

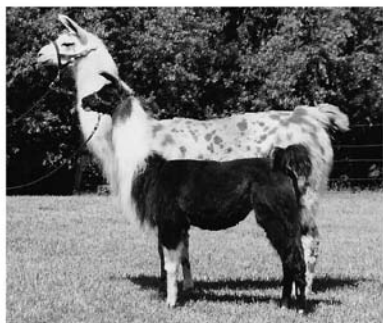
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...Continued from page 14

from the trailer into that box like they did it everyday, very impressive! The box was sealed and whisked away to be weighed and flown to Toronto.

The flight was scheduled for a 3 hour lay over in Toronto, not bad, and then off to Paris to arrive at 9:40 am. Piece of cake! I walked in the house and the phone was ringing, it was Air Canada. "What should we do with your llamas they have been bumped from their connection to Paris by a load of vaccine packed in dry ice." A load of what? I had them call Sea Air right away and they unloaded the group into the international horse barn where they remained for the next 24 hours until the next flight out where I am sure they caught up on the latest tabloid news and at their fill of junk food!

After a few frantic calls to France to Jean Pascal arrangements were made for the fellows to stay an extra day in Paris, not a torture from my point of view, hey it's Paris!

The torture was waiting for the news that they had arrived in Paris and finally that good news came with a quick phone call on the drive home. I have so enjoyed all the photos of the group settling into their new homes in France! France, how amazing. The love of llamas really does make the world go round! Thank you Andre and Jean Pascal for your dedication to llamas and for a new friendship. I will see you both in October when I come to visit the llamas!

I had been thinking about this importation from Canada for years. These last few weeks had been quite emotionally high here. While I thought every single detail of this importation was matched, one morning the broker in France calls and says he would not accept the llamas because they needed a professional driver to transport from the airport to their quarantine place. I politely explained that I had got in touch with several drivers, that and I actually had considered to go by myself after a few conversations with some professional drivers : Llamas? Do they bite? I heard they do and once they catch you they won't let you go. I thought llamas would be safer if I'd accompany them.

But no way! The broker said, no professional driver, no llamas! I gave a call to my federal vet

and explained the story, she said I should be able to drive the llamas by myself for it wasn't a commercial operation as I wasn't going to sell them. I had the answer!

The shipper calls me back and says he also had a call from the person I am sharing the importation with and says this should be ok so the llamas were allowed to fly to France. I have been expecting for this moment for months. Leaving my ranch for one day is always precision work and every single details had been ready.

It's 6 PM ! on the day of my 46<sup>th</sup> birthday!, On May the 26<sup>th</sup> ! and we are ready to leave home to pick my 6 llamas! arriving from Canada. Eric my co-pilot is whistling « la vie en Rose » « Is anyone around dressed in Prada? » I ask « What? » he says, Paris where the llamas have to land is at the opposite part of France from where I live. We need to travel by night to arrive just on time for the plane landing. At 4 o'clock in the morning, we are talking and singing trying to keep ourselves awake when the telephone rings in the truck. This is the familiar and joyful voice of Sue that I hear from very far away telling me do not leave home! the llamas are 24 hours late!

Too late ! We are only a few miles away from Paris. Nothing we can do but continue. In spite of the situation, we manage to laugh. What else can we do?! I promise to Sue that I'll keep saying, I love llamas ! I love llamas! till they're in the truck.

This late arrival changes all our schedules! and the hours to come shall be spent on the phone to reorganize all that had been so carefully planned for months.

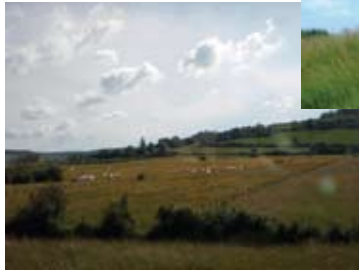
One thing is sure, Sue said the llamas were fine and after all, this will give them a chance to rest before their flight to France. We then have a day off! We are glad to meet André there, he is sharing the importation with me. I had not seen him since the last European show.

Roissy Charles de Gaulle the airport area is very close to Paris. It is rather looking like what you imagine Alcatraz jail may look like rather than what you imagine Paris, the capital of lights...

No « Folies Bergères » cabaret but thousand of delivery trucks, no « Sacré Coeur » no cathedral but kilometers of metallic fences.

We manage to take a drive to the Castle of Chantilly, where the most fabulous horses are bred.

After a walk in a maze of warehouse looking like offices, we reach the office of the



broker, Mister Hautbergue is a very professional person and he will take us through all the duty formalities. From one office to another, after a dozen forms to fill in, a few different « sign here please » we are finally waiting in front of the final gate that is going to take us to a place called « the farm », where all the animals arriving from abroad are kept. I shyly ask if the animals are here...I get a rapid « yes » from the broker.

Our trucks are searched and so are we. We are entering a « under custom zone »

We are finally entering « the farm » an enclosed and fenced area. I can see some boxes of tropical fishes. I do not see any llamas.

I can finally see a big wooden box! The Pallet! Getting closer, here they are! I can feel my heart beating. Another paper to sign? No problem!

Mc Dreamy and Titan are in their own space, and the two young boys with the girls in the other part of the pellet. They look all fine.

I have to contain my emotions. Don't forget ... llamas are not yet under my control! The custom officers around are surprised to see that we give name to the llamas. I recognize them all!

I have always been amazed by the love and peaceful power that llamas have on people. Everybody's smiling, everybody turns nice and are running around to bring the llamas water. While the llamas are quietly leaving the pallet to settle into the trucks, I can hear « I've never seen such cool animals! » Everybody around is taking pictures! The stars are here! They have passed the vet control. So now we can go! Finally a big whisper of well being the llamas are under MY control.

I say « YES! Dreams are stronger than anything! »

It is twilight when we reach home and the 6 llamas take possession of their new home. I take time to meet everyone of them. I love Mc Dreamy he is a monument of charisma. I am just amazed by El Camino, this is the kind of discreet baby that I am sure is going to turn into one of the most gorgeous studs ever. I always had a special feeling for Spike and he proves himself to be a little clown. Suri Surprise and Maseratti Spyder are always together! Cream Puff is a « grande dame » a Laureen Bacall look and you would not be surprised if she was acting the « Has any one got a matche?» scene.

There is something I am sure of, they still have Sue in their heart. I am sure they are missing their Canadian shepherd. I shall work my very best but it is going to take a little while to teach them to smile in French.



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# Getting Anal About Fecal Analysis

## or "The Scoop On Poop"

by Laura Harrawood

Most llama owners are kind of weird about llama dung. We are always looking at it.... like some sort of fecal detectives .... looking for clues. What color is the feces? Is it runny, soft, or formed? Does it have obvious parasite infestation... like tapeworms? And OMG... what if it smells bad?

Is it an adult with runny stools or is it a cria..... the plot definitely thickens. Was this animal just out on new lush pasture or eating hay? A whole series of questions and deducings go into the review and evaluation of ..... poop.

Problems sometimes occur with guesswork- worming because it's "time",

or because the llamas "look" like they need worming. Routine worming or improper worming may lead up to drug resistant parasites in your herd. There are herds already showing evidence of resistance to some wormers.

I recently attended a parasite clinic in Alabama given by Stephen R. Purdy, DVM. Dr. Purdy is the Director of Camelid Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We learned how to take a fecal sample, add a sugar solution, mash this up into a fecal soup, spin it in a centrifuge and then look for and count parasite eggs using the microscope. This is called the Modified Stoll's method.

Dr. Purdy also explains the right dewormer to use and the proper dose for each and every important parasite. Knowing the animals weight is valuable as well as knowing the importance of strategic deworming. For example: Before winter or around birthing time.

Dr. Purdy is vehement about worming camelids only when they need it. The sure way to know if they need it is to do a fecal examination under the microscope using the proper techniques.

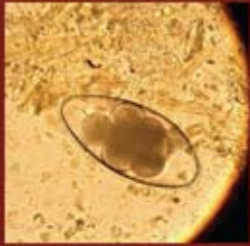
The most effective way to identify parasite eggs is to use the Modified Stoll's method. Dr. Purdy is fervent about a couple



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of other things as well. Anthelmintics are poison and so after they do their job for our llamas they do a number on our soil as well. Beneficial bugs are also effected by anthelmintics and could cause negative consequences in our soil..... harming earth worms and dung beetles to name a few.

Follow up fecal examinations should be done 10 – 14 days after deworming to check the efficacy of the dewormer.... Is it working?? How many times have we wormed llamas then stepped back and said, “shew, now that’s done for awhile”, and done nothing else.

Dr. Purdy is passionate about his efforts to raise money for an orphanage in Peru AND he is really really passionate about his efforts to raise money for research. He emphasizes over and over and OVER the importance of raising, sending, giving money for camelid research. Dr Purdy and the U. of Massachusetts Amherst are working on ... (you may have to sit down for this one) a vaccine to prevent meningeal worm. I am almost afraid to say it too loud. Can you imagine not having to give monthly injections?

Some llama owners have chosen to not give monthly injections for a variety of reasons. They worry for their llamas but may not want to risk the negative effects of monthly deworming. With a meningeal worm vaccine we could stop watching our llamas for any subtle neurological clues that they could have meningeal worm. We can save all that guilt for something else! ..... like why we didn’t fund llama research. It is tax deductible.

In the end each farm has to decide their own deworming program. Knowledge is power though and denial never works. Prevention is paramount. Make sure your llamas are nutritionally sound and never overstock pastures are some means of prevention. One main manner to prevent reinfestation of parasites is to keep the poop cleaned up. Poor sanitation, wet weather, poor animal nutrition, and arbitrary deworming practices are a recipe for disaster.

A microscope and centrifuge are relatively inexpensive so get one of each and go look at some poop!

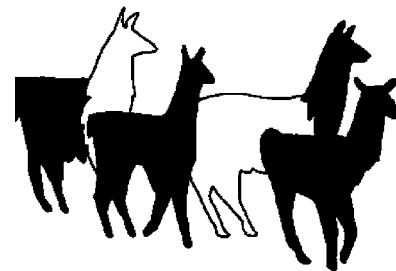
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## A Rose by Any Other Name...



by Sue Wilde

When you walk through a rose garden what do you see? What do you smell? What do you think about? What perspective do you bring to the rose garden? Do you see beauty or all the hours of hard work? When I walk through roses I think of my wonderful sister who inherited my grandmother's gift for gardens. Her roses were the high light of the summer and I keep a beautiful bowl of her dried roses to remind me of her often.

When I walk through a herd of llamas I think of all the wonderful brown eyes looking my way and pretty babies that are going to be born. I also can think about the birth, easy, joyful, difficult, sad. How will I market the babies? Will I want to keep them all?!

What creates and affects our perspective on things? What can limit our perspectives? We often hear the expression: "Let's put all this in perspective" but sometimes there are factors that can limit our ability to do this.

1. **Our experiences** create, affect and can limit our perspectives. Have they been positive? Negative? In the llama industry we can't always have positive experiences because people and animals are not predictable variables but we can manage our experiences so that we are creating as **positive future experiences** as possible and managing the negative ones so that they don't skew our perspective in a permanently negative direction.

Last week one of my favorite females had a uterine torsion, something I haven't dealt with in many years. We successfully fixed the twist but the baby was dead and in getting it out the uterus ripped and we lost them both. Whew,

that was a tough day but I have 4 other "ladies in waiting" and I am watching them more carefully than before and anticipating wonderful new arrivals. I have to do this or not be able to enjoy the new babies arrivals which will I am sure be joyful events!

2. **Our lack of knowledge** can create, affect and limit our perspective. All of us recently received a message from the ILR explaining away a rumor about computer programming issues. The people who sent out that initial information had a lack of knowledge about the real situation and it seriously limited their perspective on the situation and limited the perspective of others. The ILR cleared this up quickly so that we were moving again in positive direction. **Know** is the root work of knowledge so work on the root of it all! Mark Twain stated, that, "the most striking difference between a cat and a lie is that the cat has only nine lives!"

3. **Fear** is, in my opinion, the most limiting factor of life itself, let alone our perspective on situations. "What If" is an important consideration but when it is clouding all our decisions and our progress fear is down right destructive. Fear to talk to new people at llama events, fear to purchase the new herd sire that could make your program know, fear to ask questions, fear to volunteer. It's paralyzing and one thing our industry doesn't need

is to be paralyzed! Be **BRAVE**, research your path and get on it!

4. **Biases** are the stuff poll gathers thrive on! If we took a poll of our llama community where would your biases lie? Would they be on the side of "team work to make the dream work" or on the side of "let's tear it down and start over from scratch"? Our biases are based on all the previous factors and they are what can form our perspectives on our industry. We need to be **open** minded and open to new possibilities.

Are things always as they seem? Socrates observed that "the first key to greatness is to be in reality what we appear to be". Let's gain a new perspective on our industry! We judge ourselves by our intentions and others judge us by our actions. What is the true perspective? Actions speak louder than words so let's walk the talk! Let's hear with new ears, see with new eyes, learn from all our experiences, toss our fears out the window and as Dr. Phil would say, Get Real! That's a healthy way to put things in a positive perspective and be the llama industry we want to be!

