

About L.A.M.A.S.

The **Lama Association of the Mid-Atlantic States (LAMAS)** was formed as a non-profit organization to educate its members and the public about the breeding of, raising of, and caring for llamas, and to promote and advance the interests of the llama community as a whole, while maintaining a high standard of conduct. LAMAS is made up of people interested in llamas and alpacas. Most, but not all, own llamas or alpacas. We welcome new members whether they have a llama or alpaca or not! The qualifications for membership are your interest in llamas and/or alpacas and your agreement to follow our Standards of Conduct which include: to provide nutritious food in sufficient quantity, necessary medical care, proper drink, air, space, and shelter for your llamas, and to deal in matters relating to llamas in a fair and honorable manner.

As a group we are interested in the best way we can care for our animals, so we have a strong interest in medical, reproduction, and herd management issues. This association publishes a bimonthly 40+ page newsletter, has frequent meetings for its members, and supports a larger conference and several llama shows in Virginia. Individual memberships (includes a single vote) or double memberships (includes 2 votes and the opportunity to sponsor a veterinary membership) are available. There is also a free brochure listing the location of many LAMAS members and the projects and services they offer.



There are other llama associations and clubs in the surrounding states: Greater Appalachian Llama & Alpaca Association; Southern States Llama Association; & others in Pennsylvania and Tennessee. In addition, there are more associations across the country. LAMAS has a lending library for members that has an extensive list of llama books and videos for novice and experienced llama owners.



BACKGROUND BASICS

Llamas and alpacas are in the same animal genus, Lamas, and so when we refer to the one “L” llama, that means we are talking about both groups of animals. Lamas are members of the camel (Camelid) family and were domesticated from guanacos in the Andean Highlands of Peru 4,000-5,000 years ago. They are among the first animals ever domesticated and provided native herdsmen with wool for clothing, hide for shelter, and manure pellets for fuel. Lamas continue to provide these benefits for many remote villages in the Andes today. Lamas also played an important part in ancient religious ceremonies. In North America these animals provide wool for clothing and decoration, pellets for fertilizer, companionship, and serve as pack animals for recreation. We do not however raise them for food nor for their hides.

PHYSICAL FACTS OF LAMAS

Life Span: Llamas & Alpacas-15-20 years;
Height: Llamas-36”-48” at the shoulder, Alpacas- 36” at the shoulders
Weight: Llamas-280-450 lbs.; Alpacas-125-200 lbs.
Average Gestation: 350 days
Birth: A single baby (cria) is normally delivered from a standing mother during daylight hours. Twinning rarely occurs.
Babies: Birth weights for llamas range from 20 to 35 lbs. & alpacas range from 10 to 25 lbs. Babies are normally up and nursing within 90 minutes and are weaned at about 6 months. Crias should not be removed from their mothers to be “bottle-fed” unless medically necessary and special interaction should be done to preserve natural behavior.
Reproduction: Females are first bred around 2 years of age. Lamas do not have a heat cycle, but are induced ovulators (ovulation occurs 24-36 hours after breeding.) They can be bred at any time. Males may reach sexual maturity around 18-24 months.
Health: Because llamas and their ancestors are specially suited to the harsh environment of the Andean homeland, North American owners will find them uncommonly hardy, healthy, easy keepers, and remarkably disease resistant compared to other livestock.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are llamas used for?

Uses for both llamas and alpacas include breeding stock, show competition, fiber production, therapy, and companion pets. Llamas are also used for pack animals, driving animals, and guardians for sheep & goats.



Are they intelligent? Llamas are intelligent and easy to train. In just a few repetitions they will pick up and retain many behaviors such as accepting a halter, being led, loading in and out of a vehicle, pulling a cart, or carrying a pack.

Are they good pack animals? Llamas are excellent packers. Conditioned animals can carry 50-120 pounds, but are not ridden except by children. Alpacas, being much smaller, are not generally used for packing. Their two-toed foot with its leathery bottom pad give both llamas and alpacas great surefootedness. Due to their soft feet and their ability to browse, llamas have a much smaller impact on the environment compared to other larger pack animals such as a mule or horse.

What is their personality like? These highly social animals need the companionship of their species. Plan on having at least two llamas unless they are in a guardian position over other livestock. Independent yet shy, llamas are gentle and curious. Their calm nature and common sense make them easy for anyone, even children, to handle.

What and how much do they eat? Llamas are a modified ruminant with a three compartment stomach. They chew their cud and have a relatively low protein requirement due to their efficient digestive systems. They can be kept on a variety of pastures or hay and free choice llama mineral supplement. In this area, it is common to feed a specially formulated llama grain supplement to meet their mineral and vitamin requirements.

Can you use their fiber? Grease-free, lightweight llama fiber is warm and luxurious. It is popular with spinners, weavers, knitters, and in felting projects.

What sounds do they make? Llamas communicate in many ways. Their body language includes a series of ear, body, and tail postures. They vocalize with a shrill alarm call and a humming sound, in addition to a variety of other low pitched noises.

Do they spit? Spitting is the llama’s way of saying “Bug off!” Normally it is used only among other llamas to divert annoying suitors, ward off a perceived threat, or most commonly, to establish pecking order at mealtime. However, an occasional llama who has been forced to tolerate excessive human handling may have developed an intolerance for or fear of humans and will spit if it feels threatened by them.

VETERINARY CARE & REGIONAL HEALTH CONCERNS

In this area, we have access to excellent veterinarians who are interested in working with llamas. To locate a veterinarian in your area, the LAMAS web site publishes a sponsored vet list, or contact a local llama owner. Before llamas can be brought into Virginia, they must test negative for Blue Tongue, Brucellosis, and TB and, if staying in Virginia, must be permanently identified. Each state has different regulations, so contact your State Veterinary Board or local veterinarian for more information.

While llamas are relatively healthy, our major health concerns in this area are meningeal worm (carried by white tail deer) and heat stress. Both issues can be dealt with in advance, but can be problems if ignored. Regular dewormings help ward off parasitizing by the meningeal worm and stomach worms. Shearing, providing cool and airy shelter, and knowing the signs of heat stress can help them through our hot, humid weather. To avoid heat stress, llamas should not be moved to this area from a cooler climate between June and October nor should females be bred for delivery between July and September. Yearly inoculations are usually all that is required otherwise. For more information, contact your veterinarian or a local llama breeder.



REGISTRATION OF LLAMAS & ALPACAS

If you buy a lama, you should know that there is a registry for llamas, alpacas and guanacos. This is now a closed registry for llamas and there is a separate closed registry for alpacas. Unregistered animals can be difficult to register and it may also be difficult to sell their unregistered babies. The registry aids in tracking the heritage of the animals that we buy. The registry can also be a computer source to locate progeny, trace lineage, etc. to use as an aid to find specific llamas.

The International Lama Registry (ILR) is the largest accurate compilation of genealogical information in the world. The Registry is a not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of maintaining an official genealogical registry system and research services for owners of sub species of the genus lama: llama (lama glama), guanaco (lama guanicoe), vicuna (lama vicugna) and cross-bred. It can be compared to a large library, a valuable storehouse of information, whose job is to gather and maintain accurate genealogical records.

Alpacas (lama pacos) are registered under their own registry, **The Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI)**. The most important services these registries provide are the prompt and accurate documentation of lineage. In addition, the ILR and ARI are research centers for members wishing extended pedigree information on multiple generations, statistical data, herd lists, progeny lists, country of origin, age and color - invaluable tools in a breeding program. Statistical data provided by the ILR and ARI enables the entire lama community to monitor industry growth patterns.

The International Lama Registry
PO Box 8 Kalispell, MT 59903
Phone: 406-755-3438 Fax: 406-755-3439
www.lamaregistry.com
Email: ilr@lamaregistry.com

Alpaca Registry, Inc
4711 Innovation Drive, Suite 160,
Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 402-437-8484 Fax: 402-437-8488
www.alpacaregistry.net
Email: ari@alpacaregistry.net

OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The purpose of the **Alpaca and Llama Show Association (ALSA)** is to promote Llamas and Alpacas by enhancing the visibility and demonstrating the versatility of llamas at shows. In so doing, ALSA establishes guidelines for the shows, educates the judges and records the achievements of the individual llamas. The result is a better educated llama community as to the soundness and conformations of these unique animals.

ALSA
607 California Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15202
www.alsashow.org Email: alsa@nauticom.net
Phone: 412-761-0211 Fax: 412-761-0212

The **Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association (AOBA)** serves to promote public awareness and membership appreciation for the alpaca's unique qualities; to educate the membership on the care and breeding of the alpaca; to promote the growth of the alpaca industry as a whole; and to foster the establishment of the breed outside of its native land by encouraging husbandry and breeding practices based upon, but not limited to, herd health, overall soundness, and alpaca fiber production and products. Additionally, it has its own Alpaca Certified Show system.

AOBA
17000 Commerce Parkway, Suite C
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054
www.alpacainfo.com Email: aoba@ahint.com
Phone: 800-213-9522 Fax: 856-439-0525

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LAMAS recommends that you meet as many llamas (and breeders) as you can before you make a final decision on whether to buy llamas or which llamas to buy. Become an informed consumer. LAMAS is not interested in promoting any specific breeders or types of llamas but we are interested in making sure that first time llama buyers are exposed to the relatively large amount of information that is available to anyone interested in finding out more about llamas.

WORLD WIDE WEB

<http://www.l-a-m-a-s.org>

LAMAS has a detailed website that introduces the association and its members. A calendar of events, a current membership list and many links to more llama information are available.

MAGAZINES

There are several publications which offer different perspectives about llamas and the llama breeding community. The largest of these are:

Llama Life II

5232 Blenheim Rd, Charlottesville VA 22902
805-734-3633 Email: llamalife2@aol.com
Website: <http://www.llamalife.com>

Llama Banner

PO Box 1968 Manhattan KS 66502
785-537-0320
Website: <http://www.llamabanner.com>

Camelid Quarterly

70 MacEwan Ridge Place NW Calgary, Alberta
Canada T3K 3M1
403-275-5170
Web site: <http://www.llamas-alpacas.com>

For more information, application for membership, & breeder list contact:

L.A.M.A.S.
P.O. Box 252
Ashland, VA 23005
or log onto the web site at:
www.l-a-m-a-s.org

Or contact the llama owner listed below

Farm:
Owner:
Address:

Phone:
Email:
Website:



LEARNING ABOUT LLAMAS



A publication of
The Lama Association of the
Mid Atlantic States

*Serving Llamas throughout the 'Mid-Atlantic States
and the People who 'love them'*

www.l-a-m-a-s.org