



Llama Glama Gazette – Summer 2020

Objectives of the New Zealand Llama Association:

1. To educate owners and interested members of the public in the needs, care and welfare of llamas.
2. To promote llamas and their uses as working and companion animals, and pets.
3. To facilitate and encourage fun activities with llamas.
4. To liaise with government and other authorities on behalf of members on matters pertaining to llama ownership, care and use.
5. To provide a communication forum for the sharing of news, ideas and knowledge relevant to llama ownership, care and use.
6. To negotiate, set up and operate agencies, or other arrangements with other Camelid organisations where applicable to achieve the objectives of the association.
7. To encourage compliance with a code of conduct for llama ownership
8. To provide a registry for the collection of information of all New Zealand llamas and for the registration of llamas.



News from the NZLA

Committee

Welcome to the magazine of the New Zealand Llama Association. Along with our Facebook Groups and website we aim to keep you well informed regarding llamas. We are enthusiastic about promoting these wonderful animals and hope you will want to share news from any of the resources we provide.

Firstly, a very warm welcome to our new members:

- Lynette Gopperth -- Brixton
- Leanne Hitomi -- Whanganui
- Alfred Harris and Chaz Doherty -- Murupara
- Lauren Nicholson -- Tuakau
- Sharon and Dave Neil -- Whangarei

General Business

AGM and Looking Ahead

As with families and groups around the world, the committee has had to juggle its plans because of COVID. While we originally hoped to have an in-person AGM in Northland, that was not to be. **Our AGM will be an online event on Saturday, May 8 at 2pm.** If you are not familiar with using ZOOM, let us know and we will have a trial session before the day.

More details will be sent separately via email and we hope you can join us.

We are very excited to announce that Marty McGee Bennett, founder of Camelid Dynamics and author of the Camelid Companion, will be joining us at the AGM.

Marty will either answer your questions about camelid handling or participate in a recorded video assessment of your llamas. **If you have a particular issue that you would like Marty to help with, please email it in advance to: info@llamas.org.nz**

Even better, if you would like to make a video of handling your llama for a free assessment

and advice, please let us know through the same email.

If you are not familiar with Marty's work you can learn more here <https://www.camelidynamics.com/>

As this issue goes to press, the end of the financial year is approaching and it is time to look forward to what direction the Association should be taking next year.

We have gained 13 new members this year and it would be useful to hear what they would like from the NZLA. In the past the members have had a strong focus on breeding and show, but recently the interest has been more in llamas as pets.

It would be wonderful to see some new members on the committee so we can hear different viewpoints. Duties are not onerous, we meet every two months by Zoom, so please consider putting your name forward.

Our First Virtual Show

We trialled a successful virtual show in November. Despite some hiccups, the online technology worked well. However, the time of year did not turn out to be ideal for participants. See the article in this issue for details and please let us know if you would support having more online shows and what time of the year you would prefer.

Llamas on TV

Llamas were in the news when TVNZ Breakfast ran a story about NZLA member Stephen Mullholland taking his animals out to stretch their legs on regular walks through town.

In the midst of the pandemic, Stephen's llamas helped to brighten the days of people in Tawa.

"For people walking down the street, their face lights up because it's this unexpected thing and [the llamas] are very charismatic

and engaging," he told TVNZ1's Breakfast today.

Stephen said it does help to get the animals used to being around people. "But really, it's fun for me and it's fun for everyone else," he said.

See Stephen and his animals at <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/llama-owners-welly-walkabouts-bring-smiles-faces-despite-stink-year>

Llama Driving – A Guide to Training, by Lynn Barrett

First off, I am a novice at this but thought I'd share my experience with fellow llama lovers. I first got interested in driving llamas 15 years ago when I was in the UK. I had a lesson from Terry Crowfoot, she was also just starting out at the time. I bought a harness from the States, did a bit of long reining with one of my boys and got as far as towing an old tyre behind the llama. Then I sold up everything and moved to NZ. Now I am giving it another go.

This time my student is a three-year-old female llama called Holly. She's a very laid-back girl and learns quickly. Verbal praise and clicker training has been my method for a girl that is very keen on treats! She is already pack trained so putting the harness on was not a problem; she didn't even complain about having the crupper under her tail which surprised me.... Most animals hate it at first.

First lesson I just lead her around with the harness on. Second lesson I put the reins on, at this point just with her normal halter that has rings each side of the nose band. A driving halter fits more snugly and I didn't want to overload her with new things.

Llamas usually walk behind their human, so asking her to go in front of me was tricky... I didn't have a helper at this point. I managed to get her to take a few

steps... Click and reward. But then she would just keep turning around looking for treats.... This wasn't going to work.



Holly walking through the travois; not a bit afraid. (Giselle always has to be in on the action too!)

Third lesson... I had a helper. Pete walked ahead with her on the lead, I gave the commands and the click, he gave her the treat = Progress.

We have a small obstacle course set up, so the next few lessons we long reined through the course and as she knew the rules of this she stopped after every obstacle for a treat :-)

Pete made me a travois. To get her used to it, I walked alongside her and pulled the travois behind me. She couldn't see the point of this exercise and got bored very quickly. I repeated this exercise on several occasions.

Then we had a big long reining session (she is in the driving halter now). My yearling Giselle always wants to be in on the action, and during most of these lessons she was following alongside. Pete led Giselle in front and I long reined Holly (he also led Holly for the first 5 minutes). Then we were off... down the long driveway, through the gate, over the river and up the road for about a kilometre.

She overtook Giselle who was busy eating everything in sight. We didn't have any steering for most of the trip, but a long stick obtained on the way back to help guide her which way I wanted to go, seemed to do the

trick. We even did a trot a couple of times. This lesson was repeated a week later.

Next lesson was with the Travois, repeating the dragging it next to her for a while, then laying it over her back and leading her.... This felt a bit strange and she tensed up for a while but then relaxed and did a lap of the paddock. I repeated this lesson again about a week later, and then progressed to me being behind her with the long reins on.



Getting used to walking with travois on; dog being helpful?

I don't have the rest of the harness on with the travois on, as you need to be able to lift the travois off quickly if the llama should panic. I don't want it getting caught on the harness rigging.

This is as far as I have got, we will be doing a lot more of the above and ensuring she understands the commands whoa, walk on, turn etc before we progress to the cart.



Getting used to turning with the travois.

NZLA Virtual Llama Show a

Success by Judy Webby, Show Convenor

The inaugural NZLA Virtual Llama Show was judged on the weekend of 14th November 2020 by a panel consisting of Jim Krowka and Mark Smith from USA and Naomi Woodham from NZ. Scores were averaged to come up with the results. Scores were very tight at the top with only two points separating the top five entries. The winning champion pipped the by a very close score of 90.50 to 90.33.

- Champion Best Male was won by Amigo de Patagonia – entered by Keith Payne
- Reserve Best Female was won by Champenoise Hermosa – entered by Judy Webby
- Best Gelding was won by Big Ears Archie de Llanos – entered by Keith Payne

Twenty-four entries were received from five people. Three others had intended to enter, but the weather made it impossible to film their entries. Nine llama breeders were represented. The close of entry date for this show was chosen because it was the time of the Canterbury Show which has had a large llama section in the past, and to avoid birthing time. However, early in the New Year when the llamas are shorn and the weather more stable might be a better time.

The judges all found judging from a video an interesting and sometimes challenging experience. Nevertheless, they had very complimentary things to say about the quality of our llamas. Jim gave an extensive analysis of each llama which was very useful. Mark and Naomi also shared valuable comments on how they placed the llamas.

The entrants were very appreciative of the sponsorship by NZLA which enabled meaningful cash prizes to be awarded. Place money was a proportion of the entry fees.

Please see this YouTube link for a video composite of the winners.

https://youtu.be/dwEpvq6_rPI

The full list of entries and results for the 2020 virtual show can be found at this link:<https://tinyurl.com/2xvfhnx>

The NZLA committee is interested in your views on whether similar virtual shows should be held in the future. Some expenses for this show were for things that would be used again, making the process cheaper if we run another the same way.

I had not convened a show before and am incredibly grateful for the assistance and experience of Lynn Barrett and Keith Payne. And of course, many thanks to our judges, without whom the show would not have been possible.

The Llama Library List

Members are reminded that the NZLA has a number of useful books that can be loaned out. These include:

- 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 South 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

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Llama registry reminder

The register will always be a valuable asset that needs maintaining so we have a record of the lineage of llamas in NZ. Please keep us up to date with births, deaths and ownership transfers. Here is the link to the Registry page <https://llamas.org.nz/registry/>. If you have any questions about the register email registry@llamas.org.nz

Find us on Facebook

Members are encouraged to use the NZLA Facebook page. Tell us what's happening with the llamas in your life, post interesting articles you've seen elsewhere or ask questions of the NZ llama community.