

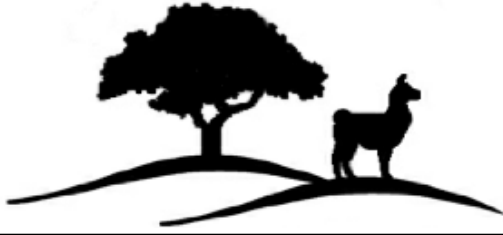
Como Se Llama?

New Zealand Llama Association Inc



*Spring Summer
2016 Newsletter*

**NEW ZEALAND
LLAMA ASSOCIATION INC.**



Como se Llama Spring/summer 2016 Magazine

From The Editor

Thank you to Greame Butterfield for your contribution to the newsletter - it's a very entertaining read = Llama Letters.

Our condolences go out to Graeme. Amadeus, the inspiration for the story, passed away while this story was being composed.

2016 AGM – North Island = 7th May 2016
See inside for more details

Results of the Canterbury show are inside, thank you to all that support the show. Keith will be convener for the 2016 event. Thank you Keith for putting your hand up.

The next newsletter will be following shortly, and I'm looking for contributions. Please email photos, news etc to admin@llamatrekking.co.nz

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Front cover : Ricardo's babies - Keith Payne

Llamas in the news

GREEN BAY, Wis. – Chicago had a rising star. Times Square had a crystal ball. And Atlanta had a big peach.

Now Green Bay, Wisconsin, hopes to start a New Year's tradition with a myth the mayor just made up.

It's the "Legend of the Lucky Llama."

Officials had a man dressed as Father Time, walk across the Ray Nitschke Memorial Bridge, with a llama wearing a sash.

The mayor says everyone who sees the llama walk across the bridge would receive blessings and good fortune. He says he hopes this will be a new Green Bay tradition.



UN agency scales up support for llama and alpaca farming in the Bolivian High Plateau

Rome, 12 January 2016 – An agreement signed recently between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the government of Bolivia will help 30,000 poor rural families in the Bolivian High Plateau increase their incomes from camelid (llamas and alpacas) farming and related economic activities.

The new programme builds on previous joint initiatives between the government and IFAD, the UN agency specialized in rural development, and represents a total investment of US \$38.7 million, of which \$17.8 million will be provided by IFAD.

“The role that llamas and alpacas play in the social and economic welfare of the population living on the Bolivian High Plateau is undeniable,” said Jaana Keitaanranta, IFAD’s Country Programme Manager for Bolivia.

“It has been part of the country’s culture and history for centuries and IFAD’s experience in Bolivia over the last few years proves that well-planned investments in this sector can play a key role in lifting people out of poverty.”

Llamas in the news



Wellington Cathedral of St Paul's Reverend Michael Holland blesses farmer Stephen Mulholland's llama Hob.

He's been a tireless worker for those in need and this weekend Hob the llama was rewarded with a blessing in honour of the patron saint of animals.

Hob – aka Hobson's Choice – was among about 50 animals to receive the holy anointment at Wellington Cathedral .

The mainly dogs and cats were blessed by St Paul's Reverend Michael Holland as the church observed the vernal religious rite celebrating spring.

The ceremony celebrates the feast day for patron saint of animals, St. Francis of Assisi, who was known for his love of all creatures and nature.

Alpaca farmer Stephen Mulholland, of Takapu Valley, north of Wellington said Hob was a worthy candidate for benediction.

His good deeds include helping out with SPCA street appeals and outreach programmes, as well as visiting schools and prisons.

Hob also cast his own sense of beatific serenity on the other animals – particularly canines – awaiting blessing.

"Hob is really calm because not all animals are quite as groovy with dogs," Mulholland said

Llamas in the news

Life



Llamas are Supreme

By ROBYN BRISTOW

An affinity with Llamas and a love of showing saw Rangiora High School student Amber Yuill Proctor take out the supreme performance prize at the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Show in Christchurch.

The 14-year-old, year 10 pupil was the youngest competitor in her classes, but her tender age was no barrier to her taking home a raft of first places and being crowned Champion, Supreme Champion and Supreme overall Performance Champion Llama.

All classes required the young handler to have a good rapport with her animal and for the animal to have trust in its handler as it was taken through a variety of obstacles.

The judge was very impressed with the bond between Amber and the two llamas - Theo and Eric - in the performance classes that require a good rapport between animal and handler.

Amber says working with the llamas alongside her grandfather Stuart Yuill Proctor who runs the Kirsonara Llama Farm at Sefton, all year round is great.

"I love working with them and showing them and when I win awards I feel very proud," says Amber.

The Performance classes are split into Public Relations, replicating situations a llama would encounter if walking around a town or house; Performance: replicating a country walk and Packing replicating a tramp carrying packs.

The Supreme performance award came after gaining the most points overall in all classes.

"I spend a lot of time working with them. They are lovely and very friendly," says



Supreme . . . Amber Yuill Proctor puts Eric through his paces.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Amber.

"It is a bit like training a dog, but easier as you walk them through the obstacles and it doesn't take much time to teach them" she says.

While showing is fun, Amber's greatest love is trekking with llamas.

"That is my favourite part."

She recently joined her grandfather on a five-day trek in the Hope Valley, with llama carrying the gear and stopping off to fish along the way.

In March she is hoping to take part in an eight-day trek from outside Hanmer Springs through to the West Coast. "You can trust them going through rivers and over gravel flats. They are very strong. They look after you," says Amber.

Lending Library

Books: available for loan to NZLA members....

Alpaca a Homeopathic and Natural Approach by Tineke Verkade

Alpacas A Basic Veterinary Reference by peter Aitken BVSc

The Waldo chronicles - A Training Log by Gwen Ingram

Medical and Surgery of Sth American Camelids by Dr Murry Fowler

The Camelid Companion by Marty McGee-Bennett

A Guide to Raising Llamas by Gale Birutta

Evaluating a llama pack by Gwen Ingram

Packing with llamas by Stanlynn Daugherty

Llama Driving by Ron Shinnick

Fundamentals of felt making by Patricia Spark

Caring for Llamas and Alpacas by Clare Hoffman

DVD - Click & Reward vol 2 :

Video: The Mallon Method; The ultimate llama groom.

Magazine - past Como Se llama

Contact: Jackie Middleton 03 3156152 avalonllamas@gmail.com

Improving Drenching Practices

by Stephen Mulholland, Ph.D., for the Camelid Health Trust
(www.camelidhealth.org)

Drench (aka “wormers”) are the most common therapeutic medicine we apply on our farms, they can be a literally life-saving intervention for our camelids. Drench, applied in the correct manner, at the right time, and at a proper dose, can clear an llama, alpaca or guanaco of dangerous internal parasites. This can be especially critical for parasites that are quickly killing an animal, specifically the blood drinking 'Barbers Pole Worm' – *Haemonchus contortus*.

But drench is not magic, used wrong it can be ineffective. Worse, persistent misuse of drench products promotes the proliferation of drench-resistant parasites. When enough of the parasites are resistant the treatments become ineffective, and animals start dying in ever-increasing numbers.

Drench resistance is a huge and well-known problem affecting livestock farmers all over the world. While there are some disagreements from country to country and region to region about the details as to exactly what strategy is best to hold back the rising tide of resistance, the general principles outlined below still apply.

When should you apply drench?

Even though you buy drench “over the counter”, it is actually a powerful pharmaceutical agent, and needs to be treated with respect. Drench should only be applied to animals that need it. That need might be determined by clinical tests (blood analysis, fecal egg tests), and/or through clinical indications of parasitosis (drop in weight, body condition score, anaemia, etc).

We are very fortunate that llamas (and alpacas and guanaco, of course) can develop a good natural resistance to parasites, allowing well fed, low-stress adults to naturally hold off parasites without any chemical intervention. The goal is not zero-eggs or zero-worms. In fact, we want all of our llamas to have a few worms (parasites), as it is this exposure that primes their immune systems to fight off more serious incursions.

The parasite-killing compounds in the majority of drenches provide protection for 3 to 4 weeks after application. (And you do not want longer acting compounds, as they can cause resistance-promoting “long tails” of low serum concentration. When you have anti-parasite drugs present in a less-than-lethal concentration it allows partially-resistant parasites to live on, and have lots of children that carry those resistance genes.) Parasite burdens can rise very quickly and under ideal circumstances, it can take little more than a month for an animal to pick up a life-threatening load of parasites. This is why it is important to regularly check your animals for signs of parasite problems. It is also why periodic drenching without clinical sign isn't likely to be very effective, and can actually be dangerous as it provides more opportunity for the development of drench resistance.

The more frequently a given population of parasites experiences a drench compound, the more opportunities they have to “select” for resistance. This selection effect is vastly multiplied if you are drenching with inadequate doses.

(Social stress can also be a risk factor for parasite infestation. Low social-status animals – the ones that are always bullied, and have a difficult time making it to the hay feeder – are more likely to have issues. This is both because they may be getting insufficient feed, and because chronic stress is an immune-system suppressant.)

What drench brand/combo should you use?

There are currently four different “families” of drench on the market, though the most popular by far among alpaca owners (for whom I have the best data via the health surveys) are drenches in the macrocyclic lactone family, those whose name ends in “-mectin”; noromectin, ivermectin, abamectin, etc under brand names such as Genesis and Dectomax.

There is ongoing debate as to whether it is better to use drenches singly, or in combination. You should always consult with your veterinarian about the latest recommended drench practices. The older drench varieties, the so-called “white” and “clear” drenches, have been around long enough that drench resistant is quite common (since the same parasites that affect sheep and goats also infest camelids).

A fourth family of drench, sold under the brand name of Zolvix (with the active ingredient Monepantel) was introduced to New Zealand in 2011. It was the first new drench family in over 30 years, and was initially hailed as a near-miracle cure. Unfortunately poor drench practice led to the rapid development of completely-Zolvix-resistant worms by 2014 (first detected on a hobby-goat farm in the Manawatu, now spreading). It is easy to un-do decades of hard work with only a few years of poor practices. Zolvix should not be used as a first-line drench on your farm, rather it should be held in reserve for situations where the conventional drenches are no longer effective. The current recommendation for Monepantel-based drenches is 3-times the sheep dose, as it was found ineffective at 2-times dose (Franz, et al, The Veterinary Journal).

Which ever drench you use, it is important to periodically confirm its effectiveness. The most common test for this is the FECRT (Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test). This is a simple matter. First, take a fecal sample from a parasite-afflicted animal. This is examined under a microscope to see how many worm eggs per gram are present. Then drench the animal. Ten days later repeat the fecal egg count, the numbers should have dropped (ideally) by 98% or so. If the egg reduction is less, it indicates that there was either a problem with the drenching (under-dose, injected into the fleece and not under the skin, etc.) or that there might be partial drench resistance in your herd.

How much should be given?

Previously the recommended dose was 1.5 times the sheep dose. Some vets are now recommending twice the sheep dose, to ensure a proper dose is delivered (though the science of how drench products works in llamas and alpacas is still incomplete, so quantitative dose recommendations are unfortunately rare). Be very cautious if using Levamisol-based drenches, as they have a narrow safety margin in camelids, and should only be administered at the sheep dose rate. Likewise alpacas have been shown to have toxic reactions to Albendazole. (Franz et.al)

Giving too little drench is worse than not drenching at all, as it both fails to kill all the worms present, and selects those worms for drench resistance – those with some level of natural resistance will better survive, thus producing more eggs which pass out onto the pasture where they can be consumed by other animals in your herd.

Both oral and injectable drenches work in camelids. Some pour-on drenches have been shown to be effective, but they can cause prolonged staining of the fleece. I prefer the injectable drenches, as once you become practiced with the needle you can ensure the right dose is delivered. With oral drenches a llama can always “return fire”, spitting up (or coughing up, if your oral drenching technique is a bit sloppy) an unknown fraction of the drench making it very difficult to ensure you give enough, but not too much.

How many animals should you drench? How does this effect refugia?

Only drench animals that need it! This should be based on some clinical indication of infection. With camelids whole-herd drenching is very rarely needed, if ever.

Limiting the number of animals drenched allows for your farm to practice refugia. Refugia is a simple concept – you will never eradicate the parasites on your farms. It's impossible, as more than 90% of the parasites are living as larvae and eggs on the pasture, and are thus safe from your drench gun. (And no, you cannot “spray out” your paddock for parasites. There are many beneficial organisms which are close cousins to those parasites, and killing all of them would wreck your soil ecology.)

Refugia is a game of breeding and statistics. Drench resistance is a genetic, heritable trait. Your goal is to keep it rare. If most of the parasites on the pasture are drench-vulnerable, then a few drench-resistant ones will likely breed with a vulnerable partner, thereby diluting away the various resistance genes. (This is similar to how a fine-fleeced genetic line would lose quality/fineness if back-crossed to nasty scrubber animals – the quality traits get diluted away in the gene pool.)

In good refugia you don't move freshly-drenched animals onto a clean paddock, if you did that all that would happen is you would create a colony of almost-entirely-resistant parasites. Rather you should put the drenched animals back onto a contaminated pasture. The drenched llama(s) should still be protected by the active drench chemical in their system for the next few weeks, and this way any surviving parasites in their guts will be spewing their resistant-eggs out into a pasture of almost-entirely drench-vulnerable worms. After a few days you can then move the herd on to a clean pasture, as by then the drenched animals own immune system should have had time to clear-out the drench-resistant stragglers still hanging on.

Current best practice:

Check your whole herd periodically for clinical signs of parasitosis, we do so monthly, and more often if we have reasons to be concerned (so if we've found one animal suffering from parasites, we'll check the others more frequently for a couple of weeks or months after, until the danger seems to have passed). This can be a simple matter of body condition score checks to identify those animals losing weight/condition, or membrane checks to look for the anaemic. Keeping written records can be very important here, as when a herd gets larger it is not possible to always remember the body score of everyone in your herd. If you have a weigh scale, it can be a good way to track subtle changes over time, again written records are critical. Fecal Egg Counts can be done on suspected infected animals. The frequency of checks may depend on the season or known risk factors, but monthly is a good baseline – more frequently in times of high risk.

Drench those animals that have signs of infection. Ensure that the proper dose is given based on the weight (known or estimated) of that animal.

Check the drenched animals in the weeks that follow to ensure that they are recovering. This may be physical checks (weight, BCS, membranes) or follow up FEC reduction tests. If the animal is worm-free but still ill, consult your veterinarian.

Consider periodically doing a pooled sample fecal egg count from the dung heap (using fresh droppings) to get an overall view of how your herd is doing.

Do Egg Reduction Tests on animals you buy or sell, to avoid moving animals harboring resistant parasites.

An example of poor practice:

The whole herd gets drenched 4 times a year, at the start of each season, with 1ml of Dectomax.

This is not an example pulled out of thin air, rather it is a distressingly common practice among alpaca owners. 1ml of Dectomax is about one-third the recommended dose for a ~70kg adult alpaca, so every dose doesn't kill many worms, it just speeds the development of drench resistance. By doing this four times a year that farm is guaranteed to eventually develop completely Dectomax-resistant worms (which has now happened on at least 4 alpaca farms, based on Health Survey results).

Switching drenches without improving practices won't help much, as all that will do is allow the parasites to become resistant to more families of drench. Once the drench stops working managing the long-term health of the alpaca becomes much more difficult.

For an “average” adult llama the Dectomax dose would be about 6ml. If you are unsure about the weights of your animals, seek advice, or borrow a scale.

Proper drench practice is a big deal, and as an industry we need to take positive, active steps to improve our practices. “Best practice” is a moving target. Every year we learn, adapt, and improve. That information has to be effectively disseminated to all camelids owners in New Zealand, as a neighbor's or colleague's poor practice has a very real potential to negatively affect you and your farm.

Don't panic. But make sure you are doing it right.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at stephen@camelidhealth.org.

Thanks to Barabara Christensen B.VSc. and , Anne Kramer PHD MANZCVS (Epidemiology) for their assistance in the preparation of this document.

See also “Llamas and alpacas in Europe: Endoparasites of the digestive tract and their pharmacotherapeutic control” Sonja Franz, Thomas Wittek, Anja Joachim, Barbara Hinney and Agnes Dadak. *The Veterinary Journal*; 204 (2015) 255-262. Some of the parasites discussed within are not present in NZ, but it still provides a great review of the current research on chemical treatment of parasites in camelids. Double thanks to Anne Kramer for pointing out this reference.

Yes I know the North Island AGM is in the lower North Island again, but when the call went out for a host Ruth Bradwell was the only one to put her hand up, so there was not a more northern option. Plus we have an active group in the Wellington region so hope to draw in more participants by promoting the event locally.

The intention was to hold it at her farm in Upper Hutt, but house alterations and concerns about a wet weather option has caused her to take up the kind offer of Tam Duran and Stephen Mulholland to use their big new barn as the venue.

Tawa is an easy 30 min drive from Wellington Airport. There are limited beds available at their house and motel accommodation in Tawa

The planning committee is Stephen, Tam, Ruth and Judy. We have had a few meetings and have come up with the following concepts

- Open the day to all interested in camelids in general in the hope of attracting new members for NZLA and educating people about the different characteristic of camelids available in NZ
- Have a mix of educational and fun events. On the table so far are, promote the llama as a rare breed, obstacle training, sorting and using fibre (including suri) and of course the very useful camelid health talk by Stephen.

We are in contact with a few potential speakers, and will let you know as soon as confirmation has been received.

On my ring-around last year a lot of people said they would not be coming to the Kaikoura AGM as they could not commit to 2 days, so this year the activities will be concentrated into the Saturday with the AGM Saturday evening as usual. For those who can stay for Sunday there will be camelid activities such as a walk.

To assist those travelling for the day the activities will start at 10am.

If you have any topics you would like included all suggestions will be gratefully received as we want this get-together to be useful for as many people as possible

Contact Ruth on 04 526 3304, Tam and Stephen on 04 238 4752 or Judy on 06 362 6745

At this AGM we will be looking for a South Island host so if you would like to be involved, please put your name forward.

breeding goals

Fernando: meaning Brave leader, Brave Traveler, Adventurer. By Judy Webby

Like so many others, when I brought my 1st llama all I knew was that I wanted llama in my paddocks, and also like so many others, I bought some cheap ones so I could “try them out” without too much capital outlay. This had its inevitable result with animals which scared me considerably at times, so my next step was to purchase (halter trained) breeding stock so I could raise my own llama and train them as I wanted to be.

I am embarrassed to admit that this was the limit of my breeding goals. Easy to handle llama, preferably with spots. In time I came to consider other aspects such as the fact that these animals lived 20+ years, and if I was going to bring them into the world I also needed to consider their long term well being as I did not have the land to keep them all. I was also facing a mounting pile of fibre in bags that had cost me dearly to get off the animals, but I could not find any market for. So somewhat belatedly I addressed what I wanted from a llama and what others might also want.

Top of the list was an animal easy to handle, so all cria were gently imprinted and trained to be handled from an early age, not just to wear a halter but also to lead and load.

Next was a working quality animal with clean legs as many of the trails I travel on are infested with blackberry which has to be cut off leg wool, this slows us down and upsets the llama.

Finally was an animal which did not behave like velcro in the paddock, picking up every piece of debris in its coat.

This led me to the Ccara or Classic llama and many hours scouring the internet for more information. <http://ccarallama.com> was a great resource at this time, as was Keith Payne of Big Ears Llama Ranch who was embarking on a much more active project by breeding back to guanaco to fix the desirable traits which had been lost from the llama by (in many cases accidental) hybridisation with alpaca.

Observation of the llama I did have showed that the more defined the double coat, the cleaner it stayed, so my course was set. Knowing that a Ccara llama would shed its undercoat and could be brushed out was the icing on the cake!

DNA testing for alpaca hybridisation is not available in NZ and expensive overseas if you can find a lab to do it, so my chosen option was to buy females who looked right, with good conformation and no wool on the head or below the knee. But this theory broke down when I put my Tapanda male over them. I got one short coated girl, but the rest, although inheriting Monte's gentle nature, also inherited his tendency to imitate velcro.

What to do next? The only genetically tested pure llama I knew of were in the South Island and transporting animals over the water is an expensive and can be an uncomfortable, proposition.

Luckily I got the opportunity to buy 2 classic looking girls with very good bloodlines from Jacky Middleton in the South Island, so they could stop off at Big Ears Llama Ranch to get mated before continuing up to me. I went down to investigate the options and was shown a bewildering array of llama and guanaco studs who to my untrained eye looked very much like each other. The pure guanaco has a reputation for being a jumper so I chose Ricardo, a guanaco llama cross DNA tested for breed purity. Freya did not hold her pregnancy but Meg did, and the result was born 30th November 2015, a beautiful short coated boy, with spots on his legs and chin. His name was chosen for its meaning and I hope he is the brave leader of a herd of short coated self-shedding working llama in the North Island. But he is only a few weeks old so I must not get ahead of myself!



My next project will be to raise the fences so I can stand my own Ccara stud. With that objective in mind I am taking Fernando to the Rare Breeds AGM being held in Waikanae on 14th May and also to the NZLA AGM on 7th May, in the hope of encouraging others to join what I think is a very exciting project. Guanaco are on the CITES list so can't be traded internationally but we have a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of our own guanaco stud in New Zealand, an opportunity much envied by other countries including the USA

If you want to talk more about this call Judy on 06 36 26 745 or Keith on 03 319 8522

Boxing Day Walkies

by Judy Webby

It has become the custom to have a Boxing Day camelid walk at Queen Elizabeth Park in Paekakariki near Wellington. Family commitments and impending cria reduced the people bringing camelids to 2 this year, but although I could only fit 2 llama into my float. Stephen and Tam squeezed 2 llama and 3 alpaca into their trailer, so we had options for the 13 people wanting to walk with camelids.

We both had yearlings having their 1st outing off the farm and they coped very well with the new experience.



I was very excited to have Monte walking with his son Estefan for the 1st time. They have shared a fence line for a few weeks but I was not sure how putting them in the same float was going to go. It was a relief to arrive at the venue and see them both sitting calmly and no-one splattered in green.

During the beach section Stephen got his alpaca completely submerged which was waist deep for him, I tried to emulate that with Monte but would have had to be swimming myself, so restricted our efforts to his waist not my chin.



Many people on the walk were considering buying camelid so it was a good opportunity for them to see them in many sizes.

We are going to book another walk for

Waitangi weekend for the ones who missed out, with 650 hectares in the park and many trails there is a lot of exploring to do



LLAMA LETTERS

(When we left them, Argyll and his two mates Amadeus and Maclary were in the transit lounge at Buenos Aires Airport en route to Santiago to visit Isidora and her herd. In response to requests for more news of their South American exploits, we've been lucky enough to hack into their continuing email and SMS exchanges to update you on their progress.)

Email from Argyll to Julius back home in Motueka:

"G'day mate,

You asked us to keep you guys back home up-to-date with all the juicy bits from our travels. Well, it's too soon to report yet on the romantic front but its been one heck of an adventure just to get here! Truth is, we're in a spot of bother right now.

We arrived at the airport in Santiago after a somewhat less luxurious flight on a local airline, and joined the single-file trek into Arrivals. Next thing we knew some swarthy two-legged was yabbering on at us in a most agitated manner. We hadn't a clue what he was on about until he produced a ghastly looking pair of plier thingies and three, large yellow ear tags! "What the....!", screamed Amadeus, "Hoof it!". We made a quick dash to the back of the trekking line, where Mac and I cautioned him about any rash actions that might ruin our chances of actually meeting Isidora and her lady friends at Temuco. There was no obvious way out of there, and none of us had your proven jumping ability to take on the barriers. On the other hand, there was no way I was having my best features disfigured by some stir-crazed Chilean bio-sec bloke! Issy must see me at my most handsome best. You know how much my ears are admired. We each felt the same about our ears, and anyway we reckoned that no llama girl was worth risking permanent disfigurement.

Time for cool heads! A quick text to Farmer Gonzalo, and a Tweet by Mac to alert the local media using the line 'Epic llama journey seeking love thwarted by over-zealous officials' should do the trick. And so it turned out. It took nearly half a day, much arm waving and shouting from Farmer Gonzalo, and pleading from a handy Air NZ man who argued we were ambassadors for the airline promoting the new route, but *eventually* the tags were binned and the bio-sec man started chortling and grinning. Amid much frivolity, we were issued with temporary entry visas using mug shots from my photo gallery, and front and hind foot-prints taken by making each of us step into some yucky muck. No doubt the pack of local paparazzi with cameras now glued to the glass in Arrivals probably helped achieve this result as well!!



Finally we were heading towards Mrs. Gonzalo who had been waiting patiently behind the glass wall with her welcome signs. However, as we headed for the exit, some mutt on a lead started sniffing around Amadeus' saddle packs. Guess what: not only had he concealed llama pellets in his fleece for snacking during the flight but he had a stash of them in his saddle packs! In no time he was corralled off into a locked crate suspected of being a drug mule.

Apparently the fact that he had seemed spaced-out throughout his long flight in Business Llama Class had aroused initial suspicions, and now it turned out his luggage consisted of nothing but suspicious plastic bags of pellets. Mac and I tried to tell them that he was in fact a llama, not a mule, and that these drugs were gourmet-quality ruminant treats from New Zealand, the like of which most Chileans would no doubt never have seen, but it was hard to make ourselves understood.

So here we are still waiting at the airport, flicking you this email and hoping Amie will be released soon. I'm not sure this travel lark is all it's cracked up to be. If you don't hear from us, send a search party!

Cheers,
Argyll

PS. I've attached a copy of my visitor's entry visa. Now you're jealous, right? Not many llamas have one of these, eh? Don't know why it causes such mirth around here.

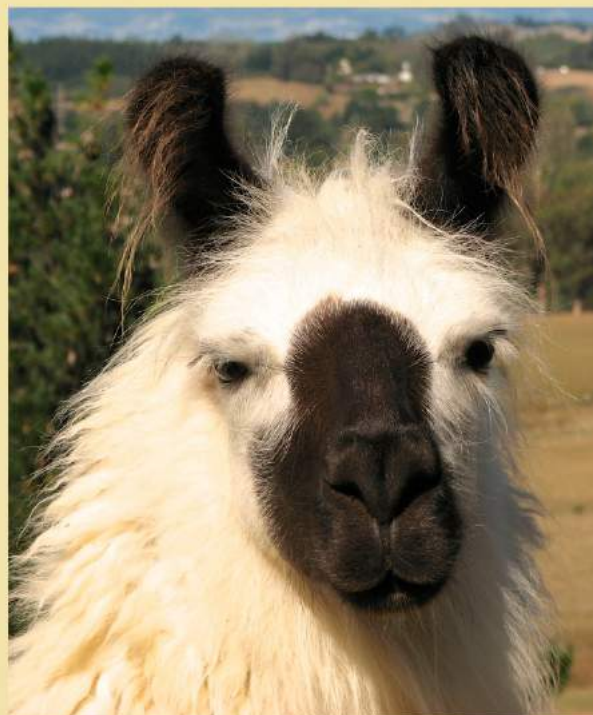
REGISTRO CIVIL E IDENTIFICACION REPUBLIC DE CHILE

Visa Temporario:

Nombre: *Clar Innis Argyll*

La fecha cumpleaños: *12/12/2002* Genero: *hombre*

Proposito: *Negocios con una mujer*



El Permiso para entrar:

Entrada solo cortorce (14) dias

Fecha: 12-20-2014

Firma:

Text from Julius to Argyll:

"Sooner u than me, mate. U look 2B in a deep midden! Keep us posted. J"

Text from Argyll to Isidora:

“Bit delayed. Sorry. They think Amie’s a mule. C U asap. Argie.”

Text from Isidora:

Lookn fwd to c in u...with gifts?? Iss.

Email from Argyll to Julius:

“ Hi J & Co. Is this the end for our gluttonous friend? Attached is the last view we had of our mate in the clink before he was led off for a threatened long rubber glove examination. I want to be sorry for the guy but can’t stop myself from sniggering. And they’ve confiscated all the pellets that he’s protesting he brought as gifts for the girls at Temuco! I must say this was quick thinking on his part to cover the evidence of his own gluttony. Argyll.”



Email from Julius in Mot:

“Get him out of there! If he gets busted and they analyse those pellets our secret recipe will be out. And get on with the business. We’re beginning to think you’re all hot air and excuses!” J.

Email from Argyll:

“Hóla herd mates back home!

At last we’re here on the llama farm in Temuco, all together again and checking out the facilities! OMG! It’s wall-to-wall llamas around here. They all hum in a strange language but seem friendly enough.

As Isidora had promised, Farmer Gonzalo brought the stretch limo to collect us. It’s a pretty neat piece of kit he uses for celebrity llama transport: a Hummer, of course, ‘what else?’ (As George Clooney would say). Yesterday Mac and I arrived in it, leaving Amie to an uncertain fate at the airport. Today we got the good news that he was found to be clean (if a little sore and indignant) and was to be released, so the suited chauffeur was dispatched in the Hummer

to bring him home to the farm in style as well. He stepped out of the limo to a fanfare of frenzied humming from incredulous hembra who had heard about his exploits and (alleged!) intention to bring them all gifts of pellets from NZ. There seemed to be girls crowding every vantage point and straining to get a glimpse of their gallant hero who had risked all to be a chivalrous llama good sort bearing goodies.

Must dash now! We hear the girls are all sitting around expectantly. Argyll.”



Amadeus steps out of the Hummer.



Admiring local girls crowd every vantage point for a better view of their hero's arrival.

Email from Argyll:

“Hi Herd,

Things are not shaping up well. Mac and I can't get a look in with the girls around here. Amadeus has turned into the Hugh Hefner of the llama world, always hanging out with an adoring entourage of bella hembra hanging on his every hum. I am getting no quality time with Issy, and she was not too chuffed that I didn't bring her any pellets from home.

Florencia hasn't even noticed Mac so he has been spreading the word that Amie is just a tosser who's made up the pellet gift yarn to save his own skin, but the girls are not buying it. Desperate times!
Argyll"

After ten days or so, email from Argyll:

"Hi Guys,

Almost time to come home. My 14-day business visitor's visa expires in two days, right after the Christmas Party they've got planned here. I finally found out why my visa caused such mirth: apparently the 'purpose of visit' (proposito) reads "business with a woman"! Although I couldn't read what it said, Issy could and wasn't too impressed when I showed off my visa, so I've been cold shouldered whilst she fawns over Amadeus. There's no justice!

Last week a bunch of the girls piled into the Hummer with us and we were taken for a trek in the Parque Nacional Conquillo, 80 km east of here. It was full-on party mode all the way and, you guessed it, Amie got the rock-star treatment in the thick of all the action. As we frolicked about in the snow in the forest I was able to get close to Isidora a few times. To be honest, it was a bit of a let down: she's not that glam close up. I reckon those pix sent to us in NZ were enhanced. The regular Llama Lookout centre spreads in Como Se Llama back home always feature more attractive llama girls. You can see in the photo how she gate crashed (and spoilt!) a fine selfie of me in the Parque's beech forest. Nah, she's a gone burger!
Argyll."



Email from Isidora:

"Hóla Argyll,

By the time you get this you'll be back home in New Zealand. I'm sorry that things didn't work out between us. What can I say? Your mate Amadeus was just such a darling, and so charismatic. He really knows how to charm a girl and we all loved him. Sitting by the hour for with him was such fun: we **all** said so. Granted, your medicine-hat good looks are a plus, but in the end you were not my type. Lo siento, Argyll.

And you can tell that Maclary that the girls here think he's a real llama low-life. His vengeful malice in spreading the news at the Christmas Party the night before you all left that in fact Amadeus had been snipped as a yearling and was about as potent as a bale of hay was plain evil! What a party pooper! Really!!!

Anyway, the Party was fun. I've sent you some photos of yourself and Amie enjoying the presents we all gave you at the Party before Mac's bombshell hit. Maybe we can still be pen pals, but right now Alonso seems like a more trustworthy guy after all.

Adiós

Isidora"



Email from Argyll:

"Hi Isidora,

Yep, been home a week now. Our trip to Chile to find our roots was quite an adventure, but boy, there's no place like home! I realize just how much I missed my human minders, who are actually quite useful at times. And the life around here is pretty darn laid-back and peaceful.

Amie is missing all the adulation, but still has bad dreams about ear tags, rubber gloves and wooden crates. Mac is still sulking about Florencia, and Amie has really got it in for him now, you can guess how...greenies out of the blue, stealing his hay, kicking him out of the dust-bath etc.

As for me, well I think that South American llama beauties are over-rated. In future I'm gonna stay at home and get my kicks from the bevy of local beauties on display each quarter in the NZLA's 'Como Se Llama' newsletter. Now that it's available digitally it's so much easier for my herd to read.

One positive to come out of our trip away was that Air NZ were so chuffed with the publicity we brought to the new route that we were commissioned to make their new inflight safety video. Move over Richie and the AB's! It's now 'Argyll and the AB's (Argyll's Boys)'. It's due for release in a month or so on the South American route where they feel friendly instructions from llamas will go down a treat. I've attached a pic from the trial screening (yes, it stars Amadeus prominently, 'who else?'), as well as one of my happy reunion with my female minder at home again in Llama Lodge. Bliss!

Adiós to you too.

Argyll!"

(Oh, did I mention that Air NZ threw in a new iHum mobile as part of the video deal.)



By: Graeme Butterfield

In Memory of Matenga Amadeus
7/3/2002 – 27/8/2015



Social event

Sunday Jan 24th.

Hello Everyone

Best wishes of the season to all and their llamas, please take care on the roads and don't eat too much Oh, go ahead then.

To help walk off a few Xmas grams and give those llamas a day out, I have scheduled a walk on Nape Nape beach for Sunday Jan 24th. Plan will be to either meet at my place or at the beach, unload the llamas and walk 2.5 ks along the beach to a nice grassy picnic area. The walk back to the vehicles after lunch can either be on the beach or via a little road at the top of the beach which is a bit easier walking and will give the llamas a chance to nibble as they go.

For those who don't know Nape Nape, it is a very nice beach which attracts few people as it is a bit out of the way. It is just 6 k's from my farm on Blythe Road. There are very very long stretches of beautiful beach and a couple of spots which are ideal for a picnic.

I'll bring saddles with a couple of my boys so don't worry if you don't have a saddle, your lunch will fit in mine. I'll also arrange a long tether so we can tie off the llamas while we have lunch.



So bring some water or tea, sandwiches etc, appropriate clothing for the weather, dogs are welcome on the beach.

Plan is to be at the parking area at the beach by 10.30.

Look forward to catching up, let me know if you want to borrow a llama

Contact me on 03 3198522

Cheers Keith

Canerbury show RESULTS 2015

Walking Fleece

Class 8858 Suri Fleece under 24 months.

owner	name of llama	Place
Robyn Robynson	L L Trump	1st
Hunter Middleton	Avalon Solstice	2 nd
Robyn Robynson	L L Million Dollar Baby	3rd
Jacky Middleton	Avalon Knightingale	4th

Class 8859 Suri Fleece 24 months and over

Jacky Middleton	Avalon Nebraska	1st
Robynson Robyn	Star Spangled Banner	2nd

Class 8861 Single Coat 24 months and over

Crane Sara	Fernhill Muse 20120013	1st
Crane Sara	Fernhill Echo 20120014	2nd
Crane Sara	L Lookout Mystery	3rd
Crane Sara	Fernhill Lyric 20120011	4th
Crane Sara	Fernhill Noodle	5th

Class 8862 Double coat under 24 months

Keith Payne	Winnifred	1 st
Keith Payne	Dolores	2nd
Robynson Robyn	LL King Arther	3rd
Sara Crane	Fernhill Lily	4th

Class 8863 Double Coat 24 months and over

Keith Payne	Manual De Patagonia	1st
Keith Payne	Chico De Patagonia	2nd
Jacky Middleton	Llama Lookout Countessa	3rd
Greg Leng	Llama Thyme Quin	4th

Champion Walking Fleece. Keith Payne Manual De Patagonia
Reserve Champion Walking Fleece. Robyn Robynson L L Trump

Best of Breed (Conformation) Section

Class 8796 Junior Suri Female 6 months to 15 months

Robynson Robyn	LL Alice Marine	1st
Middleton Jacky	Avalon Knightingale	2nd
Robynson Robyn	LL Julia	3rd
Middleton Jacky	Avalon Solstice	4th

Class 8797 Intermediate Suri Female 15 mth to 3yr

Robynson Robyn	LL Morning Glory	1st
Robynson Robyn	LL Million Dollar Baby	2nd
Robynson Robyn	LL Martha	3rd

Class 8798 Senior Suri Female 3 years and over

Robyn Robynson	L L Karousel	1st
Robyn Robynson	L L Karmma	2nd
Sara Crane	Fernhill Muse	3rd
Jacky Middleton	Avalon Nebraska	4th

Champion Suri Female - 14 Robyn Robynson L L Karousel
 Reserve Champion Suri Female. - Robynson Robyn LL Alice Marine

Class 8802 Junior Suri Male 6 mths to 15 mhs

Robinson Robyn LL Trump 1st

Class 8804 Senior Suri Male 3 years and over

Robyn Robinson Star Spangled Banner 1st

Class 8803 Intermediate Suri Male 15 mhs to 3 years

Robyn Robinson L L Born Free 1st

Champion Suri Male. Robyn Robinson Star Spangled Banner
Reserve Champion Suri Male Robyn Robinson LL Trump

Supreme Champion Suri - Robyn Robinson L L Karousel

Class 8809 Junior Female single/double coat Llama 6 mths to 15 mths.

Keith Payne Doleris 1st

Keith Payne Winnifred 2nd

Class 8810 Intermediate Female single/double coat Llama 15 months to 3 years.

Keith Payne Sophia De Patagonia 1st

Class 8811 Senior Female single/double coat Llama 3 years and over.

Anne Thompson Watford Grange Georgia 1st

Anne Thompson Watford Grange Johanna 2nd

Robyn Robinson Llama Lookout Black Beauty 3rd

Jacky Middleton Llama Lookout Countessa 4th

Champion Female single/double coat Llama - Keith Payne Sophia De Patagonia

Reserve Champion Female single/double coat Llama - Anne Thompson Watford Grange Georgia

Class 8824 Junior Male single/double coat Llama 6 mths to 15 Mths

Payne Keith Monro De Patagonia 1st

Robyn Robinson L Lookout King Arthur 2nd

Class 8827 Intermediate Male single/double coat Llama 15 mths to 3 yrs.

Keith Payne Manual De Patagonia 1st

Stuart Yuill Proctor Kirsonara Theo 2nd

Anne Thompson Watford Grange Memphis 3rd

Anne Thompson Watford Grange Parker 4th

Class 8828 Senior Male single/double coat Llama 3 years and Over

Payne Keith Chico De Patagonia 1st

Sara Crane L Lookout Mystery 2nd

Greg Leng Watford Grange Whiteheat 3rd

A Thompson W - Grange Moccachino 4th

Champion Male single/double coat Llama. Payne Keith Chico De Patagonia

Reserve Champion Male single/double coat Llama Sara Crane L Lookout Mystery

Class 8834 Intermediate Gelded Llama 3 yrs to 7 yrs | **Class 8835** Senior Gelded Llama over 7 years

A Thompson	W - Grange The Kontendor	1st	Cole, Kevin/Lynn	Kainga Pete	1st
			Stuart Yuill Proctor	Alpha Fields Greystone	2nd

Champion Gelded Llama Cole, Kevin/Lynn **Kainga Pete**
Reserve Champion Gelded Llama. A Thompson **W - Grange The Kontendor**
Supreme Champ Gelded Llama - NZ Llama Association Trophy Cole, Kevin/Lynn **Kainga Pete**

Class 8842 Dam Progeny.

Payne Keith	Manuella De Magellan	1st
A Thompson	America's Next Top Model	2nd
Robinson Robyn	Llama Lookout Suri Supreme	3rd

Champion Dam Progeny. Payne Keith - Manuella De Magellan

Class 8846 Sire Progeny.

Keith Payne	Amego De Patagonia	1st
A Thompson	LBL Magic Act	2nd
Robyn Robinson	Star Spangled Banner	3rd
A Thompson	America's New Millennium	4th

Champion Sire Progeny. - Keith Payne - Amego De Patagonia,

Supreme Champion Conformation Llama in Show.
Keith Payne - Chico De Patagonia

Craft Section

This section will be judged on Wednesday 11 November 2015 after conformation classes.

Class 8850 Junior Craft, under 16 years.

Amber Yuill Proctor	1st
Hunter Middleton	2nd

Class 8851 Adult Craft, over 16 years.

Jacky Middleton	1st
Robyn Robinson	2nd
Jude Catlin Soap	3rd
Jacky Middleton	4th

Champion Craft Section. Jacky Middleton

Performance Classes

Class 8866 Public Relations Llama Novice

Amber Yuill Proctor	Kirsonara Theo	1st
Keith Payne	Monro De Patagonia	2nd
Keith Payne	Dolores	3rd
Greg Leng	Watford Grange Whiteheat	4th
Anne Thompson	Watford G The Kontendor	5th
Keith Payne	Winnifred	6th
Greg Leng	Watford Grange Max	7th
Jacky Middleton	L Lookout Countessa	8th

Class 8867 Public Relations Llama Open

Amber Yuill Proctor	Kirsonara Eric	1st
Cole, Kevin/ Lynn	Llama Lookout Pips Hero	2nd
Stuart Yuill Proctor	Alpha Fields Greystone	3 rd
Cole, Kevin/ Lynn	Kainga Pete	4th
Keith Payne	Sophia De Patagonia	5th
Robyn Robinson	L L Black Beauty	6th
Robyn Robinson	Star Spangled Banner	7 th
Payne, Keith	Chico De Patagonia	8th
Keith Payne	Manual De Patagonia	9th

Champion Public Relations Llama – **Amber Yuill Proctor Kirsonara Eric**
Reserve Champion Public Relations Llama – **Amber Yuill Proctor Kirsonara Theo**

Obstacles

Class 8870 Novice Obstacles

Keith Payne	Winnifred	1st
Stuart Yuill Proctor	Kirsonara Theo	2nd
Keith Payne	Monro De Patagonia	3rd
Jacky Middleton	L Lookout Countessa	4th
Keith Payne	Dolores	5th
Sara Crane	Llama Lookout Mystey	6th

Class 8871 Open Obstacles

Amber Yuill Proctor	Kirsonara Eric	1st
Cole, Kevin/Lynn	Llama Lookout Pips Hero	2nd
Payne Keith	Sophia De Patagonia	3rd
Stuart Yuill Proctor	Alpha Fields Greystone	4th
Payne Keith	Chico De Patagonia	5th
Payne Keith	Manuel De Patagonia	6th
Cole, Kevin/Lynn	Kainga Pete	7th

Champion Obstacle Llama. - **Amber Yuill Proctor Kirsonara Eric**
Reserve Champion Obstacle Llama. - **Cole, Kevin/Lynn Llama Lookout Pips Hero**

Packing Classes

Class 8874 Novice Packing. Llama has never competed before at an A&P Show.

Amber Yuill Proctor	Kirsonara Theo	1 st
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Class 8876 Open Packing. Llama has competed at an A&P Show previously.

139	Cole, Kevin/Lynn	Llama Lookout Pips Hero	1st
140	Payne Keith	Manuel De Patagonia	2nd
144	Stuart Yuill proctor	Kirsonara Eric	3 rd
138	Cole, Kevin/Lynn	Kainga Pete	4th
141	Payne Keith	Chico De Patagonia	5 th

Champion Packing Llama. - **Cole, Kevin/Lynn Llama Lookout Pips Hero**
Reserve Champion Packing Llama. - **Payne Keith Manuel De Patagonia**

Supreme Champion Performance Llama.

Amber Yuill Proctor

Kirsonara Theo

Best Overall All Round Llama

»»Best Overall All Round Llama. Winner to be awarded the **Kaikoura Trophy**. Points are allocated from conformation and PR/ Obstacles/Packing Fleece

Amber Yuill Proctor

Kirsonara Theo

Class 8882 Junior Handler under 16 years

Amber Yuill Proctor
Hunter Middleton

Kirsonara Theo
Llama Lookout Countessa

1st
2nd



In December, Keith held a llama carting day.

We learnt how to put on the harness

How to start ground work

When to introduce the travois (poles dragged behind) and how to make one.

We played with two of Keith's llamas that were at different stages of their training.

We look forward tot he next session.

Thank you Keith

Learning the Art Of Carting Llamas



2016 committee

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Judy Webby