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- Grass seed dental issues
- A sound foundation

Issue 7 - March 2019
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Welcome to Camelid Connections

Camelid breeders and farmers in general have not had a happy time over the last few months, with drought, fires and floods, but we hope the coming change of season brings relief to those who need it.

In this Autumn issue we are bringing you a range of interesting and diverse articles and trying to keep in mind what our readers told us via our recent survey. There was a definite strong response for articles about husbandry, fleece and breeding.

So we hope in this issue articles by Allison Quagliani - alpaca dentist, about grass seeds in the mouth, Dr Judy Law's corneal ulcers and Dr Malcolm Heath's discussion on internal parasites, helps you learn more about these husbandry problems.

We try to present articles in each issue that correspond to the seasons here in Australia/NZ, what is happening on farm for many of you, such as offering articles related to shearing in our Spring issue. So now the weather is starting to cool off thoughts start to turn to activities that use that fleece in creative ways, and the knitters among you may enjoy the knitting pattern in this issue from Australian Alpaca Yarn. For all camelid owners an interesting read is an article on the only llama known to be treated for Osteomyelitis.

Putting together a diverse, informative and interesting magazine like Camelid Connections is both enjoyable and time consuming. Looking for articles, contacting potential contributors and advertisers is all made worthwhile when we receive great feedback from our readers. So a big thanks to all of you who took the time to participate in our online survey and to those who continue to promote Camelid Connections and subscribe to our email list!

If you have an idea for an article topic you would like to read then let us know, or better still if you have an article on a topic you think will interest our readers then please submit it for consideration. We should mention that we do not accept purely advertorial articles or pay for articles, nor do we require you to advertise with us to have your article published in Camelid Connections. We also appreciate it if you can support our advertisers, or decide to advertise your stud/products as it’s the advertisers who make it possible for us to keep Camelid Connections FREE for everyone who wants to read it.

Enjoy your read.

Meet The Team

Esme Graham - Editor

My husband and I have been breeding suri alpacas for the past 20 years, I have been heavily involved with both regional committees and the national board of the Australian Alpaca Association for a number of years.

My major interest has been in marketing and education and to this end I was editor of Alpacas Australia magazine for over six years.

I hope that the experience I have gained editing Alpacas Australia can be extended to educate and inform a wider range of alpaca and llama breeders who are not necessarily association members.

Julie McClern - Designer/Editor

A breeder of ultrafine Huacaya alpacas for over 18 years, I have a passion for fine fibre and the genetic connection to the most diminutive and finest of the camelids - the wild Vicuna.

I strongly believe that education in any industry is the key to success, so with Camelid Connections we hope to provide interesting and informative articles to assist all camelid owners in getting the most out of their animals and businesses.

I also own Oak Grove Graphics a web and graphic design agency which is producing this magazine, and also allows me to connect with many different people in the camelid related world through my design and web work.

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Australian Alpaca Association
Twenty-five years of working with alpacas has culminated in the production of a robust, 120-page, A5, Glove Box Guide to Alpacas.

The first half of the guide contains information on husbandry, cria care, nutrition, gastrointestinal parasites and reproduction. This section is targeted at farmers, veterinarians and students alike so that they can deliver best-practice husbandry to keep the alpacas in their care healthy.

The back half contains information on the sick alpaca. It is a ready-reference for veterinarians on clinical examination, sample collection, restraint/sedation/anaesthesia, fluid therapy, and tables of dose rates for antimicrobials, pain relief and much more. There are tables to assist with interpretation of clinical pathology, and guides to euthanasia and post-mortems.

There is a rough guide to alpaca husbandry on the inside back cover that all alpaca farmers should strive to undertake. The information has been gleaned from and written for alpacas living under Australian conditions. Much of the information can be extrapolated to llamas and camels.

The guide is constructed with plastic pages and spiral binding so it can be thrown into the glove box/under the seat of the car without disintegrating, and always be ready for that tricky alpaca call! It will repel all bodily fluids, including spit from those less-than-happy patients with long necks!

The front cover of the guide folds out to reveal the table of contents and list of abbreviations. Tabs on the margin of every odd page make finding a section easy too. There are record sheets in the guide for setting up on-farm biosecurity, infertility examinations of males and females, and post-mortems of adults and crias.

All record sheets are available in higher resolution on www.criagenesis.cc to download, print on A3 then laminate, so they are always ready for use. Fill out the form during the procedure. Take a photo for your records then clean off ready for next time.

They say that the first book you write is autobiographical, and it is true with the Glove Box Guide to Alpacas. It traces my life through mixed practice, working with more than 600 alpacas on Cocos Islands for a year, gaining Membership to the ANZCVS in Ruminant Nutrition, doing a PhD in control of ovarian function in alpacas, and developing and commercialising embryo transfer in alpacas.

This is the book I wish I had when I embarked on my alpaca career.

The guide is now available at www.criagenesis.cc. Follow the link to download the order form.
Corneal disease in grazing animals is a common problem. Corneal disease is defined as inflammation, trauma or disease involving the cornea of the eye.

The most common corneal disease encountered is corneal ulceration which describes deficits in the corneal epithelium from varying causes.

There are five layers of the cornea:

1. **Precorneal tear film** - this is produced by glands within the eye and provides a smooth optical surface necessary for visual acuity.

2. **Epithelium and its basement membrane** - this exceedingly thin multicellular tissue layer is formed of fast growing and easily regenerated cells kept moist from the tear film.

   It is composed of about six layers of cells which are shed constantly from the exposed layer and are regenerated by multiplication in the basement membrane.

3. **Stroma** - this is a thick, transparent middle layer. Up to 90% of the corneal thickness is composed of stroma. This consists of collagen fibres in the form of interlacing sheets. This regular spacing of the collagen sheets maintains the transparency of the cornea.

4. **Descemet’s membrane** - this forms the basement membrane for the final layer of the cornea. It is black in appearance which can be easily visualised as a black, “bulging” structure in the centre of a deep corneal ulcer which is about to rupture. So…..not a good structure to see when examining an eye with a corneal ulcer!

5. **Endothelium** - this is one cell layer thick. It lies underneath Descemet’s membrane and lines the anterior chamber of the eye.

The causes of corneal ulceration are many and include: corneal abrasion, trauma (e.g.fighting), foreign body (e.g. grass seed), and primary bacterial or fungal infection.
The characteristics of corneal ulcers are:

- Pain - this is a very painful condition as the epithelium is full of nerve endings. The animal will hold the eye closed and it is often weeping profusely +/- pus discharge.

- Often a deficit is obvious on visual examination but is defined by the use of a stain called Fluorescein which stains corneal deficits a bright green.

Treatment:

- Superficial ulcers or erosions may heal in three days by a sliding “leap frog” movement of epithelial cells moving to the deficits.

- Careful checking of the eyelids and under the third eyelid for any foreign bodies.

- Deeper or infected ulcers can require extended treatment - in severe cases up to six weeks - and heal by blood vessel invasion into, and granulation of, the deep ulcer. These blood vessels start from the edge of the cornea (sclera) and only slowly migrate across the cornea.

- In extreme deficits surgical grafting of the corneal lesion or enucleation/removal of the eye is required.

Drugs used:

- Atropine - this will cause the pupil of the eye to dilate. One reflex response to pain in the eye is spasming of the iris muscle resulting in severe constriction of the pupil. Atropine will paralyse the iris muscle for a time and reduce the level of pain.

- Broad spectrum antibiotics - many ulcers start as an abrasion but very quickly become colonised by bacteria. An infected ulcer will deteriorate rapidly - in some cases the infection can eat through the cornea and rupture the eye in less than 12 hours.

- Antifungal drops/cream. Secondary colonisation of the ulcer by fungus can occur especially with long term treatment with antibiotics.

- Systemic pain relief. This is a very painful condition and pain relief plus the use of atropine is required to both ease the pain and make it easier to treat the eye.
Summary

1. Corneal ulceration is a common issue with grazing animals.

2. Ulcers can result from trauma or primary bacterial or fungal infections.

3. Early diagnosis and aggressive treatment improves the outcome and can reduce the length of treatment.

4. Treatment can be required six times daily for up to six weeks.

5. Some ulcers are so severe that surgical grafting or enucleation of the eye is required.

Severe corneal infection resulting in “melting” of the cornea and exposure of Descemet’s membrane. This ulcer requires immediate surgery to save the eye.

Typically, corneal ulcers will require very frequent treatment, usually six times daily and reducing as the eye responds to treatment. Treatment six times daily is often required for up to two weeks before the frequency can be reduced.

As stated above, length of treatment is dependent on the severity of the ulcer and the response to treatment.

Regular examinations and reassessments of the corneal ulcer are required to monitor response.
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FOR QUALITY IN QUEENSLAND

FOR QUALITY IN QUEENSLAND
LARGE EAR TAGS

NOT ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

By Julie McClen - Oak Grove Alpacas

Apart from the Australian Alpaca Association small brass ear tags, many other tags used by alpaca owners are not made for alpacas, and can have lasting negative effects.

Case in point is this story about a seven year old female we purchased two years ago. She had been tagged with the small light weight AAA brass tag as seen in the photo above. But unfortunately for her, she had also been tagged with a large heavy button style tag by the original breeder.

We were her third home and being a small stud of up to fifty alpacas can easily recognise all our animals by sight, so we usually remove any large heavy ear tags that purchased alpacas arrive with.

This female due to the weight of this button style tag held the tagged ear slightly lower then the other ear, and the ear was also slightly bent where the tag was located, most likely because her small cria ear at the time of tagging couldn’t sustain the weight of the tag without bending!

On removal of the tag we were shocked to see the skin beneath the tag was very inflamed and red with old scar tissue, and with new scabbing around the edges as clearly seen in the photo above.

How long had this situation been in play hidden beneath the bulky ear tag making it impossible to see? This girl may have had a sore inflamed ear her whole life or at least intermittently throughout her life, considering the condition her ear was in on removal of the tag.

The weather had also been dry for some time leading up to her purchase so we don’t think it was an issue brought about by recent rain/moisture getting behind the tag.

The females ear healed, and she now just has a clean edged hole in her ear, the bend in the ear has improved somewhat but to this day the female still carries her tagged ear at half mast quite often. So when tagging your alpacas with ear tags designed for animals with larger ears, then you may want to consider what we found under such a tag, and the droop effect on the alpaca’s ear that continues.

Tag after removal
International judge Nick Harrington Smith of the The Alpaca Stud, takes us through the basics of alpaca conformation.
Another year in the alpaca business almost over, more shows than ever, and with more owners than ever taking part in those shows, suggests that showing is becoming an ever increasingly important part of breeder’s decision-making process. Whilst no doubt show results are a useful tool, I have been quizzed as to why the show ring seemingly ignores conformation. Such comments from a number of sources caused me to think about conformation in general. I don’t agree that the judges ignore conformation but it is possibly not reasoned as emphatically as fibre traits, perhaps because of the 60:40 weighting. I will defend the judging fraternity in this respect and remind all that with only a few minutes per alpaca available, there is simply not the opportunity for any judge to describe in detail, and in a matter of seconds, all of the individual alpacas traits, be they good or bad. Reasons or excuses aside, this issue alone re-enforces the argument that breeders should not use show results to make breeding decisions, but more importantly the need to be proactive in understanding why conformational points are individually so important. We see much written about individual fibre traits, but rarely about conformation so it is perhaps useful to refresh in our minds those basic traits that are most important. I was reminded recently that we all tend to forget the basics as we try to keep up with the latest news and developments in the alpaca world.

The definition of conformation as per the Oxford dictionary reads “The shape or structure of something, especially an animal, Collins also includes “the arrangement or parts of an object” so within our alpacas we can see the general shape immediately but we also need to appreciate how the parts or skeleton is configured to appreciate how deviation from the normal may impact on the well-being of the animal. After all, we need to ensure the most basic need, that is for the alpaca to be functional, or fit for purpose.

So, back to basics with a simple reminder of those basic conformational traits we need to be constantly aware of.

**PHENOTYPE:**

Whilst often used as a general description of the overall appearance or shape of the alpaca, this is a collective term of all external traits more often used to infer that the alpaca matches the picture in one’s head of a true alpaca type.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:**

This is an important judgement of first impressions, if that first impression is that there are Llama traits apparent it is not unusual to find fibre traits in the animal that are undesirable in alpacas.

There may be such things as Roman nose, banana ears, high tail set and most importantly significant numbers of very coarse primary fibres, most often these are true guard hairs (Medullated fibres).

**HEAD TYPE:**

A triangular head with good depth to the lower jaw line below the eyes and good breadth of muzzle are indicative of the true alpaca type. Ear shape is also important with a triangular ear shape being indicative of a true to type alpaca. It is worth noting that with both head and ear shape there is considerable scope for variations and still be considered acceptable.

**PROPORTIONS:**

Proportions or balance is easily seen by the vast majority of people, the challenge is often to work out where any imbalance is. With alpacas, we are looking for neck and leg lengths that are similar, with the neck length being two-thirds the length of the back. Perhaps one of the most common faults we see is that of an alpaca with a long back.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:**

Such imbalanced animals suffer from extra stresses and strains on a back line that is overly extended. In the case of a shortened back line, there is an obvious reduction in internal capacity, in turn affecting the ability to maintain body condition and or pregnancy.

**TOP LINE:**

Perhaps the easiest of the more common faults to spot is a weak backline, this can be either a humped back, less common, which can also be linked with sickle hock (see below), or a dipped or concave back, an impression that can be created by a dip in the fleece, or a dip in in the spine, so must be checked by running your hand along the top line to check for deviation. A dip in the back line is not uncommon in older females that have produced a number of cria. Bearing this in mind the severity of the condition should be gauged against each individual animal.

**WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:**

Any weakness in the back line can lead to undue wear and tear so should be considered as a significant fault although individual circumstances should be taken into consideration.
BODY CAPACITY:
This can be split into three separate areas.

- **Capacity through the chest.** A wide chested alpaca will have room for the lungs and heart to develop and work properly giving rise to potentially greater lung and heart capacity, and thus greater stamina.

- **Body Capacity.** With good depth and breadth within the rib cage and main body (often described as a good spring of rib) allows for greater stomach capacity and therefore greater intake and digestion of food and nutrients. Allowing for better maintenance of body condition. Also important in females allowing for more room for the pregnancy to develop.

- **Capacity through the hindquarters**, particularly important for reproduction. In the male this gives rise to better muscular development, and therefore the ability to better perform when breeding females.

LEGGS:
These should be straight when viewed from the front or back. It is not abnormal to see some minor deviation at the knee on the front legs when viewed from the front. With regard to the rear legs, again there can be some minor deviation although this is viewed as being more important than similar deviation in the front legs.

**Side View:**
The front legs should be straight. Deviation from this perspective is more usually seen at the knee, either forwards or backwards and should be considered as a more serious defect.

The rear legs should show some angulation at the hock with an internal angle of circa 140 degrees. If the leg is straighter from the hock down than this, it is called post legged. Often the first indicator of this is when the animal stands taller in the hindquarters than at the withers. If the angle is greater it is called sickle hocked and a good indicator of this is when the alpaca is hump backed or tucked under at the tail.

Sickle hocked is the more serious of these two hind limb defects although the more rarely seen.

**Pasterns** – Soft or dropped pasterns (weak fetlocks) are not that uncommon and can be caused by congenital weakness or physical injury. When either front or back legs are viewed from the side the first joint above the foot can be seen as touching the ground or the joint is showing some sponginess. Any weakness in this area should be considered a major defect.
Luxating Patella - This weakness cannot be definitively diagnosed visually, and requires palpation of the patella for confirmation. It should be remembered that the kneecap will move slightly and overzealous palpation can create the defect. The first indication of a problem is when watching the animal walk with some apparent “wobble” being evident in the gaskin (upper leg) region.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:
Correct leg set or angulation of the limbs allows for proper and fluid movement, but above all else if the joint angles are wrong it will create more pressure on the joint creating weakness and or excessive wear. This in turn creates pain and discomfort leading to lack of mobility and an inability to function. Ultimately, it is highly likely such conditions lead to a shortened life.

BITE:
Whilst hugely important, this is an area of conformation that causes most confusion. We should see in an ideal bite the teeth meeting the upper dental pad up to ¼ inch behind the front of that top pad. Given that in animals as in humans the angle that teeth erupt from the gum line varies, it is more important that the gum alignment be correct. The lower gum should be at least ¼ inch back from the front of the top dental pad but no more than ½ inch back. If the gum alignment is good it is more practicable to accept that, a bite whilst perfect on a youngster, may change as the teeth change. If in doubt, it is worth checking that the molars actually line up, if they don’t this is a serious fault.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT:
If the bite is bad, an animal will need more intervention to ensure that it is properly able to feed. This clearly creates a greater workload but if not properly managed will impact on the longevity of life and or ability to raise cria effectively.

Males with a bad bite should be viewed with great suspicion, more especially if being considered as potential herdsires.

The above is a very simplistic rundown on the various traits which will need to evaluate within your own herd. There are however, some conformational traits that should lead to disqualification from the show ring and or any breeding programme.

They are:
- Wry Face.
- Kinked Tail
- No Tail
- Polydactylysm - more than 2 toes on any foot
- Syndactylysm - Fused toes
- Fused Ears
- Gopher ears (Short Ears)
- Ectopic Testicles
- Incomplete, improperly formed or incorrectly proportioned genitalia
Having read the horror story above it is important that you equip yourself as best you can to make your own assessment of conformation. Look up any words you don’t understand, look at diagrams of an alpaca, learn to associate body parts with various movements within the skeletal frame, and learn to trust your instinct, but above all else please remember the following advice:

It is vital when making a visual assessment of conformation that one maintains a proper perspective.

Alpacas as in humans are rarely found in perfect form, so any faults are best described as “minor”, “moderate” or “major”. Once we recognise and properly identify those faults, we can begin working on correcting those faults by selective breeding.

If this all seems a little basic I apologise, but even in the writing of this piece it has reminded me that we all need to remember the basics, otherwise we cannot hope to build a sound foundation.

Reprinted with permission from Alpaca World Magazine UK
Poitiers is a very handsome appaloosa male llama, he first presented to vet Jayde Costello of Crookwell Veterinary Hospital when he was just 4 weeks old.

I had noticed that he was not wanting to put any weight on his front limbs and was trying to carry the majority of his weight in his back legs.

He was treated with anti-inflammatories and antibiotics and improved temporarily.

Over the next few months Poitiers was on and off anti-inflammatories and antibiotics for the lameness that would return, then temporarily improve with medication, but then come back again.

When he was 4 months old he developed a firm swelling in the middle of his left forelimb. Jayde took x-rays and noticed that there was a serious abnormality in the bone. The appearance of the bone is typically seen in either cases of severe bone infection, also known as osteomyelitis, or cancer in the bone. Being such a young animal, infection was far more likely.

In young animals it is not uncommon to see these severe bone infections, although they typically occur around the joints. This is known as ‘joint ill’ or ‘navel ill’, which occurs following an infection travelling up
the umbilicus shortly after birth, travelling via the blood stream and lodging in the joints. What made this case puzzling was that the infection was in the middle of the long bone, which is a very uncommon location for infection to occur.

The specialists at Sydney University, Camden were consulted and they were interested in Poitiers’ case. It turns out that this condition has only been described a couple of times before - once in the humerus of an alpaca and once in the pelvis of an alpaca, NEVER in a llama!

Poitiers was referred to Sydney University vets at Camden where more x-rays were taken and he was found to have another bone infection in the radius of the right forelimb too, this was only discovered on the operating table!

Professor Andrew Dart advised that Poitiers had mostly likely contracted an infection either in utero or very soon after birth, via the umbilical cord. This infection travelled to his respiratory or gastro-intestinal system where it was asymptomatic, from there it rapidly travelled to the bone where the infection grew.

The operation performed on Poitiers opened up the bone, and all the infected and necrotic material was removed. The risk here is that if any infected material was left behind the infection could recur, and, if there was not enough bone left to support him, the leg could fracture. Prof Dart advised that they would have to abrade the bone vigorously, and that I shouldn’t worry too much! If the bone broke during surgery, he would simply splint it, or put braces above and below the break and tie them together, depending on the severity of
the fracture. If that didn’t work, they would simply take the leg off, and he would adjust and rebalance, and live life as a three-legged llama, even that it was a front leg presented no issue he said. The stakes were raised when the second sequestrum was found in the right leg, a two-legged llama is not a good look!

Having to get my head around these possible outcomes was hard, but it was clear that the situation could not just be left. Prof Dart said that this condition has most likely been seen before in llamas but has been misdiagnosed and the usual outcome was the animals were euthanised. Poitiers is the first llama in the world to receive this surgery.

So, the big day arrived and I signed the forms and surgery was performed and Poitiers stayed at the hospital with his stable mate Cosi for 11 days while he made an amazing recovery. The wounds were packed in gauze soaked in the manuka honey, and Poitiers was sedated while these dressings were changed and then removed. He and Cosi endeared themselves to all the staff who were sad to see them leave when the time came.

Poitiers was seen back at Crookwell a month later for repeat x-rays of his forelimbs, which showed that both legs were healing very well! He is no longer lame and is back to running around normally like a llama cria should be! He has since left to join his new family and is expected to live a normal and happy life.
CAMEL MILK

Not just for drinking!

By Megan Williams - Camel Milk Co
Chris and I have always loved living on the land and working with animals. We first met in the Northern Territory where we lived and worked on Andado Station, one of Australia’s largest privately-owned station. Prior to that I had worked out at Uluru (Ayers Rock) as a bus driver tour guide and had a few close encounters with Camels. Chris had been working in Wales (UK) as a Truck driver.

After a few years of working in the NT we had decided to move back to Kyabram, Victoria. Where we joined my Parents share farming, on an 800-cow dairy farm. But Chris and I wanted more. We always talked about doing something new and different. We explored many Agricultural industry’s but none really caught our attention.

It was in 2014 that Chris and I watched a program about Camels milk and its health benefits. I don’t think I slept that night. We started researching all about camels.

Could we house them? What diet did they require? What milking equipment would we need? How much change would we have to do to our dairy? Who would process and bottle our milk? How do we get our milk refrigerated from A to B? Who would buy our milk?; and the list went on.

After months of research we jumped straight into milking camels. We had completed a camel handler’s course and purchased 3 camels from a lady in Border town SA.

It wasn’t long before we saw the arrival of another 14 camels followed by 25 camel’s and so on.

We purpose built a processing room to process and bottle our camel milk ready for sale. The things we have learnt about food handling laws and the strict testing that we needed to do, it was mind blowing. I remember getting our first laboratory results back I had no idea how to read them.

Now our business has moved to a 480-acre farm milking 60 camels and home to almost 300. We have built a new dairy (with room to grow) and were able to move all our processing equipment too.

Our fresh milk is sent to most major cities around Australia and other regional areas. As well as regular shipments to Singapore and Malaysia. Becoming export approved was again a whole new ball game.

In late 2016 we saw an opening and potential for a Natural Camel Milk Skincare range, and again, something Chris and I had no prior experience with.

To work out what products we would launch with attractive branding that suited all skin types was a challenge, but also very fun and exciting. We decided on your everyday skincare products such as; Body butter, Hand cream, lip balms, soaps and body wash.
So, what are the benefits of camel milk in skincare???

Camel milk naturally contains Lactic acid, which is one of the most popular alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs) in skin care today, mainly due to its hydrating ability. Lactic acid is marketed as a powerful ingredient that helps reduce acne breakouts and the appearance of wrinkles and other signs of aging.

Essential fatty acids, anti-oxidant rich and high in Vitamin C, our camel milk skin care is enriched with Macadamia oil, Shea butter, essential oils, and vitamin E. Giving you healthy radiant skin, while minimising the appearance of wrinkles and fine lines, and boosting collagen production improving skin elasticity.

Camel milk also contains natural anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. This makes it an excellent choice for people with sensitive or problem skin.

We were very conscious to make sure our products were gentle and safe. They are certified toxic free ingredients. Free from sodium lauryl sulphates, parabens, phosphates and petrochemicals and definitely not tested on animals.

Our skincare sells all over Australia including our online shopping cart and some parts of the world. However, we are always looking to grow.

We are currently running at 30% and as the market grows this enables us to expand.

What does the future hold?

We hope to be milking 200+ camels, launched our camel milk Chocolate, Shampoo and conditioners and continue to grow our fresh milk, skincare, feta and milk powder markets, reaching every pocket of the world.

While this may seem a bit ambitious, I can certainly say that 4 years ago I never thought that we would be where we are today.

www.camelmilkco.com.au
The Camelidynamics Method

The CAMELidynamics method of training & handling alpacas works with the natural instincts of the alpaca which means:

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Successfully breeding alpacas requires good judgement. Which animals to sell, and which to keep? Which stud male would be best for a given dam? What are the strengths and the weaknesses of my animals?

We certainly vary considerably by nature and training in our abilities to weigh out the factors involved in complex decision making. But almost everyone has a similar tendency to over-rate their own capacity; we think we’re rational beings making informed, unbiased judgements. But we aren’t, and we’re not.

Much like we’re not all above average drivers!

Where can our judgement go awry? Let me count (a few) of the ways...

BIAS
Psychologists, over decades of studies (often of their freely available Uni students), have run thousands of experiments on human judgement, and gone through barrels of ink writing up their results. And what they’ve found is that we are creatures filled with biases. Biases of social conformity, where we change our opinion to match that of the people around us. Positive biases where we 'like' something regardless of its true worth because of its looks, money, or history.

Confirmation biases push us towards conclusions that fit with our existing beliefs. And of course there are plenty of negative biases out there, from subconscious judgements about a person based on how they dress or talk, to more subtle ways we pre-judge the world without ever bothering to consciously review the facts of the matter.

LOGICAL ERRORS
Even if we somehow manage to gather an 'unbiased' set of facts, the amazing human intellect can find ways to twist those facts around to fit preconceived notions. This gets us into the realm of the multitude of logical errors and fallacies that philosophers have been exploring since the time of Socrates.

The limits of our senses: We all vary in our perceptive capacities. How acute is your vision? (Mine’s pretty lousy.) How sensitive is your tactile acuity? (Average. I think. How do you even test that?) Our perceptive capacity varies both by our biology and by the training we’ve received. Even an engineered machine of glass and steel has limits to its accuracy and precision (as discussed in the “Testing the Testers” article in the September 2017 edition of this magazine) and produces results with a certain level of error. Human inconsistencies are inevitable, too. In my own personal experience when I was in graduate school, the post-doc who was training me warned me about “the eyes of love.” With your own work it is easy to see what you want to see. In the lab, that might be convincing yourself that the little bump on the side of the histogram is evidence for the mystery compound you’ve been looking for. In the paddock this might be looking at an alpaca and convincing yourself of its stellar quality.
“That alpaca’s so much nicer looking than the rest of my herd. I’m glad I paid so much for her stud fee. She’s clearly awesome!” (said by probably everyone at some point...)

One very effective way to get around some of these errors, biases and oversights is to seek outside review of your conclusions. In the sciences this is known as the peer review process, where another expert in your field checks your work for unintentional bias and honest error.

In the alpaca business we seek the opinions of our fellow alpaca owners, and for many people they use the input of a trained judge to get feedback on their animals or fleeces.

But of course the judges are human too: they are also vulnerable to the same issues of bias, logical faults, and biological limitations as the rest of us.

A few years ago researchers in the USA decided to check for the effect of these biases among professional criminal judges. Their results were published in the Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences in 2011 (link at end of this article) titled “Extraneous factors in judicial decisions.” They examined the rulings of trained, experienced jurists (average 22.5 years) to see how time of day affected their decision making. The results were startling. The paper takes the approach of the legal realist movement, which “argue[s] that the rational application of legal reasons does not sufficiently explain judicial decisions and that psychological, political, and social factors influence rulings as well.”

Practically, the researchers were interested in how the act of judging people all day took a physical and mental toll on the judge, and thus affected their capacity for critical and even-handed judgement. “Prior research suggests that making repeated judgements or decisions depletes an individual’s executive function and mental resources which can, in turn, influence subsequent decisions. ... Sequential choices and the apparent mental depletion they evoke also increase people’s tendency to simplify decisions by accepting the status quo.”

In brief, the result of their study was that when the judges were fresh and rested they returned ~65% favourable rulings (in parole hearings), but this rate declined to near zero over a period of hours. Then, after a break, the favourable ruling rate jumped right back to ~65%! A fed, rested judge is a very different beast than a tired and hungry one.

Within the alpaca industry many people make decisions based on the rulings of our own alpaca judges. Who is the supreme champion animal this year? Which fleece won the most ribbons? What we don’t ask is, What are the “psychological, political, and social factors” influencing these decisions? What can we do to produce better results, and how can we understand where these results may not be reliable?

So human judgements are often limited or affected by:

- Biological or training limits on accuracy and precision
- A myriad of unconscious biases
- Depletion of core executive function and reverting to the status quo

Why should you care about the accuracy and precision of an alpaca judge? For the simple reason while a show result may seem clear cut the judge making that decision has the same issues of accuracy, precision and repeatability as any machine test. If we consider the inherent errors in those measurements and determinations by the judge then the results might not be as clear as you think.

To illustrate this point I’ve graphed the results for the top five animals in the same class at three fictitious shows. The results are shown with the “error bars” reflecting the limits of accuracy and precision of each judges’ capabilities. In this case the “aggregate score is the total impression that the judge had of the animal, fleece conformation, everything.
In the big northern show the top three placing animals were effectively indistinguishable, and if the class was re-run later the placements of those animals would likely swap around; and the fourth place animal might even, on occasion, end up with the winners’ ribbon.

In the big central show there was a clear winner, but the lower-placing ribbons would likely re-arrange in a re-run of the same class.

And in the big southern the top five animal all have overlap in terms of their aggregate scores, but none of them would have had a chance at the top spot in the northern or central shows.

So when someone proclaims “My animal got 1st place!” it can be very hard to know what that actually means without additional context! Which show? Against whom? Second place in a class of fifty may have more meaning than first place in a class of five. If you are present at the show the judge may well provide comments about why an animal earned its ribbon, and if that animal is a clear winner or if that was a close call, but none of that contextual information is available if you weren't there, and didn't hear those comments. You also need to know if this was the first class of the day or the last, as the inescapable issues of tired brains and reversion to the status quo may have affected the outcome. Also, every judge has their own preferences, they must weigh a vast array of variables and the relative weight they give to each of those matters, and those preferences will help some animals' score over others.

So for those of you who have experienced the “Same judge, same animal, same day.... but a different class, and a very different result”, this is why. This is not due to any malice or incompetence on the part of the judge; it is simply the very predictable result of a combination of the “error bars” in their animal assessment, very possibly combined with the depletion of core executive function in a brain that has been asked to make a vast number of critical assessments over the course of a long and tiring day.

And of course one great irony is some of the most prestigious ribbons at our shows are decided at the very end of the day, when everyone is exhausted. Under these conditions the judges are most likely to, in the words of the study, “simplify decisions by accepting the status quo.” That’s just how the human brain works.

But judgement of animals by an independent outside expert is still a very important and powerful way to get good feedback on your breeding program. So what can we do to improve matters?

First, use objective measurements whenever possible. Why ask judges to expend limited mental energy trying to guess the fineness and consistency (SD) of a fleece, when there is a simple and straightforward way to measure it? We can readily determine an instrument’s accuracy and/or precision (as seen in “Testing the Testers”), and from those results we’d know just how different (or not) two fleeces are from one another. The judges can then use these results as part of their overall assessment.

Second, the showing and judging subcommittee can examine their own training systems to ensure we are always progressing towards better and more bias-free systems. Best practice should be always moving forward.

And finally, we can look at the structure of our shows to try and reduce the unintended, and potentially unfair, biases that we might be inserting. The alpaca industry is a small one, and the circle of people who show regularly is even smaller. In these circumstances it is nearly impossible for judges (even overseas ones) to be free from the various social and financial ties that go with the international trade in alpacas.

One possible solution to help break some of the problems of both unconscious bias and the mental exhaustion of the judges is to restructure the shows. Most significantly, we separate the animal from the owner. Animals could be judged in pens, using the same stewards, with no information linking which animal belongs to which owner available to the judge. This way (in theory at least) each animal is being judged on its merits alone.

If you combine this with a schedule that allows frequent breaks so judges can recover their mental energies, you are likely to produce better overall results, and we can avoid the problem of the most prestigious awards being decided when the judge is exhausted.

Right now one of the “fun” components of the show is the act of assembling and showing off our animals to one another in the ring. We could still do that; it would just be separated from the judging (which is done earlier). Within the ring the judge would have the opportunity to explain why they made their decision, and discuss the traits that were truly exceptional in that animal. That is the kind of information we all need when trying to pick the “best of the best” to add to our own herd’s genetics.

So remember, none of us are as good at judgement or self judgement as we think we are, and we are not all above average drivers either!

Reference: http://www.pnas.org/content/108/17/6889.full
Barber’s Pole Worms

By Malcolm Heath BVSc.- Director UQVets Dayboro  QLD

Worms are 2-3 cm in length with the barber’s pole appearance from the blood filled intestinal tract coiled around the white ovaries.  Photo (c) Deb Maxwell, Source: www.wormboss.com.au

If you have livestock you have worms.  You will never get rid of them.  You need to manage/control them.

In my part of the world (SE Qld) all sick camelids have worms until proven otherwise.  Worms, in particular barber’s pole (Haemonchus contortus), are the most common cause of sick or dead alpacas.  Barber’s pole worms like warm wet weather and, due to their huge egg production, populations can build up quickly when weather conditions are right.

Life cycle

Animals become infected with barber’s pole by ingesting the larvae attached to grass when they graze.  These attach to the lining of the 3rd stomach in alpacas and suck blood.  One adult female can lay 5-10 000 eggs per day which hatch in 4-5 days.  The hatched larvae eat bacteria in the faeces until they reach infective stage which can take as little as 7 days in the right conditions.  This can result in very high levels of pasture contamination in a very short period of time.

Once hatched the larvae are extremely tough and can survive several months on the pasture, especially in cooler weather.  When conditions are right, larvae will move from faeces and climb the grass and wait to be ingested.

Clinical Signs

If you have had alpacas for a while you are probably aware that alpacas do a very good job of hiding the fact that they are sick.  The first sign when you have a Barbers Pole problem may well be a dead alpaca.

Barber’s pole are blood sucking worms, so signs are due to blood loss.  These will include weakness, lying down more than normal, pale mucous membranes (eyes, mouth, vulva should be pink but often white), weight loss or failure to gain weight.  You generally don’t get diarrhoea with Barbers Pole although you may if other worms are involved as well.

Diagnosis

If dealing with sick animals your vet will generally take blood samples to confirm anaemia and faecal samples to show very high numbers of eggs.  These can be sent to the lab to hatch and determine exactly which worms you are dealing with.  On post mortem the worms can be found in large numbers in 3rd stomach (C3).
Treatment

No products are registered for camelids. You will need to discuss with your vet which product and what dose will be best for your situation.

Once you have sick animals you really are going to have to rely on drenches to try to get on top of the infection. Unfortunately, there are huge problems with drench resistance to most of the available drenches. So, it is at this stage that you really hope you haven’t brought in drench resistant worms with your animals when you purchased them or created your own. Every time you drench your animals you kill the worms that are susceptible to the drench. If you kill 95% of the worms that is great. Unfortunately, the 5% that survive are at least partially resistant to your drench. If you continue to drench the animals then overtime all that is left are the resistant worms, and now you have a problem.

Cattle pour-on products have been shown to give very poor results in alpacas, injectable products avoid the problem of spitting however may not get good gut levels, oral generally give best results if you can ensure the full dose is received.

Severely affected animals may require blood transfusions to prevent deaths.

Prevention

Goal is to not drench unless necessary to minimise risk of developing resistant worms.

Poo Management - Picking up poo. This is one strategy that camelid farms have that is not an option for sheep or goat farms. One of the challenges is finding ways to stop the life cycle. We can use effective wormers but run the risk of developing resistance. Camelids pooping in piles is a “free hit”. You can remove a large proportion of the worm eggs greatly reducing the population available to reinfect your animals. Ideally for barber’s pole you need to be doing it at least every 4 or 5 days so eggs don’t have time to hatch. Unfortunately, you are never going to get them all, but it is still worth doing and your roses will thank you.

Pasture management

Rotational grazing can go a long way to help reduce the risk of picking up infective larvae. As eggs can hatch in as little as 4 days then keeping animals in the paddock for no more than 4-5 days will greatly reduce the exposure to those larvae. The problem is knowing when it is safe to come back to that paddock. There are a lot of factors but particularly temperature and rainfall. Time taken for 90% of larvae to have died is approximately 1.5 months at 35°C, 3 months at 22°C and 4 months at 15°C. Even if 4 months is not possible a couple of months should result in some reduction in infective larvae.

Of course, basic maths would suggest even if you are in the paddock for 1 week and out for 8 weeks you will need at least 9 paddocks. For some this will be achievable for others it may not.

The other advantage of rotational grazing is it gives the grass a chance to grow. Having longer grass to graze will reduce the exposure to the larvae which will be predominately in the bottom 5 cm or so of the pasture. Unfortunately,
camelids and especially alpacas, like to graze the shorter grass and will often spot graze continuing to eat the short new growth. When this is observed it is time to move. (Source Wormboss.com.au)

Following with a species that is more resistant to worms to graze the remaining pasture and consume some of the larvae can be a helpful strategy. Generally adult cattle will be ideal for this. Although cattle and alpacas can share the same worms, adult cattle develop a very good immunity and so produce very few worm eggs.

Drenching

Whilst we want to minimise drench usage, we don’t want to wait until animals are dying to start treating. So, the question is who to drench and when? It has been found that approximately 20% of animals carry 80% of worms and therefore contribute most to pasture contamination. We want to find these animals and treat them without treating the whole herd if possible.

How to pick the animals to treat.

1. Visually checking for sick animals, looking for those that are slower than the others. This may work but sometimes may be too late.

2. Regular weight checks may alert you to weight loss or insufficient weight gain in growing animals.

3. Condition scoring is relatively simple and will alert you to a problem. Involves feeling the backbone for amount of fat. (there are plenty of resources on net)

4. FAMACHA® Test is an estimate of anaemia developed for sheep affected by barber’s pole, but, has been validated as a useful tool for control of barber’s pole in alpacas and llamas as well. It involves matching the colour of mucous membranes of the eye to a scoring card. Score 1-2 almost certainly not anaemic and so no treatment warranted, scores 4 and 5 almost always anaemic and should be treated with an effective anthelmintic.

Many animals with a FAMACHA score of 3 are not anaemic but should be treated according to level of risk. For example, young animals or those heavily pregnant, lactating, low body condition score or in a herd with a high number of score 4 or 5’s should probably be treated.

5. Faecal egg counts are probably the best way of determining if your animals need to be treated. Fresh samples of poo need to be collected ideally directly from the animal and taken to your vet to test in house or sent to the lab. Barber’s pole worms produce very large numbers of eggs so generally egg counts in the hundreds won’t warrant treating but once in the thousands you will definitely want to treat.

FECRT – Faecal egg count reduction test is really the only way to know if your drench is working. This is done by getting a faecal egg count done, drenching if egg count warrants, and then repeating egg count again in 10-14 days. We want to see at least 95% reduction in eggs. If less than 95% reduction, then you may well have resistant worms. Do need to ensure that animals were treated with the correct dose for their weight and they didn’t spit it out etc.

Take home points

Barber’s Pole also known as Haemonchus contortus is a major problem in camelids in the warmer, wetter areas of Australia.

There is drench resistance to most of the drenches available in Australia.

Talk to your vet about what strategies will work best for your farm.

It is a well known and much talked about fact that grass seeds can be a serious problem for our alpacas (and other animals).

The seeds can become embedded under the skin, in ears and commonly in eyes, where they can cause a lot of damage if not removed promptly.

The place I often find them is in the mouth, embedded in the soft tissue. Frequently, many alpacas in the same herd have been affected. On these occasions the hay was found to contain grass seeds and needed to be removed and replaced with hay from a different source.

The most common areas of the mouth where the seeds are embedded are between the molars, under the tongue (Fig. 1) and above the dental pad, between the gum and lips (Fig. 2). These two photos show the damage left behind after the seeds were removed. The seeds are hard, sharp and spiny and usually come from mature hay as shown in the photo above of some seeds in my pasture that came with some hay I purchased. I am working to eradicate this grass from my property before it becomes more widespread.

All of the alpacas I have seen with grass seed problems were showing signs that they were, at the very least, uncomfortable - that was the reason I was called to see them.

These are some of the signs that grass seeds may be an issue:

- Salivation
- Gaping mouth
- Difficulty chewing
- Ulcers
- Abscesses
- Weight loss
It is easy for you to check your alpacas if you think seeds are a problem. With someone else holding the animal, you can lift the lips and check the gums and around the incisors and fighting teeth. If you are confident, you can gently open the mouth and have a look under the tongue.

Once the seeds are removed from the mouth as well as the food source, the alpacas tend to heal quite quickly.

On occasion, a course of antibiotics from your vet may be needed.
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2 Ply

Lace Shawl Pattern

Now the weather is starting to cool for Autumn our thoughts turn to warmer clothing. The knitters among you may enjoy knitting up this beautiful lacey shawl using this pattern provided by Alpaca Ultimate Yarn.

Materials:

- Australian Alpaca Yarn / Alpaca Ultimate 2Ply 2 x 50gram balls
- 5.5mm circular needles
- Stitch markers (optional) to mark Rs
- Tapestry / yarn needle to weave in ends

Abbreviations

K- knit
P - purl
Rs – right side
Ws – wrong side
Yon – yarn over needle (makes a stitch)
Sl – slip 1 stitch from left to right needle
Psso – pass slip stitch over
K2tog – knit 2 stitches together (decreases a stitch)

Finished shawl should measure 284 x 52 cm approximately.
Cast on 320 sts on 5.5mm needles with circular needles (use stitch markers at every 50sts)

Knit every row for 4 rows (garter st) (this creates the top edge)

Row 5 (RS) Knit 1 row
Row 6 (WS) Purl 1 row
Row 7 (RS) Knit 1 row
Row 8 (WS) Purl 1 row

Row 9 (RS) Start Short rows as follows – Knit to last 4 sts turn (this will leave a hole in your work, but it is on purpose)

Row 10 (WS) Purl to last 4 sts turn
Row 11 (RS) Knit to last 8 sts turn
Row 12 (WS) Purl to last 8 sts turn

Continue this way reducing the number of stitches you work by 4 sts on every row to last 4 sts, turn and purl to end (edge) (please note this will create a curve along the bottom of your work. The longest part of your work will be in the middle and the shortest part will be the sides).

Knit (RS) next row
Purl (WS) next row

“Knit 2 sts (RS), yon,” (yon = yarn over needle thus creating another stitch) repeat from “to”, to last 2 sts, k2 (total number of stitches 479)

Increase in 1st (WS) st at beginning of purl row (total number of stitches now is 480sts)

Start Lace Pattern

Row 1 (RS) - Yon, k3, sl1, k2tog, psso, k3, yon, k1 repeat to end
Row 2 (WS) - Purl
Row 3 (RS) - k1, yon, k2, sl1, k2tog, psso, k2, yon, k2 repeat to end
Row 4 (WS) - Purl
Row 5 (RS) - k2, yon, k1, sl1, k2tog, psso, k1, yon, k3, repeat to end
Row 6 (WS) - Purl
Row 7 (RS) - k3, yon, sl1, k2tog, psso, yon, k4, repeat to end
Row 8 (WS) - Purl

Repeat lace pattern 3 more times or more if a longer length is required.

Knit 2 rows
Cast off loosely
Block Shawl

NOTE: Copyright belongs to Australian Alpaca Yarn / Alpaca Ultimate.

You may not share, copy or reproduce this pattern in part or whole or sell items produced by using this pattern.
IT’S ALL ABOUT THE FLEECE

(An addition to the Camelid Connections December edition re fibre collection)

Alpaca Express is a fibre collection centre for all WA Alpaca breeders. It is managed by Sophie Stacey (Banksia Park Alpacas) and started in 2007 with breeders co-operating to combine fibre volumes to enable sales of classed pressed bales of alpaca fibre.

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We're often asked “Why alpaca meat?”

In this day and age where we want to eat healthily, know where our food comes from, and live sustainably, it seemed like a natural progression to breed and have our own animals processed for the table.

Our interest in alpacas started in 2010 when we moved to a small acreage at Tallarook. Looking for some animals that needed minimal maintenance and were easier to manage than goats and cattle we settled on alpacas. They suited our lifestyle so we purchased four weanling alpacas to keep the grass down and to use the fleece for spinning.

Over the next 2 years the 4 turned into 15. We then had to make the decision to either sell some or to move to a bigger property. So in 2013 we moved from the original 8 acres to 52 acres, just 15 minutes away. During that time we also joined the Australian Alpaca Association, made lots of ‘alpaca friends’ by dabbling in the showing side of the alpaca industry and going to meetings, learned how to do our own husbandry, and found ourselves a great vet and alpaca shearer.

In 2012 we started taking the alpacas and alpaca products to our local farmers market and while the majority of people were curious about the animals and their fleece we were always asked two questions: Do alpacas spit? Are they used for meat? The answer to both was always: Yes.

When Koallah Farm opened their abattoir to camelids in 2016 we saw it as the perfect opportunity to add alpaca meat to our market stall. In February 2017 we launched our meat at the Tallarook Farmers Market. The reception was amazing. There were even people from Melbourne that made a special trip to Tallarook just to get our meat.

Throughout 2017 & 2018 we did six Farmers Markets a month. We feel that it’s important for people to know where their food comes from and Farmer’s Markets are the best way to do that. It’s a hard slog doing Farmer’s Markets: early morning starts, random weather conditions, machinery and technology breakdowns, lots of talking and lots of travel. The market community is very friendly, much like the alpaca community and we’ve made lots of friends and many contacts. There is always someone willing to help, share their knowledge and expertise. We just love doing the markets!
In early 2018 we thought we’d try something different and spoke to our processor about making ham from the shoulders and legs. We also wanted to do a smoked sausage and Alpacabana was born. The fat content for the kabana was a bit tricky to manage because we didn’t want to introduce pork or beef fat into the product so we got around that by using fatter alpacas. Alpacas are naturally lean animals but as with most animals they are all different so you do get fatty ones and lean ones. The fatty ones are the ones that go into our ‘Alpacabana’.

When we took the Alpacabana to the markets it went off a treat. Everyone loved it and we constantly sold out. So that tells you how good it is. Our Alpacabana is different to normal kabana because it is more ‘meaty’, you can really get your teeth into it. We do both a plain and a spicy flavour. So there is something for everyone, even the kids.

A chance conversation with an acquaintance in early 2018 planted the seed of one day entering our product into food awards. We thought about it for a week or so and then found out about the Australian Food Awards, run by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria. Doing the online entry there wasn’t an option for Alpaca. There was just goat & venison in the ‘other’ category. We were a bit disheartened but made a few phone calls and eventually they added ‘alpaca’.

We entered our ham, a rack, and our Alpacabana into the 2018 Australian Food Awards. Expecting nothing but hoping that at least one of the products would be recognised. When we got notification that our Alpacabana scored enough points to be awarded a bronze medal in 2018 we were over the moon. We are so excited that alpaca has been included as a category in the Australian Food Awards and so very proud that our 100% alpaca kabana has been acknowledged as an award winner.

2019 sees us developing a range of pies and sausage rolls. So watch this space...

Sicilian Alpaca Pot Roast

750g Alpaca shoulder chops, cut each chop in pieces
1 tsp olive oil
1 brown onion, thinly sliced
2 carrots, sliced
2 celery stalks, chopped
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
½ cup dry white wine
2 x 400g cans diced tomatoes
45g anchovies
1 cinnamon stick
½ cup currants
½ cup black olives (pitted)
2 tblsp pine nuts
Continental parsley for garnish

Season alpaca with salt and pepper.

Brown lightly in a hot pan and place in slow cooker pot. Using the same pan, add onion, celery, carrot and garlic. Cook until onion is soft. Add to the slow cooker pot. Deglaze pan with wine and add to pot.

Add tomatoes, anchovies, chilli, currants, and cinnamon to pot. Cook on low for 12-14 hours.

Top with olives, pine nuts and parsley prior to serving. Serve with couscous.

Adapted from: Super Food Ideas Magazine Aug 2013

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION
(For details see Assoc website)

Manjimup WA Short Fleece Alpaca Show - 16 Mar 2019
Warren District Agricultural Society Showground Manjimup
Entries are now open through e-Alpaca

Tamborine Mountain Show 16-Mar-2019


FARMWORLD 2019 11-Apr-2019 - 14-Jan-2019
Lardner Park - Farm World is a 4 day event held at Lardner via Warragul from April 11th to 14th 2019.

Central Qld Training Camp – 13th April 2019
Info: Cheryl Cochrane – Email: cherylc5@bigpond.com Ph 0417 127 625

Royal Sydney Show - 12-Apr-2019 - 23-Apr-2019
Venue – Sydney Olympic Park
Contact: Keryn Burns Ph 0400 780 722
Entries close Friday 15th March

Bonalbo Show 04-May-2019

Carousel of Colour 04-May-2019 - 05-May-2019
Goulburn Showgrounds

Maclean-agricultural show
2 Maclean Agricultural Show - 08-May-2019
Contact - Almora Alpaca

Grafton Colourbration Show
10-May-2019 - 11-May-2019
Grafton Showground

Marburg Show
10-May-2019 - 11-May-2019
Marburg Show Grounds

Bundaberg Agrotrend Alpaca Competition
10-May-2019 - 11-May-2019

Bundaberg Recreational Precinct
Fleece Judging, Young Paraders and Young Judges will be held on Friday 10th. Halter classes will be held on Saturday 11th.

Primex Agricultural Industries Expo Casino

Coffs Harbour Show 17 May 2019 to 18 May 2019
Coffs Harbour Showground

NEW ZEALAND LLAMA ASSOCIATION

Amuri A&P Llama Show - Rotherham 2nd March

NZLA - AGM - Saturday 4th May - 781 Blythe Valley Road, Cheviot.

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION (CONT.)

Ipswich Show
17-May-2019 to 19-May-2019

Qld. Youth Camp - Harbak Stud - Brisbane
W/End 1st-2nd June Open to all youth
Info: Email: cherylc5@bigpond.com Ph. 0417 127 625

Victorian Alpaca Colourbration
7 Jun 2019 9:00 am to 9 Jun 2019 Bendigo Showgrounds

Glen Innes - New England Show 8 Jun 2019
Glen Innes Showground

Murwillumbah Alpaca Show
29-Jun-2019
Murwillumbah Showground

NEW ZEALAND ALPACA ASSOCIATION
(For details see Assoc website)

Malvern/Sheffield Show 23 Mar
Judge - TBC (Breed Only) | Closing Date TBC

Oxford Show 30 Mar
Judge - Amber O’Neil (Breed) | Closing Date 28th February 2019

North Island Colourbration
05 Apr - 07 Apr
Judge - Paul Garland (Breed & Fleece) | Closing Date 6th March 2019

Auckland Royal Easter Show
20 Apr - 21 Apr
Judge: TBC (Breed & Fleece) | Closing Date TBC

MacKenzie Show 20 Apr
Judge - Sarah Busby (Breed & Fleece) | Closing Date TBC

2019 Alpaca Conference 28 Jun - 30 Jun
Rediscover Alpaca - Invigorate and ignite your passion!
Camelid Connections magazine offers you affordable advertising for your camelid related business, event or stud. Contact us to secure your advertising space in future publications.

- The affordable alternative for all your camelid related advertising
- All adverts have a hyperlink directly to your website or email - one click & potential customers can connect with you
- Camelid Connections magazine is a **FREE** online publication available as a subscription or download from our website
- Back issues will always be available online so your advert has a long ‘shelf life’
- Camelid Connections offers readers a wide variety of quality articles of interest to attract a broad audience

### Advertising Rates*

- **Full A4 Page** $360  
  (210mm x 297mm  
  No bleed required)

- **Half Page** $185  
  (190mm x 133mm)

- **Quarter Page** $95  
  (93mm x 133mm)

- **Business Card** $55  
  (93mm x 65mm)

- **Classified Listing** $36  
  Max - 50 words + contact details

- Package rates for prepaid advertisements in 3 issues of Camelid Connections receive a 10% discount.
- Double page spread receives a 25% discount (no additional discounts apply)
- Inside front cover and opposite page attract a 10% loading.
- Camelid Connections magazine will be a quarterly publication commencing in September 2017*
- Advertising needs to be provided as a PDF or JPG to specifications listed above.
- Other advert configurations considered - ask us for a quote

To book advertising or for further details contact either:

- **Julie McClen** - Graphic Designer  Ph: 02 6493 2036  
  Email: julie@camelidconnections.com.au

- **Esmé Graham** Editor  Ph: 0457 304 868  
  Email: esme@camelidconnections.com.au

*We reserve the right to alter advertising specifications and publications rates and dates at any time.*
“The sorting hat has chosen and you will be, GRYFFINDOR!!”

This is our cria Gryffindor born on the first of January 2019. My son is a huge Harry Potter fan, hence the name.

Angela Samways - AllyHar Alpaca Farm

“SHHHH! She’s almost asleep, I can scavenge some tidbits!”

Jan Rendall - Babazeeka Alpacas

“It says foodie feast, so why can’t I eat it?”

Michelle Malt - Big Sky Alpacas

“Miss busy body”

Julie McClen - Oak Grove Alpacas
"Trying to pray in peace!"
Diane Boede - Wattle Grove Alpacas

"Peek A Boo"
The Camel Milk Co Australia

"She is a llama/guanaco so this shows they are not always the original colour"
Judy Webby - Champenoise Llamas New Zealand
If Camelids are your thing - we have you covered!
Interesting, informative articles & relevant advertising