



# Llama Link

The British Llama Society's quarterly magazine



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Spring 2018



# Editor's Notes

Well, spring came and went... then returned!  
My lemon trees have left the conservatory on a number of occasions and are back in there until the weather makes up its mind!

I have spent a little time redesigning the Llama Link Magazine and I hope you will continue to find it packed full of useful articles. We have a wealth of creative writers in our midst and I am very pleased to once again include Marty McGee Bennett and Dr Richard Cox in this edition.

Please do keep your photos, stories, news items and diary dates coming. Everything I receive is useful and I will try to include as much as possible in future editions.

And finally may I extend a very warm welcome to new members, Philip and Julia Nash (Norfolk), Sarah and Guy Pitchon (Yorkshire), Emma Smith (Oxfordshire), Sarah Murch (Doncaster), Hayley Ketcher (Warwickshire) and Alexander Wallace (Roxburghshire)

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17th December, for January publication



Tina Gambell

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# EVENTS

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# One Llama, One Alpaca, One Show

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Chris and Vicki Agar went along to the BBC

**B**elieve it or not, The One Show studio is tiny, but thankfully on the ground floor. We drove up to be at BBC broadcasting house at 5 pm, for a run through at 6.30. Our reason for being asked to do so was to publicise a forthcoming programme on ITV called Britain's favourite walks that was hosted by Julia Bradbury and Ore Oduba. Whilst two llamas were requested, we could only accommodate with one llama, Eron and one alpaca, Obelix.

The whole experience was great fun and everyone was delightful, but our two minute interview was cut short because the program ran on so late. We can only imagine what was going on behind the scenes when they thought they had asked us all the way up there to actually miss getting on the programme.



The llama is called Eron and the alpaca Obelix



Vicki Agar with Julia Bradbury

# Chairman's Notes



■ Tim Crowfoot

## Contiguous testing of camelids

I have recently attended one of our regular meetings with DEFRA where we discuss issues with TB testing in camelids and related aspects of the DEFRA programme to eradicate bovine TB from the UK. Last summer we won a concession for camelids herds that have to be tested as contiguous contacts where a neighbouring farm has an outbreak of TB. Rather than the full skin test followed by a blood test DEFRA and APHA agreed to change this to a simple injection of tuberculin to prime the antibody response prior to the blood test. This change was because all camelids hate having the injection for the skin test done in their armpits. However there has been some confusion about the direction being given to the vets carrying out the tests which we hope will now be clarified. I will let you know if and when this clarification is implemented.

## Embryo Transfer and Artificial Insemination

We are all looking forward to the Members' Day at Catanger Llamas (Saturday 28 April) and to the talk on ET by Karin Mueller. We hope she can shed some light on the thorny problem of freezing live embryos so that they can be transported across international boundaries. Quite separately I have now heard about some successful experiments on freezing live camel semen and then using it to inseminate some female camels that have become pregnant as a result. These camels are expected to give birth shortly. Good results have also been achieved using chilled semen which can be kept for up to 24 hours before use leading to the possibility of moving the semen across international boundaries. Work on AI is also ongoing on South American camelids and this is also showing great promise. So the holy grail of AI in camelids is moving much closer to reality. Like ET AI could also offer a good path importing improved genetics into the UK and is less invasive and probably would be cheaper to do than ET.

Interesting times!  
Enjoy your llamas!  
Tim Crowfoot  
Chairman, BLS

Photo: Ralph, Pole Rue Farm,  
Courtesy of Leigh White



# Snowground

Photo: Harley, Stud at Hillview Llamas,  
Courtesy of Richard Cox



# Sweetgrass

# Members' Day and AGM

## Sat 28 April

This year the BLS Members' Day and AGM will be held on Saturday 28 April courtesy of Mary Pryse, at Catanger Llamas near Banbury. Please put this date in your diaries and do come along.

The programme for the day will be as follows:  
10.00 Arrive - coffee and tea

10.30 Conformation - Talk and demonstration about what a show judge looks for in llama conformation - Mary Pryse

11.00 Let's go trekking - an opportunity to walk in Catanger woodland with some of Mary's llamas.

12.15 Ask the vet - Rebecca, Mary's vet, will field your questions about llamas. (Rebecca recently attended the annual camelid conference in the US that was sponsored by British Camelids Ltd., our overarching charity. She has also written in Llama Link)

13.00 Lunch followed by a very short AGM

14.00 'Embryo transfer in llamas - opportunities and challenges?' - Karin Mueller

Summary: Exceptional female animals' genes can be passed on by embryo transfer more quickly than by natural breeding. It is useful in species that have long pregnancies and where the mother carries only one offspring. Embryo transfer enables breeders to incorporate the genes of animals from across the world into their gene pool, increasing the quality of their animals. It can also be used to preserve genetic lines for which there are only a few animals. The technology is well

established in other species but is difficult with camelids. Embryo freezing and thawing are essential to obtaining genes from abroad but remain challenging. Karin's presentation will detail background information, developments that have occurred in llamas and issues to be solved. She will also explore moral and ethical issues.

15.30 Wash-up (literally!) and depart.

Directions to Catanger Llamas are detailed below. There is plenty of parking. There is no charge for this event and a cold buffet lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. However, do let me know if you plan to come because we need to know the numbers for catering. Family and friends are welcome.

Paperwork for the AGM will be sent in early April.



# LLAMAS IN THE MEDIA

Visual Representations of Llamas in Modern Media, By Dr Richard Cox

In recent years, llamas have inspired artistic works featuring on coins, in crafts, textile designs, films and songs, computer games and advertisements. People share their wedding day with llamas, wipe their feet on a llama doormat before entering their home, have their drink in a llama mug, take a shower shielded by a llama curtain, read a llama story to their children before going to bed wearing llama pyjamas, placing their head on a llama pillow and sleeping under a llama duvet. They dress in the morning into their llama socks, knickers, t-shirt, jeans and sweater before putting on their llama jewellery, llama scarf, gloves and hat to go outside to go on a llama trek and buy a llama greeting card for their friend's birthday. I could go on but you get my drift.

One assumes this must relate to them having popular appeal. Something marketing experts knew, for some reason would work.



Funky

What constitutes this popular appeal is an interesting question since llamas are portrayed in so many different ways in the media. The popular press appears to present llamas first and foremost as animals of novelty that are odd or funny. We humans seem to have a propensity to laugh at something unusual, something we are not familiar with, do not understand or makes us peculiarly nervous, so no wonder the spontaneous reactions of many individuals I come across whilst out walking my llamas is to smile with a broad grin. I know it is not just at me they are laughing at since I see it when incognito. I recently saw a TV programme in which they brought a llama into the studio. The presenters couldn't stop laughing at everything the llama did but this is not an uncommon reaction I have found.

In the media, the llama is often portrayed as Humorous or Peculiar, perhaps a bit Mad or Zany, Wacky, Weird or Bizarre, Funky, Feminine and decorative/dress able, Regal or Snooty, Masculine and Mischievous. However, at the same time, it is also presented as an animal of grace and great beauty, Intelligent, Trainable and as cute; a gentle creature that is innocent and cuddly making it ideally suited to children's stories and toys, Laid back, gentle and calming and as such suitable for therapy work with elderly, infirm and troubled teenagers, lovable and Romantic. It also is commonly presented as curious, something mystical and occasionally as unpredictable or at worst aggressive and threatening. Only



Feminine



Cute and cuddly



Toys for children

back in its native South America is it portrayed as a work animal, fibre and food. Pictorial representations in the modern world also portray the llama more commonly in a feminine way, as suited as a toy for little girls, a print on women's clothing rather than men's. The odd thing is that perversely most of the role models in stories and films are male llamas. My wife tells me she thinks of them as 'feminine animals' because of their grace and beauty. They are not noisy or as excitable as dogs can be, threatening as horned goats sometimes appear, ugly and smelly as pigs but majestic with their attractive faces and eyelashes to die for.

The portrayal of the llama as something of a humorous oddity is perhaps borne out of them being so different to the animals we are more used to seeing in the northern hemisphere, for example, horses and cows with their proportionally shorter necks and bigger heads. Certainly, many visitors to my farm react initially by saying how strange they look.

Of course, many have also read stories and seen video footage of llamas spitting and so long as it is at someone else consider it very amusing. I was once speaking with a non English speaking Italian gentleman and his way of communicating with me about llamas

was to gesticulate the spitting action so quite clearly it is the first image that comes to many people's minds when they think about llamas.

It may also relate to the fact that with their big ears and long eyelashes llamas can be very expressive compared to many other species and this makes them all the more intriguing to humans. That said, there is also a curiosity about the uncertainty of their expressions. Many visitors to my farm think that spitting at humans is the desire of llamas to which they are naturally risk averse and don't want to get too near, just in case!

In contrast, the relatively gentle movements of llamas, coupled with their peaceful sounding humming and soft woolly fleece can invoke an image of warmth, peace, calm and serenity.

I have never been very sure why so many llamas get kissed by fellow humans and are perceived as having a romantic aura about them. I know that llamas traditionally greet each other and human companions by placing their nose to nose. I assume it is because they have a strong and distinct sense of smell, but I doubt it is anything more than this.

Can I say that some of my more pretentious acquaintances have expressed appreciation of their

perceived regal behaviour. That is their considered aloofness and snooty behaviour when holding their noses high or turning their heads away from individuals as if disapproving. To some, this is regarded as an ability to discriminate superior beings from the general riff-raff. I guess it just depends on whom the llama is turning away from!. I could be controversial and ask whether this perceived rejection of approval and affection ties in with their image being commonly portrayed with femininity. If it was perceived that this disapproving activity was linked to any rational or intellectual behaviour, it would in a male-dominated society, be more suggestive of masculine behaviour, but llamas seldom get portrayed as butch, courageous, egoist characters



A decorated llama

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His way of communicating with me about llamas was to gesticulate the spitting action so quite clearly it is t

comes to many people's minds when they think about llamas

as would normally a male of any species. Many female llama lovers did in my research think of them as female and again it was explained in terms of soft furry coats, big dreamy eyes and long eyelashes. Actual evidence, however, shows that llamas have smaller eyes than cattle or horses but it is their relative size to their head that makes them appear to be bigger.

Briefly, returning to the image of being an intelligent animal, other than their perceived aloofness/dismissive behaviour being a tied in with the commonly held perception of university dons, there does not appear to be any hard evidence of llama showing problem solving abilities or utilising tools as used to illustrate the intellectual powers of some primates and birds. Instead, what some owners point to is what may be better more appropriately termed 'emotional intelligence'. As what one respondent commented:

They have an ability to adapt and moderate their behaviour in the presence of very young people or



A creature of grace and beauty



Curious



Loveable and romantic



Calm and gentle

vulnerable adults which we see all the time with our farm visitors.

In other words, they exhibit sensitivity and this is a feature which lends them to successfully proven therapy work across a diverse range of populations ranging from juvenile delinquents to elderly dementia patients.

A relatively new coined term is 'social intelligence'. I have spent many hours observing their social behaviour and cannot but help think they have some rational processing going on in how they behave and who they relate to and reject. Yes, like sheep and other herding animals they can follow blindly, but within the herd, there are social relations at play in who they bond with or pall up to.

They commonly stay in close proximity in their little cliques and have llamas they willing share feed buckets with and others they never will. These cliques or groups can be familial, reflect a common type, age or size but not necessarily. One assumes there must



Trainable



A working animal, fibre and food



Mischievous



Cute



Aggressive or threatening



Kissable



Masculine



Wacky, Weird or Bizarre

be some reasons but I am unsure what.

Their ability to process information and recall previous learning has also been mentioned in relation to their intelligence.

Whilst we could enter into the debate as to what philosophically and/or psychologically constitutes intelligence, learning, training, etc, suffice for now to say that there is plenty to suggest they are certainly not dumb creatures.

As to why they have something of an exotic and mystical status I struggle all the more with. In the Western World, I would have thought it either relates to their unusual/unfamiliar physical and behavioural features that suggest they must have come from beyond planet Earth. In their native South America because of the way it has always been regarded as an animal of sacrifice. However, why they are sometimes associated with unicorns, portrayed with a horn on top of their head, I have no idea.

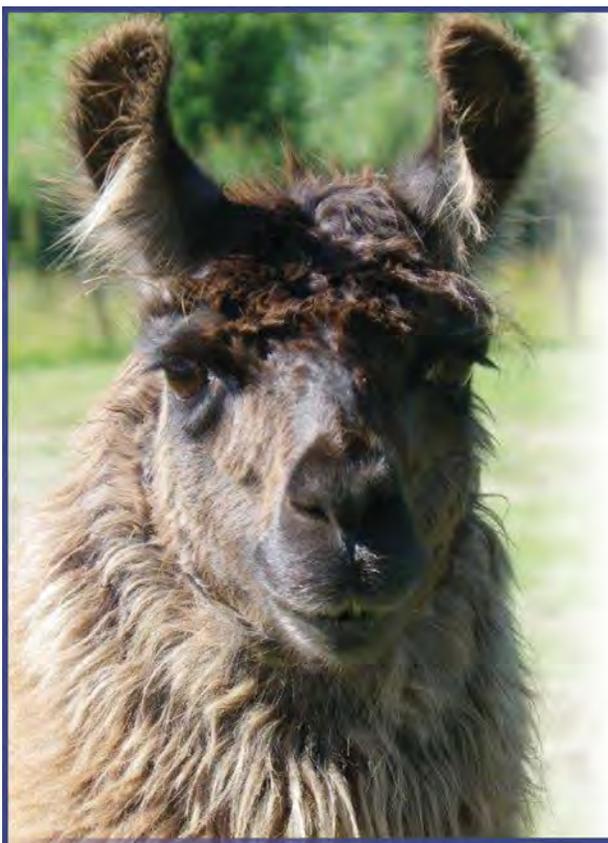
Finally, a question I would like answers to in respect of popular images of llamas is why do people like to dress them up. It's not a new phenomenon since native South Americans have a tradition of decorating their prized llamas. In contemporary Western society, the only other animals I can think of we humans like to dress up are dogs and possibly ponies. Making llamas look nice

and decorated would certainly fit in with the feminine image held of them, just as we typically think of French Poodles being owned, dolled-up and paraded by fine French ladies or ponies by teenage girls. Youngsters dressing llamas in North America is encouraged as a way of engaging their interest in llamas. It is part of the 4H programme with show class at most ALSA events.

It will be interesting to see how long this fascination goes on for and reflects itself in demand for llamas and the popularity of different types.

Dr Richard Cox, Hillview Llamas

*This article is an abridged version of a broader chapter on the Llama as a Cultural Icon in Modern Society in a forthcoming book on llamas written by the author. Over 3,500 images of llamas, organised in classified order, can be seen via the Hillview Llamas website providing you register for a free Pinterest account.*



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# BVCS Conference 2017

Ellie Beazerdimond. A final year student at The Royal Veterinary College

A jam-packed weekend of talks, tutorials and tea breaks, the 2017 British Veterinary Camelid Society (BVCS) congress did not disappoint. Based at the picturesque Manor House Hotel and Golf Club, the Cotswold countryside provided an ideal setting to learn about all things camelid. Two busy days of lectures covered a broad agenda: from cria neonatal care to surgical management of fractures to most recent developments in the Enferplex tuberculosis test. Lectures were followed by interactive and engaging group discussions (almost too much so, as not a single lecture was able to start on time!). A stimulating group of orators were invited, including Alex McSloy, Claire Whitehead and Alastair Hayton. Particularly refreshing was guest international speaker David Pugh, whose numerous biblical references and focus on the plight of the Dung Beetle brought a well-rounded feel to discussions. The learning wasn't just restricted to classroom time: fuelled by excellent food and wine, conversations and camaraderie went on well into Sunday small hours. For us, as final year vet students, it provided

great insight into the veterinary world we are fast approaching. Not only was it a great chance to network, relax, and bond over a shared passion for all things camelid but it also provided a real sense of how people practically apply scientific principles in the field. This is a skill applicable to all veterinary practitioners, but being a relatively new species of interest, the many nuances of camelids mean that veterinary intervention often demands a greater degree of creativity than some of our other domestic species. Ultimately it made us prospective new graduates feel better prepared to tackle an alpaca should we need to on our first day in practice.

It was lovely to see vets gathering to discuss something they feel so passionate about, inspiring us to follow our interests once we enter clinical practice. The BVCS is a small but very immersive society, with an endless supply of amusing anecdotes featuring everyone's favourite two-toed semi-ruminant. For anyone wanting to find out more about these majestic creatures, we would wholeheartedly recommend joining.

# Llama Mia!



Photo: Macchiato and The Pocket Rocket  
Courtesy of Lisa Fox, Briary Hill Llamas (Glouc)



Photo: Pharaoh of Faster Lente Llamas  
Courtesy of Tina Gambell (Cambs)

# Snow Problama

# Creating Calm, and Coopera

Camelids are the best! You get to experience all the fun stuff about barnyard life without the smell, mounds of poop, noise, and physical danger that often goes along with other species of livestock. Because llamas and alpacas are so “civilized” we forget that these little cute cuddly fifteen-thirty pound babies are barn animals, not house pets. Animals that will grow up to be adult llamas or alpacas that weigh in at up to 150-400 pounds respectively. It is in our best interest to raise camelids that are pleasant, polite, tractable, interested, and confident. For animals living in a human world obedience and manners mean more freedom, not less. When animals are well behaved and understand the limits of appropriate behaviour everybody wins.

Before I get into the nuts and bolts of this issue- just a note on boys and girls and the differences between the two. This article is intended as advice for raising male llamas and alpacas. It is true that most behavioural problems associated with inappropriate physical contact involve males. However, I think it is best to teach respectful cooperative behaviour from camelids of both sexes. It may be wise to be a bit more vigilant with young males but for the most part, the advice involves behaviour in adult male camelids. Firstly, we need to decide what appropriate behaviour actually is. Surprisingly many people haven't thought this one out. If you don't know what it is you want, you are probably not going to get it— at least on a consistent basis.

In general baby llamas and alpacas will approach humans from a respectful distance (2-3 feet) they may follow a human around for a bit, again at a respectful

distance but generally retreat when the human turns and directly approaches. Baby llamas and alpacas that are trusting and secure will go about their business as humans move around in the barn and barnyard and don't necessarily run away at the sight of a human. On the other hand, the average baby won't run over with his tail over his back to snuggle, rub and nibble on humans. Babies usually think humans are of interest when they first appear but most don't find humans all consuming and will wander off within a few minutes

Most of us don't bring llamas and alpacas into our lives only to watch them through binoculars. We are interested in having a relationship with our animals. As you seek to develop this relationship particularly if you are going to raise young animals and shape their personalities it is important to understand the nature of your chosen animal.

Unless we make a conscious effort to make a shift we humans see everything from a human point of view. When interpreting camelid behaviour, it is helpful to think about the world from their point of view. From your point of view, your baby llama or alpaca may be the object of your affection, the most wonderful perfect baby the world, a cute cuddly teddy bear and an animal in whom you have a heavy emotional and perhaps a significant financial investment. Who are you to your camelid? From his point of view, you may be an interesting, potentially dangerous, odd combination of fed bin, playground and predator. The point is the way you behave and the kind of interaction you allow determines how your young llamas and alpacas will think about you and more importantly how they will behave in your presence. We humans



# , Cool, Collected ative Camelids



often allow behaviour from baby animals of many species —dogs and cats included —that we cannot and will not tolerate from adults of that same species, this double standard is not only unfair, it creates great confusion.

It is completely natural for a young animal to explore his environment. Each llama and alpaca baby is born with a basic nature and personality all his own. Some are much more precocious than others. It is worth

remembering that a camelid's innate behaviour is shaped by the environment in which his ancestors evolved. In South America, young camelids are usually born at the same time of year and grow up with many other same-sex and other-sex youngsters to play with. Based on my years of observation it is obvious that males and females babies play differently and act differently almost from the time they hit the ground. Boys are much more physical.

When, in his natural environment, the urge hits to play, wrestle, bite, and bump, there are plenty of other male youngsters around with which to engage in this natural behaviour.

In the United States, many breeders of both llamas and alpacas have much smaller groups of breeding animals with babies born throughout the year and are unlikely to have groups of same age same sex babies. A single young male living with two

# Shearer Directory

“

When considering the length of the coat to be left, bear in mind the possibility of sunburn, lack of protection from rain, increased bites from insects and the reduced length of the winter coat that a close crop may entail.

Below is a list of people who travel around the country shearing animals. The top four shear llamas but you would need to ask the others if they do likewise.

Early booking may be necessary. BLS can't recommend any name in particular but you may be able to ask other llama owners for a recommendation or call the shearer to get a feel for how they work.

Ben Wheeler  
Jay Holland

Mobile 07770-375300  
Tel 01452-78327      Mobile 07789-257222  
Email: jay@purealpacos.co.uk

Colin Ottery

Tel 01884-38782      Mobile 07773-440354  
Email: alpaca2shear@yahoo.co.uk

Leigh Tucker  
Ian Horner

Mobile 07957-881736  
Tel 01963-351743      Mobile 07974-314211  
Email: hornerian@ymail.com

K. Wilde

Mobile 07748-613771  
Email: kwilde1@yahoo.com

David Harrison

Tel 01983-555080      Mobile 07734 830325  
Email: info@alpacashearer.co.uk

Other names are listed on: <http://www.bas-uk.com/supplier/colin-ottery> and <http://www.fowberry-alpacas.com/resources/shearer>



adult females in a small pasture is going to have some instincts that will be frustrated. Adult animals in his environment (usually females) will not want to play and in fact, they are probably saying something like “Get away from me kid you bother me.” A young alpaca or llama that grows up without other youngsters around will tend to find “two-leggeds” much more interesting than he would if he had five other babies around to play with. It would be a mistake to think of this interest as “love,” you are basically the last resort. A very small percentage of baby llamas and alpacas perhaps 5% are born with a consuming interest in humans regardless of the circumstances of their birth a number of factors may help to create overly interested male youngsters. You are more likely to meet or create one if:



Chris Gambell, the subject of Jasmine's curiosity

- you have a small herd group
- your baby does not have another male baby to play with
- you have a small property
- you have small children that spend large amounts of time in the barn
- you have to bottle feed, supplement, or medically treat a young baby for some reason.

It doesn't matter if your baby was born inappropriately interested in humans or circumstances have helped to create him if you have a young male that is interacting with you it is very important for you to be clear about the messages you send back.

Young llama and alpaca babies that rub, lean on you, stand close to you, walk right up and put their nose in your face or crotch and a fail to yield space when you move toward them are often referred to as friendly. In my opinion, these behaviours are not friendly in our sense of the word. This baby animal is exploring his environment and checking out the boundaries of what is allowed. With his behaviour, your young camelid is asking you very important questions... What are you? Will you play with me? Are you to be respected? What am allowed to do with you? How strong are you? Can I control you? Is it okay to climb on you like a hill? Can I eat you like grass? Will you shock me like that funny wire stuff?

The conventional wisdom of ignoring youngsters until it is time to train them at 4-6 months, is, in my experience, not the answer. Like it or not you are training your animals every second you are in their presence—unfortunately so is everyone else who comes in contact with them. If you do nothing to discourage this seemingly “friendly” behaviour, it may grow into behaviour that is a problem later on. These early questions signal that it is time for you to set clear boundaries. Bring these babies into a catch pen with their mothers right away

and begin to work with them using balancing techniques (CAMELIDynamics techniques are great for this). You may be surprised to find that while these kinds of animals seem very confident in a field they have a very difficult time being contained in a small pen. Their confidence evaporates when they can't get away. By bringing these youngsters into a pen and leading the dance of catching and haltering you will take charge and teach them to accept your direction. You are changing their assumption that they are free to come and go at will and do whatever they like. It is VERY important with these kinds of animals that you take care NOT to use force. The standard approach of cornering, grabbing and holding will make the situation worse. You will be saying with your behaviour that getting into a physical contest with you is appropriate--in fact, you are starting it! Most babies wouldn't think of fighting back and will submit. The kind of baby that is eager to touch you and be near you won't feel that way.

Let's look at a specific situation. Your camelid baby runs up to you as soon as you appear in the field, bounces to a stop and picks at whatever is in your pocket as you walk around the barnyard. At 30 pounds this behaviour is cute. Everyone that visits loves this little



guy, pets him, hand feeds him and in general, thinks he is the cutest baby in the world. This little guy wants to play and wrestle and do all the things baby boy camelids do with each other— with humans. Unless you correct this impression why wouldn't he assume that it is okay to continue on in the same vein.... chest-butting, leg biting, spitting and other behaviours normally reserved for other animals. I don't want to create the impression that you need to discourage interactions with a baby llama or alpaca that walks up politely with his neck and nose extended for a greeting. There is certainly nothing wrong with a young camelid soliciting a nose greeting with neck and nose extended and then waiting politely for you to lean forward to participate in the greeting. Human beings that know and like each other hug and sometimes kiss when they meet. This is a greeting. Being grabbed by a total stranger on the street is assault. A male camelid that runs up to strangers and puts his nose in their face is not engaging in behaviour we want to reinforce. It is not a big deal to stop this behaviour before it gets going, but you must recognize the behaviour that is going to become a problem and discourage it.

Take care of your personal space. Insist that baby llamas and alpacas that approach and greet you without getting too close or making bodily contact. I consider 12-18 inches around me front and back from head to toe is my personal space. A human need only stop an animal from barging into this space; we do not need to chase him away. Most of the time you don't have to actively discourage the behaviour you simply need to STOP encouraging it. The most effective approach is to be as uninteresting as you can possible be don't interact at all when the baby approaches if he follows you stop be completely still like a post. The baby will wander off to interact with something more interesting. With an



BRITISH VETERINARY  
CAMELID SOCIETY

Is your vet aware of

The British Veterinary Camelid Society?

Please pass on this link: [www.camelidvets.org](http://www.camelidvets.org)

older baby that you have previously encouraged you might try tossing something like alfalfa hay or pellets AWAY from you. In my opinion, it would be a big mistake (and a very common one) to push this young guy away when he approaches. This indicates you are going to participate in a physical contest as would another camelid male. This is not the impression you want to convey, more appropriately the message is-- I am not available for physical interactions of any sort. I would also discourage yelling as a correction. Yelling gets everyone's blood up, escalates the situation and indicates that you are afraid.

If you are currently dealing with a young llama or alpaca who is headed down this road and is already at the point of rubbing and pushing, it is important that every human in this young camelid's life behave consistently. If you have children, keep them away from him until he understands how to behave.

Don't expect farm visitors to train your animal's for you, if you have farm visitors put this guy on a halter, or if he is not halter trained put him away. If the behaviour is pretty entrenched, it is not a bad idea to geld him. Gelding makes the problem less complicated but doesn't solve it. You must still learn to behave differently and set limits.

Babies do best if they have other babies to play with. Most of the time if there are other babies available the whole issue of inappropriate contact becomes a non-issue. If you are going to have a single baby, think about forming a baby playgroup. Contact other breeders that are going to have single babies. Make arrangements to board your female and baby at their farm for a month or two and then move both mothers and babies to your place for two months. The hassle is well worth it and you will both benefit from the enjoyment of watching the babies play together.

Beware of overcompensation- the old I will show this animal who is the boss attitude. In my role as an animal trainer, I prefer to think of myself as the teacher rather than the boss. If you prefer the boss analogy, how about being a boss of the new millennium instead of the 40s. Enlightened managers, teachers and bosses know that backing your subordinates into a corner creates difficulties. Many trainers use the word dominance to describe how to behave around an animal. The issue of dominance is a tricky one. Humans come into an animal's life as being entirely different from them, all powerful. We control everything about an animal's environment— no question. I don't think it is a good idea to participate in physical dominance contests with animals. Assume you are in charge, don't feel like you have to prove it, and by all means, don't give away your place of a preeminence by getting into physical contests with them.

Setting consistent limits and being careful about asking too much too soon are all good ways of avoiding confrontation. Using training methods that do not rely on force or intimidation are important when training camelids, particularly the ones that are testing the water. Tying a llama or alpaca and forcing him to submit to excessive grooming, dragging him to teach him to lead, physically holding him to put a halter on or to pick up his feet will all provoke the young animal that has decided to be physical with humans.

Enjoy your young males, squat down and invite them to sniff you. Begin working with them as youngsters in a catch pen. Teach them that it is safe to allow you to handle their faces, their legs and their bodies. Build a creep feeder that will encourage your babies to become comfortable with your presence. Work with your older females so that they will transmit their confidence in you to each new baby. Remember to pay attention to your young males as they ask questions, set limits right away and you will be blessed with confident as well as polite and respectful boys.

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The scene after an attack

Laws protecting livestock from dog attacks are “outdated and ineffective” because they do not include increasingly popular exotic breeds such as llamas, alpacas and ostriches, police have warned.

Thousands of farm animals are attacked and killed each year by out of control dogs in the countryside.

But while pet owners can be prosecuted for attacks on traditional livestock, such as sheep and cattle, the law does not cover more unusual animals.

With increasing numbers of farmers diversifying into exotic herds, such

as alpacas - which are kept for their coats - and emus and ostriches - which are bred for their meat - the problem is becoming more urgent.

Experts believe the increasing number of incidents is down to ignorance on the part of dog owners, who do not realise their pets’ natural instinct is to chase livestock.

While some animals can be killed outright in attacks, simply chasing livestock can also cause damage with stressed animals often miscarrying young.

Recent figures from the All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal

Welfare, suggested at least 15,000 sheep were killed by dogs in 2016, at an estimated cost to the farming industry of £1.3 million.

But the laws intended to protect farmers and their animals have been described as out of date and in urgent need of review.

As well as not protecting some animals kept on farms, the police are also powerless to act against irresponsible dog owners if an attack takes place on public land.

Officers are also unable to search someone’s home and seize a dog suspected of harming livestock and

# Llamas are not protected by law

## ***Police and farmers call for change in the law to protect llamas and ostriches from dog attacks***

kennel owners cannot be held responsible even if dogs escape from their premises.

Now police chiefs are calling for the current laws to be updated in order to offer more protection to farmers and their animals.

Exotic animals such as Ostriches and Llamas are not protected by the law covering dog attacks

National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Lead for Wildlife and Rural Crime, Chief Constable David Jones said the latest data showed that livestock worrying was having a major impact on farmers' incomes.

He said: "We need dog-owners to take responsibility for their animals – not just by putting their dogs on a lead when out walking, but by preventing them from escaping from home and causing damage to livestock.

"Above all, we need the powers to tackle this problem effectively and an overhaul of the outdated and sometimes ineffective rules surrounding livestock worrying".

Tim Price, rural affairs specialist with the NFU Mutual said the insurer had seen claims from farmers for lost alpacas, llamas, ostriches and wildfowl amounting to £10,000 in the past year.

Farmers are increasingly keeping more diverse animals CREDIT: WALES NEWS SERVICE

He said: "Attacks can be caused by dogs ranging from the smallest pampered pets to the largest fierce looking animals. It is a problem with all sorts of livestock from lambs and sheep to high value pedigree stock and the increasingly popular exotic animals being kept, such as alpacas, llamas and ostriches.

"These attacks can cause not only heartbreak but huge financial loss for farmers and so it is perhaps understandable why there is so much tension between farmers and people who walk their dogs in the countryside."

Lord Gardiner, Minister for animal welfare, said he would be looking at the recommendations made by the NPCC.

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Llama paddocks and footpath

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# When traditions are challenged

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**Caroline Pembro talks about a difficulty she has faced since moving into her new home**

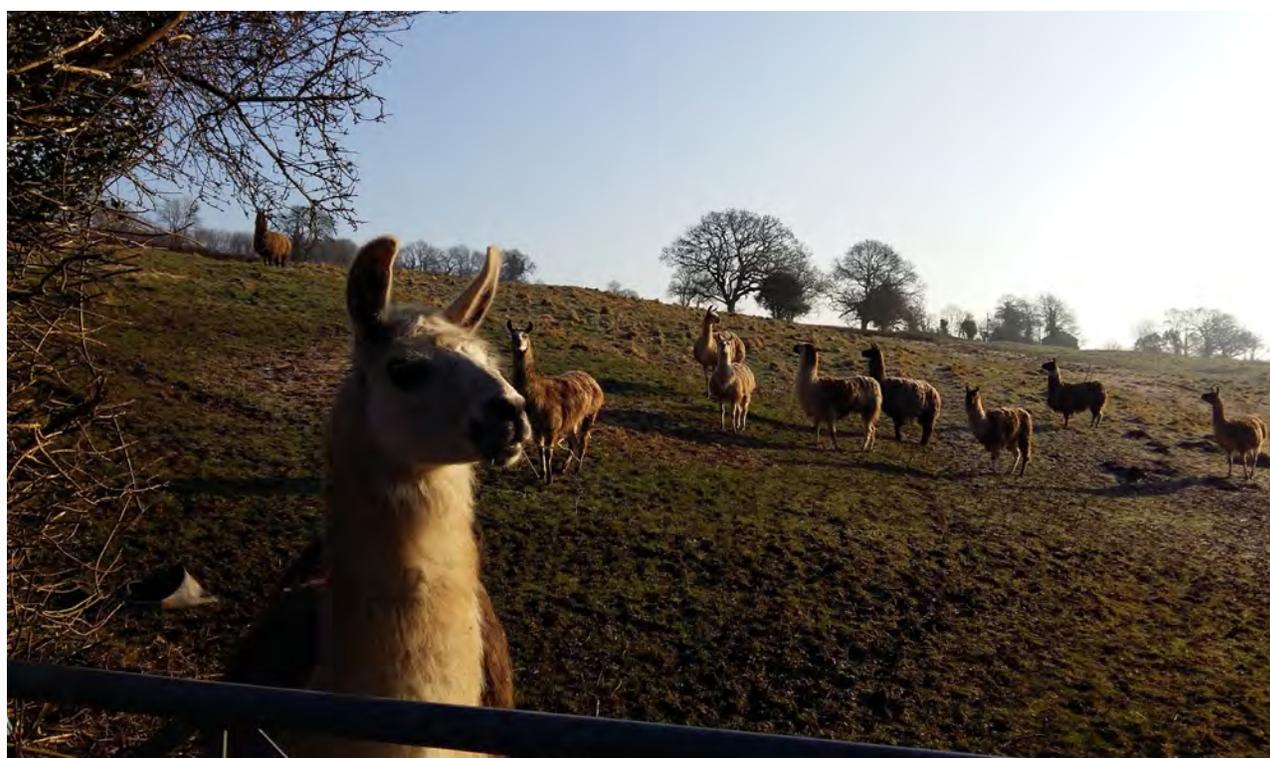
**T**he issue we have had is one of our fields has a footpath running along the lower edge. We consulted the council and fenced along the footpath route, keeping dogs one side of the fence and our llamas the other. This was deemed necessary because:

- It stops people who cannot control their dogs having the dogs running loose amongst the llamas
- It stops the llamas harming dogs running loose in the field - Rupert who I rescued in 2001 came to us with a warning that he had killed a dog who was attacking his herd - unsure exactly how he managed to kill the dog though.
- If dogs walk through long wet grass infected with TB (badger wee ) they could in theory bring virus onto my land if allowed to run free...so biosecurity measure.

“ He thought it made for entertaining viewing and told me to calm down!  
■ Caroline Pembro

Our local council were fine; a neighbour was less accommodating as he wanted to continue walking with his dogs all over the field as he had done for past 30 years and who was I to stop him! He also complained footpath would get very muddy in winter. The council said to 'buy him pair of wellies'. We actually made the footpath wider than we needed to and put scalping down to minimise muddy areas.

The actual issue I really had was when pack of 30 hounds from local hunt got out of control - the hunt were running new pups in with established hounds and a group that had gone away to another hunt and come back again. There was only one horseman (the rest were on quad bikes) and the dogs got



out of control, running through our valley, two of our llama fields and a neighbour's sheep field, ending up in a paddock at house where Eric, Felix and Ollie were. The dogs didn't chase the llamas but ran round and round the field barking which terrified the llamas. Felix, as boss should have protected the other two but the poor chap was petrified and all three cowered in a hedge. After the dogs had left it ruined the herd hierarchy and Eric made many attempts to be dominant llama; that resulted in Ollie's dreadful neck wound that took three months to heal. The hunt were very dismissive of my fury but are now banned

from the valley - all landowners here said no more hunting across the land and if they do start to stray in this direction, I get an immediate text message.

I also got to the field one day to find an owner watching his Alsation "playing" with the llamas - chasing around my field of girls...he thought it made for entertaining viewing and told me to calm down! Luckily, there was no damage done to the girls, but I only just intervened in time as the boys in the adjacent field very agitated and nearly came through hedge to sort out the dog.

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# Llama Drama!

## Elusive stray is captured after six months on the run

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A cheeky llama who managed to evade wildlife authorities for six months has been captured.

On Sunday, the Fort Collins Natural Areas Department reported that the llama, who was running wild in the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, was no longer on the run.

'The elusive stray Llama wandering Bobcat has been captured. Thanks to all of you who were on the look out, and those who offered to help,' the department wrote on Facebook.

Cheeky llama was captured Sunday at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area in Colorado

The spotted animal had been on the run for six months before being caught

Wildlife officials received reports the llama was 'aggressive' toward people

Some hikers described llama as being shy & a visitor named the animal 'Louise'

A photo accompanied the department's Facebook post and showed the adorable creature standing inside a fenced-in area.

Karl Manderbach, the resident ranger at Bobcat Ridge, told the Coloradoan several rangers and staff members had tried to capture the llama, but it had wandered away before they could nab it.

On Saturday morning, the llama appeared in the parking lot and nibbled carrots that Manderbach offered, but refused to walk any further, according to The Coloradoan.

It returned on Sunday and followed Manderbach, who was toting a bucket of oats and carrots. Hikers reported seeing the spotted llama in mid-October.

The llama had spooked horses and behaved aggressively toward some humans, officials told the newspaper.

The owners have not come forward to claim the cute creature. But local wildlife sanctuaries are willing to take the llama in. Pictured is the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area (file image) where the llama had been enjoying freedom until Sunday

Some hikers described the llama as being shy and one visitor even named the animal 'Louise'.

“

The elusive stray Llama wandering Bobcat has been captured. Thanks to all of you who were on the look out, and those who offered to help,' the department wrote on Facebook

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5145111/Stray-llama-captured-six-months-run.html#ixzz52fRl4T5j>  
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By Valerie Edwards For Dailymail.com

# One visitor even named the animal “Louise”



'Louise', the Escapee

Wildlife officials said they were using social media to try to find the llama's owners. And attempts to capture the footloose creature were unsuccessful at the time.

At one point, a rancher brought his llama herd to the area to see if the llama would follow them, but it wasn't fooled and didn't cooperate.

Manderbach told the newspaper that the llama is currently shut inside one of the natural area's sheds because it tried to squeeze under the corral's fence. The owners have not come forward to claim the cute creature. But local wildlife sanctuaries are willing to take the llama in.



## Six Llamas need a good home.

The time has come for us to give up our small holding and relocate to a retirement home.

We have six lovely llamas - 2 geldings (aged 19 and 11) and 4 girls (aged 17, 13, 13, & 11) who need new homes. The time scale is not critical but as soon as possible would be preferable. Ideally they would be better rehomed as a herd of six.

For further details email Jane Brown at [jane.p.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.p.brown@btinternet.com) or call 07759 218445

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Please contact your regional  
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