares with that of their parents".

If you have ever wondered how some rare breeds are brought back from the edge of extinction, the farming world has a way of grading up by breeding the pure animals with a feral or different breed. It can take some years to achieve and in the early years of Angora goat breeding many people did this until embryo transfers made it unnecessary. The first mating of a pure stud male with female from a different species gives a half and half progeny Grade 4. When that animal is bred with another pure-bred stud male the progeny is $\frac{3}{4}$ pure and Grade 3. The next breeding is a G2 and is $\frac{7}{8}$ pure and the final, fourth mating is 15/16 and is allowed on the 'pure' register. So, could this be the case for camelids? If so, it could introduce a massive new gene pool, not to mention hybrid vigour. There is no doubt that if DNA testing were performed on our national stock there would be genes from other species in there, but hopefully responsible breeders will always try to breed true to type.

Ever wondered why you sometimes get a black sheep? Well black fleeces were bred out centuries ago because a white fleece is able to be dyed, but every once in a while you get a throwback and a black-fleeced lamb arrives.



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Have Your Say



Could Rupert, from Hill House Llamas (Somerset), be looking for something to lick? Do your llamas use or nibble licks?

Do you have something to share?

Please send us your comments,
photos, articles for print,
anything of interest

We're waiting to hear from you

Dear Editor,

In reply to Dr Richard Cox's article in the Winter issue of Llama Link, llamas can bite and chew, and pick things up with their lips, but they cannot lick, so a llama lick would not really be of much use.

If llamas could stick their tongues out they would surely lick the newborn crias instead of humming to them.

We did once try a horselick, but they left it alone for ages and then nibbled it to bits in a couple of days.

On the whole, llamas will eat whatever you give them, whether it is good for them or not, so why not get your local feed merchant to mix up something to your own specifications.

Norma Chandler Paterson *by post*

To Eat or not to Eat.....

At the last AGM I offered the following proposal which was successfully passed by a vote of the membership.

"That British Llama Society membership should require all members to undertake to not offer/sell their llamas for human consumption"

I'm sure you are aware of the growing meat market in the alpaca world. Perhaps as the numbers of alpacas have so radically risen, a vast number of unwanted males has occurred and hence the meat trade is the result.

So I had to ask...is this what we want for the llamas in the UK?

Of course, llamas are eaten in South America just as horse is eaten in France and dog is eaten in Indonesia. I would argue that just because you can eat it doesn't mean you have to: it is more about what is culturally acceptable to you.

I wanted to think about how the llama is seen in the UK. What is its purpose? And I think the answer for all of us, is that they are pets...recreational animals. This is true even if you are a breeder of pets, shearer of pets or a trekker of pets. And I want to encourage a culture of llama keeping in Britain that means only the llamas that are actually wanted, are born.

There are practical reasons as well. I want access all medicines that are available to help my llamas if they are sick and not be restricted because the animals are in the food chain. Over time, a little clear blue water between llama and alpaca may be no bad thing, one day we might benefit from that difference with DEFRA.

I am a carnivore but I would be sorry to see llamas bred for meat because meat animals will never have the welfare standards of a pet because the economic imperative.

So thank you everyone, I think this vote is a positive thing for the future of llamas in the UK

Amanda Huntley *by email*

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Please contact your regional
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be able to put you in touch with
llama owners in your region.

Could you be a Regional Coordinator?
Please let us know if you would be
able to help in a particular area