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...Continued from page 12

Karen, played the roles of owner and llama complete with napkin llama ears for 'llama Kristy'. Through a *Care and Handling for Your Llama* presentation, behavior traits and what to and not to do with our llamas was presented in a fun informal way with interaction from the group.

With marketing being one of the legs our industry stands on, the board asked whichever publications could, to join us and present information on *How to Make the Most of your Marketing and Advertising*. Monica Brown, owner and publisher of the *LamaLink.com* and owner / operator Jeanine Mensch from *American Livestock* were able to be there in person and Paige McGrath, publisher and graphic designer from *Llama Life II* provided us with a handout. They all competently impressed on us the importance of repetition and having a plan and working our plan when advertising from logo and identity to content. Their information was very helpful and appreciated.

With the sessions being finished mid-afternoon we all had the pleasure of lounging on the ship any which way we chose.

### PORT DAY 2

When we woke on the next day of the cruise we looked out and saw the port of Georgetown, Grand Cayman, a larger island than Key West. Again the "What are you going to do?" question could be heard and the answers echoed those of Key West. It was a shirt-sleeve-pleasant day to begin with and a little 'warm' rain hit mid-day but didn't seem to dull the spirits of anyone. The reefs were inspected, the beaches checked out – on horseback by some, the excursions taken advantage of and at 5:00 we again headed out to sea –



Richard & Alaine Byers  
and Mel & Monica Brown



with smiles on our faces and a silhouette of Cuba on the starboard side in short order.

### CONFERENCE SESSION DAY 2

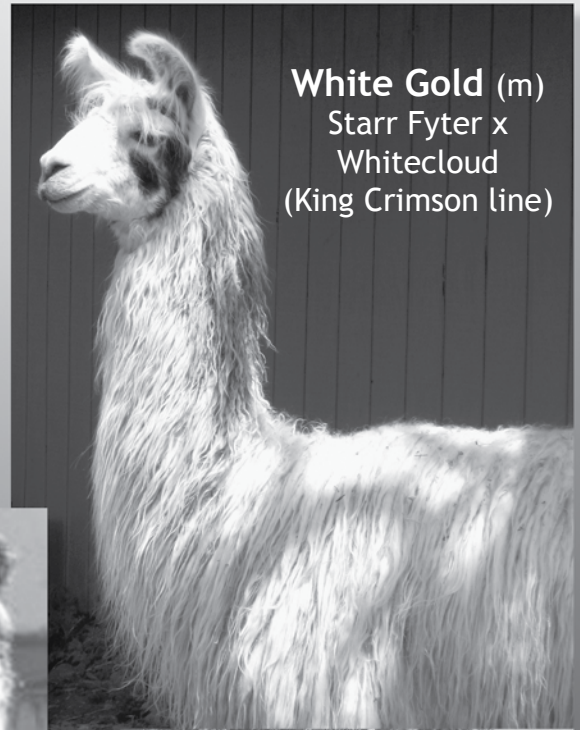
As bids continued to rise on the awesome Silent Auction items the mood was relaxed and pleasant. Registrar, Jan Wassink began the day with *ILR Current and Proposed Plans and Programs* and followed with information about the ILR web site and what's available there. Questions were asked and answered and it was opened up for discussion about whatever the attendees wanted to discuss with Kristy Brown and Kathi McKinney leading the interaction. For complete notes from the open forum discussion go to [LamaLink.com](http://LamaLink.com).

The second day of sessions ended with a get together in the Crystal Room where the Door Prizes were drawn for and the Silent Auction items were awarded after our group photo. A total of \$1519.52 was raised for the ILR Show Division! A full list of the items donated can be seen on the ILR web site [www.lamaregistry.com](http://www.lamaregistry.com) in the conference recap section. The board is very appreciative of the support shown through those who donated items and bid on them, those who made presentations and all who attended the conference! As we headed to our last night on the cruise, the mood was indicative of what we see as the mood in the llama industry – happy and excited – it was a good cruise / conference and good things are on the horizon for the llama industry as we *continue to celebrate our llamas*. Join us – *Along we Struggle; Together we Thrive!*

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# 2009 National Western Stock Show & Llama Show

*A 25 Year Anniversary*

by Carlos Mendoza M.D.  
and Jerry Dunn  
Photos by Ronnie B.

On a bitterly cold day in January of 1982, Jerry McRoberts and Howard Kerstetter stood in the Denver livestock yards, bundled up, hanging on to their llamas and talking to visitors at the National Western Stock Show. It must have been a curious sight for the cattleman and visitors to see such a strange animal in their midst. This was the beginning of a historical event which would unfurl to what we now experience during the stock show.

The 2009 NWSS Llama and Alpaca Show represented the 25th anniversary of the inclusion of a llama show in the historic National Western Stock Show and left nothing to the imagination. Few folks know that the plans for the NWSS are finalized in the early summer months and there is no way of predicting what economic or political events might present potential obstacles to those plans. However, with dedicated volunteers and supportive exhibitors, nothing would put a hold on the 2009 NWSS Llama Show.

For the first time in NWSS history, online registration was offered. It was largely ignored by exhibitors, but represented a glimpse of the future as llama shows migrate toward online registration as the method of choice. The 2009 NWSS Llama Show is one of several local Colorado shows moving toward online

registration and will no doubt become mandatory in the years to come.

The unfortunately unexpected but not uncommon delays at the entry gates were again exacerbated by tardy goats, pigs, and an overwhelmed NWSS work crew trimmed to the minimum due to the recent recession. However, an amazingly resilient contingent of camelid exhibitors slowly made their way to the stall area enjoying an unusual evening of warm Colorado winter weather. In spite of running several hours late, exhibitors were polite and complaints were held to a minimum as everyone pulled together to make things happen in typical llama community fashion.

The llama show at the NWSS has had five superintendents in 25 years, Jim Carpenter, Grace Curry, Jerry Dunn, Dwain Flinn and Carlos Mendoza. Each person has organized the event with new ideas and positive ways to promote the camelid family. RMLA has played an integral part in supporting the event throughout its history. Dozens of volunteers, some being the same year after year, have helped to make this show a success.

The 2009 show represented the first NWSS with a simultaneous alpaca show including both halter and performance classes. Linda Hayes judged the alpaca classes on one side of the arena, while Cathie Kindler and Bill Schultz judged the

llama halter and performance classes on the other side of the arena. Most agreed that the presence of the alpacas increased crowd numbers and participation, and made for a fulfilling experience on both sides of the aisle. Exhibitors and vendors both came from as far away as California and overall llama numbers were up approximately 20 % from 2008.

This year also represented the reincarnation of "Evening with a Llama," now appropriately named "Evening with a Llama and Alpaca." An estimated crowd of 400 stock show visitors streamed into the show arena floor at 6 PM and mingled with the assembled gathering of well behaved llamas and alpacas. The llama halter classes culminated on Saturday evening with the selection of the Show's first ever "Best in Show," which the judges unanimously awarded to Banner's Bocelli, owned by Jerry Dunn.

As January barely winds down, plans are already being made to make next year's show better and more exhibitor-friendly. A motivated NWSS management appears determined to improve on this year's events and offers hope for continuing one of the nation's oldest and best know llama shows. It appears that the National Western Stock Show will continue to have a supportive and active role in the future of the local camelid show community.

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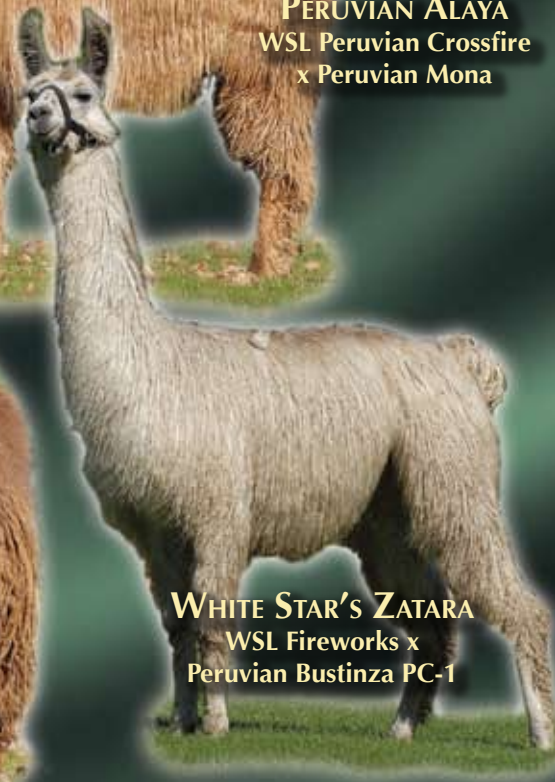
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# Hypothermia

by Laura Harrawood  
Show Me State Mini Llamas

Early spring may seem to be the wrong time to talk about hypothermia but spring time can be mighty tricky as far as the weather goes. Near freezing temperatures, cold winds and wet conditions are a perfect set up for hypothermia.

Neonates are not the only ones prone to hypothermia. The young and very old, sick or thin llamas are also at risk with all weather extremes. Fiber type can make a difference too. Llamas with a silky fleece that parts down the center of their backs have a harder time staying dry and warm. Even though our winter is coming to an end, extended cold snaps with rain can cause problems with the vulnerable llamas mentioned. Watch out for the llama that is depressed, won't get up or "just doesn't seem right". Remember that when a llama is very very cold it may not shiver any longer. Get that baby out of the cold, put a coat or blanket on it, warm it up on a warm (not hot) heating pad, or bring it in the house.

Warming up and saving a cold cria is definitely possible and worth a hearty try. Water emersion is a really good way to do it. Bath tubs, kitchen sinks, large plastic

storage containers and hot tubs are all good warm water bath systems. We used a hot tub for warming up our little criacicle and it worked really really well. This hot tub affair didn't actually involve much, but it's good idea to have help so you don't slip or somehow inadvertently dunk the crias head in the water. I'm pretty sure that adding a near drowning incident to a baby who is already on it's last leg is not a good idea. If you were to come home to find your teenager in the hot tub with a cria you might start to revisit the whole private school discussion, but it's a lot different when *you* find yourself in the hot tub holding a shivering cria. Now you're trying to figure out how you got so attached to an animal that may be only a couple of hours old. Always dry the cria thoroughly after water emersion or put the baby in a plastic bag prior to emersion (leaving head out of the plastic bag of course). Experienced owners may treat their own animals and be willing to accept the responsibility for the outcome. New owners may decide, though, that this is something they are just not willing to tackle. Either way, only you can decide when it's time to call the doctor

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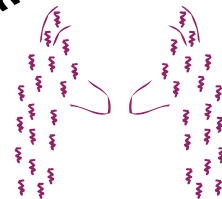
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