

# Llama



Youth Project Book  
Beginner Level

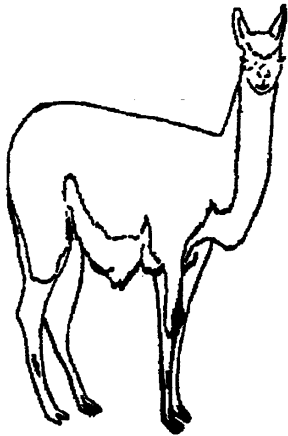
# What is the Difference?

## Guanaco

*Scientific Name: Lama Guanicoe*

Most Zoologists agree that the Llama and Alpaca are domesticated descendants of the Guanaco.

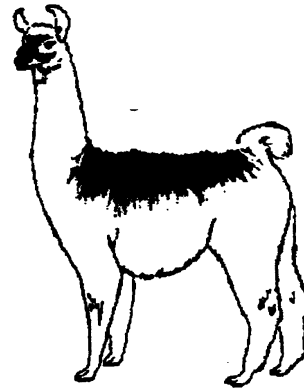
Guanacos can run at speeds up to 35 MPH! Females birth one youngster every other year. They are all the same color - light brown with a white tummy and inside of their legs.



## Llama

*Scientific Name: Lama Glama*

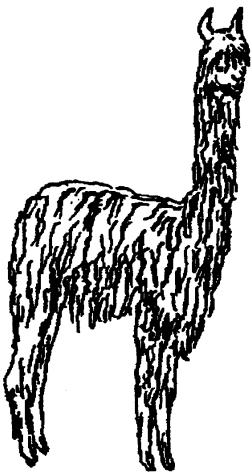
Llamas can make marches of up to 16 miles a day. They can carry 25% of their body weight, which for a 350-pound animal is about 85 pounds. Their average height is 5 to 6 feet tall. Llamas are classified as to their wool length; heavy, medium and light.



## Suri Alpaca

*Scientific Name: Lama Pacos*

Suri alpacas have straight fiber. It appears to hang in long locks and is very fine. They are sought after for their beautiful fiber.



## Huacaya Alpaca

*Scientific Name: Lama Pacos*

Huacaya alpacas have crimped wool that is very dense with no guard hair. Wonderful to hand spin. Huacaya are extremely friendly. They can pack up to 25% of their weight. Average height is 4 feet.



Fig. 1 - Lama Types

# Llama

## Youth Project

### Outline for Beginner Level Project

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# Llama Facts

Welcome to the fascinating world of llamas!

Llamas are delightful animals with a unique history. Though they are like more familiar livestock, they are very different in several ways. Let's take a look at the important facts about llamas that will help you to get to know your new friend.

## History and Background

Llamas are members of the camel (Camelid) family. In addition to the well-known, one-humped Dromedary camel of the Middle East and the two-humped Bactrian camel of Asia, there are four native members of the camel family in the Americas today. The **llama**, a domesticated beast of burden regarded throughout the world as the premier symbol of South American animals; the domesticated **alpaca**, bred for its fine, multi-hued wool; the wild, free-ranging **guanaco**, probable ancestor of the llama and common plant eater of the dry lands of South America; and the wild **vicuna**, fine-fleeced animal of the central high Andean mountains.

The term *Lama* (with one L) is used here to refer to all four South American members of the Camelid family and the word *Llama* is used in reference to that particular species. Though less common, the terms *cameloid* or *lamoid* may sometimes be used to indicate this group. We will talk mainly about the llama, but most of what is said applies equally well to the alpacas in North America.

Llamas and their relatives are no strangers to our land. The camel family started on the central plains of North America and spent their first 40 million years right here in our own backyard! Then, some three million years ago, camels migrated to Asia and Africa, while llama-like animals moved to South America. Just 10,000-12,000 years ago, at the end of the last ice age, the Camelids became extinct in North America. Meanwhile, in the mountainous Andes of Peru, some 4,000-5,000 years ago, llamas were domesticated, placing them among the oldest domestic animals in the world. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, private animal collectors and zoos reintroduced them to their original North American homeland. Today there are an estimated seven million llamas and alpacas in South America (in approximately equal numbers) and some 100,000 llamas and 5,300-5,700 alpacas in the United States and Canada.

There are two types of llamas that are recognized in South America, the Lanuda or Tapada, which is a long haired llama, and the Ccara or Pelada (Llauta), which is a short haired llama. In North America there is another type called a Curacuas. The Curacuas is a cross between a Ccara llama and one of the woollier types of llama.

The Tapada llama type has less than 1 per cent guard hair, wavy wool, and much wool on his face and legs. The Lanuda llama type has less than 1 per cent guard hair, curly wool, and curls on his face and legs. The Ccara has 15 per cent guard hair and no wool on his face or legs. The Llauta has less than 1 per cent guard hair and silky wool, like that of the Suri alpaca.

## Uses

Breeding, packing, wool production, companion animals and sheep guarding head the list of common llama uses. Because they are so gentle and easy to train, llamas are popular attractions in parades, shows, fairs and community events, and are fun to take on school, hospital or nursing home visits. Llamas and guanacos are becoming increasingly popular for guarding sheep from coyotes.



Fig. 2 – Llamas dressed up for a Christmas Parade.

Hikers, hunters and forest work crews in North America have rediscovered the Llamas' centuries old use as a pack animal. Their hardiness, surefootedness and common sense make them an excellent pack animal and trail companion. They are quiet and so easy to manage that children love to lead them. Their great agility allows them to negotiate terrain that would be difficult or impossible for traditional pack animals, and, because of their padded feet and ability to browse, they have minimal impact on the backcountry trails. When confronted by other pack stock, unexpected situations, and sudden movement or noises, llamas remain calm and unruffled. Males are most commonly used for packing, and, depending on maturity, weight and condition, will tote about 20-25% of their weight (50-120 pound packs) 6-15 miles a day. An animal's performance is always relative to training, fitness and trail condition. A variety of custom packs and halters are available for llama use.

Camelid (especially alpaca) wool production is a multi-million dollar industry in South America, making these animals appealing to spinners and weavers here. Llamas have soft, fine wool, for protection against cold and insulation from heat, which can be made into beautiful garments and blankets. Llamas can be hand shorn every other year will produce a grease-free fleece weighing three to eight pounds with a fiber length of four to seven inches. Year-round brushing yields about the same results and leaves the long, coarser guard hairs in place. Alpacas can be shorn every year.

## Western Hemisphere Map



Fig. 3 – Map of the Americas

## Review

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### History & Background

1. Name four members of the South American Camelid family

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Explain the difference between a wild and domestic animal.

Wild: \_\_\_\_\_

Domestic: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name two uses for llamas.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Looking at the map of the Western Hemisphere, identify the continent from which llamas and alpacas originate. Label and color it green.
5. Locate where you live on the map. Color that continent blue.

## Habits and Behavior

Llamas have a dignified, royal manner about them. Because of their curiosity, they have a delightful habit of coming close to sniff strangers. But despite our wanting to hug and cuddle them, they prefer not to be petted except on their necks and woolly backs. Children are safe around them, as llamas are gentle and don't spook easily, and rarely bite or kick unless provoked. They are highly social animals and need to be with another llama or other grazing livestock.

Llamas communicate their moods with a series of tail, body and ear postures, and vocalizations. Learning this llama language takes practice. Humming is a common manner of talking between llamas, and indicates a variety of moods from contentedness to aggression. Another interesting llama expression is the shrill, rhythmic alarm call emitted at the sight of a strange animal (especially dogs) or a frightening situation. This sounds like a horse's whinny or a donkey's bray. Spitting, usually because of food disputes, is seldom directed at people unless a llama has been mishandled or teased. Bottle-fed male llamas that have not been gelded at an early age can be dangerous as adults, because they lack a normal fear of people and regard them as competitors.

Llamas are very clean, and even large herds are quite odorless. Dung-piling behavior is an important means of territorial marking for these historically open habitat animals, and it makes it easy when you clean their pens. By taking advantage of this habit you can encourage your animals to establish dung piles in a new pen by "prebaiting" four to five sites per acre with a shovel full of llama pellets. You may frequently see your llama rolling in the dirt, taking a dust bath to help maintain a healthy, fluffy coat of wool.

## Characteristics

Whether viewed in a pasture or glimpsed in the wild, all *Llamas* have a striking beauty owing to their elegant wool and graceful posture. Llama and alpaca wool ranges from white to black, with shades of gray, brown, red and roan in between. They come in a wide variety of colors. They can be white, black, brown, reddish brown, cinnamon, silver, gray, tan, orange, peach, seal point bay, appaloosa, or any combination of colors. Markings can be in a variety of patterns from solid to spotted. Little variation is found in guanacos or vicunas that are light brown with white undersides.

Mature llamas weigh an average of 280-350 pounds, but range from 250-500 pounds. Full body size is reached by the fourth year, and, while there are no obvious differences between the sexes, males tend to be slightly larger. Llamas can be 5-6 feet (154-185 cm) tall. Chest width is 11-15 inches (28-38 cm). Chest diameter is 51-56 inches (131-144 cm). Body length (measured from the base of the neck to the base of the tail) is 37-41 inches (95-105 cm). The height at the withers of a llama is 3-4 feet (94-123 cm). They are long lived, with a normal life span of 15-20 years.

Unlike cattle, sheep and deer, llamas are multi-chamber stomached modified ruminants that chew their cud. They have a hard upper gum (no upper teeth in front), grinding upper and lower molars in back, and an ingenious split-upper lip for grasping food in unison with the lower incisors. Adult males develop large, sharp upper and lower fighting teeth ("wolf teeth" or "fangs") for fighting. You should ask your veterinarian to remove these to prevent injury to males pastured together or to females being bred.

The llamas' unique, specially adapted foot makes them remarkably surefooted on a variety of terrain, including sandy soils and snow. It is two-toed with a broad, leathery pad on the bottom and curved nails in front. The small, oblong, bare patches on the side of each rear leg are not vestigial toes ("chestnuts" as found on horses), but scent glands, suspected to be associated with the production of alarm pheromones. An additional scent gland is located between the toes.

How old is your llama? Age can be determined reliably in young animals by checking the larger, permanent incisors that erupt to replace the "milk" or deciduous front teeth. The middle pair of incisors comes in between 2 and 2.5 years of age, and the second pair at around three years of age.

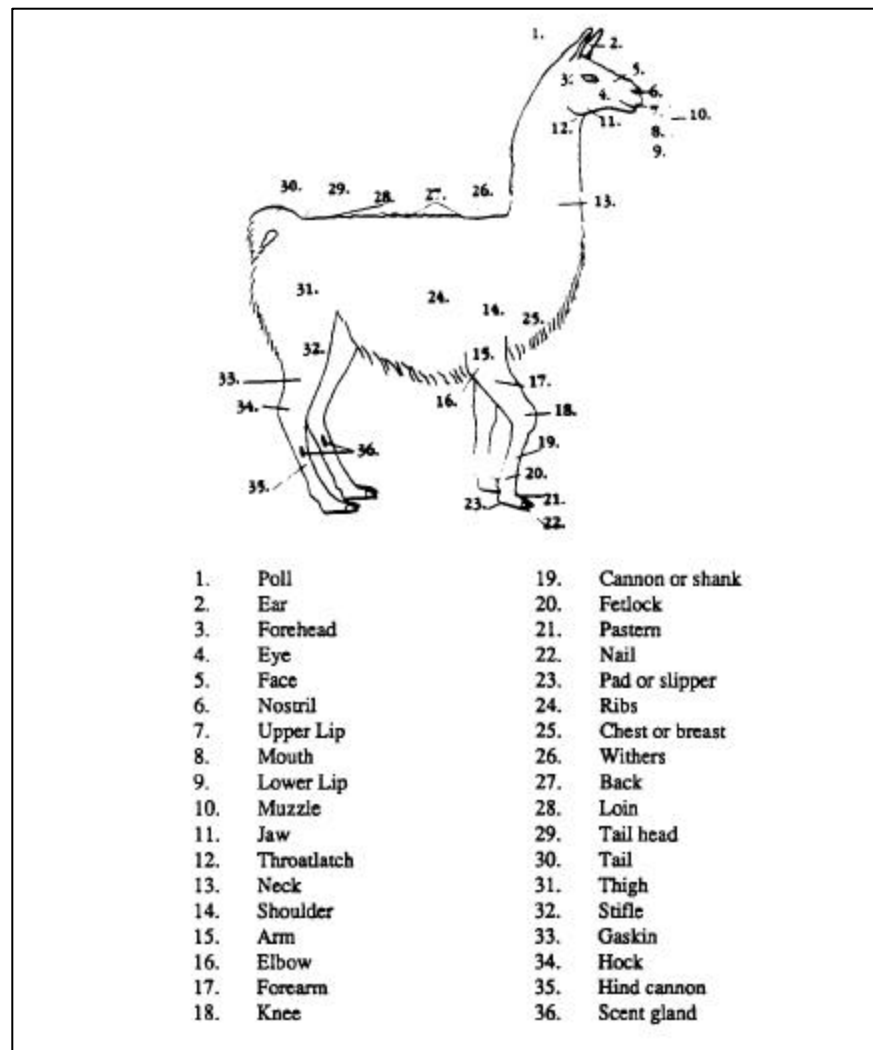


Fig. 4 Parts of a Llama (Dr. Murray Fowler, DVM.)

# Llama Diagram

## PARTS OF A LLAMA

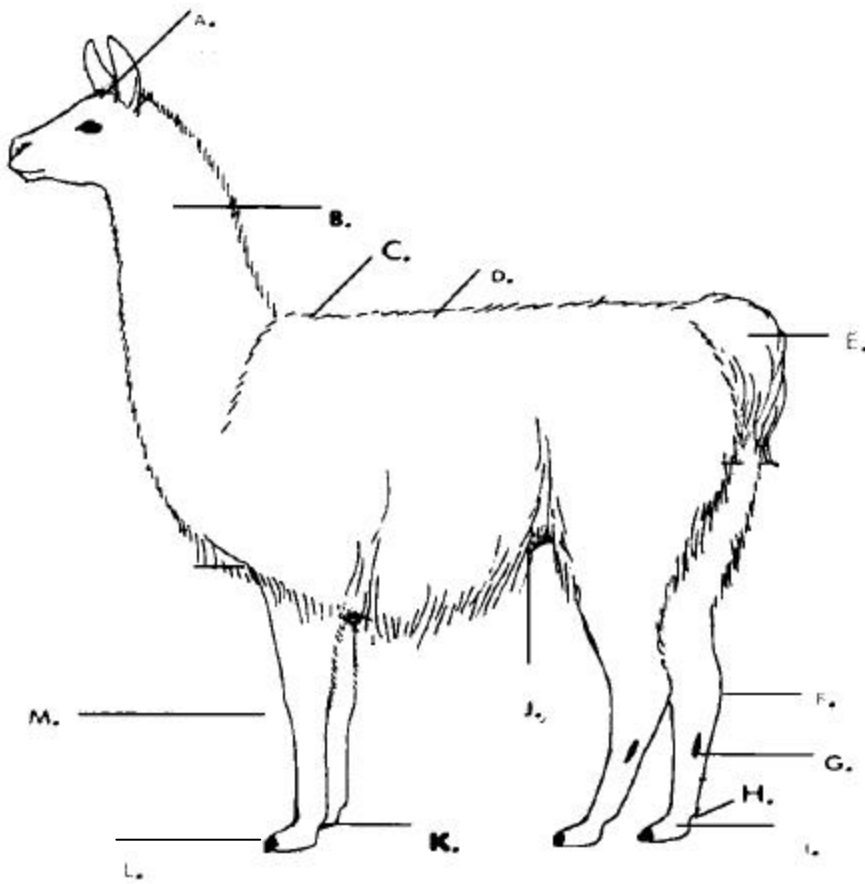


Fig. 5 – Llama Anatomy (Clare Hoffman, DVM & Ingrid Asmus)

**Review**

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**The Llama and His Behavior**

1. An average adult llama is \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall at the shoulders.
2. I am \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall from head to foot.
3. Where are llamas "missing" teeth? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many compartments or chambers are in a llama's stomach? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Since llamas and alpacas are herd animals they should always have \_\_\_\_\_ with them.
6. When and why does a llama spit? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Name four colors of llama wool.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Looking at the llama chart on the opposite page, identify the following llama body parts.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Pastern Joint
- \_\_\_\_\_ Abdomen (belly)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poll
- \_\_\_\_\_ Back
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tail
- \_\_\_\_\_ Knees (carpus)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Withers
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fetlock Joint
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hock Joint
- \_\_\_\_\_ Toenail
- \_\_\_\_\_ Neck
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chestnut (scent gland)

## Buying and Value

If you are looking for a pack animal, wool producer or pet that is easy to care for, llamas are the answer. You will generally find that females are more expensive than males. Prices vary depending upon age, health, size, wool, color, conformation and use.

Llamas are by far one of the easiest to care for of any domestic livestock, and are an investment the entire family will enjoy. Before you buy your llama, visit with and talk to as many llama owners as possible. Base your final selection on the animal(s) that most appeal to your interests as an owner or breeder. Be sure to ask the previous owner for the International Llama Registry (ILR) certificate or date of birth and the names of its sire and dam. Contact the ILR if you have questions regarding registration. Llamas are good companions because they are quiet and easy to manage. Llamas are quite intelligent animals. They will learn to do a task in as little as 2-5 repetitions.

## Housing and Fencing

Simple but necessary preparations should be made for your new friend. Fencing can be woven wire, cattle wire panels, wooden rails or poles, chain link or electric. Barbed wire does work but is not recommended. Your fences should be at least four feet high and dog proof if possible. A three-sided shelter to provide shade and protection from extreme heat, cold, wind and rain should also be provided. If you have severe wind chill factors in winter, a completely enclosed shed is necessary. Heat stress should be a concern if you have hot, and especially humid, summers at which time a sprinkler, wading pool or small pond are helpful. If your animals are kept in a large pasture, a small 12-20 foot square catch pen will make it easier to catch them. Feeding and watering troughs should be clean, high enough to be free of manure, and spacious enough to allow access by all animals. Fresh water should always be available. Shearing of long-wooled llamas and alpacas is recommended in excessively hot climates.

## Transportation

Llamas are easy to transport and require no specialized equipment. A covered, wind-proof pickup, van, horse or utility trailer with sufficient room for animal(s) to stand comfortably works well. Good ventilation is important in both summer and winter. Straw makes excellent bedding in a wind-proof enclosure, and be sure to provide hay for food and offer water free choice at least every 6 hours depending on heat (it will spill if left with the animals). Llamas normally lie down once the vehicle starts moving. If transporting babies and mothers on long hauls, stop periodically to allow nursing.

If your new Llama is coming from out-of-state, check at least four weeks in advance to see if your state requires a veterinarian-issued health certificate. A permit number and/or tests for brucellosis, tuberculosis, and other diseases may also be required. Some states may require permanent identification markings on the animals.

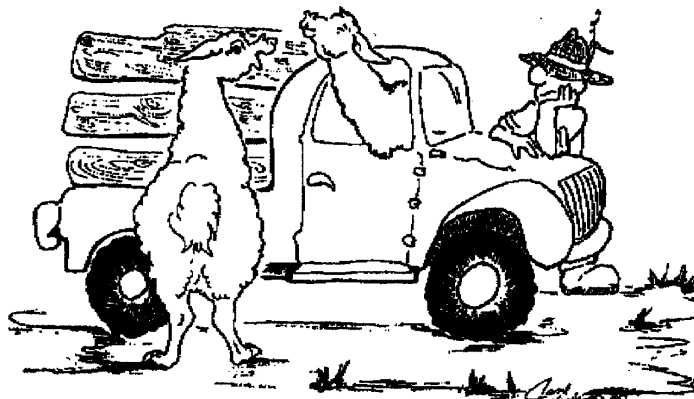


Fig. 6 – “But it’s MY turn to ride shotgun...”

## Care and Feeding

Llamas are comparatively easy to

maintain, with a minimum of veterinary help needed. If you are uncertain of the health of your new animal, consider isolating it in sight of, but separate from your other animals for the first two weeks to prevent accidental introduction of any illnesses, and to give you both a chance to get acquainted. Make sure it is eating and ruminating, as well as eliminating pelleted feces. If you have not already done so, this is the time to locate a veterinarian in your area. If he or she is inexperienced with llamas, information is available through the Internet to handle problems that may arise. It is recommended that you have your veterinarian give your newcomer a general health check, and take a fecal sample to determine if worming is necessary.

Although llamas have long been arid land dwellers, they thrive in the wide array of temperate environments throughout the United States and Canada, including Alaska. They are highly adaptable feeders, being both grazers (grasses and forbs) and browsers (shrubs and trees). Because of a relatively low protein requirement due to their efficient digestive systems, they can be kept on a variety of pastures or hay. They eat about 2 percent to 4 percent of their body weight in dry matter every day. Without pasture, a 100-pound bale of hay will last an adult llama around ten days. If you're going to graze your llamas, plan on about three to five animals per acre on a moderate-producing pasture.

When good hay is available, grain is recommended only for working pack animals and nursing females. Sheep mineral and salt blocks (with selenium wherever necessary) should be available free choice. Granulated minerals are somewhat more wasteful than mineral blocks, but are easier to eat since llamas don't lick. High-protein grain mixes prepared for other livestock should generally not be given to a healthy llama on a good diet, unless it's a female nursing or close to giving birth. Llamas are not prone to bloat, but have been known to do so if they get into a grain bin. Avoid over feeding llamas.

Llamas require less water than most domestic animals, but should have an unlimited, fresh, clean supply at all times. They tend to drink less in winter and when on lush, green pasture, and more when working or lactating, especially in summer.

Unless your llamas are pastured on hard or rocky ground, you may have to trim their toenails once or twice a year. It's easy to do yourself with horse hoof trimmers or sheep toenail nippers, but consult available literature or your veterinarian before your first attempt

Llamas are amazingly hardy animals and have very few problems with disease. But to ensure good health you should establish a regular schedule for cleaning their dung piles, and a preventative medicine program that may include protection from enterotoxemia, tetanus, leptospirosis, and internal and external parasites. They should be dewormed at least every six months. Be sure to check with your veterinarian or agricultural extension agent to see if any vital trace elements or minerals are deficient or present in toxic amounts in your area. Consult your veterinarian or the Internet for other preventative medical suggestions, or to see if any special circumstances (e.g. meningeal worm, selenium levels, toxic plants, etc.) are problems in your area.

## **Breeding and Reproduction**

Female llamas are good mothers and there is nothing as delightful as the sight of their babies playing and romping. Though females have been known to conceive as early as four to six months, they should not be

bred until 18-24 months depending on size and development. While males may be fertile at seven to nine months, they aren't fully dependable breeders until three years old when they are socially and sexually mature. Gestation averages 350 days and a single offspring is produced; twinning is rare. The average weight of a normal newborn llama is 25-30 pounds, but can range from 18-40 pounds.

Because they are induced ovulators, llamas can give birth throughout the year. Depending on your climate, you should plan breeding to avoid births in the extreme heat of summer and cold of winter. Births normally occur in the daytime. From the onset of normal presentation (of both feet and head) to birth, 10-45 minutes may elapse. Unlike most mammals llama mothers do not lick their newborn nor eat the afterbirth. Llama young, called "crias", begin walking within an hour and should nurse in one to two hours. The placenta is usually passed within four hours. An indication of pregnancy is the female's refusal to breed when reintroduced to the sire.

Llamas, guanacos, alpacas and vicunas can interbreed and should therefore be pastured separately. Males not intended for breeding are gelded at about two years of age. Geldings can make wonderful, affectionate pets.

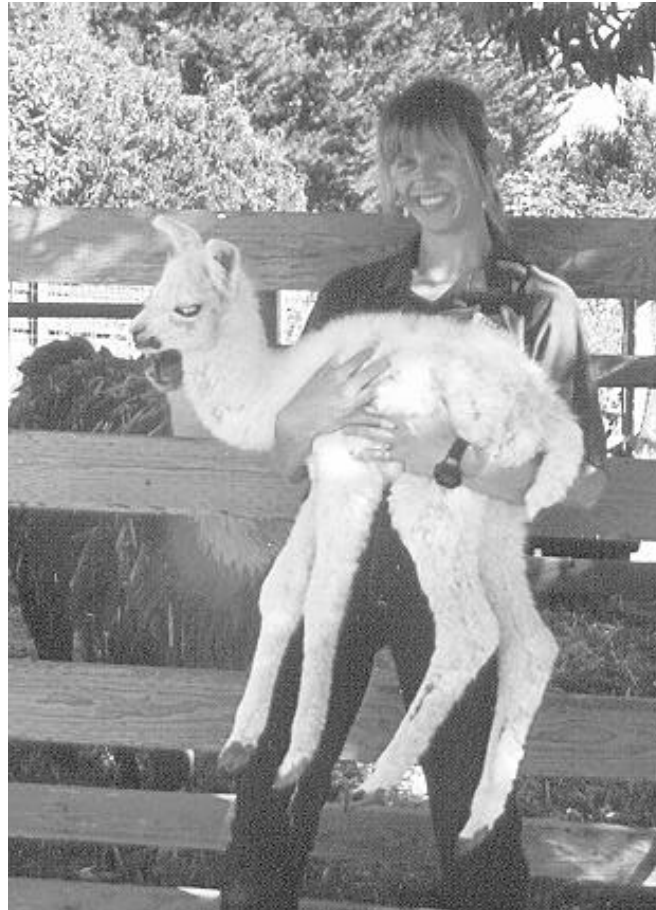


Fig. 7 - New born llama  
(Claudia Sonder, DVM)

**Review**

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**Conformation and Correctness**

1. The way a llama is put together is called \_\_\_\_\_.

**Temperament**

1. Llamas, like all other animals and people, have their own \_\_\_\_\_.

**Purchasing a Llama**

1. Llamas are good companions because they are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Shelter**

1. How can a llama be protected from sun, rain and wind? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Diet**

1. What are the three main parts of a llama's diet?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

**General Health and Maintenance**

1. Describe one type of preventive maintenance a llama owner should use to help keep a llama healthy. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do llamas and alpacas need to be vaccinated? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Worms living inside a llama are an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. List two parts of a llama's toe.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the normal temperature of an adult llama? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What types of weather cause the most stress on a llama? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is it healthy for a trainer to drastically change the type of food fed to a llama? \_\_\_\_\_

## Training

Their docile nature makes llamas extremely easy to train to accept a halter, lead, kush (lie down), carry a pack, load in and out of a vehicle, pull a cart or carry a lightweight rider. With just a few training sessions they will pick up and retain any of these skills.

Keep the lessons short but repeat, repeat, and repeat the lesson for many sessions until there is no doubt that the llama has learned it and learned it well. The lessons need to be kept short (about 15 minutes in length) as llamas will get bored and refuse to do the task. Sessions should be repeated until the llama learns a task well. Once learned, llamas tend to remember a task forever!

You can reward a llama with food when training him, a llama should be praised verbally when he does something you ask him to do so that he is not trained to respond solely to food rewards.

Llamas with minimum training are easy to handle when you are trimming nails, brushing or shearing, or when health problems necessitate touching them in sensitive places.

When pack training your llama, first, make sure you can touch your llama under his belly. Just brushing him regularly will help him become accustomed to being touched. You will need to do this to fasten and adjust the straps to the pack. Always show him the pack before you put it on him. Llamas like to know what is happening to them so they aren't afraid. Tie his head to a tie-down and put the pack on him but don't fasten it. Let him feel it on his back. Run your hands over the pack (llamas sometimes don't like the sound of the fiber of the pack rubbing against trees, etc. so now's the time to start getting him used to it). When he accepts this, reach under and fasten the straps. Walk him around with the pack on his body. Leave the straps hanging so that he will get used to things hitting him on the legs (he may buck at this but will soon realize that these won't hurt him). Repeat this lesson until he is used to having you put the pack on him without any trouble.

Now he can carry a pack, but he still must be trail trained. Pick a training trail that has streams to cross, small bridges, obstacles (fallen trees), and other things that a llama may encounter. Take him out, be patient, and work on the obstacles. When he can do all the obstacles that you think you may encounter, then he's ready for some real work on the trail!

The final step is to put some weight into the pack (40-50 pounds for a mature llama) so that he can get used to carrying it. Be sure to go for walks with the weight in the pack and build up his stamina for carrying loads. Llamas can be out of shape, just like people, and need to exercise before a long pack trip. Finish up by practicing putting the packs on the llama and taking them off with the weight inside.

## Review

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### Training

1. List two ways to decrease stress on a llama while showing the animal.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. If a trainer talks softly to a llama, what will probably happen?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment

1. Is it acceptable for the trainer to wrap a llama's lead rope around his/her hand?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where should the nose band of a halter lay on the llama's or alpaca's face? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How far away from the halter should a trainer grip the lead rope? \_\_\_\_\_

### Procedures

1. Should a trainer move fast or slow around a llama to help cause the llama to grow in trust for that trainer?

2. List three ways to gain a llama's trust.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are the two most important things a trainer can do while working with a llama, when teaching her to accept a brush or halter?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. If a llama does not want to walk with its trainer, how might that trainer encourage it?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does desensitize mean? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the word that means lying down on command? \_\_\_\_\_

### Packing

1. What can be done for a llama by its trainer to show approval and to help that llama enjoy packing?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Beginner Level Crossword Puzzle

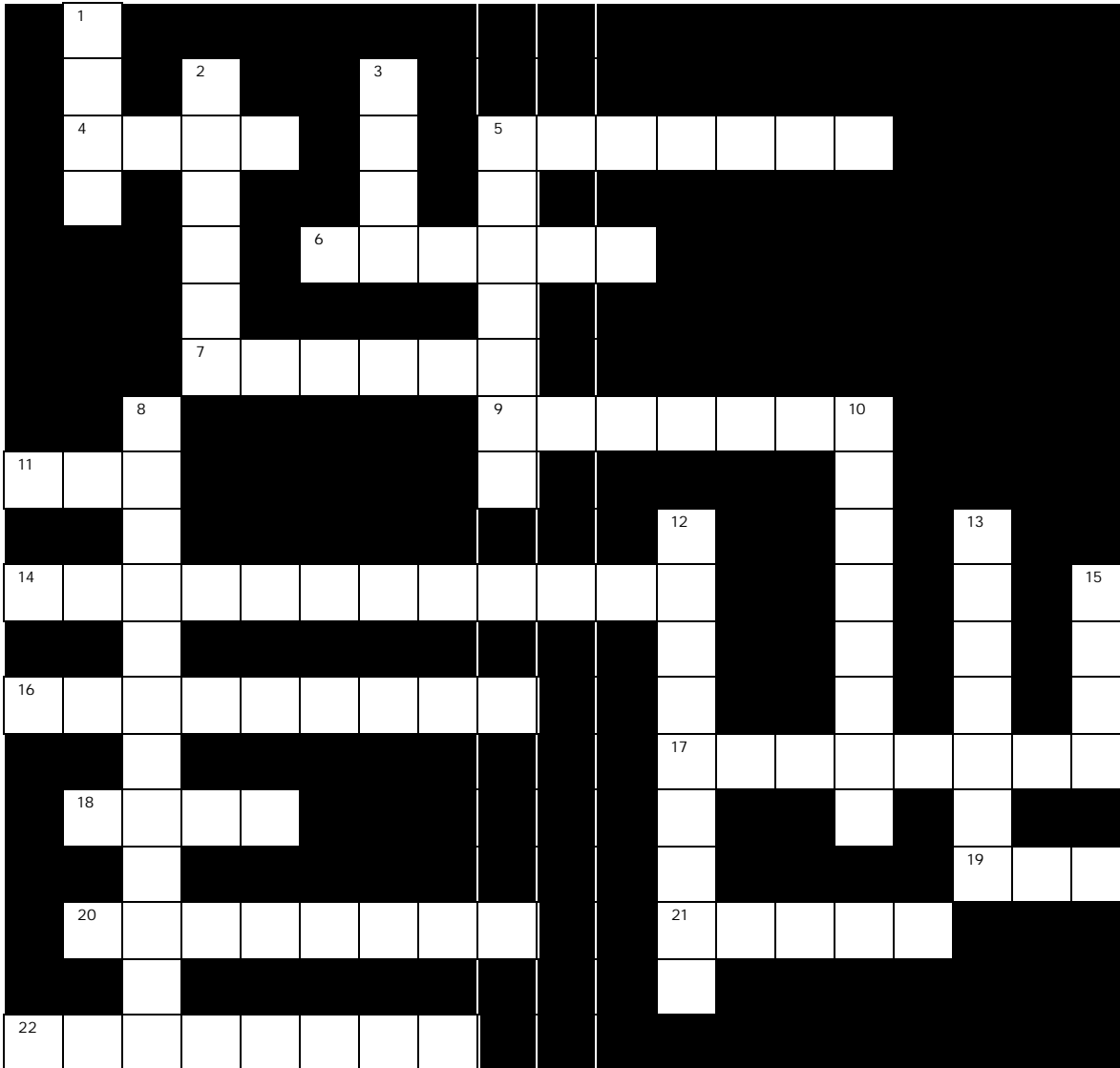


Fig. 8 – Crossword Puzzle

## Clues: Beginner Level Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS	DOWN
4 A baby llama.	1 The word that describes what a llama does when it carries a load.
5 A neutered llama.	2 Smaller South American wild Camelid.
6 A girl llama.	3 A boy llama.
7 A Camelid that is short and used primarily for its wool.	5 The Camelid from which llamas are domesticated.
9 Llamas are members of this family.	8 Continent from which llamas originated.
11 How many toes on each foot does a llama have?	10 Any animal that has been developed to help man.
14 A person you should know and who you can call if a llama is sick.	12 The part of the wool that is fine and primarily used for spinning.
16 Stiffer, more course part of the wool.	13 A llama has three compartments in this.
17 Animals that chew cud.	15 The way a llama says, "Bug off!"
18 Approximately, how long is a llama's gestation?	
19 A sound a llama makes.	
20 These kinds of teeth should be cut out of a male llama.	
21 The mountain range from which llamas originated in South America.	
22 Lots of this will help a llama feel comfortable in a show ring. "_____" makes perfect!"	

## Word List: Beginner Level Crossword Puzzle

ALPACA	GUARD HAIR	SPI T
ANDES	GUANACO	STOMACH
CAMELID	HUM	TWO
CRIA	MALE	UNDERCOAT
DOMESTIC	PACK	VETERINARIAN
FEMALE	PRACTICE	VICUNA
FIGHTING	RUMINANT	YEAR
GELDING	SOUTH AMERICA	

Beginner Level Llama Diagram Crossword Puzzle

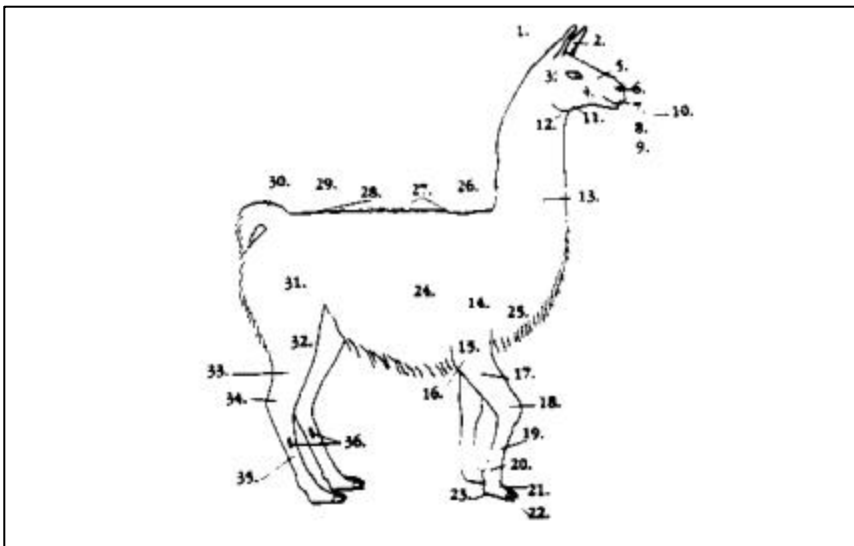


Fig. 9 – Crossword Puzzle Llama Diagram

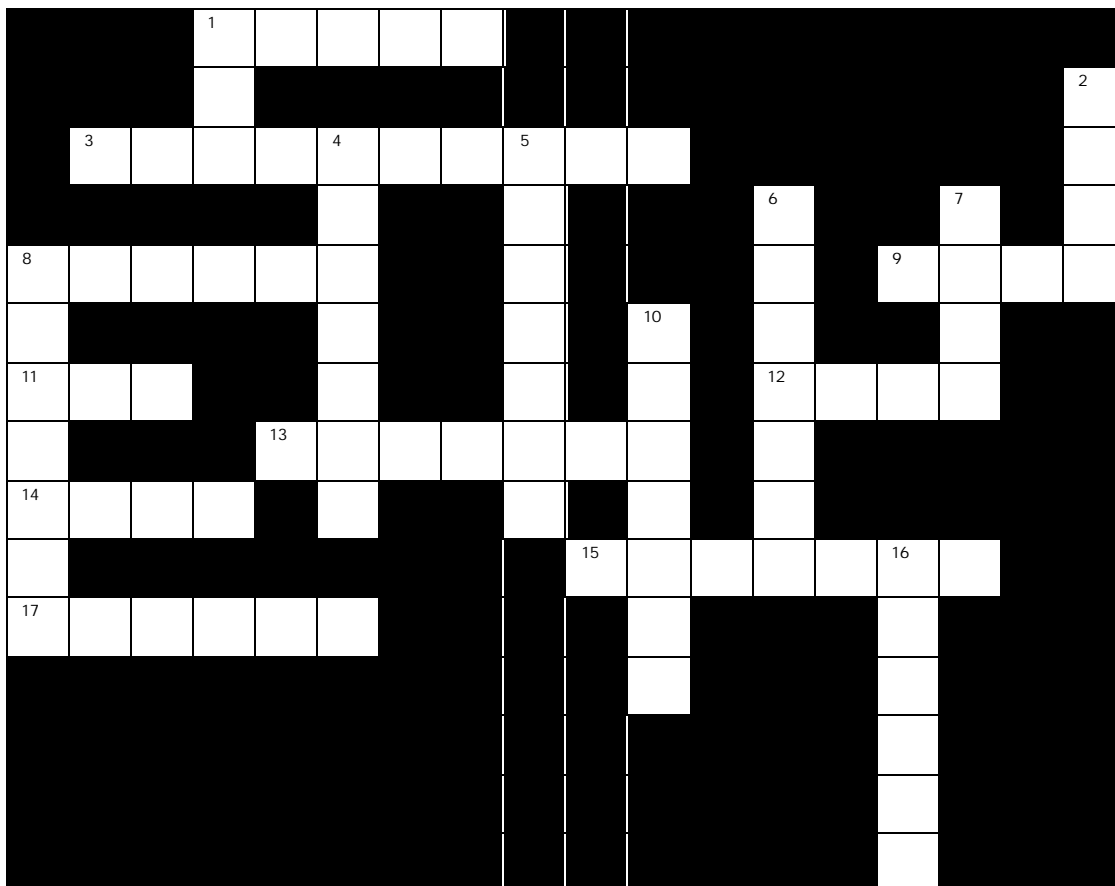


Fig. 10 – Llama Diagram Crossword Puzzle

Clues: Beginner Level Llama Diagram Crossword Puzzle

(Use the llama in Fig. 9 for these clues)

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	<b>16</b>	1	<b>4</b>
3	<b>36</b>	2	<b>27</b>
8	<b>32</b>	4	<b>22</b>
9	<b>34</b>	5	<b>Another Word for Belly</b>
11	<b>2</b>	6	<b>6</b>
12	<b>30</b>	7	<b>1</b>
13	<b>26</b>	8	<b>25 (Chest)</b>
14	<b>13</b>	10	<b>21</b>
15	<b>20</b>	16	<b>19</b>
17	<b>10</b>		

Word List: Beginner Level Llama Diagram Crossword Puzzle

ABDOMEN	HOCK	SCENT GLAND
BACK	MUZZLE	STIFLE
CANNON	NECK	STERNUM
EAR	NOSTRIL	TAIL
ELBOW	PASTERN	TOENAIL
EYE	POLL	WITHERS
FETLOCK		

# Suggested Activities

## Beginner Project

### October

At the first meeting of the year plan an easy hike along a nearby trail. Bring well-trained llamas and experienced kids along to help the new ones. Encourage the parents to join the group. This activity has hooked many families from the start. (4-H and the other youth programs are about learning by doing.) Take pictures along the way and have cool drinks at the end of the walk.

### November

Hand out project guides (this booklet) and have each member talk about what their goals are for the year. Have everyone write his or her goals down for later. Begin to match up llamas and the kids. Discuss and agree on who is responsible for what. Start a basic activity such as the "Clothes Pin Llamas" at this meeting. If the weather is nice, go out and start teaching how to catch and halter a llama and see the crias (babies) or whatever is interesting.

### December

Participate in a Christmas Parade or Party with the llamas. This activity requires grooming of the llamas and telling the public about llamas in a one-on-one environment.

### January

This is a good time for indoor activities such as a fiber meeting where you can learn how to braid lead ropes or weave pack pads. A member may be interested in giving an informal talk about llamas or fiber to the group. Start working on topics for Project Presentation Day for those who want to use llamas as their subjects.

### February

This is usually a good month to have a local veterinarian come and give a talk at your meeting to the members and their parents. The basics of shelter, feed, worming and immunizations are a good focus along with a question and answer session.

### March

Participate in Presentation Day by having the kids give speeches and demonstrations about llamas. At the meeting put into practice what has been learned and have all the llamas come for weighing, worming and immunizations, toenail trimming and general inspection. Teach the techniques required to perform these activities, go through record keeping and review the reason for desensitization and basic llama training (easier to handle).

### April

Practice Showmanship and Obstacles in preparation for the upcoming shows. You may be able to participate in a local parade or hike.

### May

Hold a mock llama show at your county 4-H/FFA Opportunity Day (may be called something different, a day where the kids exhibit their projects and have some judging). Use older kids as judges and ring stewards and educate people from your area about the project as well as give beginners some practice. Work on filling out forms for upcoming fairs. Test for achievement levels.

### June

Prepare a group display and attend your local county fair. Put on a one-day show or demonstration.

### Summer

Usually there are lots of fairs that the group can attend. Summer day hikes are also a lot of fun.









## **My Llama Photo Page**

(Provide activity dates and captions. Add more sheets as needed.)

# Llama Youth Project

## Beginner Level

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

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What I want to learn with this project:

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What I learned from this project:

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**This project was completed on:**

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This project booklet was prepared by the Wool & Flax Llama Farm using information from "Llama Facts for New Owners" I LA Educational Brochure #3 Author: William L. Franklin, Ph.D. and information from the Orange Blossom 4-H Llama Project - Leader: Nancy Redden. Forms designed by Lydia Redden