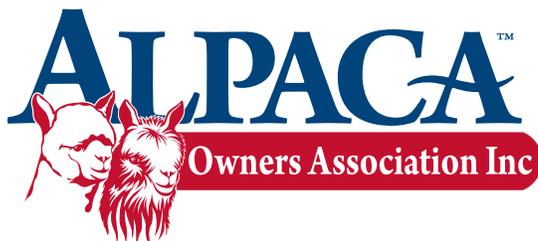
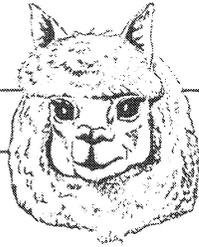


# LEADERS MANUAL

Alpaca Activities for Youth





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**4-H MOTTO**  
**"TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER"**

4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I Pledge:

My head to clearer thinking  
My heart to greater loyalty  
My hands to larger service, and  
My health to better living for my  
club, my community, my country,  
and my world.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the  
United States of America and to the  
Republic for which it stands, one  
Nation under God, indivisible, with  
liberty and justice for all.

CLUB MOTTO

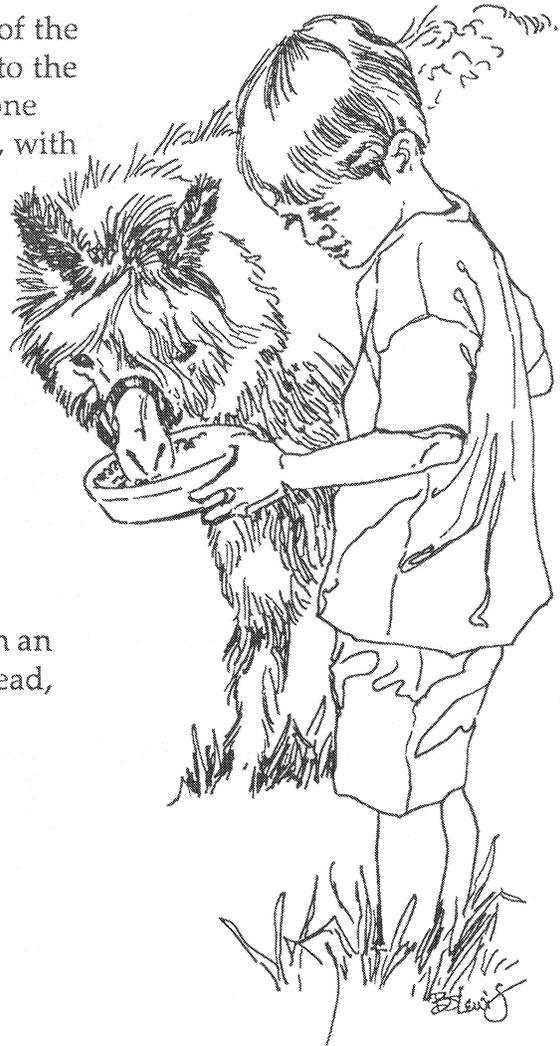
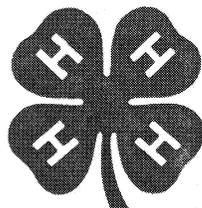
To Make The Best Better

NATIONAL CLUB COLORS

White and Green

CLUB EMBLEM

The Club Emblem is the four-leaf clover with an  
H on each leaf. These "H's" stand for Head,  
Heart, Hands and Health.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING  
ALPACA ACADEMIC AND INDUSTRY EXPERTS  
WHO HAVE GRACIOUSLY SHARED THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE  
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## HOW TO START YOUR OWN 4-H CLUB

1. Plan your Alpaca lessons and choose record book pages that apply to lesson being presented.
2. Contact your local county extension office:  
This is usually supported by a state land grant university and they are in charge of all local 4-H programs. After explaining what type of Alpaca 4-H program you want to run, you may cite successes in other counties or states. Most extension agents are more than happy to contact others concerning successful programs.
3. Find kids interested in participating in a 4-H Alpaca program:  
County extension offices have monthly publications for 4-H'ers and could advertise openings in your club. If you line up any neighbors, friends, or relatives of 4-H age who want to join, you are showing kids are interested before you even start your club.
4. Find Alpacas to share with kids who have none:  
This may be the easiest part. Mention your need to your area alpaca owners and you will probably have more offers of alpacas to borrow than you need. At the end of the 4-H term, alpaca lenders receive their alpacas extremely well-trained and desensitized. Alpacas are sometimes left at the leader's farm between 4-H meetings. Other times, kids bring them to meeting from their own homes.
5. Set your meeting schedule:  
In the West, 4-H clubs seem to meet year round. In the South, clubs often concentrate on the cooler months of school season. Many mid-west clubs start in early spring and continue through the fair season in July or August. Since business meetings and hands-on time with alpacas are important, you need to allow 1-1/2 or 2 hour meetings or have some meetings dedicated to each aspect.
6. Secure insurance:  
Enrolled 4-H leaders are usually covered for liability by the state 4-H. Enrolled 4-H members are usually covered by basic accident insurance during 4-H meetings and when participating in 4-H sponsored activities. Contact your local Extension office for additional information.
7. Prepare for great rewards:  
Most 4-H alpaca leaders express great satisfaction and joy as a result of encouraging "their kids" to interact positively with their beloved alpacas.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. 4-H members enjoy alpacas as they learn their history, care and training, and become responsible for the alpaca's physical, nutritional, and mental health needs.
2. 4-H youth develop life skills such as: communication, citizenship, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal relations and community and global awareness.
3. 4-H youth become the best they can be through sharing, learning, and growing.

## GENERAL RULES:

1. See specific 4-H livestock rules for your state.
2. An alpaca may be owned or leased by a 4-H'er, and owned alpacas kept at the 4-H'ers farm/ranch. If available, alpacas may be "borrowed" from the leaders or other farms willing to lend them but kept on leader's farm during the 4-H season. A lease agreement should be between the alpaca owner and the 4-H member.
3. Two 4-H members in different age divisions may share an alpaca for the 4-H season.
4. The 4-H'er is expected to respect the dignity and personality of the alpaca and treat it with gentle kindness.
5. Club meetings should generally be held monthly from September through June and increase to weekly from June until the 4-H fair. Extra excursions and alpaca activities will be offered as possible throughout the year. Some clubs may meet year round.
6. All 4-H members need to allocate extra time the week before and during their fair for preparation and display of their alpacas.
7. Fees which will cover material cost (books, tack, feed, & etc.) will be decided upon yearly by the leaders and are due at the first meeting of each year. These are not to be confused with club dues which are voted on by the members.
8. All meetings will be conducted by 4-H rules with elected officers to include president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
9. All youth members are required to sign a 4-H Code of Conduct.
10. It is the responsibility of the 4-H'er to clean and groom their project animal before outings and shows. It will also be their responsibility to arrange time to be at the farm to do it, if member does not own their alpaca.



## **DIVISIONS AND EXPECTATIONS (PRIMARY AGES 5-7)**

NOTE: *These rules apply only in states where younger 4-H youth are allowed to work with live animals. In Colorado, youth 5-7 years of age do not work with live animals. Please check with your local Extension agent to determine the rules in your area.*

1. Certain meetings will include primary members. Attend as many of these as you can.
2. Own an alpaca or share one with an intermediate or advanced 4-H'er.
3. Learn basic alpaca training and take part in obstacle course at the 4-H fair.
4. Display illustrated story at the fair on "Why I Liked My Alpaca."
5. Primary members will be assisted by an adult at all outings and share a lead rope unless in show ring.

## **BEGINNER 4-H (AGES 8-10)**

1. Attend all regular meetings possible.
2. Learn basic health, nutrition, and conformation and complete project book covering this. Leaders will check project books.
3. Complete record-keeping sections in your project book for yourself and your alpaca. Leaders will check project books.
4. Make a two to five minute presentation to your 4-H group on some aspect of alpacas.
5. Train the alpaca, including work on the obstacle course.
6. Participate with an alpaca in at least one community service project (i.e. visit nursing home or school or display at parade).
7. Attend your 4-H fair and do the following:
  - A. Show in showmanship or obstacles class and at least one other class (if offered).
  - B. Attend to all alpaca's basic needs as scheduled.
  - C. Make and exhibit a poster.

## INTERMEDIATE (AGES 11-13)

All requirements of Beginners requirements #1 through 7 plus:

8. Spend one day at your leader's/lender's farm helping with every-day alpaca chores (unless you have an alpaca at your residence and participate regularly in its care).
9. May choose an adult female from your leader's/lender's herd to "adopt" and observe throughout the year as she experiences birthing, lactation, and re-breeding. (See lesson #13.)
10. May participate in a day long or overnight activity offered only to intermediate and advanced 4-H'ers with at least one year previous experience.
11. Participate in at least two community services.
12. At the fair, the following as well as the duties for beginners:
  - A. Must practice judge at least one halter class of alpacas.
  - B. Must show in showmanship or obstacle class and at least two other classes, if available.

## ADVANCED (AGES 14-19)

All the requirements and privileges of intermediates PLUS:

13. Should observe and/or help in vaccination, deworming, and toenail trimming of alpacas during your day at the farm or on another visit to the farm.
14. Must adopt an adult female and observe and record her pregnancy, birthing, and re-breeding progress.
15. May become a mentor to a younger 4-H'er, sharing your alpaca and assisting the 4-H'er with this animal.
16. Learn judging and actually place a practice class in halter, showmanship, and obstacle course.
17. Participate in at least 3 community service projects.

## 4-H ALPACA TEAM APPROACH

The Club Leader's role:

- Teach 4-H'ers alpaca care and training
- Coordinate the 4-H parent helper's team
- Help the parents team arrange for all alpaca programs and activities
- Maintain communication between the club and the county 4-H office
- Interpret the alpaca 4-H club program

The Parent Helper's Team role:

- The 4-H alpaca club is designed to be a family activity. It provides opportunities for parents to be involved with their children in the home and club. Parents need to understand the 4-H program, club goals, and their role in order to support their children. With parents encouragement in 4-H, the club gains valuable support while the 4-H'er gains confidence, assistance, and a feeling of security in the world. Parents do not participate in actual events.

All 4-H members are critiqued and placed by the judge.

- Awards are given according to placement. 4-H members with special needs may be placed in a division commensurate with their ability rather than their age.





## **SUGGESTED ALPACA FAIR PROJECT, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND COMPETITIONS**

- ✓ *Showmanship class.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] Judged on how well 4-H'er handles the alpaca and how well alpaca is trained and is presented to the judge. Quality of alpaca's conformation and fiber are not important. Grooming is covered on Page 31. Control of the alpaca and knowledge of anatomy/physiology are important.
- ✓ *Woodland obstacle course.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] Not a timed event. Judging centers on how well the obstacles are negotiated by the 4-H'er and the alpaca. How well the 4-H'er and the alpaca work together is very important. Obstacles are geared to simulate those that an alpaca would encounter hiking in the woods.
- ✓ *Public Relations obstacle course.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] Not a timed event. Judging centers on how well the obstacles are negotiated by the 4-H'er and the alpaca. How well the 4-H'er and the alpaca work together is very important. Obstacles are geared to simulate those an alpaca would encounter during a parade or on a community service outing. Surprise obstacles are encountered to see how cool and collected the 4-H'er and his alpaca are.
- ✓ *Freestyle class.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] In this highly advanced class, the alpaca is led through activities without the aid of a halter or lead rope. The alpaca is controlled by verbal and hand signals from the 4-H'er without being touched. Control of the alpaca is all important. Activities the alpaca exhibits are up to the 4-H'er to choose; they can range from simple walking, turning, stopping to complex obstacle course maneuvers.
- ✓ *Versatility class.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] This class does not require the alpaca participate, but may be incorporated as desired. Projects are limited only by the 4-H'ers imagination. Typical projects might include the announcer reading a "how to do it" research paper prepared by the 4-H'er while the 4-H'er demonstrates the theme of the paper in the exhibition ring. Subjects might include drop spinning, grooming, tricks, toenail trimming, etc.
- ✓ *Exhibit tent class.* [FAIR EXHIBIT] This project would not include live alpaca involvement. Projects are geared towards the creativity of the 4-H'er in displaying the idea/concept chosen. Project ideas are limited only by the imagination and might include making a halter and lead rope, alpaca anatomy, alpaca portraits, birthing process, wool from animal to garment, exhibiting care records, growth rate, ease of training, pictorial of a public relations trip or outing....almost any idea works!

- ✓ *Breeding/birthing.* [FAIR EXHIBIT/FARM PROJECT] Limited to the intermediate or advanced 4-H'er, this class requires advance planning due to the 11 month gestation period of the alpaca. The project follows the female alpaca from breeding through delivery of the cria, and into postnatal care. Documentation of the pregnancy, monitoring of the fetus and mother during pregnancy, attendance at delivery if possible, and care of the newborn will be required of the 4-H'er. An exhibit for the Fair will be required detailing the 4-H'ers experiences. Ideally, the alpaca would belong to the 4-H'er, but a leader's alpaca could be used if the 4-H'er is willing to devote considerable time on the leader's farm monitoring the pregnancy.
- ✓ *Grooming/shearing.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] This class will involve learning the proper way to blow, brush, and prepare an alpaca for show. Shearing the wool, skirting and preparation for spinning will also be taught.
- ✓ *Costume class.* [FAIR PRESENTATION] This is a fun class. The 4-H'er decides on a theme and dresses him/herself and the alpaca to illustrate the chosen theme. The alpaca can be presented with music and written script if desired. The alpaca must be taught to accept the costume. There could be a presentation required at the 4-H fair.
- ✓ *Wool and Fiber Preparation.* [PRESENTATION] This will be a lesson in learning the proper way to prepare alpaca fiber. Learn how to harvest, skirt, sort, pick, card and spin the alpaca fiber into a finished product.
- ✓ *Community Service Project.* This is a required outing. The idea is to share your alpaca and yourself with your county or community. This should be in the form of taking your alpaca to a nursing home, hospital, or some special event that would let people love alpacas as you do. If you have a special idea in mind, share it with the club. The project can be done as a group or by yourself, depending on arrangements with your leaders. The community service project is required to complete the club requirements for the year. Other ideas for classes will be considered, consult with your leader.
- ✓ The showmanship or obstacle class is required for all Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced members. You may choose another class to learn and demonstrate on your own at the 4-H Fair.
- ✓ Check with your local county 4-H agent for the fair requirements in your county.



## SUGGESTED ALPACA POSTER PROJECT

The following is a list of suggestions for 4-H members to use as they choose their topic for a poster display. The list is not complete. A 4-H'er may think of still another topic not listed that could be used for a poster project. The 4-H club may provide poster board for the project. Be sure to allow 1 inch margin at top to be used in hanging.

1. Registering alpaca
2. Personality traits of an alpaca
  - A. Alpaca behavior
  - B. Alpaca herd interaction
3. Alpaca anatomy
  - A. Bones
  - B. Body parts
  - C. Teeth
  - D. Correct conformation
4. Kush
5. Cleaning an alpaca
  - A. Bathing
  - B. Brushing
6. Training an alpaca to pull a cart
7. Birthing
8. Breeding
9. Wool - Its use
10. Wool - Preparation for spinning
11. Using alpacas as therapy
12. How to approach an alpaca
13. Alpaca history
14. Feeding
15. Shelter and fencing
16. Types of alpacas - Huacaya & Suri
17. Different characteristics of wool and colors
18. How to show an alpaca and what you need to know
19. How to buy an alpaca
20. Care of an alpaca's teeth
21. Care of an alpaca's toenails
22. Shearing an alpaca
23. Equipment needed for an alpaca
24. Haltering and different types of halters
25. Training an alpaca to lead
26. Transportation and training to load
27. Photography
28. Other...Be creative!



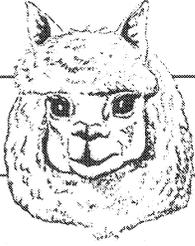


## ALPACA POSTER JUDGING

Listed below are the areas in which the judge will be evaluating your project poster.

- A. STOPPING POWER
  - 1. Has effective title
  - 2. Main idea is specific
  - 3. Exhibit is well-designed
  
- B. INTERESTING
  - 1. Attracts and holds interest
  - 2. Makes effective use of line, shape, texture and color
  
- C. CONVINCING
  - 1. Expresses idea well
  - 2. Conveys message
  
- D. MECHANICS
  - 1. Lettering is uniform and well-done
  - 2. Exhibit is neatly done
  - 3. Exhibit meets objectives of division





## 4-H ALPACA SHOWMANSHIP

*Definition* - There are two basic classes in which alpacas are presented in shows: Halter Class and Showmanship Class. Of these two, 4-H'ers usually exhibit only in Showmanship Class. Halter and Showmanship are two different types of classes, but the rules for showing are the same in both classes.

It is important to know where the emphasis is placed in each class.

*Halter Class* - The alpaca is the central figure and the handler is secondary. 95% of the judging is on the alpaca, its soundness, conformation, balance, travel, disposition. 5% is on the handler, the way he/she looks, the way he/she has prepared the alpaca and the way he/she handles the alpaca.

*Showmanship Class* - Emphasis is placed almost totally on the handler. He/she has the main role while the alpaca plays the secondary part. Showmanship is simply the handler's ability to show his/her animal to its best advantage. It has nothing to do with the alpaca's conformation. It has everything to do with how you have trained and handled your alpaca. 50% of the judging is on how you show your alpaca, follow directions, leading, turning, stand in relation to the alpaca, backing, stopping, showing to the alpaca's advantage and your control when in line and working. 25% is on the handler's appearance, and 25% is on the alpaca's appearance and the equipment used (halter and lead).

### SHOWMANSHIP:

- ✓ You should dress neatly and be clean.
- ✓ Don't wear logos or emblems, or a name tag.
- ✓ Don't wear flashy jewelry...show your alpaca, not yourself.
- ✓ Be courteous and show good sportsmanship at all times.
- ✓ You may use soft voice commands with your alpaca.
- ✓ You are not supposed to touch your alpaca at any time except to smooth messed up wool, or assist the judge during inspection.
- ✓ Don't be distracted by anything or anyone outside the show ring.
- ✓ Be confident and stay "up" all the time, even if you don't feel like it.
- ✓ Be alert to the judge, keep your eye on him/her and keep smiling!
- ✓ Your alpaca should be clean and well-groomed.
- ✓ Make sure alpaca's toenails are trimmed.
- ✓ Halters and leads need to be clean, in good repair, and well-fitting.
- ✓ Respect your alpaca...you may be dismissed from the show if you jerk your alpaca, become angry, or otherwise mistreat him/her in the ring.

## IN THE RING:

- ✓ When you enter the ring, you will walk on parade...keep an alpaca length apart. You will be asked to reverse direction. Walk with your lead held properly, never drag your alpaca.
- ✓ Never pass the alpaca ahead of you on the inside, always pass out of the line of the judge's view unless the ring steward tells you to do so. Keep your proper distance.
- ✓ Keep your feet at a 45 degree angle towards the alpaca's front legs.
- ✓ Hold the lead rope about 8 inches down from the snap. Never hold onto the snap, you could accidentally let your alpaca loose in the ring.
- ✓ Don't talk to the judge unless he speaks to you first. If you don't understand, ask him to repeat the question or instruction.
- ✓ You may speak to the ring steward if absolutely necessary.
- ✓ Don't bluff an answer...simply say you don't know the answer.
- ✓ Keep showing even if the judge is at the other end...he may be watching you out the corner of his eye.
- ✓ Never talk to another showman...it is bad manners and distracting.
- ✓ If your animal is nervous, do the best you can...the judge knows alpacas can be nervous.
- ✓ When holding the lead, keep your arms up and try to keep the lead slack...never let your alpacas hold your arm up.
- ✓ Smile...Smile...Smile...watch the judge and Smile...Smile...Smile!
- ✓ The judge will inspect you and your alpaca.
- ✓ You will be asked some questions by the judge...know your alpaca's name, age, sex, weight. Know alpaca anatomy and body parts. Be courteous.
- ✓ As the judge moves around your alpaca, you move around your alpaca appropriately.
- ✓ After the judge makes his selections, he will call you out and place you...don't quit showing...he may change his mind after he sees how he has lined up the places.

**WHATEVER PLACING YOU RECEIVE;** whether 1st place or last, remember it is only one person's (the judge's) opinion on that particular day. Leave the show ring just as proud as you entered, knowing you did the very best you could on that day. Some of the audience will be watching you all the way out because you were their favorite! Have a good time and remember why you are out there showing...to learn and to have fun! Be a gracious winner!



## PHYSICAL FACTS ABOUT ALPACAS

- Life Span:* About 15-20 years
- Mature Weight:* 110-170 pounds
- Mature Height:* 31" to 39" at the withers
- Average Gestation:* 340 days
- Birth:* A single baby ("cria") is normally delivered without assistance from a standing mother during morning hours. Twinning very rarely occurs.
- Babies:* Birth weight is usually 14-20 pounds. Babies are normally up and nursing within 90 minutes. They are weaned at about six months of age.
- Reproduction:* Females are first bred at about 18 months of age. Alpacas do not have a reproductive cycle, but are induced ovulators (ovulation occurs 24-26 hours after a proper breeding). They can be bred at any time of year. Males usually reach maturity anytime between the ages of 2 and 3 years.
- Colors:* The international alpaca community has recognized the Coberg color chart which lists 22 natural colors used in the commercial wool industry. Alpacas sometimes have white on the head, face and extremities. "Fancy" multicolors and piebald patterns exist.
- Health:* Alpacas and their ancestors are especially suited to the harsh environment of their Andean homeland; however, North American owners have found them remarkably hardy, healthy, easy to care for, and remarkably disease free.
- Gait:* Alpacas, like all camelids, are "pacers." They have three natural gaits, the walk, the pace, and the gallop. In the pace, the legs on the same side of the body move forward together.



## INTRODUCTION TO THE ALPACA

NOTE: For the purposes of this manual, the terms "wool", "fleece" and "fiber" will be interchangeable.

Alpacas are members of the camel (camelid) family of South America. Their predecessors originated on the central plains of North America about 10 million years ago. These llama-like animals migrated south over the land mass and evolved into the guanaco and vicuna. By the end of the last ice age (10,000-12,000 years ago), the camelids were extinct in North America. It is believed that alpacas were domesticated from the wild vicuna in the Andean highlands of Peru about 7,000 years ago and are among the oldest domestic animals in the world.

The alpaca was intensively selected for production of abundant, fine fiber (or wool). The alpaca was involved in every aspect of the Andean civilization. Besides providing wool for warm, luxurious clothing, they were also used for meat, hides, and as religious symbols. Even their dung was collected and used for fires in the peasant's homes. The alpacas were also used as the basis for determining an individual's personal wealth.

Alpaca husbandry reached its zenith in the 11th and 12th centuries A.D. under the Inca Empire. At that time, the alpacas were cared for by a special nobility. During the 16th century, when the Spanish conquered Peru, the alpaca was driven from its pedestal in the Inca Empire and relegated to the higher elevations of Bolivia and Peru called the "altiplano" (high plains). This area is above 14,000' elevation and is a very harsh environment. The alpaca adapted amazingly well and did survive. Due to the limited vegetation and husbandry practices (and also slaughter by the Spanish), the numbers of alpacas remained relatively small.

Today there are about 1.5 million alpacas in Peru (roughly 85% of the world resource) which limits their exportation severely. The United States had its first importation of alpacas from Chile in 1983, another in 1984, and an additional importation in 1988. In 1993, we received our first importation from Peru. As of 1996, we have about 7,500 alpacas in the North American registry.

Alpaca fleece is considered a "specialty" fiber due to its limited availability. The only fleece finer than the alpaca is from the vicuna, which remains wild and protected in its native land. There are two breeds of alpaca, the Huacaya and the Suri. They are similar in size and form, but easily differentiated by their distinctive type of fiber. The Huacaya has crimped, dense fleece which gives them a round appearance; Suri fleece parts along the top line and hangs down in long, silky, crimpless locks.



## ALPACA FACTS

Alpacas are adaptable to any climate or altitude. In extreme weather, a three-sided shelter is recommended for protection from wind, snow or heat. In very hot and humid climates, alpacas should be shorn just prior to the hottest time of year. Some owners prefer to keep their alpacas in barns at night in areas where there are nighttime predators such as dog packs, mountain lions or bears. Usually, alpacas prefer to remain outdoors whenever possible.

Alpacas communicate in several ways. Sometimes, they communicate with a series of ear, body and tail postures. At other times, they make a soft humming sound. The mother alpaca will sometimes "cluck" to her baby. If danger approaches the pasture, the dominant alpaca(s) make a shrill "alarm" call.

Alpacas historically are prized for their fine fiber which is equivalent to mohair and surpassed only by vicuna. Alpaca fleece grows continuously at the rate of about 1/2" per month, and must be shorn every 12 to 18 months. In very cold climates, they can be shorn at two year intervals. After two years, the ends of the fiber will begin to "cot" and tangle. One alpaca usually produces 5-7 pounds of wool, with the industry striving towards a yield of 10 pounds per animal. Many people hand shear their alpacas using standard sheep shears. Breeders with larger herds usually use electric shears to help save time. Alpacas do not have lanolin like sheep, and much care must be taken not to let electric shears overheat. Sometimes alpacas are shorn to the skin, but many people prefer leaving 1" to create a fluffier look and help protect the animal from sun and sudden changes in the weather. Alpacas do not shed. Alpaca fiber is very strong; three times stronger than Merino sheep wool, and has uniform fineness. Alpaca fiber is not scratchy, and people are not allergic to it. Alpaca fiber has a hollow center filled with air which gives it a tremendous thermal quality. Guard hair (thick, coarse hairs) has been systematically bred out of the alpaca fleece. The best part of their fiber is considered the "blanket" which is on the sides, top and loins. Individuals vary greatly, and many alpacas have excellent fiber on the rest of their body as well as the blanket.

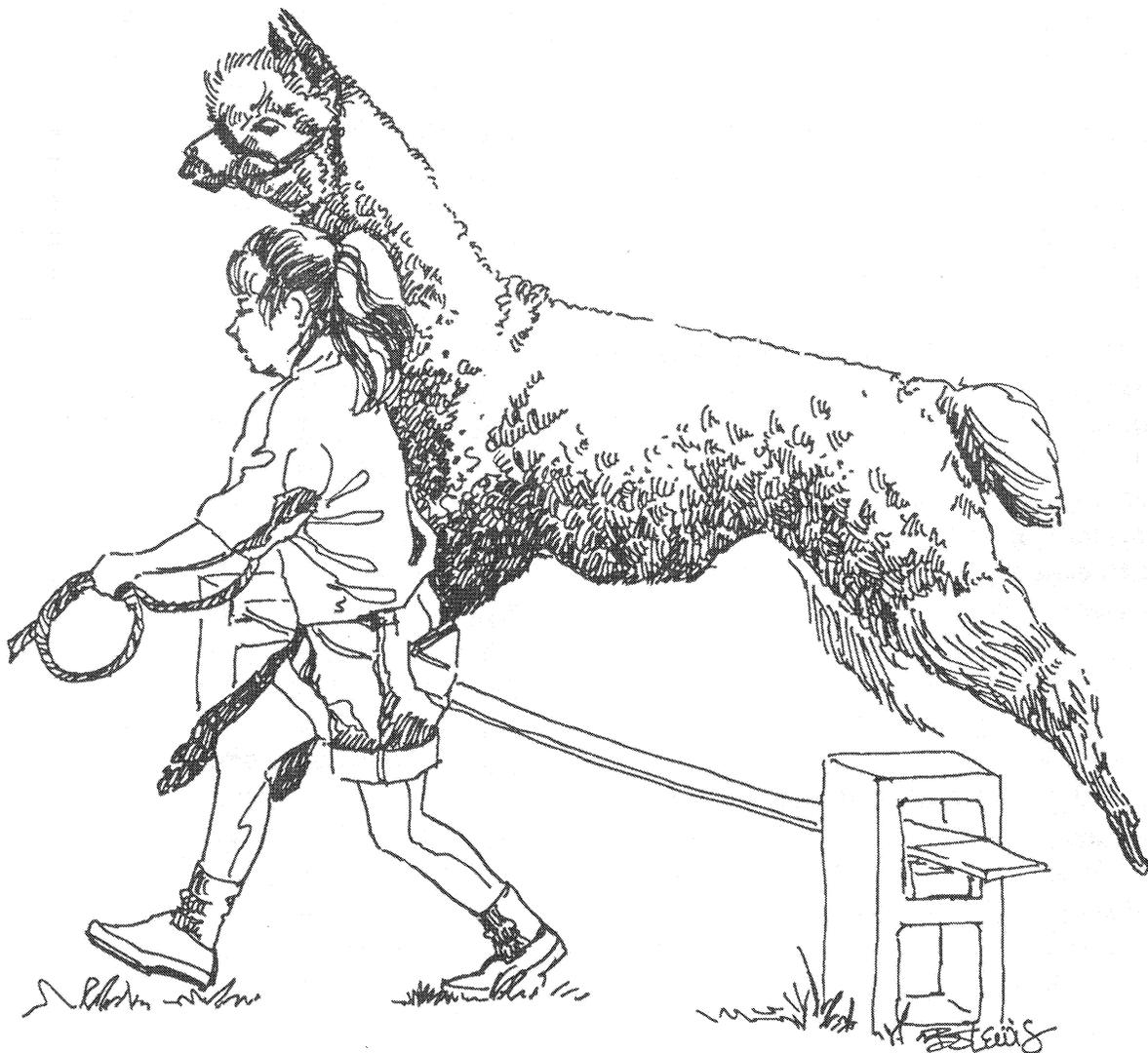
All members of the camelid family have the ability to "spit." Adult alpacas usually use spitting as a form of communication within their herd. It is their way of telling other alpacas to "Back Off." Spitting mostly occurs at two times: when warning off an annoying suitor, or competing for food. Alpacas rarely spit at humans unless gravely aggravated. Baby alpacas usually do not spit, so it is thought to be a learned behavior.

Alpacas require little care compared to other animals: good hay or pasture, fresh water, and a mineral supplement which is specially formulated for their needs. Some United States pastures and hay crops are low in selenium, necessitating a mineral supplementation containing sufficient selenium. Alpacas enjoy a variety of grains, but they are not usually

necessary with good quality pasture or hay. Alpacas can be fed commercially prepared "Llama pellets" which usually have alfalfa, and a variety of other nutrients in them. An alpaca eats about 1-2% of its body weight per day of dry forage, and costs less than a dog to feed.

Any type of standard fence, except barbed wire, but including electric, is adequate for alpacas. Four feet in height for interior fencing is sufficient. Outer fencing should be a minimum of five feet in height. Board, wire mesh, pole, or high tensile wire are all fine. Fencing must be able to prevent predators, such as dogs and coyotes, from crawling or digging under; predators such as mountain lions from leaping over the top; and also keep the cria from crawling out. Many alpaca owners use an electric wire a few inches off the ground, and one along the top. Alpacas can usually jump over obstacles about one foot high. Alpacas usually don't run away, and if loose, generally graze right next to the rest of the herd anyway. Alpacas prefer to stay home! Little land is required; one acre can accommodate about six to ten alpacas.

Alpacas are very clean animals and have little odor. They usually use one manure pile and do not graze around it. Alpaca manure is high in nutrients and makes an excellent fertilizer either in shredded form, or in hard pellet if cultivated into the soil.





## INFORMATION/RESOURCES FOR ALPACA PROJECT LEADERS

### ASSOCIATIONS

#### *ALPACA OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSN.*

c/o Hobert Office Services, Ltd.

P.O. Box 1992

Estes Park, CO 80517-1992

Phone (970) 586-5357

Fax (970) 586-6685

#### *AOBA LIBRARY*

c/o Hobert Office Services, Ltd.

P.O. Box 1992

Estes Park, CO 80517-1992

Phone (970) 586-5357

Fax (970) 586-6685

#### *INTERNATIONAL LLAMA ASSN. (ILA)*

2775 S. Locust Street, Suite 114

P.O. Box 370505

Denver, CO 80237

Phone (303) 756-9004

#### *LLAMA ASSN. OF NO. AMERICAN (LANA)*

Box 1882

Minden, NV 89423

#### *ALPACA AND LLAMA SHOW*

##### *ASSOCIATION (ALSA)*

Jo Stewart Riley, Manager

P.O. Box 1189

Lyons, CO 80540

Phone (303) 823-0659

Fax (303) 823-0643

#### *INT'L LLAMA REGISTRY (ILR)*

Registrar

P.O. Box 8

Kalispell, MT 59903

Phone (406) 755-3438

Fax (406) 755-3439

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *ALPACAS® MAGAZINE*

Clay Press, Inc.

P.O. Box 100

Herald, CA 95638

Phone (209) 223-3464

Fax (209) 223-0466

#### *LLAMA LIFE MAGAZINE*

5232 Blenheim Road

Charlottesville, VA 22902

Phone (804) 286-2288

Fax (804) 286-4983

#### *LLAMAS MAGAZINE*

P.O. Box 100

Herald, CA 95638

Phone (209) 223-0469

Fax (209) 223-0466

#### *LLAMA LINK*

Drawer 1995

Kalispell, MT 59903-1995

Phone (406) 752-2569

Fax (406) 755-4423

#### *TRAINING*

Marty McGee

TTeam Training

500 N. Guadalupe G366

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Phone (505) 983-0775

Fax (505) 983-0775

Betty Barkman

34190 Lodge Road

Tollhouse, CA 93667

Phone (209) 855-6227



## RESOURCES FOR ALPACA PROJECT LEADERS

### *QUALITY LLAMA PRODUCTS*

33217 Bellinger Scale Rd.  
Lebanon, OR 97355  
Phone 800-638-4689 (orders only)  
Phone (503) 451-4345  
Fax (503) 451-4349

### *USEFUL LLAMA ITEMS*

3540 76th St.  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
Phone 800-635-5262  
Fax (616) 698-0870

### *NORTHWEST ALPACAS COUNTRY STORE*

11785 S.W. River Road  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
Phone (503) ALPACAS  
(503) 628-3089

### *QUARRY HILL LLAMAS & SUPPLIES*

157 Somers Road  
P.O. Box 414  
East Longmeadow, MA 01028  
Phone (413) 525-1538  
Fax 800-245-2627

### *LLAMAS DEL SOL*

5700 W. Lovejoy Road  
Perry, MI 48872  
Phone 800-625-4965

### *STEVENS LLAMA TIQUE*

Rt. 4, Box 39  
Worthington, MN 56187  
Phone (507) 376-4230

### *LLASA LLAMA RANCH & FARM SUPPLY*

11383 Yuba Ridge Drive  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
Phone 800-230-5262

### *LLAMA BOOKS*

821 Lenhardt Road  
Easley, SC 29640  
Phone (803) 859-8060  
Fax (803) 855-9000

### *LLAMAS STORE CATALOG*

P.O. Box 100  
Herald, CA 95638  
Phone 800-401-LAMA

### *THE UNICORN TEXTILE BOOK CATALOG*

1338 Ross Street  
Petaluma, CA 94954-6502

### *STILLWATER MINERALS*

P.O. Box 1189  
Lyons, CO 80540  
Phone 800-255-0357

*Resources for Leaders (continued)*

*CACHE LA POUUDRE MINERALS*

168 Emerald Mountain Court  
Livermore, CO 80536  
Phone 800-758-0825  
(303) 493-2335

*SWEET PDZ HORSE STALL REFRESHER*

*STEELHEAD SPECIALTY MINERALS, INC.*  
N. 1212 Washington, Ste. 12  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Phone 800-367-1534

*MICRON TESTING FOR ALPACA FIBER*

*YOCOM-MCCOLL TESTING  
LABORATORIES, INC.*

540 West Elk Place  
Denver, CO 80216-1823  
Phone (303) 294-0582  
Fax (303) 295-6944

*Fast Test*

P.O. Box K  
Windsor, CO 80550  
(970) 686-5421

*Weld Lab*

714-1/2 Sixth St.  
Greeley, CO 80632  
(970) 353-8118

*Monfort*

Box G  
Greeley, CO 80632  
(970) 351-6344

*VETERINARY EMERGENCIES*

Auburn University  
Phone (205) 844-4490

*UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-DAVIS*

Phone (916) 752-9610 or  
(916) 752-5438

*COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY*

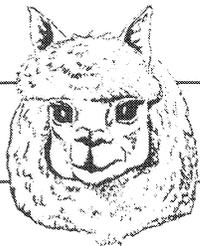
Phone (970) 221-4535 or  
(970) 491-7101

*CORNELL UNIVERSITY*

Phone (607) 253-3900

*OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY*

Phone (503) 737-2858



## **PROPOSED LESSON PLANS**

NOTE: These lessons can be moved around depending upon the Leader's needs, including school calendar, weather, special needs or interest of 4-H kids.

Leaders may review record books at every meeting or less often if necessary.

If special opportunities present themselves, such as the local Christmas Parade, you may have an extra meeting, or substitute the field trip for the monthly meeting, but move the material to be taught forward and cover it prior to the county fair.

Individual help can be performed at any time.

In the Bibliography, there are several videos which apply to suggested lessons and can be used in segments to supplement meeting materials.

Your local 4-H office has many helpful materials related to working with youth. It is also suggested that the new leader take advantage of the 4-H leader training which is available on an ongoing basis through the Cooperative Extension agent.



## MEETING 1 GETTING ACQUAINTED

- Project Skill:** Alpaca History  
Introduction to Handling Alpacas
- Life Skills:** Relating to others  
(Advanced) Learning to learn  
Finding answers
- Leaders:** For more information see:  
"All About Alpacas" article by Susan Stackhouse  
AOBA Alpaca Brochures (3)  
Treasure of the Andes (Video)  
Llama Handling and Training - The TTeam Approach by Marty McGee  
(book and video available)  
See Bibliography on Page 38
- DO:** Get Acquainted - Group and Leader  
Discuss Alpaca History and Background  
Hand out maps of South America - color in
- REFLECT:** Discuss how alpaca history has impacted their current form, unique adaptations, and limited distribution.
- DO:**
- |                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Alpaca Handling | ✓ Review basic safety                |
| ✓ How to Approach | ✓ Walk Alpacas around pasture or pen |
| ✓ How to Halter   | ✓ Explain record keeping             |
| ✓ How to Lead     | ✓ Hand out Alpaca record books       |
| ✓ Slip Knot       |                                      |
- REFLECT:** Share with your leader what you learned and why it is important.
- APPLY:** How does understanding alpaca history help you care for and handle your alpacas?
- Intermediate:** Compare the history of alpacas with the history of another domestic species. Present it to your group.
- Advanced:** Investigate the ancient history of Peru, the rise and fall of the Inca Empire. Compare Inca Alpaca herd management to present day alpaca herd management in Peru. Give a presentation to your group.



## MEETING 2

### SAFETY IN HANDLING

**Project Skills:** Practicing safety around alpacas  
Communicating with alpacas

**Life Skills:** Relating to Others  
Being Responsible  
Taking Risks  
(Advanced) Relating to Others by Learning or Teaching

**Leaders:** For more information see:

Caring for Llamas (Book) by C. Hoffman/Asmus  
Llama Handling and Training (Book) by M. McGee  
TTeam (Video) by McGee  
Articles - Training - see Bibliography on Page 38

**DO:** While role playing:  
A. Show both safe and unsafe ways for each of the following situations:  
1. Herding to the catch pen  
2. Putting on a halter  
3. Leading an alpaca  
4. Tying alpaca to a fence  
5. Grooming an alpaca  
6. Picking up an alpaca's foot  
7. Praising an alpaca  
8. Reprimanding an alpaca  
B. List a safety rule for each activity.

**REFLECT:** What will you do to be safer around alpacas? How did you learn to halter and lead correctly? What part was hardest to do? The easiest? What are the important things to remember when putting a halter on an alpaca? Why is it important to know how to use equipment correctly? How is teaching others a good way to learn?

**APPLY:** What did you learn about relating to other people or animals that you will do differently next time?

**INTERMEDIATE:** Explain the differences and similarities between handling alpacas and one other type of livestock.

**ADVANCED:** Demonstrate a safe handling session with a live alpaca.



**MEETING 3**  
**YOU BE THE JUDGE!**  
**FORM, FUNCTION AND CONFORMATION**

- Project Skills:* Identifying body parts  
Comparing conformation of alpacas
- Life Skills:* Making decisions  
Learning to learn
- Leaders:* For more information see:  
Chapter 4, Page 85 "The Alpaca Book"  
Hand out line drawing of alpaca body (included in Leaders Manual on page 44)  
Secrets of the Andean Alpaca (video) by R/M Krieger  
Fault List - ALSA handbook for current year
- DO:* Assemble as many photos or pictures of alpacas as possible. Pick two and compare the strong and weak points. How were they different? What parts of an alpaca are important for smooth function?
- REFLECT:* Why is knowing how an ideal alpaca looks and moves important to making decisions about selecting an alpaca?
- APPLY:* Why does good conformation make an alpaca more useful and poor conformation often lead to trouble?
- INTERMEDIATE:* Judge a class of alpacas on your own and tell your leader why you placed the animals the way you did.
- ADVANCED:* Participate as a member of a judging team. Write at least 20 things you would like in your ideal alpaca. Share your list with your leader or give a presentation to your group.



## MEETING 4 BARN, FENCES AND FEEDING

**Project Skills:** Exploring alpaca housing requirements and health requirements

**Life Skills:** Learning to learn  
Planning and organizing  
Communicating with others

**Leaders:** For more information see:  
Fences, Barns, and Feeders (Video) by Barkman Animal Ent.  
Caring for Llamas: A Health and Management Guide (Book) by Hoffman/Asmus  
Camelid Nutrition (Article) by L. Johnson, DVM

**DO:** Tour of leader's barns and facilities  
Point out special housing requirements and explain why  
Demonstrate sanitary practices

### KEYS TO DISEASE PREVENTION:

- ✓ Facilities kept clean
- ✓ Vaccination program
- ✓ Parasite control
- ✓ Balanced diet
- ✓ Fresh clean water
- ✓ Adequate housing and space
- ✓ Predator and rodent control
- ✓ Control of exposure to other species and new animals
- ✓ Body Condition Scoring

**REFLECT:** Share with your leader: What did you learn and why is it important?  
What did you learn about alpaca housing? About alpaca feeding?

**APPLY:** Why is it important to know where to find answers?

**INTERMEDIATE:** Accompany the veterinarian for a day and see how he/she diagnoses and treats alpacas.

**ADVANCED:** Give a presentation on one alpaca disease which is a problem in your area.



## MEETING 5 GETTING THE MESSAGE

**Project Skill:** Recognizing alpaca body language

**Life Skills:** Learning by observing communication

**Leaders:** For more information see:

Llama Handling and Training - the TTeam Approach (Book) by  
Marty McGee  
TTeam (Video) by Marty McGee  
Articles on Training listed in bibliography, page 38

**DO:** Observe one alpaca for at least ten minutes at several different times during one day. Record some of the different behaviors you observe. Watch quietly and try not to attract the alpaca to you. Also record any herd behaviors you witness.

- ✓ Body movements
- ✓ How it eats
- ✓ Sounds it makes
- ✓ Attitude
- ✓ Personality clues
- ✓ Does it get any exercise?
- ✓ Response to insects
- ✓ Response to humans
- ✓ Does it groom itself?
- ✓ Expressions of love or friendship

### HERD BEHAVIORS:

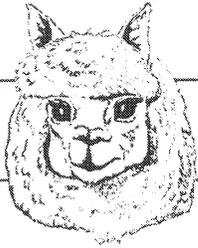
Who is Boss?  
Is there a pecking order?  
Greetings  
Relating to one another

**REFLECT:** What did the alpacas say through their body language?  
What did you find most interesting?

**APPLY:** What would happen if you couldn't read an alpaca's body language?  
How might a person who cannot speak communicate with an alpaca?

**INTERMEDIATE:** How can you use what you learned about body language to be a better friend or more helpful to people or animals?

**ADVANCED:** Read a book about animal behavior and write a report or discuss with your leader what you learned.



## MEETING 6 SHOWMANSHIP

- Project Skill:* Learning alpaca showmanship
- Life Skill:* Communicating with others
- Leaders:* For more information see:  
ALSA Video - "Competitive Edge in the Show Ring"  
ALSA handbook for the current year  
Showmanship suggestions included in Leaders Manual, page 14
- DO:* Practice showing alpacas. Everyone takes turns being the judge.
- REFLECT:* How does it feel to show an alpaca? What challenges did you have the first time you tried? What is most important about showing an alpaca in showmanship classes? What did you discover by being a judge? How do you think the alpaca feels about showing?
- APPLY:* Participate in an alpaca showmanship class - either with your group or at county fair.
- INTERMEDIATE:* Assist a ring steward or other official at an alpaca showmanship activity.
- ADVANCED:* Assist the judge during an alpaca showmanship activity.



## LESSON 7 OBSTACLE COURSE

- Project Skill:* Learning alpaca obstacle courses
- Life Skill:* Learning to learn
- Leaders:* For more information see:  
  
Review obstacle section of current ALSA handbook
- DO:* Practice an alpaca obstacle course set up inside an arena. Everyone take turns being the judge.
- REFLECT:* How does it feel to complete an obstacle course with an alpaca? What challenges did you have the first time you tried? What is most important during obstacle courses with an alpaca? What did you discover by being the judge? How do you think the alpaca feels about doing the obstacle course?
- APPLY:* Participate in an alpaca obstacle course class - either with your group or at county fair.
- INTERMEDIATE:* Assist a ring steward or other official at an alpaca obstacle course activity.
- ADVANCED:* Assist the judge during an alpaca obstacle course activity.



## MEETING 8 GROOMING AND SHEARING

*Project Skill:*

Grooming an alpaca for:  
Showing  
P.R. Events  
Shearing

*Life Skills:*

Relating to others  
Communicating with others  
Being responsible  
Future planning and organizing

*Leaders:*

For more information see:  
Alpaca Grooming (article) by Diane Longo  
Shearing Alpacas & Llamas (article) by Phil Switzer  
A Guide to Shearing Alpacas (article) by Tom Chamlee  
Step by Step Shearing for Alpacas (Video) by Ted Chepolis  
Wonderful World of Wool (Video) by Marty McGee

*DO:*

Demonstrate how to groom an alpaca for:

SHOWING:

- ✓ Make sure fleece is proper length for class, either shorn or unshorn
- ✓ Fleece free of vegetable matter
- ✓ Use of blower
- ✓ Shampoo?
- ✓ Do not deep groom
- ✓ Cosmetic trimming of fleece
- ✓ Toenails trimmed - don't color
- ✓ Soft cloth on face
- ✓ Fluff with proper brush - don't disturb crimp, lock formations
- ✓ No oils, show sheen allowed!

PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS:

- ✓ Oils and show sheen fine
- ✓ Color toenails OK

SHEARING:

- ✓ If weather permitting, shampoo one week prior (not practical for larger herds)
- ✓ No cream rinse or oils
- ✓ Fleece as clean as possible
- ✓ Blow out debris immediately prior to shearing

*Meeting 8 (continued)*

**REFLECT:** How would it feel to be the alpaca during grooming? How long could YOU stand still? Does brushing hurt the alpaca? Why is it important to see things from the alpaca's point of view?

**APPLY:** Why is it important to know how to groom an alpaca properly for different events? Why is fleece worth more money if it is harvested when clean? What would you think if you saw an obviously ungroomed animal in a parade?

**INTERMEDIATE:** Demonstrate how to groom an alpaca for a particular event.

**ADVANCED:** Shear an alpaca. Demonstrate how to skirt, sort, weigh and store the fleece.



## MEETING 9 NATURE HIKE

- Project Skill:** Taking a nature walk with your alpaca
- Life Skills:** Planning and organizing  
Relating to others  
Taking risks  
Observing
- Leaders:** For more information see:  
Caring for Llamas: A Health & Management Guide (Book)  
by C. Hoffman/Asmus  
Llama Handling & Training - The TTeam Approach (Book)  
by Mary McGee
- DO:** Halter and groom alpacas  
Load and transport, if necessary  
Take a nature walk
- REFLECT:** How did you plan for this hike? What did you need to bring? Did you use a list? Did you forget anything?
- APPLY:** What could you do to improve your experience next time? Did you wish your alpaca could carry your lunch? How could you accomplish this? (See note)
- INTERMEDIATE:** Prepare, organize for, and participate in a parade.
- ADVANCED:** Prepare, organize for, and participate in a community event.
- Note:** Although alpacas can only carry about forty pounds, they can help you by packing light items during a hike. Due to the fact that their fleece is so dense next to the skin, they should be shorn before attempting exercise. (This is one reason we shear in June.) Alpacas in full fleece can overheat very easily, even at the walk. If you ever experience an alpaca "balking" during an outing (perhaps even kushing and refusing to get up), be sure to check for signs of heat exhaustion!



## MEETING 10 FIBER FUN DAY

*Project Skills:* Identifying uses of alpaca wool  
Learning fiber terminology

*Life Skills:* Learning to learn

*Leaders:* For more information see:  
Turning Wool into a Cottage Industry (Book) by Simmons  
AOBA Color Chart  
AOBA "Fleece to Fashion" brochure  
Wonderful World of Wool (Video) by Mary McGee  
Hands on Spinning (Book) by Raven

*DO:* Using samples of raw fleece, explore the many uses and end-products that can be made with alpaca. Let imagination and creativity be your guide! The possibilities are unlimited. Projects may include:

1. Drop Spindle
2. Beginning Spinning
3. Picking and Carding
4. Educating fingers - handle, softness
5. Felting
6. Crafts

Show samples of finished garments, if possible.

*REFLECT:* What did you discover about alpaca fiber? Does North America have an after market (meat market) for alpacas? Why? Do you think there will ever be one?

*APPLY:* What are the qualities of a garment made from 100% alpaca? What other uses did you discover?

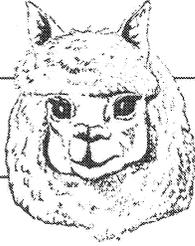
*INTERMEDIATE:* Learn to handle raw fleece and describe its qualities. Demonstrate how to test fleece for weakness and lustre.

*ADVANCED:* Complete any project using alpaca fiber.



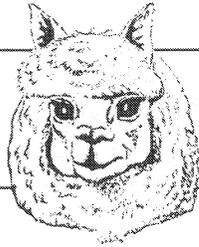
## MEETING 11 PUBLIC RELATIONS TRIP

- Project Skill:* Taking your alpaca out in public
- Life Skills:* Learning to learn  
Planning and organizing  
Problem solving
- DO:* Pick an opportunity to participate in a community activity such as  
Earth Day celebration or a community fair.  
Halter, groom and load your alpaca  
Transport  
Participate in event
- REFLECT:* How did you plan for this event? What did you like best about this experience? What did you like least? What were the common questions asked? What unusual question was asked?
- APPLY:* What was the reaction of people seeing alpacas for the first time?  
Why is it important to take alpacas out in public?
- INTERMEDIATE:* Prepare, organize and participate in a community event.
- ADVANCED:* Prepare, organize and participate in a community event of longer duration.



## MEETING 12 VETERINARIAN VISIT

- Project Skills:** Determining Health  
Using medications safely  
Exploring alpaca diseases and health issues
- Life Skills:** Learning to learn  
Communication with others  
Making decisions  
Taking responsibility
- Leaders:** For more information see:  
Medicine & Surgery of South American Camelids (Book)  
by Murray Fowler, DVM  
Methods of Restraint - Chapter 6 - "The Alpaca Book"
- DO:** Ask your Vet to spend one hour demonstrating basic alpaca veterinary care. If possible, schedule visit to coincide with deworming and vaccinations. Have him explain disease prevention for your geographical location.
- REFLECT:** What did you learn about alpaca diseases? What did you learn about the alpaca that you did not already know? What diseases are new to you? How do you recognize a healthy alpaca? How do you recognize when your alpaca might be ill? How does your Vet determine if the alpaca is healthy? How do you decide when you need to call the veterinarian?
- APPLY:** Why is it so important to know where to find answers? Why should directions be followed closely when administering drugs? Why is it important to check a variety of sources when learning something new? How does making a checklist help you make decisions?
- INTERMEDIATE:** Learn to give injections, administer medications, and apply first aid.
- ADVANCED:** Accompany the Vet for one day and see how they diagnose and treat alpacas.



**MEETING 13**  
**ADVANCED MEMBERS:**  
**BREEDING AND BIRTHING**

*Project Skills:* Following an alpaca from breeding through birthing

*Life Skills:* Planning and organizing  
Learning to learn  
Leading self and others

*Leaders:* For more information see:  
All About Llamas: Tape No. 2  
Breeding, Birthing and Newborn Care (Video) and accompanying pamphlet by Taylor/Gavin Communications.  
"The Alpaca Book" by Hoffman/Fowler Chapters 11, 12 and 18

*DO:* Be present and participate in:

- ✓ Breeding
- ✓ Rejection - behavior testing
- ✓ Pregnancy diagnosis
- ✓ Pregnancy monitoring
- ✓ Record keeping
- ✓ Veterinarian visits
- ✓ Preparation for birthing
- ✓ Present at or immediately after birthing
- ✓ Veterinarian visit for newborn
- ✓ Post-partum care of the Dam

*REFLECT:* Why is learning these breeding skills important? What special things do you need to know at birthing time? How were you sure the cria was breathing? How were you sure the cria received colostrum? How did you treat the cria's umbilicus? How did you determine that mother and baby had bonded? What skills would you need to learn if you were in charge of a herd of 30 alpacas on your own?

*APPLY:* How does practicing and planning ahead help you when an actual event happens? What could happen during or after birthing to cause problems?

*CHALLENGES:* Organize a birthing time demonstration for people who are new to raising alpacas. How can giving demonstrations or talks help you be a better leader?



## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUGGESTED REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR LEADERS

NOTE: All of the materials listed here may be obtained by contacting the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association, Inc. Library. Please refer to the Resource Guide, page 20.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| All About Alpacas ( <i>Article</i> )                                     | Susan Stackhouse for CALPACA                   |
| Alpaca Book, The ( <i>Book</i> )   | Eric Hoffman and Murray E. Fowler,<br>DVM, PhD |
| Alpaca Grooming ( <i>Article</i> )                                       | Diane Longo                                    |
| "Alpacas® Magazine"  | All issues since Fall 1990                     |
| Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association, Inc. Informational Brochures (3)   |  |
| Alpaca and Llama Show Association<br>Rule Book (for current year)        | ALSA ( <i>see Resource Guide</i> ), page 20    |
| Animal Breeding & Production<br>of American Camelids ( <i>Book</i> )     | Rigoberto Calle Escobar                        |
| Camelid Nutrition ( <i>Article</i> )                                     | L. Johnson, DVM, PhD                           |
| Caring for Llamas: A Health &<br>Management Guide ( <i>Book</i> )        | C. Hoffman/Asmus                               |
| Feeding Camelids ( <i>Article</i> )                                      | L. Johnson, DVM, PhD                           |
| Guide to Shearing Alpacas ( <i>Article</i> )                             | Tom Chamlee                                    |
| Hands on Spinning ( <i>Book</i> )  | Lee Raven                                      |
| Llama Handling & Training -<br>The TTEAM Approach ( <i>Book</i> )        | McGee/Tellington-Jones                         |
| Medicine & Surgery of South<br>American Camelids ( <i>Book</i> )         | Murray Fowler, DVM, PhD                        |
| Preparing For the Big Event<br>(Training Your Alpaca) ( <i>Article</i> ) | Janet & Jim Faiks                              |

*Reference Materials (continued)*

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Secrets of the Andean Alpaca Field Guide ( <i>Book</i> ) | Richard and Maggie Krieger |
| Shearing Alpacas & Llamas ( <i>Article</i> )             | Phil Switzer               |
| Spinning Llama & Alpaca ( <i>Book</i> )                  | Chris Switzer              |
| Training Your Cria ( <i>Article</i> )                    | Jim and Janet Faiks        |
| Turning Wool into a Cottage Industry ( <i>Book</i> )     | Simmons                    |

**VIDEOS**

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| All About Llamas (Tape No. 2)<br>Breeding, Birthing and Newborn Care | Taylor/Gavin Communications   |
| Basic Team with Llamas   | Marty McGee                   |
| Competitive Edge in the Show Ring                                    | Alpaca/Llama Show Association |
| Fences, Barns & Feeders  | Barkman Animal Enterprises    |
| In the Land of the Llamas-NOVA                                       | PBS                           |
| Llama Reproduction - A Neonatal Clinic                               | L. Johnson, DVM, PhD          |
| Secrets of the Andean Alpaca   | Richard and Maggie Krieger    |
| Step by Step Shearing for Alpacas & Llamas                           | Ted Chepolis                  |
| Treasures of the Andes   | PBS                           |
| Wonderful World of Llama Wool, The                                   | Marty McGee                   |

**PAMPHLETS**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| "Leads for Leaders" 4-H Guide | Series of pamphlets - Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office<br>(Also available from the AOBA Library) |
|-------------------------------|---|



**BEGINNER PROJECT QUESTIONS**  
**AGES 8 - 10**

1. Alpacas are a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ family.
2. List three ways the alpaca can help people:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many toes are on an alpaca's foot?
4. How many compartments are in an alpaca's stomach?
5. How many years does the average alpaca live?
6. How many days are there during the average gestation period of a female alpaca?
7. What is a baby alpaca called?
8. A baby alpaca at birth can weigh from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ pounds.
9. How tall is the average alpaca at the withers?
10. List two reasons an alpaca may spit.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
11. For 7,000 years the alpaca has been praised for its fine \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Alpacas should be shorn every \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ months.
13. One alpaca usually produces \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of fleece.
14. Name the only animal which produces a finer, more valuable fleece than the alpaca?
15. Alpaca wool is \_\_\_\_\_ times stronger than Merino sheep wool.
16. What is the name for the area where the best fiber is produced on the alpaca?
17. Alpacas come in \_\_\_\_\_ natural recognized colors.

*Beginner Project Questions (continued)*

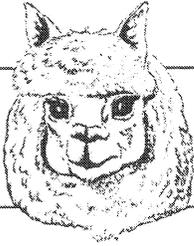
18. Name the two types of alpacas, which are easy to tell apart because of the appearance of the fleece:
19. Label the following body parts on the alpaca diagram.

Head  
Neck  
Pastern  
Withers

Fetlock  
Stifle  
Back

Hock  
Poll  
Toenail

Elbow  
Tail  
Pad

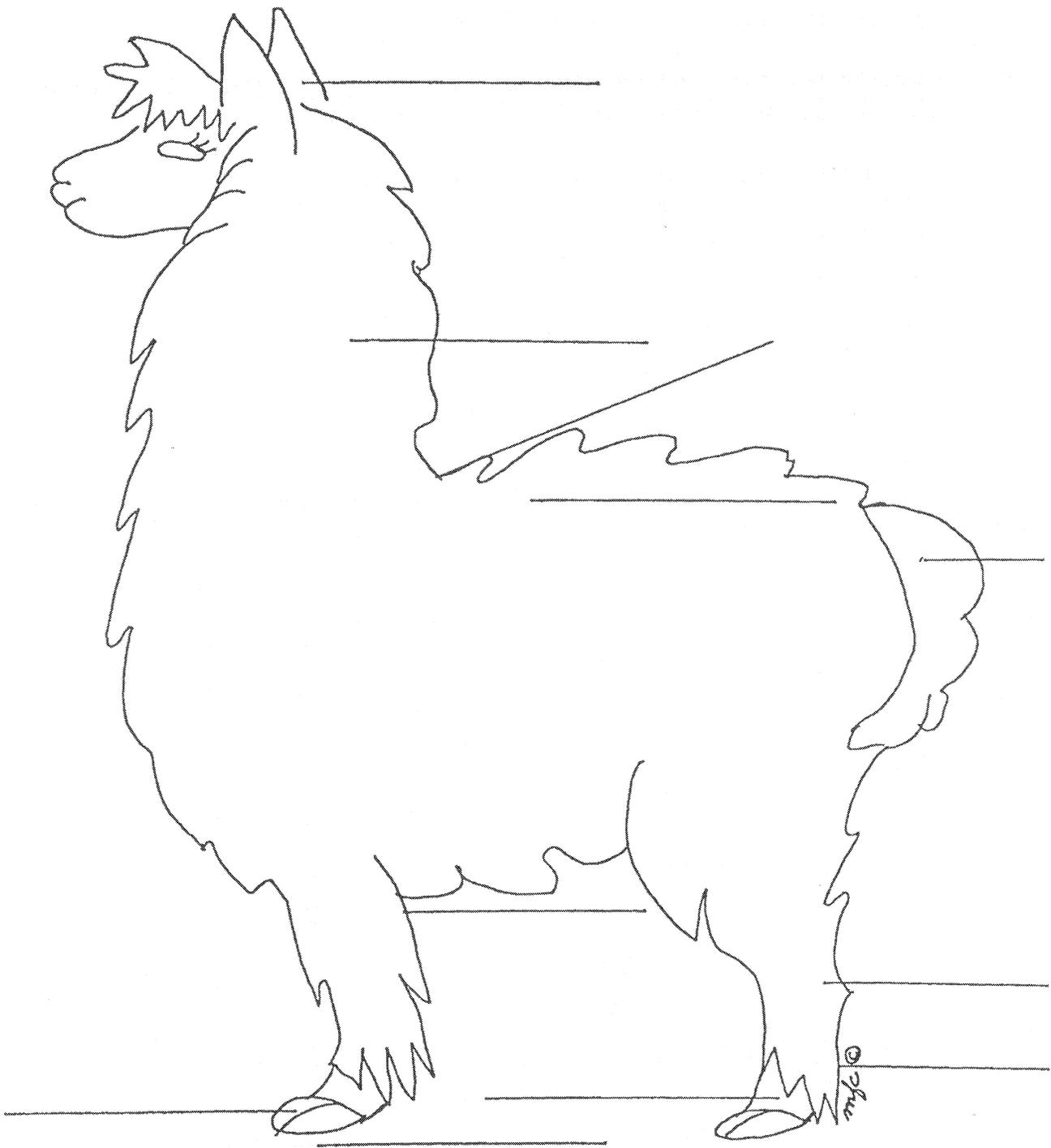


**LEADERS ANSWERS FOR  
BEGINNER QUESTIONS  
AGES 8 - 10**

1. Alpacas are a member of the **CAMELID OR CAMEL** family.
2. List three ways the alpaca can help people:
  1. **WOOL PRODUCTION**
  2. **BREEDING STOCK**
  3. **PETS**Also: **THERAPY**
3. How many toes are on an alpaca's foot? **TWO**
4. How many compartments are in an alpaca's stomach? **THREE**
5. How many years does the average alpaca live? **15 - 20**
6. How many days are there during the average gestation period of a female alpaca?  
**340 DAYS**
7. What is a baby alpaca called? **A CRIA - A spanish word meaning baby animal**
8. A baby alpaca at birth can weigh from **14 to 20** pounds.
9. How tall is the average alpaca at the withers? **30 - 42"**
10. List two reasons an alpaca may spit.
  1. **AT AN ANNOYING SUITOR**
  2. **TO COMPETE FOR FOOD**
11. For 7,000 years the alpaca has been praised for its fine **FIBER.**  
**(OR WOOL) (OR FLEECE)**
12. Alpacas should be shorn every **12 to 18** months.
13. One alpaca usually produces **5 - 7** pounds of fleece.
14. Name the only animal which produces a finer, more valuable fleece than the alpaca?  
**THE VICUNA**
15. Alpaca wool is **3** times stronger than Merino sheep wool.

*Beginner Leader Answers (continued)*

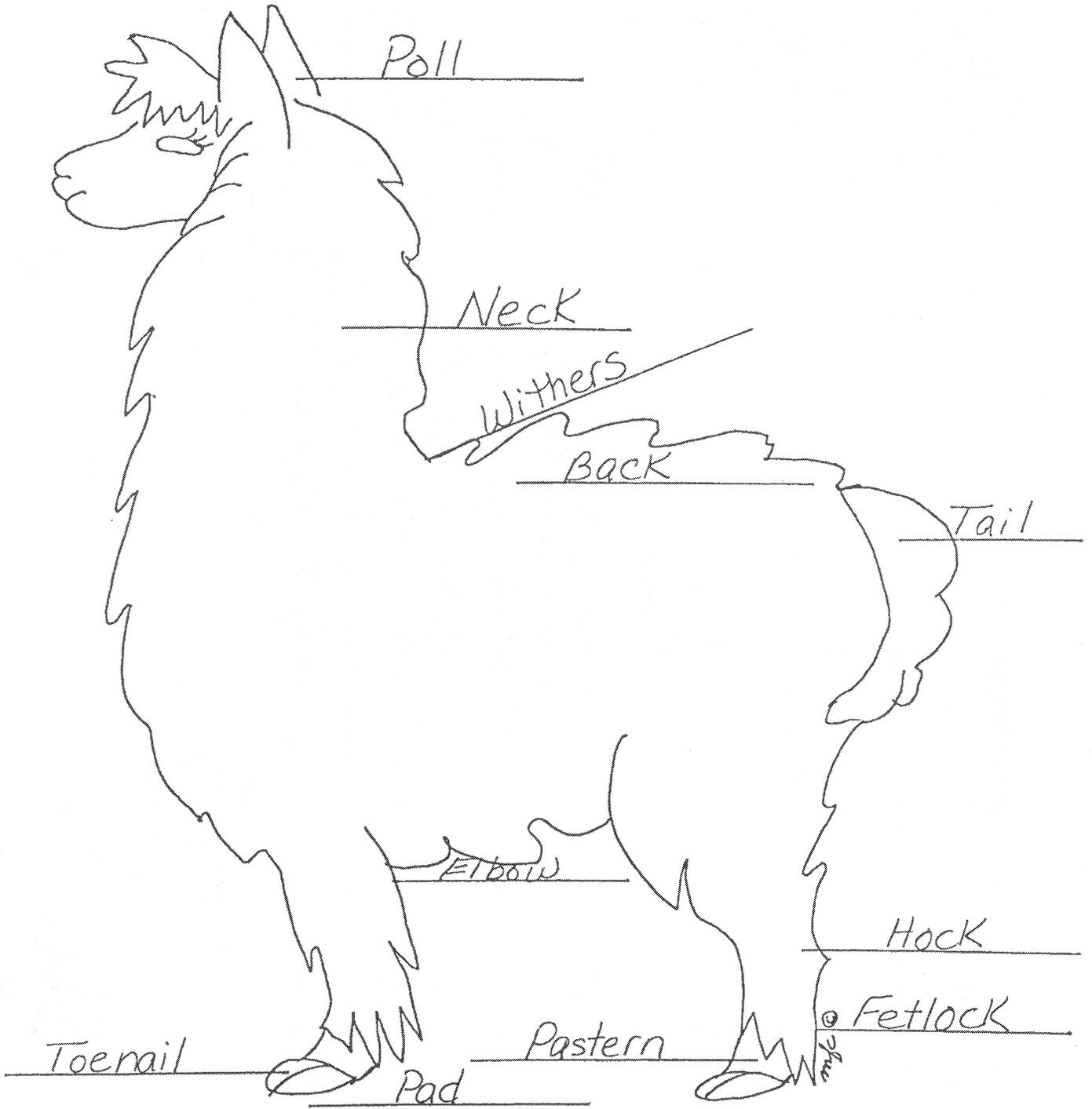
16. What is the name for the area where the best fiber is produced on the alpaca?  
**THE BLANKET**
17. Alpacas come in 22 natural recognized colors.
18. Name the two types of alpacas, which are easy to tell apart because of the appearance of the fleece: **HUACAYA AND SURI**
19. Label the following body parts on the alpaca diagram.
- |         |      |         |         |
|---------|------|---------|---------|
| Fetlock | Hock | Elbow   |         |
| Neck    | Poll | Tail    |         |
| Pastern | Back | Toenail | Withers |
| Pad     |      |         |         |

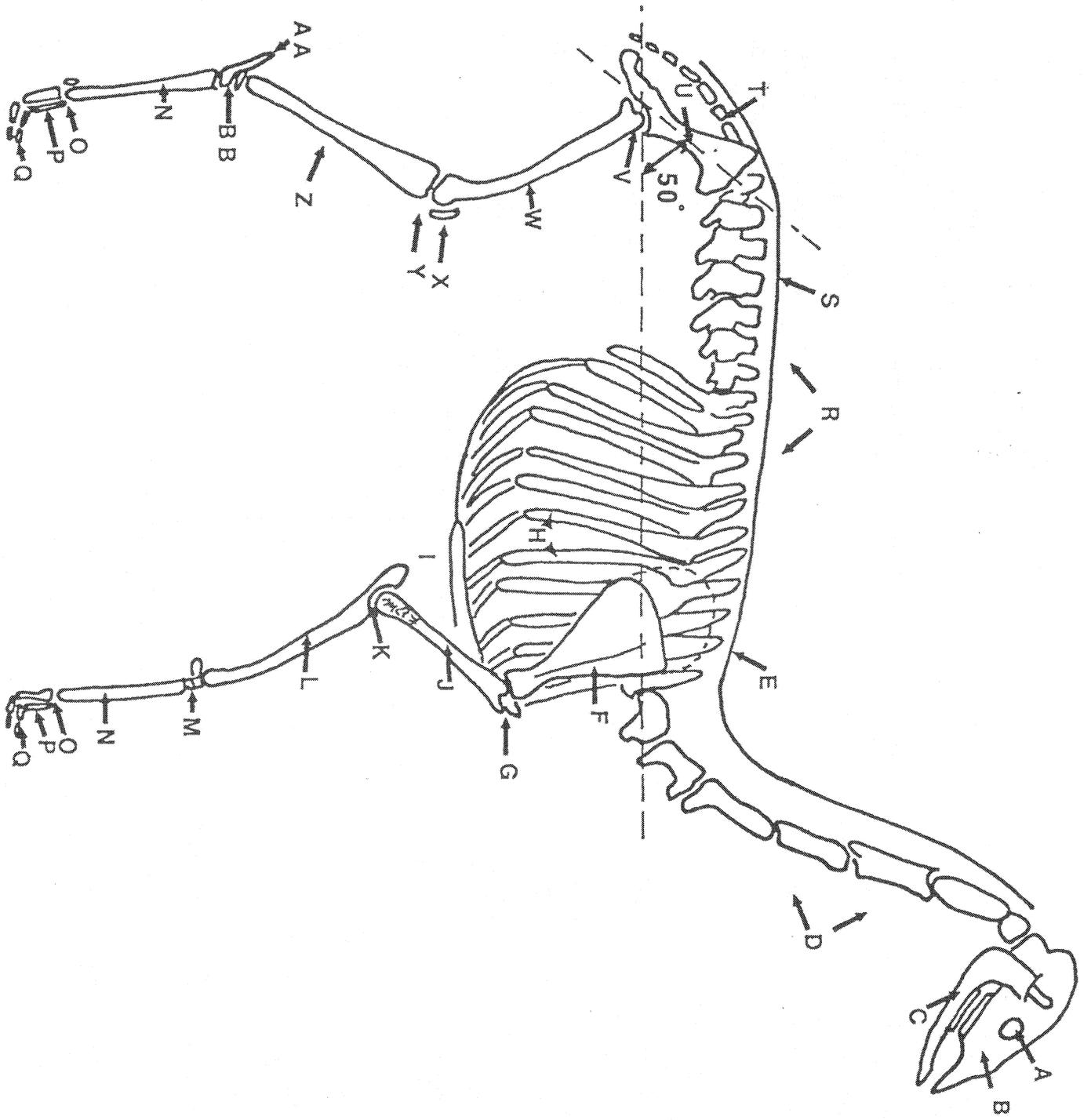


# BEGINNER ALPACA DIAGRAM

Ages 8 - 10

Leaders Answers







**LEGEND FOR DIAGRAM OF  
SKELETON OF AN ALPACA**

A. Eye socket, B. upper jaw (maxilla), C. lower jaw (mandible), D. neck vertebrae (cervical vertebrae), E. withers, F. shoulder blade, G. shoulder joint, H. ribs, I. breast bone (sternum), J. arm (humerus), K. elbow joint, L. forearm (radius), M. knee joint (carpus), N. cannon bone (metacarpus), O. ankle (fetlock joint), P. pastern, Q. foot, R. back (thoracic vertebrae), S. loin (lumbar vertebrae), T. tail (coccygeal vertebrae), U. pelvis, V. hip joint, W. thigh bone (femur), X. knee cap (patella), Y. stifle joint, Z. leg bone (tibia), AA. point of the hock, BB. hock joint

*Diagram courtesy Dr. Murray E. Fowler, University of California, Davis.*



**ALPACA YOUTH PROJECT OUTLINE  
FOR INTERMEDIATE PROJECT LEVEL  
AGES 11 - 13**

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND
2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR
3. TYPES
4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS
5. TEMPERAMENT
6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA
7. SHELTER
8. DIET
9. GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE
  - A. VACCINATIONS
  - B. PARASITES
  - C. TEETH AND FEET
  - D. HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER
10. ALPACA TRAINING
  - A. EQUIPMENT
  - B. PROCEDURE
  - C. SHEARING
11. FIBER



**INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**  
**AGES 11 - 13**

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Name four members of the South American Camelid family.

1. Alpaca
2. Vicuna
3. Guanaco
4. Llama

Explain the difference between a wild and domestic animal.

**Wild:** An animal in its natural environment

**Domestic:** An animal developed to help man

Name four uses for alpacas.

1. Wool production
2. Breeding stock
3. Pets
4. Therapy

Look at the map of the Western Hemisphere. Identify the continent from which alpacas and llamas originate. Label and color it green.

Locate on this map where you live. Color that continent blue.

2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR

An average adult alpaca is 31 - 39 inches tall at the withers.

Where are alpacas missing teeth?

**Alpacas have no top front teeth.**

How many compartments are in an alpaca's and llama's stomach?

**Three compartments.**

Since alpacas and llamas are herd animals, they should always have **other alpacas** with them.

List two reasons an alpaca might spit?

**At an annoying suitor, or to say "Bug off"**

Identify the following body parts on the alpaca diagram.

- |                 |                |         |
|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| Pastern Joint   | Fetlock Joint  |         |
| Abdomen (belly) | Hock Joint     |         |
| Poll            | Toenail        |         |
| Back            | Neck           |         |
| Tail            | Knees (carpus) | Withers |

3. TYPES

Name the two types of alpacas:

1. Huacaya
2. Suri

Describe the differences between the fleece characteristics of the two types:

Huacaya has crimped, dense fleece which gives them a round appearance; Suri fleece parts along the top line and hangs down in long, silky, crimpless locks.

Which type of alpaca might need extra care or consideration due to his different fleece and constitution? The Suri

Name some things you could do to take extra special care of this type of alpaca: Provide extra shelter, since topline is not protected from the elements as well.

Which type of alpaca is more rare?

The Suri make up less than 10% of world alpaca population.

Are these two type of alpacas ever shown in classes together?

No, not under current ALSA rules.

4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS

The way an alpaca is put together is called: Conformation

An alpaca with several llama characteristics would be called: Huarizo

Describe how an alpaca's front legs should look when viewed from the front and sides:

They should appear mostly straight.

5. TEMPERAMENT

Alpacas like all other animals and people have their own Personality

Name three personality characteristics most alpacas share:

- Intelligence
- Curiosity
- Gentleness

6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA

Alpacas are good companions and pets because they are Intelligent and gentle.

7. SHELTER

How should you provide protection from sun, rain and wind for your alpaca?

Usually a three-sided structure is adequate.

What type of fencing is NOT safe for an alpaca? **Barbed wire.**

What size should the openings in your alpaca fence be?  
**2" x 4" rectangular openings from ground to 4 - 5' high.**

What are you trying to fence out or away from your alpacas?  
**Predators such as packs of stray dogs, coyotes.**

8. **DIET**

What are the three main parts of an alpaca's diet?

1. **Water**
2. **Forage**
3. **Minerals**

9. **GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE**

Describe one type of preventive medicine an alpaca owner should use to help keep an alpaca healthy:

**A mineral supplement (There are many more possible answers).**

**VACCINATIONS**

Why do alpacas and llamas need to be vaccinated?

**Alpacas are vaccinated to prevent them from getting diseases.**

**PARASITES**

Worms living inside an alpaca are an example of an **internal parasite.**

**TEETH AND FEET**

List two parts of an alpaca's foot:

1. **Toenails**
2. **Pads**

How many teeth do alpacas have in the front of their mouth on the bottom? **Six**

**HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER**

What is the normal temperature of an adult alpaca? **99 to 102**

What type of weather causes the most stress to an alpaca?

**Extreme heat or extreme cold**

What type of feed can you give an alpaca in extremely cold weather to help them stay warm? **Grains, like corn, oats and barley.**

10. **ALPACA TRAINING**

List two ways to decrease stress on an alpaca while showing the animal:

1. **Talking gently, frequent practice, anticipate alpaca's actions.**
2. **Hold firmly, rub or stroke alpaca gently, interpret alpaca body language and be consistent.**

If a trainer talks softly to an alpaca, what will probably happen?  
**An alpaca will relax upon hearing a calm, reassuring voice.**

#### **EQUIPMENT**

Is it acceptable for the trainer to wrap an alpaca's lead rope around his or her hand?

**It is never acceptable to wrap a lead rope around your hand.**

Where should the nose band of a halter lay on an alpaca's face?

**The nose band should lay on the bone near the eye and not on the fleshy part of the face where it can prevent breathing.**

How far down from the halter should a trainer grip the lead rope?

**Hold the lead rope 8 - 10" from the halter. The excess rope should be lapped over into a figure 8 in the free hand - not wrapped around it.**

#### **PROCEDURE**

Should a trainer move fast or slowly around an alpaca and/or a llama to help cause the animal to grow in trust for that trainer?

**A trainer should move slowly to help an alpaca trust him.**

List three ways to gain an alpaca's trust:

1. **Be consistent, repeat the process, talk softly**
2. **Allow the alpaca to become familiar with you**
3. **Use a short tug on the lead rope to encourage the alpaca**
4. **Move slowly and steadily**

What are the two most important things a trainer can do while working with an alpaca, when teaching him to accept a brush or halter?

1. **Move slowly**
2. **Be patient**

If an alpaca does not want to walk with its trainer, how might it be encouraged by that trainer?

**Use a short tug on the lead rope.**

What does desensitize mean?

**Teaching an alpaca to be touched all over without being afraid.**

What is the word that means an alpaca's particular way of lying down?

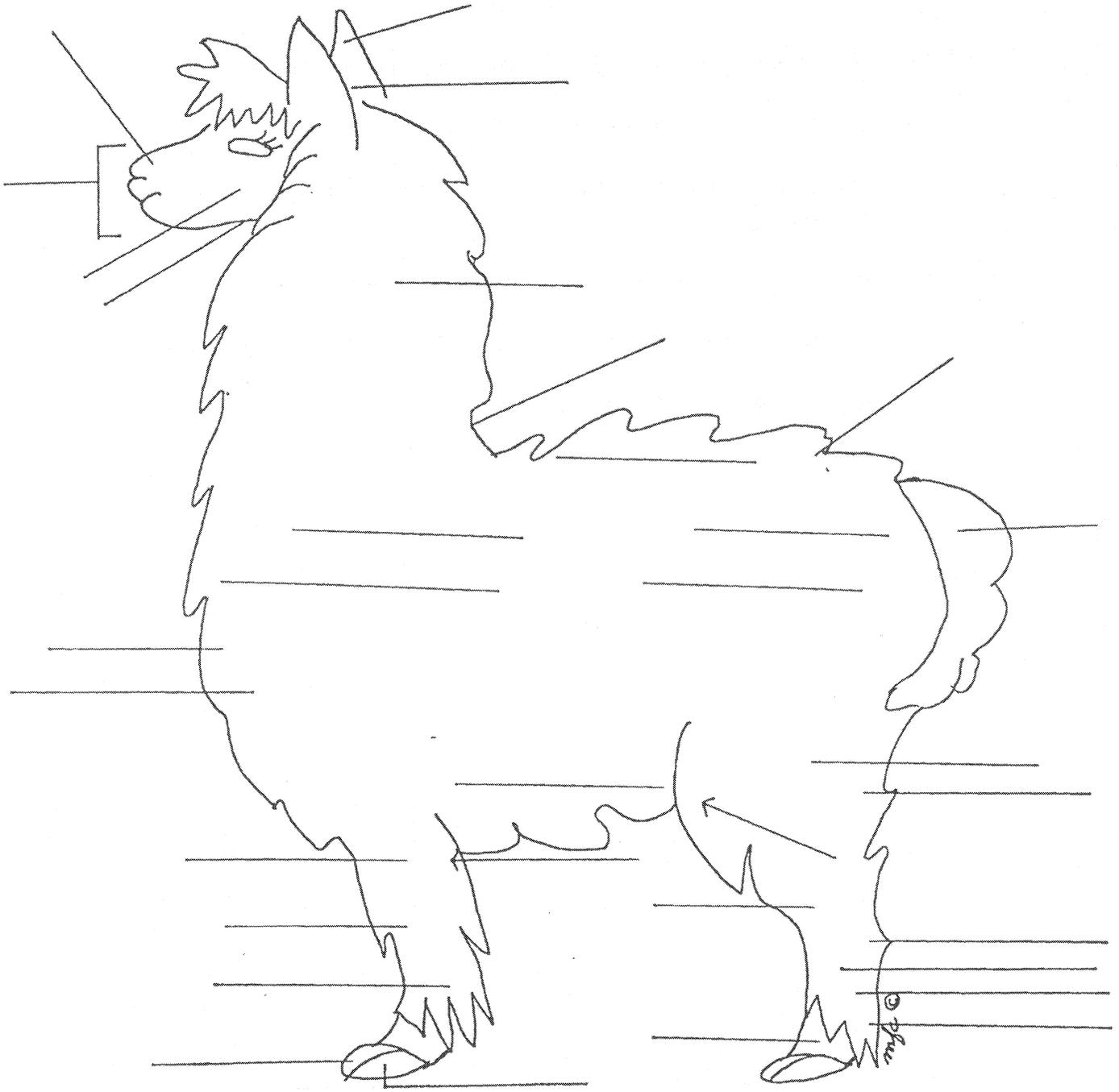
**Kush (also properly referred to as sternal recumbency)**

*Intermediate Level Ages 11-13 (continued)*

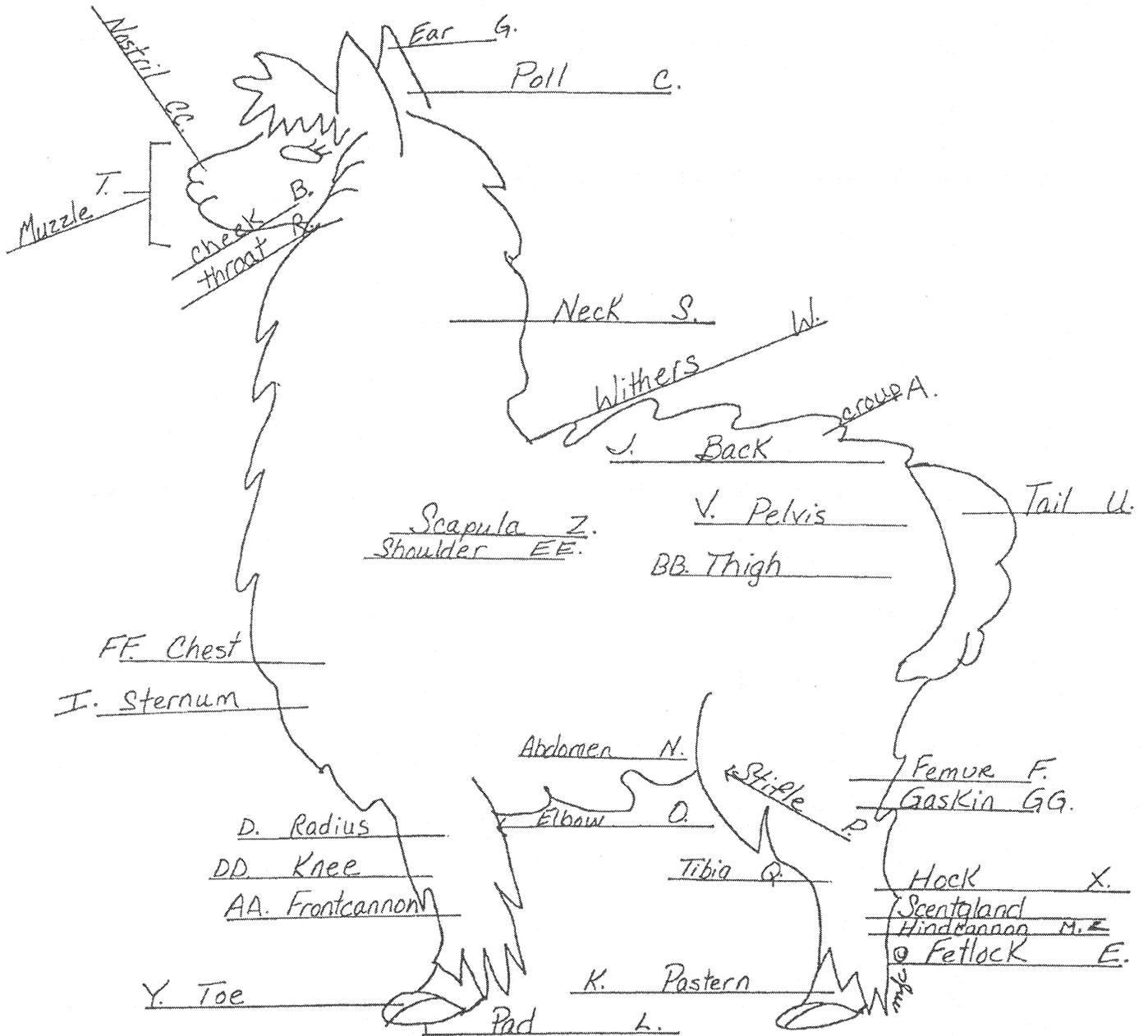
11. FIBER

1. Alpacas are prized for their fine **Fiber**.
2. Alpaca fiber is equivalent to **Mohair**.
3. Alpaca fiber is surpassed in fineness only by the **Vicuna**.
4. Alpaca wool is **3** times stronger than sheep wool.
5. Name the area of the alpaca which produces the finest fiber.  
**Blanket or barrel**
6. Alpacas need to be shorn at least every **2 years**.
7. One adult alpaca usually produces **5 - 7** pounds of prime fleece every year.
8. Alpacas come in **22** natural colors.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL  
BODY PARTS DIAGRAM



# INTERMEDIATE LEVEL BODY PARTS DIAGRAM





**ALPACA YOUTH PROJECT  
OUTLINE FOR ADVANCED LEVEL  
PROJECT LEVEL AGES 14 - 19**

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND
2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR
3. TYPES
4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS
5. TEMPERMENT
6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA
7. SHELTER
8. DIET
9. GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE
  - A. VACCINATIONS
  - B. PARASITES
  - C. TEETH AND FEET
  - D. HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER
10. ALPACA TRAINING
  - A. PROCEDURE
  - B. EQUIPMENT
  - C. SHEARING
11. FIBER



**ADVANCED LEVEL**  
**AGES 14 - 19**

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

List four members of the South American Camelid family and explain in detail the differences in each:

1. Alpaca - smaller - used for production of fine wool
2. Llama - largest - domesticated - originally bred for packing
3. Vicuna - smallest - wild - recently removed from endangered species list. It is believed that the alpaca is descended from the wild Vicuna.
4. Guanaco - larger - wild - believed the llama is descended from the Guanaco.

List three countries in South America where alpacas come from:

1. Peru
2. Chile
3. Bolivia

What is the genus for the South American Camelids?

Genus: Lama

Lama glama - Llama

Lama pacos - Alpaca

Why are alpacas and llamas classified in the camelid family?

There is some debate on classification of these animals. Different texts give conflicting information. However, Dr. Jane Wheeler argues effectively that the alpaca is more closely linked with the vicuna than to either guanacos or llamas. (See "The Alpaca Book" chapter 1, page 15).

Describe the South American climate in which alpacas live.

The climate is tierra fria which means cold at the top of the Andes; tierra templada which means mild on the plateau area of the middle of the Andes, and tierra caliente which means warm on the low lands.

Look at the map of the Western Hemisphere and identify the following information about where alpacas originate.

- A. The continent
- B. The countries
- C. The mountain ranges in those countries

Locate where you live. Color the entire map.

2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR

The average horse weighs around 1,000 pounds. How many average size alpacas would it take to equal a horse's weight?

It would take approximately 7 alpacas with an average weight of 150 pounds.

What is the size comparison between alpacas and llamas?

Alpacas are approximately one-half to one-third the size of a llama.

List three other cloven-footed animals.

1. Cow
2. Pig
3. Goat

Why are alpacas less destructive to terrain than horses?

Because of the pad on the bottom of the foot.

Why is an alpaca's upper lip called prehensile?

Because it is structured to seize or grasp grasses when eating.

What is the term for an animal with 3 or 4 compartments in its stomach?

Ruminant - but also because it ruminates (i.e. chews, swallows, & regurgitates).

List four different ruminants including one which occurs in the wild throughout the United States.

1. Deer - wild
2. Sheep - domesticated
3. Cow - domesticated
4. Goat - domesticated

An alpaca may live as long as 15 - 25 years.

An alpaca may have cria for their entire adult life.

Define the function of the following parts of an alpaca:

*Lungs:* Bring oxygen into the body to send it through the system; and to oxygenate blood.

*Heart:* The heart pumps blood throughout the entire body to deliver oxygen and nutrients and remove by-products so that the body can function.

*Liver:* The liver works in the formation of blood, secretes bile, metabolizes carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals and vitamins.

*Kidneys:* A pair of organs that function to maintain proper water balance, regulate acid base concentration and excrete wastes as urine.

*Cud/Stomach:* Food regurgitated from the first stomach to the mouth to be chewed again. The stomach is where food is first broken down so that the nutrients can be used by the body.

List two other types of animals that naturally live in herds.

Elephants, Antelope, many others

List two reasons why an alpaca might spit:

1. If they are pregnant and introduced to an intact male alpaca
2. Arguing over food; the alpaca's way to say "bug off"

Explain the process that enables an alpaca to spit.

Being ruminants they are naturally able to bring up or regurgitate a bit of stomach contents (a bolus or cud) which they can then project out of their mouths.

3. TYPES OF ALPACAS

Describe the outward appearance of the Huacaya alpaca:

Their fleece is full and stands out from the body giving them a rounded or "spongy" appearance.

Describe the outward appearance of the Suri alpaca:

Their fleece hangs down toward the ground from the top line and hangs in long locks, has luster, but no crimp.

4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS

List three conformation points to observe in a correct alpaca:

Front legs that are straight

Back legs that are straight (when viewed from the rear)

Head held high

Neck length that is approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the back

Ears that are correct; i.e. spear shaped

Etc.

5. TEMPERMENT

Explain Aberrant Male Behavior:

If an alpaca is bottle fed, it may imprint upon humans. When it grows up it will treat people the same way it treats other alpacas, i.e. jumping on them or bumping them. This can be annoying in an alpaca, but due to their small size, it is not as serious a problem as if a larger animal like a llama behaves this way. There have only been a few incidents of this in the United States. It would always be important to ask the breeder if a particular alpaca was bottle fed, prior to purchasing.

6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA

List the main organization from which someone could gain information concerning alpacas.

The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association. (See Resources section, page 20, for address and phone number).

7. SHELTER

What is the minimum height of a perimeter fence suitable to contain alpacas?  
**5 feet; 4 feet may be acceptable on an interior fence.**

8. DIET

An alpaca consumes approximately 2.0% of its total body weight of dry food per day.

How much feed does your alpaca require per day?

List a mineral that should be provided for all alpacas at all times:

**Salt. A loose mineral salt formulated to go with your area and type of feed is a good choice.**

9. GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE

What is the best way to detect if an alpaca is not healthy? **Careful observation.**

How might "stoic" apply to an alpaca?

**Stoic means an animal does not show outward signs when sick or upset. Alpacas often do not show any signs of being ill until they are very sick.**

List four types of preventative medicine an alpaca owner should use to help keep an alpaca healthy:

1. **Vaccinations**
2. **Cut fighting teeth from males**
3. **Provide minerals/salt**
4. **Provide proper food**
5. **Provide fresh clean water**
6. **Trim toenails**
7. **Clean pens/stalls/barns**
8. **Body Condition/Scoring/Weighing**

A. VACCINATIONS

What are three things alpacas and llamas need to be vaccinated for?

**To prevent tetanus, Clostridium, C & D**

B. PARASITES

Describe how best to control parasites for your area:

**Check with your local veterinarian.**

What deadly parasite might a white tail deer pass on to an alpaca?

**Meningeal worm**

List some reasons why an alpaca might lose its fleece:

**Alpacas do not shed. Reasons for loss might be ill health, bad nutrition, fever, ectoparasites, skin disease, or standing in water for long periods of time.**

C. TEETH AND FEET

How can an alpaca owner tell if his alpaca needs its toenails trimmed?

Look at its feet regularly - they should be trimmed before they start to curl.

How old are alpacas when their fighting teeth appear?

Approximately 2-1/2 - 3 years of age.

How many fighting teeth do male alpacas grow and where are they?

Six fighting teeth. Normally two on top and one on the bottom on each side.

D. HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER

What is the normal temperature of an adult alpaca and how do you check it?

99 degrees - under 102 degrees. With a rectal thermometer.

How does an alpaca owner prevent heat stress?

Provide plenty of fresh water at all times and provide shady shelter. Avoid stressful handling when temperature is high, especially in high humidity.

What are three signs of heat stress?

Extreme laziness, open-mouth panting, loss of coordination.

List three ways to help an alpaca experiencing heat stress.

Spray the alpaca's wool-free areas of legs and underbelly with cool water and use a fan to circulate air, wading pools and shade.

What should be done to prevent problems when changing an alpaca's diet?

Changes made slowly, combining old and new for a period of time so that their system can adjust.

List six ways to decrease stress on an alpaca while showing the animal:

Practice Interpret alpaca body language

Talk softly Be patient

Stroke alpaca Anticipate alpaca's actions

Hold firmly Be consistent

10. ALPACA TRAINING

A. PROCEDURE

In your opinion, what are the two most important parts on an alpaca to desensitize? Head and legs.

List four steps in desensitizing the back legs:

1. Let the alpaca get used to you standing at its side
2. Brush down the back and front of legs with your hand (or a wand)
3. Use a brush or wand to gently stroke the legs in a downward motion
4. Then run your hand down the legs, finally picking up the feet

A good alpaca trainer can anticipate his/her alpaca's actions by first recognizing and interpreting the alpaca's movements.

Explain how you would try to correct behavior such as kicking or spitting:  
**Move slowly and work easily using a lot of repetition.**

## B. EQUIPMENT

Why is it important to put a halter on and off continually when training an alpaca? **To gain trust.**

List three things an alpaca trainer might do to help an untrained alpaca follow on a lead rope:

**Say "walk," tug sideways, have the alpaca walk with a buddy, have a human friend walk behind the alpaca.**

List three ways to gain an alpaca's trust:

**Talk, feed and stroke gently.**

How can an alpaca trainer use "Mom" while training babies and weanlings to lead?

**Lead the Mom in front of baby and it will probably follow.**

What is the tug and release technique?

**To pull and release giving them a choice instead of forcing them to move.**

List the two most important things to remember when desensitizing an alpaca:

**Move slowly and be patient.**

**Reward the alpaca with verbal praise, and some of his favorite food.**

## 11. FIBER

List the 9 traits by which Huacaya alpaca fleece is judged:

**Character including crimp**

**Luster**

**Density**

**Fineness**

**Hand**

**Uniformity of density, fineness, and crimp throughout the blanket**

**Condition and quality of fiber throughout the fleece and lock**

**Abundance (fiber coverage on legs)**

**Absence of guard hair in the blanket**

**For Suri fleece:**

**The same except - character without crimp**

*Advanced Level Ages 14-19 (continued)*

Describe the following fiber terms:  
(use glossary in *The Alpaca Book*)

Crimp  
Scale  
Grading  
Grease  
Handle  
Lock  
Medulla  
Picking  
Prime Fleece  
Skirting  
Sorting  
Seconds  
Second Cuts  
Staple

Essay questions:

Describe the current process of harvesting and selling alpaca fiber in the United States. Discuss the market, prices and creative ideas for reaching the market in your area.

Describe the entire process which alpaca growers in Peru must go through to bring their product to market. Discuss the market, prices, total exports in tons, and the role of intermediaries in the sales.

What suggestions would you make to enable the United States Alpaca fiber producers to graduate from the cottage industry market to an international export market?

Identify the following body parts on the external Alpaca diagram

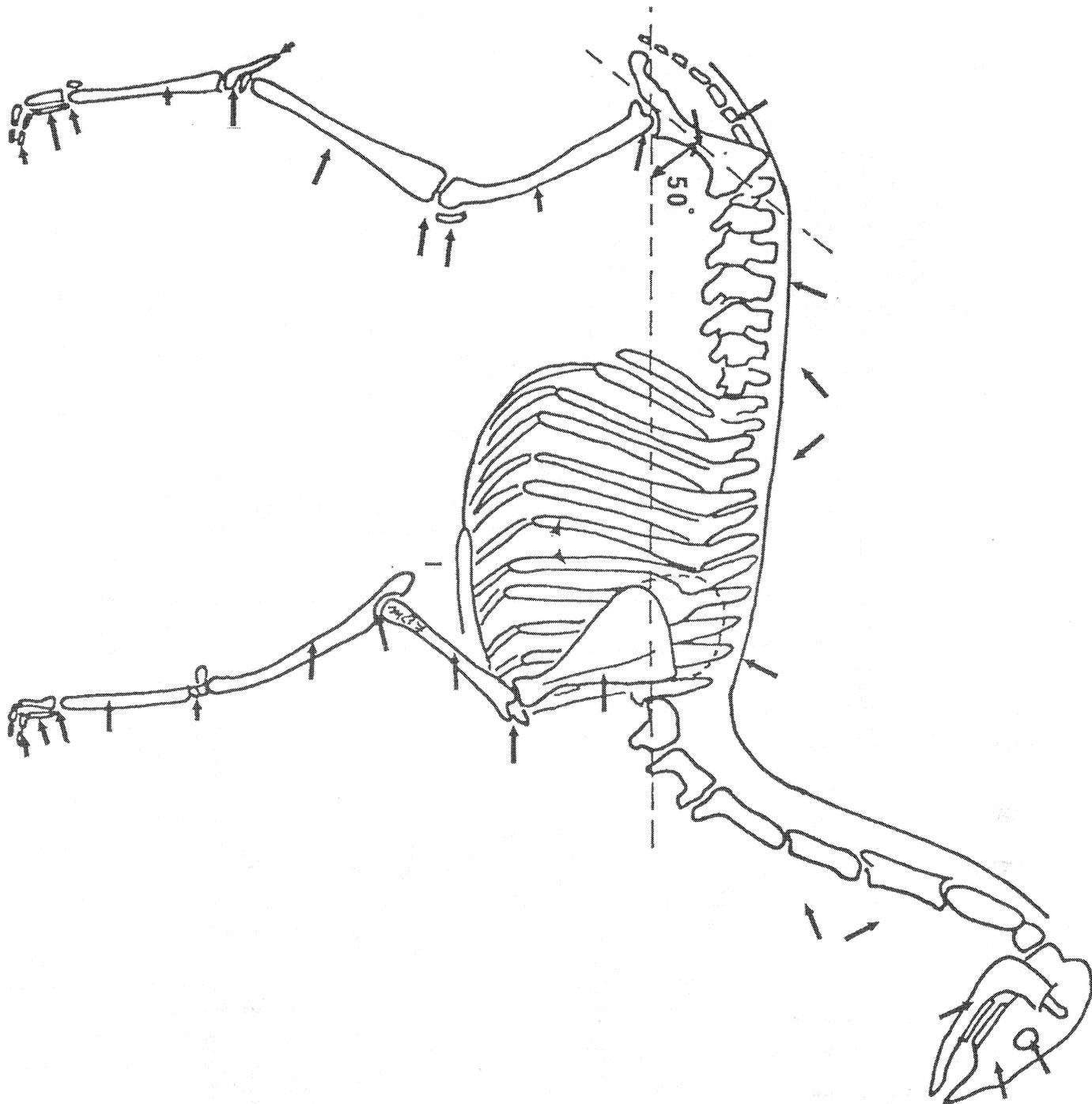
|       |               |       |                 |
|-------|---------------|-------|-----------------|
| _____ | Pastern Joint | _____ | Abdomen (belly) |
| _____ | Poll          | _____ | Back            |
| _____ | Tail          | _____ | Knees (Carpus)  |
| _____ | Withers       | _____ | Cheek           |
| _____ | Fetlock Joint | _____ | Elbow Joint     |
| _____ | Neck          | _____ | Toenail         |
| _____ | Chestnut      | _____ | Ear             |
| _____ | Croup         | _____ | Fetlock Joint   |
| _____ | Nostril       | _____ | Pad             |
| _____ | Hock Joint    | _____ | Stifle Joint    |
| _____ | Chin          | _____ | Jaw             |
| _____ | Throat        | _____ | Hip             |
| _____ | Chest         | _____ | Shoulder        |
| _____ | Thigh         | _____ | Foot            |

Identify the following bones on the internal alpaca diagram

LEGEND FOR DIAGRAM OF SKELETON OF AN ALPACA

A. Eye socket, B. upper jaw (maxilla), C. lower jaw (mandible), D. neck vertebrae (cervical vertebrae), E. withers, F. shoulder blade, G. shoulder joint, H. ribs, I. breast bone (sternum), J. arm (humerus), K. elbow joint, L. forearm (radius), M. knee joint (carpus), N. canon bone (metacarpus), O. ankle (fetlock joint), P. pastern, Q. foot, R. back (thoracic vertebrae), S. loin (lumbar vertebrae), T. tail (coccygeal vertebrae), U. pelvis, V. hip joint, W. thigh bone (femur), X. knee cap (patella), Y. stifle joint, Z. leg bone (tibia), AA. point of the hock, BB. hock joint

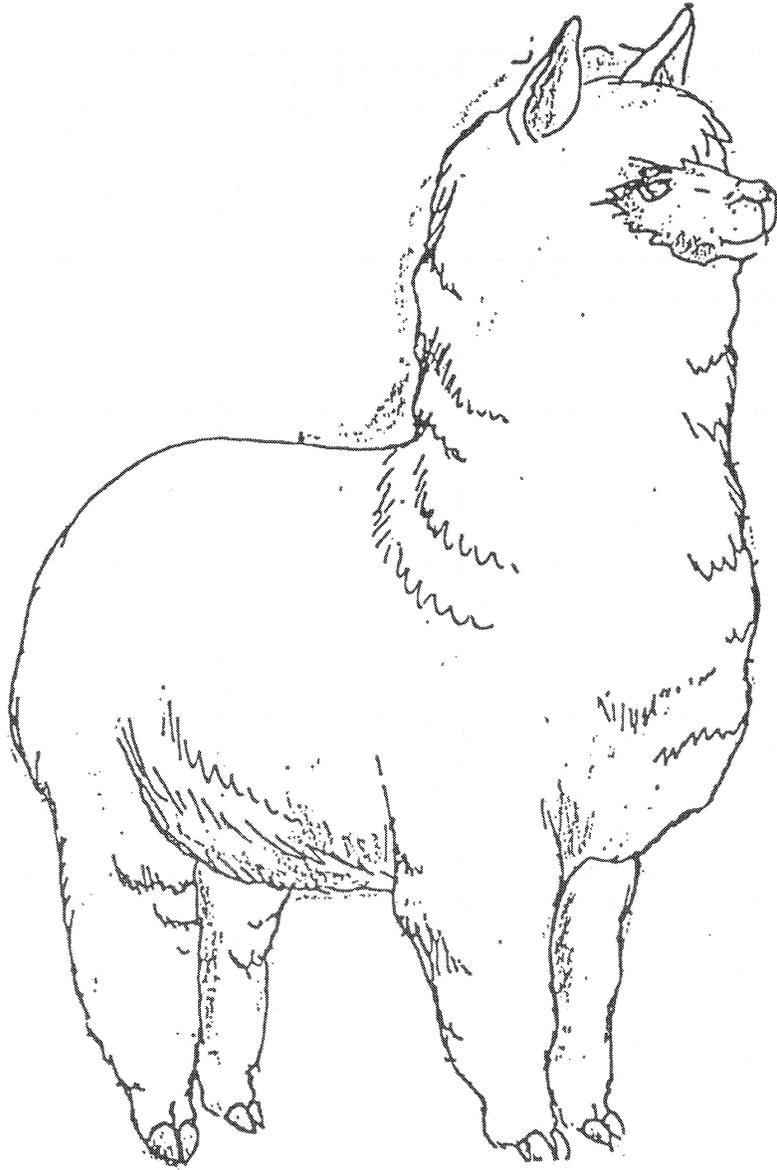
*Diagram courtesy Dr. Murray E Fowler, University of California, Davis.*



ADVANCED LEVEL  
EXTERNAL DIAGRAM



4-H PROJECT  
RECORD BOOK



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_

Year in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Year in Project \_\_\_\_\_

# MY ALPACA

|                              | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Name                         |   |   |   |
| Age (date of birth if known) |   |   |   |
| Sex                          |   |   |   |
| Colors                       |   |   |   |
| Markings                     |   |   |   |

Photos may be used to identify marks

MEET \_\_\_\_\_ AND MY ALPACA \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your Name) (Name)

Prepare a brief information paragraph about you and your Alpaca. Include interesting information such as your name, number of years in 4-H club, your Alpaca's name, sex, age, etc. Also include a brief comment about your experience and feelings about 4-H this year. Make it interesting! Record books will be displayed at the 4-H Fair. Please try to include a picture of you with your alpaca. Check your 4-H fair information for record book due date.



# ALPACA IDENTIFICATION

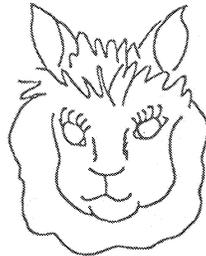
Name of Alpaca: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sire: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Dam: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Acquired: \_\_\_\_\_ Own: \_\_\_\_\_ Lease: \_\_\_\_\_

Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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# ALPACA RELATIVES

MY ALPACA \_\_\_\_\_ IS RELATED TO:

BROTHERS

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SISTERS

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HALF-BROTHERS

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HALF-SISTERS

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GRANDFATHERS

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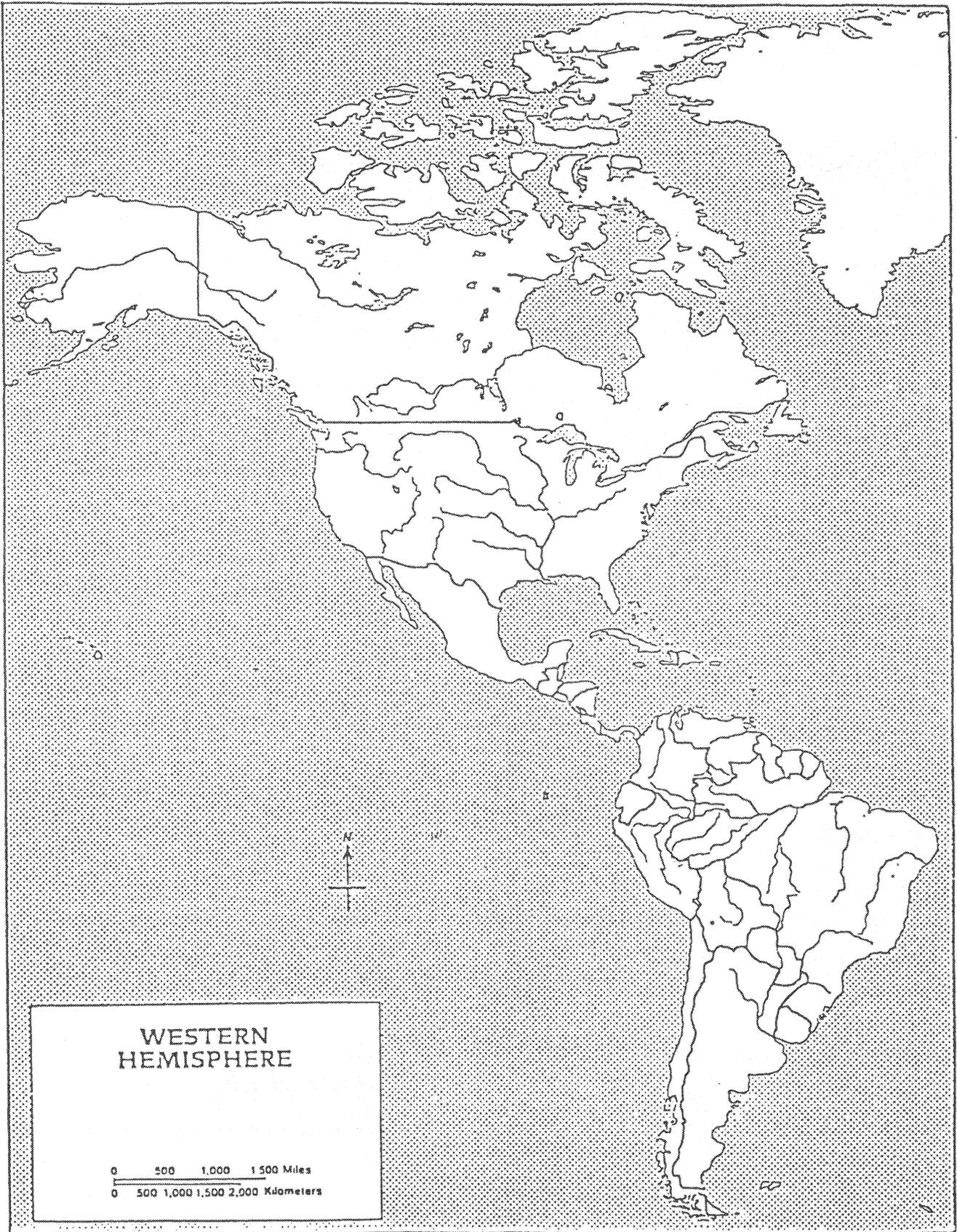
GRANDMOTHERS

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WESTERN  
HEMISPHERE

0 500 1,000 1,500 Miles  
0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Kilometers

# SOUTH AMERICA

Indicate the country from which your alpaca, or his relatives are from.



# YOUTH ALPACA PROJECT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in this Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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## GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

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Youth Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# YOUTH ALPACA PROJECT

## PARTICIPATION IN CLUB ACTIVITIES

| Date | Activity | Location | Things Learned |
|------|----------|----------|----------------|
|      |          |          |                |
|      |          |          |                |
|      |          |          |                |

## PRESENTATIONS

| Date | Event | Location |
|------|-------|----------|
|      |       |          |
|      |       |          |
|      |       |          |

## SHOW RECORD

| Date | Show | Location | Placing |
|------|------|----------|---------|
|      |      |          |         |
|      |      |          |         |
|      |      |          |         |

Leadership positions held and the responsibilities:

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Recognition: (Important honors, awards, trips, etc.)

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# MY 4-H ALPACA ACTIVITIES PHOTO PAGE

(give dates and captions)  
(add more sheets if necessary)

This project was completed on \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 4-H Member  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Club Leader







# INVENTORY

An inventory at the start and at the close of the project is a necessary part of your record. The starting inventory is simply a listing of all things you own, which are on hand when you start the project together with their value. The closing inventory serves the same purpose, a listing of items on hand at the close of the project together with their value. Inventory items bought after the project starts will be entered on page \_\_\_\_ and also listed on the closing inventory.

For alpaca and equipment: Beginning inventory values are either (1) the amount you paid or (2) in those cases where animals or articles were not purchased, but were already on hand, the estimated price for which they could be sold. Closing inventory value is the estimated amount for which the animals or equipment could be sold.

| List Animals<br>Equipment, Etc. | Beginning Inventory<br>Date Project Started<br>Month _____, 19____ |                          |                | Closing Inventory<br>Date Project Ended<br>Month _____, 19____ |                          |                |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|
|                                 | A  | B                        | C              | D  | E                        | F              |
|                                 | Number<br>or<br>Amount   | Cost or<br>Value<br>Each | Total<br>Value | Number<br>or<br>Amount   | Cost or<br>Value<br>Each | Total<br>Value |
| Example: water buckets          | 3  | \$8.00                   | \$24.00        | 3  | \$6.00                   | \$18.00        |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
|                                 |  |                          |                |  |                          |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    |  |                          | \$             |  |                          | \$             |



## ALPACA EXPENSE RECORD SUMMARY

| Equipment,<br>Bedding, and<br>Supplies | Clinics, Seminars,<br>Travel, and Show<br>Expenses | Miscellaneous<br>(purchase of<br>alpaca trailer,<br>lease or<br>boarding charges) | Interest on<br>purchase | Monthly<br>Total |
|--|--|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| -----                                  | \$12.00 (show entry)                               | -----   | -----                   | \$54.50          |
|  |  |   |                         |                  |
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|  |  |   |                         |                  |
|  |  |   |                         |                  |
| \$                                     | \$   | \$  | \$                      | \$               |

# ALPACA EXPENSE RECORD SUMMARY

All purchases made after the beginning inventory date should be entered here.

| Month         | Veterinary Care and Medicine | Grooming Supplies and Tack | Pasture and Hay | Grain and Supplements |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Example: May  | \$12.00                      | \$8.00 (brush)             | \$14.00 (hay)   | \$8.50 (grain)        |
|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
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|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
|               |                              |                            |                 |                       |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | \$                           | \$                         | \$              | \$                    |





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Lincoln, NE 68512

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(402) 437-8484

**FAX**

(402) 437-8488

**WEBSITE**

[www.AlpacaInfo.com](http://www.AlpacaInfo.com)