



LLAMA GLAMA GAZETTE

Issue 1 / Volume 2 / Year 2019



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2014 Canterbury A&P Show

2019 NZLA AGM - CHEVIOT

This year the NZLA is going to hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the South Island! Keith Payne and Big Ears Llama Ranch have offered to host.

Keith has recently renovated an old wool shed on his property that serves a great location for some interactive discussions and plenty of space around the barn for some demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Free for Members, \$10 for Non-Members

Saturday 4th May 2019
781 Blythe Valley Road, Cheviot

A draft of the topics that we will go through on the day, as well as the formal AGM requirements, has been circulated in full, but include: Basic husbandry, introduction to packing, health and welfare, history of llamas and genetics, productivity and breeding. We would love to see as many of you there as possible. Contact Judy for more information, or to register and RSVP: secretary@llamas.org.nz.

AMURI A&P LLAMA SHOW

In 2018, due to a range of reasons, and issues with *Mycoplasma bovis* putting extra stress on the A&P organizations, no llama shows were held. But have no fear, there is one organized for the **2nd March 2019 in Rotherham.**

This show is different to previous llama shows where it will be all contained within one day, and not spread across 3 in order to make it more feasible for travel and also the welfare of the animals.

Important to note that the ENTRIES CLOSE on the **10th February** and need to be sent directly through to Amuri A&P for entrance and payment. There are several classes for fleece, conformation and obstacles, so will be a great day all around no matter what your level. This will be a great opportunity as well to get some advice on your breeding stock should you be interested. There will be ribbons for each class, as well as 4 trophies up for grabs on the day.

If you need a copy of the entrance form, or additional information on the day, please email Jacky Middleton the Convenor at: ronandjacky@kinect.co.nz





This photo is of Hermosa, a 12-month-old llama who got spat at in the yard during training. She is stressed and demonstrates when to stop the training for the day.

CRIA HALTER TRAINING – PART 1

Every llama trainer will have a different method of training, this is one that works for me, it is a combination of what I have learnt from dog training, clicker training and natural horsemanship.

Initially I was advised that baby llamas should be left until they were at least 12 months old before starting training. This might work for someone taller and stronger than me, but I found the yearlings too feisty. I also observed how the babies learnt from other members of the herd, who was boss, who was fun to play with etc. So, it seemed to me that they could certainly learn to interact with humans from an early age also.

Keep in mind that llamas instinctively protect their head and legs, so handling must be done in little steps to avoid panic. Do not train if you are upset or angry, your energy must be calm, and they will take that lead. I find it useful to check my shoulders, if they are up, I know I am showing bad body language to the llama, shake them up and down, roll your neck around a few times to release your own tension before starting.

My main criteria is that lessons should be short usually only a few minutes to start with, and always end on a good note. I prefer the student to volunteer to come into the pen rather than chasing it in for a lesson.

Mum should be close by to offer reassurance, although watch out for over protective behaviour, I find it best to have Mum in an adjacent pen. Your objective should be to create a partnership with the llama, it is not a master/servant situation.

The age you start training will largely depend on the mother, if they are very protective, you might want to leave it a while. I try and handle the baby the day it is born to check navel and teeth, then leave it to grow and learn the herd dynamics, although they do see me daily so know I am not a threat to them. 3 months old seems a good time to start, but preferably by 6 months. Daily lessons are great if you have the time, but weekly or fortnightly is fine.

I start with holding the cria against my body until it relaxed and carries its weight on all 4 feet, this can sometimes take a while. As it leans away from you, bring it back then take your hand away when they are back in balance. The next lesson is to allow its face and ears to be gently handled, this prepares it for the halter. I find that if the baby rests its head on my shoulder it is more comfortable with having its head rubbed. Always handle the mouth area from under the chin to avoid restricting breathing.

Once the cria is happy with standing beside me with its shoulder against my hip (my leg is in front of the cria's shoulder) and my arm around its neck, I introduce the halter. For the 1st time it is better to use a larger size so there is no chance of the noseband catching on the nose. With my thumbs ready to brace against the cheek and hold the face straight I slowly pivot the halter onto the nose, do not attempt to buckle it at this stage. The halter goes on and off a few times, and when the baby stays calm the lesson ends.

The best training halter is one with a clip rather than a buckle as they are faster and less fiddly to close.

Each lesson begins the same way and progresses forward. So the next lesson will be standing balanced against me, have a head, mouth and ear rub, halter on, halter off, halter on, then this time put the strap over the head and maybe buckle. If they are comfortable with that, let them walk around a little with it on, give a treat or 2, then halter off.

You will know when you can just go straight to halter on without the preliminary head handling.

Come back for Part 2 in the next issue!!!

If you have any questions about equipment or training, call, email or txt me: Judy Webby. Champenoise Llamas. 027 271 7192 or judy@askjudy.co.nz

REMINDERS FROM PAST ISSUES

DNA and Parent Verification

The NZLA has set up an account with Massey University's Genetics lab by using hair tail follicles to extract the DNA of llamas in New Zealand and provide parent verifications.

Get in touch with Corey at president@llamas.org.nz to get your submission form.

\$70 for DNA extract and processing
\$10 Database recording & handling
\$15 NZLA Parentage Verification Certificate

Microchipping

Looking to secure your investment with your llamas, don't forget to get them microchipped! The NZLA can now supply you with microchips and instructions for implantation at the base of the left ear for your entire herd. This will become a lifetime identification for your asset.

Get in touch with Corey at president@llamas.org.nz to get your submission for and supplies.

\$20 Microchip and supplies
\$10 Database entry and processing
**\$200 Replacement Scanner if lost

Join and Follow us on Facebook

[NZLA Facebook Page](#) – Information and updates

[NZLA Facebook Group](#) – Interactive sharing and advertisements

Share the love of NZ Llamas with the world!

Make sure if you are posting any photos out on social media, use the hashtags: [#llamasofnewzealand](#) or [#llamasofNZ](#)

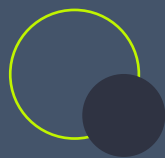


New Zealand Llama Association Inc.

www.llamas.org.nz



[Above Image from Massey Parentage & Genetics Services](#)



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