

Pacific Rims Rocco
DOB June 13, 2008
Chilean Navagator ILR# 245705 X
MGF Icy Hot ILR#175064
(Outcross to most Suri Bloodlines)

# Pacific Rim Llamas

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# Communication: The Key to Success



By The 2008 Llama Canada Board Of Directors

attitudes. As he presented his session he correlated many of the issues facing the llama industry with our ability to "think outside our barn" and challenged each of us to create our own goals for our individual hobby farms and llama businesses.

Friday afternoon consisted three concurrent sessions that allowed participants to select from shearing, flat felting or llamas 101. Dave and Connie Carlson, from Fort Macleod, Alberta presented the Llama Shearing Techniques and Practical Principles session. According to session attendee Susan Wipfli, "Click Go the Shears" was almost the national anthem of Australia, way back when she was a kid growing up there, and it was one of those tunes you never forget. However, when she shears her llamas next spring, she'll be humming it with a new vigor now. Dave provided an overview of the equipment required, the safety precautions to be considered, the handling of animals and fibre, as well as setup of the shearing area ... and then the fun started. The llamas used in the session were all heavily fibered and provided ample opportunity for each of the enthusiastic participants to get used to the feel of the clippers in their hands, and to the different ways to hold the clippers when removing fibre from the edge of the blanket area. Many of the participants were so keen that they were reluctant to hand the shears back to Connie and Dave when the session came to its conclusion. As the participants moved on to the next phase of the conference, Susan noted that Connie and Dave were smiling, the newly ordained shearers were smiling, and most importantly, the freshly shorn llamas were smiling! There was no doubt that this session had been a huge success in communicating ways to shear effectively.

An enthusiastic group attended the Fundamentals of Flat Felting with Tracey Kuffner. Most of the attendees were beginning felters and Tracey took them step-by-step through the process, which included layering the wool, using water and soap and agitation by rolling their projects in bamboo blinds. Tracey is a full-time felter and operates The Wool Mine in Duchess, Alberta. Tracey is well known for her acclaimed children's books, which are fully illustrated with some of her felted pictures.

Dr. Corry Mortensen presented a threehour session entitled "Llamas 101" where she provided tips and ideas for acquiring suitable llamas to fit with each person's goals. She educated individuals about common husbandry and management issues such as vaccinating, deworming, blood or fibre collection for DNA typing, and selecting the best equipment and

Llama Canada's National Conference was held at the Camrose Regional Exhibition in Alberta September 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. Llama breeders and owners from Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia were in attendance. The conference theme was Communication: The Key to Success so the 2008 conference featured speakers sharing and educating owners on how to communicate effectively with their llamas and other llama owners. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to learn new techniques and welcomed the time to network with fellow llama enthusiasts.

The conference opened with Dan Ohler, a professional speaker and life skills coach, presenting "Practical Principles for Lookin' at Life with Fresh Eyes." Dan challenged participants to outline the "F" words in their life so they could focus and face fears, forge forward and have fun! He explained that all of our thoughts are a direct result of our behaviors, beliefs and





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methods for achieving ultimate success. She also related tips and strategies for effective breeding and birthing of llamas. Most of the participants had a vast amount of practical llama knowledge and the session molted into a session of sharing and discussing information that epitomized the theme of communication!

The evening of September 26 concluded with a dinner reception sponsored by The Canadian Llama and Alpaca Association (CLAA) and a one-hour session by keynote presenter Marty McGee Bennett entitled Raising Respectful Llamas. During the session Marty explained how to categorize llama disposition, recognize potential problems with aggression, and how to deal with it before it becomes a real problem. The Annual General Meeting of the CLAA followed this session.

Saturday and Sunday were dedicated to Marty McGee Bennett instructing her two-day CAMELIDynamics training course. This was composed of lectures followed by practice on inflatable llamas or on another course participant. When practice was complete Marty gave demonstrations on live animals followed by individual hands-on with the animals generously provided by llama owners. The main principal taught was not teaching animals but training and teaching people how to handle and train their animals. Some of the topics covered were approaching your animal, your body position, catching, haltering, training techniques, maintaining animal balance, proper leverage, toe nail trimming, injections and even an example diagram of a good handling facility. Along with the training, Marty had a variety of items such as catch ropes, wands, control lines, toenail clippers with holsters, books, etc... These items she used in her training and also had a supply for purchase for those who needed them. The information presented and demonstrated was of value for new and seasoned Camelid owners alike!

Saturday night provided an opportunity to network with fellow llama breeders. After a delicious banquet meal, the results of the fibre competition were presented, followed by a comedy routine

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by Ole Olson. Serious bidders vying for items in our very successful silent auction followed the lighthearted fun. It is always amazing to see the unique items people donate and even more entertaining to see the competition mount to be the highest bidder!

Llama Canada's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday morning prior to the conclusion of Marty's 2nd day of training. Member attendance was excellent and productive dialogue and discussion occurred regarding Llama Canada committees, as well as future projects and events.

Canada Vice President, Llama Lorraine Guyn was the coordinator for the Fiber and Fleece Competition and provided the following summary of this part of the conference.

As breeders are becoming more aware of the value of their llama's fleece the conference saw an increase in entries to well over 60 in combined categories. More breeders are spinning and/or sending their shorn fleeces to mills for processing into roving, batting, felt, yarn and cones. The results of the end products not only indicate the great value of the fleeces, be they double, single or suri-llama but also the talent of fibre crafters that exists in the Canadian Ilama industry. Entries came from across Canada with a few entries from the United States. Not only did the winners go home with ribbons but substantial monetary prizes as well.

Although the judging of fibre end products was held September 26 to 28, 2008 the Hand spinner's Choice Competition began August 1, 2008. Exhibitors were asked to submit 2 ounces of prime fibre from the blanket area of their choice of double, single or suri-llama fleece. Our judge, Rosemary Harris, spun 1 oz and judged the sample on characteristics such as spinning ease and fineness, comfort factor and overall handling. The winning entries were displayed with the spun yarn along with 1 oz. of the natural fleece, a photograph of the llama and an exhibitor's business card in a colorful carousel effect.

The categories of end products consisted of knitted, crocheted, woven, felted, hand spun combined fibre yarn and hand spun 100% llama yarn. Phenomenal craftsmanship graced our tables with items such as knitted vests, scarves, gloves, crocheted jacket and scarves, hand-woven throws, felted purses, magnificent felted wall hangings and pictures, felted vests and novelty items; which included needle felting. Some products were for sale and Marty McGee Bennett even went home the proud owner of a beautiful felted elephant wall hanging.

The fleece competition, although not as many entries as last year, had good competition in the categories of double coat, single coat, and suri-llama. We anticipate next year's fleece and fibre competition portion of the Llama Canada Conference to increase in numbers, especially with the United Nations General Assembly declaration that 2009 is The International Year of Natural Fiber. Get those spinning wheels going and those needles clicking to take part in the 2009 competitions!







## Information For US Lamas Going Into Canada

by Pat Bell

So you've decided to purchase a US llama in order to put some new bloodlines into your breeding program? Now what do you do? We've found that with patience and a good veterinarian, it's pretty easy to do this. This article will briefly outline some of the criteria for importing live animals (llamas) specifically from the United States into Canada.

The most important criteria for importation falls within one of the following areas:

- The Rules
   US quarantine
   Importation permits
   Canadian Quarantine
- 2. Paperwork
- 3. Testing

#### **The Rules**

It pays to be knowledgeable. Before you start, insure that you know what's involved, what's recently been changed and what this will cost both in terms of your sanity and your pocketbook. Paperwork and fees are necessary before your new llama is roaming in your pasture back in Canada.

Check out the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) website: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/. You can learn a great deal here. Click on animal and animal products and go to the AIRS Import details for Llamas section. We've also learned that when in doubt, call CFIA. Each province has a provincial office. Our experience is that communication between the CFIA provincial office and the CFIA border office and other vets is very consistent and is the most effective way of cutting threw red tape. As well, our farm vet is certified by CFIA to conduct all the necessary testing. This is important in terms of having the proper paperwork and dialogue between everyone.

Insure that you select a US farm or quarantine that is experienced and reliable. Since paperwork is everything in this process, the details are important. Start your process by insuring that you're familiar with the herd of origin - where your llama is coming from in the US. As well, decide where you will conduct the quarantine in Canada. And apply early for an import permit from the provincial office of CFIA. We've found that the earlier the application the better, since the Import Number must be declared on each of the US quarantine documents.

Getting to the selected quarantine site may require that the llama is tested for transport through various States. USDA requires a 30 day minimum period between TB tests (in Canada it's 90 days), so insure that you're prepared to board your llama prior to the start of the quarantine if TB tests have been conducted.

Quarantine of any animal in the US requires that:

The llamas being imported into Canada have resided in the US from birth and have been resident of a herd that is not and has not been under quarantine or health related restrictions imposed by the USDA or any regulatory for a minimum of 60 days.

The llamas have been resident of the herd of origin in the US for a minimum of 60 days prior to the commencement of pre-export isolation and originate from a herd recognized to be tuberculosis free.

The herd of origin has resided in a State in which no TB or Brucellosis has been diagnosed during 3 years prior to export to Canada.

Once this is established, the US piece of the quarantine begins. This requires a 30-day Pre-Export Isolation. During the pre-export isolation period the following rules apply:

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