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Lama glama gazette

UPDATES FROM THE NEW ZEALAND LLAMA ASSOCIATION (NZLA)
KEEPING YOU INFORMED OF YOUR COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Your 2018-19 Committee will be working hard this year to keep you up-to-date with where we are at, and what we are doing to help ensure we are achieving the [NZLA Objectives](#).

Committee Updates

Firstly, appologies in the delay in getting this next issue out. We took a months break from meetings as several committee members had a few thing on. But we are back on the case and will hopefully keep these newsletters a regular occurance.

The committee is still working hard to help promote the llama in New Zealand, and is one of the primary goals for this committee. You will find a few updates in this news letter about the llama show in March next year, as well as some information about microchipping and DNA testing that we have been working on in the background.

We continue to work on our main online presence of the NZLA [Facebook Page](#),



the [Facebook Group](#), as well as our [Website](#). These social media accounts are important for the association as a whole to get the word out into the public arena as to why owning llamas is such a good idea. We would appreciate if you could share or invite your friends and connections to the pages so we can continue to grow our following; And don't forget to add photos with the hastag #llamasofnz or #llamasofnewzealand.

The warmer weather is here, and babies are starting to greet the world. Don't forget to register your births with us [via the website here](#) (note the website had a techincal glitch and was down for a couple weeks, but is now up and running).

NZLA Committee 2018-19



PROMOTING THE NZ LLAMA

One of the clear messages that came out of the NZLA AGM this year, was that we were all on the same page to try and work hard to refocus our efforts ensuring we are promoting the NZ Llama. As such, we are looking for opportunity to work with joint events all around NZ to introduce the public to llamas, as well as their kind and loving natures we all love. Hopefully, we will be able to answer the question this year of 'why should I own a llama?' If you have any suggestions for events (i.e. picnic, school fair, community day), please email info@llamas.org.nz to let us know of any opportunities you think we could get involved and add in the spice of a few llamas on the day.



Llamas out in the Community



Photographs by: Adrian Wilkins

Off to summer camp, no prob-llama!

A friend who works with special needs teens at a local high school contacted me about taking some llamas to the school camp. They were at Pataua North, about an hour by road from my place.

As it is only 25 mins to Pataua South by road I decided to drive to the opposite end of the very long pedestrian bridge across the Pataua estuary.

Zinc Tiki and Lawson hopped into the van without hesitation (for the first time in about 4 years!) and off we went. They followed across the bridge without hesitation and coped with the numerous (well behaved and mostly under control) dogs on our walk to the camp.



The students were fascinated and in particular one severely autistic young man -who reported rarely speaks- was captivated with the llamas and they were equally interested in him – He said more and smiled more in our 40 min visit that

he had in the last week apparently! It was a very rewarding outing and me boys did me proud. 😊 The photo is of Lawson, Tiki and Zinc with Steve, Karen and me, on the bridge.

- Penny King – [Karma Llamas](#)

THE BIG QUESTION: Why own a llama?



If you have a telling tale as to why you love owning llamas, please send us through a short story and a photo so that we can share it on our social media to answer this common question we all face.

Help us in promoting the NZ llama, as well as the NZLA.

Send through your ideas to:
president@llamas.org.nz

Calling all Llama Shearers



Shearing llamas is an important part of their regular husbandry.

It is recommended that they be shorn, at least in part, once per year. Some breeders alternate a full body clip and a 'barrel' or 'chaps' clip every other year.

[The Code of Animal Welfare for Llamas and Alpacas](#) states: *Camelids should be shorn as frequently as necessary to mitigate animal health and welfare concerns; Usually this would be once a year.*

This will be important going into the summer months where a dense coat will increase the risk of heat stress.

As such, members regularly ask who is available to do llama shearing in their area. If you have someone that you can recommend, please get in touch so we can include their contact information in the next newsletter: info@llamas.org.nz

DNA Parent Verification & Microchipping

The NZLA maintain a voluntary database of llama and guanaco within NZ. Being a voluntary database though, we rely on the members registering their animals to complete all of the information about the one being registered including date of birth, colour, fibre type, and also the dam and sire details.

While the association tries to perform due diligence to ensure that the correct information is submitted (including accurate parentage), there are a lot of short names used that can make matching in the database quite a bit of work.

We can all appreciate the need for good records when there are so few llamas in the country, and trying to make good breeding decisions for the long run. As such, the NZLA committee has been investigating the use of DNA Parentage Verification and microchipping of animals as a way of the future for the association, it's members, and the livestock within NZ.

We have developed an agreement with Massey University's DNA laboratory to be

able to perform parentage verification using tail hairs! Tail hair plucked provide a nice thick follicle full of DNA. This means no need for expensive vet visits or special equipment to get a blood sample, and is something that anyone who owns llamas should be able to submit on their own.



They also perform a full DNA extraction from the hair samples submitted that are then stored forever with Massey should there be the possibility in the future to perform further research with the national llama herds DNA. There has been some interest expressed from the Smithsonian Institute for possible research given the unique genetic pool in NZ given the lack of overseas imports over the years.

As animals are sold, and there isn't a formal animal tagging system by the association, we have also been investigating the use of microchipping for the NZLA. Microchipping has been approved for use in llamas that can be purchased through the NZLA and implanted on your own, or with the assistance of someone else (i.e. a vet, or other experienced planter).

There will be an instructional video generated that will become available to members who wish to identify their animals in this manner. The microchip is to be implanted at the base of the left ear. This fits with the international export standards as well should there be the possibility or interest of exports in the future. These can also now be purchased through the NZLA. **It is strongly recommended for lifetime accuracy that animals submitted for DNA should be microchipped at the same time.**

****If you would like to request microchips, or DNA submission forms, please contact Corey at president@llamas.org.nz.**

DNA Parent Verification Costs

- \$70 DNA Extraction and Processing Fee
- \$10 Management & Database Registration Fee
- \$15 Parentage Verification Certificates

Each animal processed cost \$70, this is a once off payment. Should other sires get added to the database, it is free to screen the previously submitted samples for parent verification to these new sires. If a sire is unknown, we can run a search against the database to search for a possible sire match as well.

Microchipping Costs

- \$20 Single use microchip implant & postage
- \$10 Management & Database Registration Fee
- *\$200 Replacement Microchip Scanner

*It is important to ensure that the microchip has been implanted and scans successfully. As such, the NZLA have purchased a couple microchip scanners to lend out. *Failure to return the scanner will result in a \$200 fee to purchase a replacement scanner for the association.*

EQUINE PARENTAGE & ANIMAL GENETIC SERVICES CENTRE

DNA Parentage Verification Report

Tested Pedigree HILLVIEW GOLDEN HOLIDAY, 20180066, DNA No. 2000494, EID: 93400000170003
 Dam Name CARAMELLO, 20100071, DNA No. 2000495, Alternate ID: 0
 Sire Name PALMDALE MOJO, 20070056, DNA No. 2000498, Alternate ID: 0

Locus	Tested Pedigree	Dam	Sire	Both Quality	Dam Qualifies	Sire Qualifies
LCA5	190/184	194/202	190/202	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA19	92/92	86/92	86/92	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA24	118/120	116/120	118/120	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA66	220/229	224/229	220/229	Yes	Yes	Yes
YWLL36	148/152	148/150	152/152	Yes	Yes	Yes
YWLL40	186/186	186/186	186/186	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA99	280/286	280/288	278/286	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA94	193/195	193/195	193/201	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA8	243/255	241/243	245/255	Yes	Yes	Yes
LGU49	231/239	229/239	231/239	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA22	123/127	123/127	127/127	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA55	173/175	171/175	171/175	Yes	Yes	Yes
YWLL44	96/104	104/112	96/98	Yes	Yes	Yes
YWLL29	226/226	218/226	224/226	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA56	137/141	137/139	139/141	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCA37	140/150	140/148	136/150	Yes	Yes	Yes
YWLL08			Not Tested	Yes	Yes	Yes

Animal: HILLVIEW GOLDEN HOLIDAY, 20180066, DNA No. 2000494
 DOES Qualify as the mating of
 Dam Name CARAMELLO, 20100071, DNA No. 2000495
 Sire Name PALMDALE MOJO, 20070056, DNA No. 2000498



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