



The Llama Rescue Review

The Newsletter of Southeast Llama Rescue, Inc.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Special Midsummer Edition 2008

The Ohio 80-Llama Rescue

By Helen Carpenter, SELR BoD, Northern OH Adoption Coordinator

Editor's Note: *The following is an account of the placement of 80 llamas beginning in April 2008, from a farm at which the owner was no longer able to care for the animals. Weeks of coordination led to the on-site assessment and preparation for placing the llamas. The llamas were re-homed rather than surrendered* because there were not enough adoptive applicants in the queue, nor enough foster homes, and the situation was urgent. Thanks to the efforts of Helen Carpenter and many other SELR volunteers, by June all the llamas had successfully found new homes.*

In the early morning as Nina Winchester, Lisa Blidar and I drove towards Toledo, the sky darkened, the wind picked up, the temperature dropped and the rain started. I only pick the very best of days to do llama rescue work. I got a call from Dave Kana telling me that his van had broken down a half hour from their home but things were under control and they were indeed on their way.

My emotions were already raw from losing my beloved dog Molly that morning, and when we got there and saw all the llamas in the rain and mud it was even more difficult than I thought it would be. In the barn, there were more llamas and the poop was piled so high that I had to walk bent over. At least the dead llamas had been carted away and buried and the males were separated from the females.

I was soon surrounded by a group of 15 people eager to work and asking what needed done. I gave directions and assigned tasks as fence panels were hauled out of the trailer and llamas were separated into manageable groups. The strong armed guys caught and haltered; Joy Bishop-Forshey, llama



owner and veterinarian, did quick health checks, body scoring and some ultrasounding for pregnancies. Llamas were then handed over to others for shots, tagging and photos. It was a very efficient assembly line as everyone pitched in and did what they could do best. I stood there watching them with gratitude filling my soul and tears continuing to flow. I couldn't seem to hold them back.

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SELR Mission Statement: To protect the quality of life and improve the well-being of abused, neglected, unwanted, and behaviorally unmanageable llamas through prevention, education, intervention, placement, and lifelong care.

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Thanks to everyone who makes a positive difference in the lives of SELR llamas!

Meanwhile, Summer is Upon Us!

By Lynette Melton, SELR BoD, Chair

In the Southeast, where I live, Summer usually arrives hot on the heels of Winter, with just a few days of Spring as a buffer. In recent weeks, we've had temps in the 40s at night and sometimes in the 90s in the daytime. I understand our friends on the west coast had even more dramatic temperature fluctuations - from 30s and 40s one day to the 100s the next!

How do we get our llamas and alpacas through this without freezing them or exposing them to heat stress? We want to shear before the weather gets too hot and humid, but we want to keep them warm on those 40 degree nights. It's tough to make the call as to the perfect time to shear.

You have to know your animals and what they can handle. Most of ours at Chinquapin Ridge Farm handle the cold better than the hot. So, at the first sign of 80+ temps, we start shearing. This year we learned that our two alpaca m-worm survivors don't handle the cool nights so well, as indicated by a case of early morning shivers. So, next year we'll wait an extra few days to shear them.



SO, what do you do to prepare your farm and your animals for the hot days of summer?

Shearing, of course, is the first thing that comes to mind. We prefer to shear as much fiber off our animals as possible, to keep them cool for the

summer. Exceptions are the elderly, light wools, and frail. Those are evaluated and receive anything from a simple barrel cut to a lion cut, or even an all over 'trim' of just an inch or two off the top.

Some folks set up kiddie swimming pools for their llamas to stand or lounge in, some use ground sprinklers to wet the llama and alpaca tummies. Be careful, though, water on their upper blanket will cause the fiber to hold in heat rather than cooling them. Daily sprays with the garden hose, wet sand in shady areas, barn or shed fans, woodsy areas, sheds or shade cloth covers - all of these provide some respite from the heat.

Be sure to have an ample water supply. Water can be supplemented with electrolytes as an added measure.

Physically fit camelids do better in both the heat and the cold, so we try to keep ours at a healthy weight and provide mineral supplements.

Avoid breeding for births during the hot months. The heat can be tough on a pregnant mom, as well as on the cria, who can't control their body temperature efficiently.

Check your animals often in hot, humid weather. Be alert for signs of heat stress, such as lethargy, off feed, not chewing cud, drooping of the lower lip (if not caused by spitting!), excessive salivation, facial or partial facial paralysis, scrotal swelling in intact males, trembling, weakness, staggering, difficulty (open mouth) breathing or panting, and abnormal behavior.

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Meanwhile, Summer is Upon Us . . . Continued from Page 2

The International Llama Registry has a great publication which discusses causes, effects, detection, treatment, prevention, etc of heat stress at http://www.lamaregistry.com/Forms/ip11_heatstress.pdf Other websites with good heat stress information are www.llamaweb.com/About/heat.html and www.shagbarkridge.com/info/heat.html. Googling will turn up many additional sites, as well.

Of course, I am not a vet, and would urge you to call your vet to discuss any of these signs and appropriate treatment, should you experience heat stress in spite of all your prevention efforts.

Have a great Summer - enjoy those llamas and alpacas!



Photo by Scott Noga, Rattlesnake Ridge Ranch

The Ohio 80 Llama Rescue . . . Continued from Page 1

I was introduced to the owner who talked to me throughout the day. He knew many of the llamas' names, had marked the crias and moms with corresponding spray paint so that we knew who went with who, had records from when he was able to take care of them and thanked me at the end of the day.

60 llamas later, the group took a quick break for coffee and snacks then it was on to the males. Two more hours and the 19 adult males were done, everything was packed up and I expressed my heartfelt thanks to the mud-covered, wet, cold, tired yet satisfied crew. How can I ever really let them know how much it meant to have them there? I know though, that they didn't really want thanks. They were just happy to be able to help.

Eight llamas were put into trailers and hauled away to their new homes that day. Fifteen more left for permanent homes that week. One brand new cria whose

mom had no milk and had actually abandoned him, was taken by Karen Salvagno and I hoped and prayed that she would be able to nurse him back to health. Unfortunately, I received an email from her the next morning that he died during the night. She did everything she could to save him. He was a beautiful little guy who deserved a chance at life.

Overall, the llamas were quite calm. They are typical llamas who have not been handled much with only a few getting really crazy. Only one of the males was angry and nasty. All of the llamas are very thin and there is a plethora of lice. I was told by Joy that there was a problem a few years ago with nematodaris so the new owners are being informed about the parasite problems, what they need to do to get rid of any infestations and how to prevent spreading problems to their own animals.

The remaining llamas were all different sizes, colors and ages.

Some have gorgeous fiber and some are covered with guard hair and scratchy. Some are mild mannered and others are spooky. I have it all documented somewhere. We finally left with the assurance that the hay we



saw would be distributed and the water troughs would be regularly filled. There are some folks who live fairly close to the farm who agreed to check to make sure this happened.

We got home around 9 p.m. and then began the work of posting photos and llama details, contacting those who want llamas and everything else.

(Editor's Note: *The next segment is a conclusion.*)

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The Ohio 80 Llama Rescue—Continued from Page 3

It is two and a half months later and the sun is shining. The "Ohio 80" llamas are gone. My ears hurt from the hours I spent talking on the telephone. My eyes are almost crossed from staring at the computer monitor where I read and sent tons of emails. Weekly (and sometimes more) trips to Gibsonburg and transporting llamas here and there have drained my bank account. My house and barns are neglected. But, I sit here with a smile on my face knowing that it is over.

As I think about the rescue I cannot believe that it went so well and so quickly. I asked for help and people I didn't even know came forward with open arms and willing hands. I asked for donations of medical supplies, halters, leads and equipment and things miraculously appeared on my doorstep. I asked for help transporting and drivers and trailers materialized. I received help for things I didn't even know I needed. And finally, I asked for adopters and received such an outpouring of offers to take the llamas or help find homes that I was totally astounded. I have never met such caring, generous and amazing people. It would have been an overwhelming task without them.

The rescue went well but didn't necessarily go smoothly. Somehow it always managed to rain when we were at the farm so we often traveled covered with spit and mud. After a few visits, the llamas knew when they saw me that someone was going to get haltered and taken away so they always became apprehensive and skittish. But as the numbers dwindled the tasks became easier. Throughout the rescue, we were often frustrated, angry, tired and sad yet we forgave each other quickly and managed to laugh a lot. Our exhaustion usually turned to giddiness so there are some pretty funny stories I could tell but I promised I wouldn't.

At the end of June, I made my very last trip alone to the Ellis farm. All of the animals are gone except for one little gray barn cat. The llamas, sheep, ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys and guineas have all gone to new homes. The fencing is being torn down and bobcat work has been scheduled to clean up the mounds of poop. I walked around one last time looking at the deserted barns and fields. I hear a faint hum and feel a gentle breeze. It must be the ghosts of llamas we couldn't save. They are thanking me for helping out their brothers and sisters.

Out of the 80 llamas, there were unfortunately, three deaths. The first was the little cria that died the first day we were there. A very old, emaciated gal went blind, stopped eating and had to be euthanized. One older male unexpectedly died a few days after reaching his new home. We are saddened by their loss and wish things could have been different for them.

I am slowly receiving updates from the adopters and as I receive photos, I am posting them to the web site: <http://public.fotki.com/mollymoo/>. Each story is different. Some of the llamas are now guards to sheep, chickens or goats. Some are companions or just part of a new family. Others will provide fiber for spinners. Even the llama that was thought to be nasty has been deemed just stubborn and is doing well in his new home. All have gone someplace better and are happy.



It is impossible to tell everyone involved how much they are appreciated. There are simply no words. All of you have touched my heart and my soul.

I extend very special thanks to:

My best friend Nina Winchester. Nina was there with me every step of the way. She not only made leads, but helped with inventory, transporting, and wrangling llamas. Her greatest contribution however was her encouragement and moral support when I was in despair.

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Lisa Blidar who opened up not only her heart but her farm for temporary housing. She is always there when I need her most.

My new pups, Hope and Penn, who were my traveling companions and who licked away my tears.

Finally, to my dear husband Lyle whose gentle spirit keeps me going.

And thank you to the following "rescue angels." You have indeed made a difference.

Adopters:

Lisa Blidar, Lisa Steigerwald-Kana and Dave Kana, Heather Hettick, Hallie Luxmore, Claudia Hammack, Lisa Dreggors, Gary Thigpen, Kate McKelvie, Gail Fulkerson, Rodney Porter, Michelle Rogers, Pat Holmes, Ted Wensink, Jenny Bohse, Johnette Parmelee, Dawn Mitchell, Ann Potter, Karen Salvagno, Ann Hughes, Kathy Daves, Thomas Deline, Gail and Darwin Skinner, Cherreen Thompson, Nina Winchester.

Adoption coordinating:

Claudia Hammack, Michelle Rogers

Foster facility:

Lisa Blidar, Stacy Mashburn

Inventory:

Nina Winchester, Lisa Blidar, Cherreen Thompson, Lisa Steigerwald-Kana, Dave Kana, Vicki Steigerwald, Ted Wensink, Dawn Mitchell, Karen Salvagno, Lee Ann King, Cathy Bradford and her dad, Joy Bishop-Forshey, DVM (inventory vet), the "vet tech" and her two brothers

**Transportation:**

Nina Winchester, Claudia Hammack, Lisa Dreggors, Bobby Smith, Rodney Porter, Michelle Rogers, Pat

Holmes, Ted Wensink, Jenny Bohse, Johnette Parmelee, Dawn Mitchell, Ann Potter, Lisa Steigerwald-Kana, Dave Kana, Thomas Deline, Darwin Skinner, Deb Logan



Above: Bobby Smith, Lisa Dreggors, and Deb Logan coax two young male llamas to the trailer for their transport south to new homes. Below Left: Llamas loaded onto a trailer for a trip south. Photos this page by Claudia Hammack.

Transportation coordination:

Deb Logan

Money contributions:

Gail Fulkerson, Rodney Porter, Heather Hettick, Cyndy Schmohe, Linda Pohle, "A Friend", Claudia Hammack

Shearing:

Cherreen Thompson

Other contributions:

Larry Agle, DVM - Ivomec, CD&T, needles, syringes, Pet Detect, www.petdetect.com - tagging media
Nina Winchester - leads
Cyndy Schmohe and Linda Pohle - loan of a trailer
Intervention and Rescue Council - leads and halters
Lisa Dreggors - Ivomec and Cylence

Veterinarians:

Joy Bishop-Forshey, DVM, Northwest Veterinary Hospital, Inc.
Larry Agle, DVM, Buckeye Veterinary Service, LLC

Encouragement and ideas:

SELR Board of Directors
SELR Adoptions and Fosters Committee

Why Some Llamas Don't Make it to the Website

By Lynette Melton, SELR BoD Chair, Chinquapin Ridge Farm

I was recently asked (1) why we have so few llamas and alpacas on our website; and (2) why a lot of the ones that are there are perhaps not the best candidates for adoption because of their physical condition.

I wondered if others were wondering the same, so thought I'd address the topic here.

While the llamas on our web site do represent some of the animals we have available, they are at times a subset of those who are flowing through the system. Those special needs llamas need homes, too, you know!

Anyone interested in fostering or adopting needs to go ahead and submit an application. It is critical that people initiate contact with a Coordinator if they are interested in adoption because if we have an approved home, incoming animals that are a "match" are routed straight to them and never make it to the web site. Why would they when we have a home waiting for them?

Once an applicant has completed their facility check and we understand what it is they are seeking, the Coordinator becomes their advocate and will immediately start networking with other Coordinators to see not only what they may already have in their area but what may possibly be on the horizon. Usually, something will pop up not too long after we have completed the facility check. This is good from the perspective of the person seeking a llama or alpaca, I guess, but not so great when you consider it reflects a pretty steady stream of incoming animals to SELR.



The reason they go so fast to these pre-approved homes is that they are predominantly mellow pasture puffs, retired show animals (both halter AND obstacles) and casual packers. They are in jeopardy due to owner health or financial issues, relocation and divorce, among other reasons.

We definitely get the skittish, unsocialized and often bedraggled as well but often they are not on the web site because they are not yet ready for adoption. At this writing, Deb is holding three in Alabama for just that reason, they need more halter training and socialization. Assuming a qualified home does not come along, they will appear on the web site when they are ready for prime time and not before because it is counter-productive.

The process is much the same for re-homing. If we know the interested party is a home that has passed a SELR facility check or would otherwise meet requirements (especially those who already have llamas or alpacas), and if we are aware of an animal in need but cannot find a foster home, we will re-home in a New York minute unless the present owner specifically wishes to work through SELR. No web site for those guys, either. Also no expense for SELR and an animal is matched up with a great home. It is surprising how fast an animal can move through the "system" in some cases. One was recently placed in 30 minutes from the time of the call regarding surrender to contacting the approved applicant. The llama was picked up on a Saturday morning and the adoptive home received him by way of a volunteer transporter by 4 PM. I only wish they were all like that, but you get the idea.

We do state on our website that the critters listed there are not the 'end all and be all' of our inventory, but let me speak plainly: If you want a llama or alpaca, contact your coordinator!!! He/She would LOVE to hear from you!

You can find your coordinator and their contact information at www.southeastllamarescue.org. Click on 'Adoption Coordinators' on the left of the page.

Photo: Fritz, a cutie-patootie who is looking for a loving home to call his own. For more information about Fritz, please contact llamacoordinator@bellsouth.net

What is Rehoming?

By Deb Logan, SELR BoD Vice Chair, Adoption Coordinator

When we will re-home: In instances where there is a situation in which the animal must be removed from their present situation within a short period of time and no SELR foster homes are available to hold them. Typically re-homing is the accepted manner of operation when it is immediately recognized that the number of surrendered animals will overwhelm both our network and our treasury.

What we do: Coordinators initiate their personal network of local and regional contacts and will also pool information with other SELR Coordinators if a local solution doesn't appear to be feasible for some or all of the animals that must be accommodated.

How this differs from a surrender: Emphasis is on quick and effective action and it typically involves a large number of animals. Rather than scheduling facility checks as is the norm, we accept third party

validation that facilities meet the basic criteria for maintaining established standards of care. Many if not most who are contacted are those involved in other camelid rescue groups, breeders, exhibitors, existing owners and former adopters.

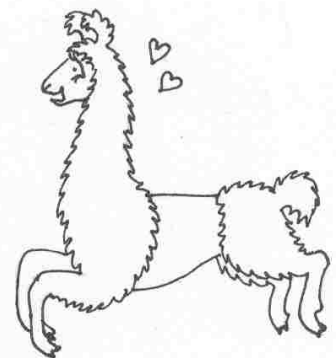
Some folks just don't want to have their llamas and their name linked to 'rescue' so they refuse to sign over to SELR but will allow 'help' in re-homing.

In a surrender situation, animals are sheared, toenails trimmed, they're tested/treated for

parasites, and provided with appropriate vaccinations. If males, they are gelded and fighting teeth blunted. Special needs animals are evaluated and provided veterinary care, medications, and/or nutritional supplements as appropriate. They are also transported to foster facilities and then on to their adoptive homes by SELR volunteers who are eligible for gas reimbursement. Animals in foster facilities are evaluated as to demeanor and manageability to better match them with applicants and in many instances, trained to halter, lead or pack. Females are adopted out with a no breeding contact.

None of the above services are applicable to a rehomed animal. The Coordinator functions simply as a matchmaker to inform people of animals who are available and where warranted, function as a coordination point to track dissemination of animals to eliminate confusion.

Although animals available for re-homing will not appear on the SELR web site per se, we will often provide a link to a third party photo album (i.e. Snapfish, etc) to facilitate placement if the Coordinator is willing to do so. They will also help to coordinate volunteer labor where there is any but they are not authorized to expend SELR funds on medications, transportation, etc.



Update on the Circle Ranch Llamas

Chris Gill of the Circle Ranch in Texas recently sent a letter to SELR Board Members who visited the ranch in April. Following is an excerpt from the letter with an update on the SELR llamas:

"I saw a family group of elk, heads down, grazing next to a family

group of llamas up in the north country. In the immediate area we also saw several individual pronghorn does, who we believe had sequestered fawns. Another family group of llamas is regularly seen with the pronghorn in the desert, and another along the lower escarpment to the east of headquarters. This is

really cool to see. This stuff that llamas don't get along with wildlife is wrong, even though some species may at first react to strangeness, like horses to the first automobiles. As you know, it is my hope that the llamas close to the pronghorn, deer, sheep, and elk will discourage predators. This is intuitive."

Herbal Arthritis Remedy

Scott Noga—Rattlesnake Ridge Ranch, Pasco, WA

Editors Note: The following is not intended to replace veterinary advice.

Our Peppercorn (*right*) developed a bad case of cervical arthritis. He got to where he couldn't pick his head up because the pain was so bad and the pinched, inflamed nerves in his neck caused weakness in his front legs. He was on a heavy dose of bute (500mg/day) just to function, but I weaned him off of it by replacing it with the Pollard arthritis blend of herbs. The herbs are anti-inflammatory, plus it has glucosamine and MSM in it. With the herbs he functions fine with no bute at all. The bute is reported to be hard on the organs.

I began the switch in two stages. I first tried some glucosamine supplement (MaxFlex) and with that was able to lower his dose of bute from 500mg/day to 250mg/day, but could not stop the bute without observing difficulty with his movement. I then added the herb blend at the initial dosage (2X the maintenance dose) for one week and discontinued the bute. He did fine. In three weeks I reduced the herbs to the regular dosage and he continued to do fine. While he still exhibits limited range of motion in the neck, he now occasionally runs around and plays with the other younger males. He wouldn't do that if still in great

pain (and didn't for quite some time). In addition, at the start I could place my hand near his withers and feel a grinding roughness in the shoulders when he walked. It was terrible. Now I feel no roughness at all.



Dosage is two heaping tablespoons a day for the first two weeks, than one Tablespoon. That means 70 days for the first bag and 84 days thereafter. The cost is \$37 plus shipping for 42oz bag. That works out to about 50 cents a day for the maintenance dosage. So the cost isn't a big deal, but it does require diligence on administering it every day -- same as the bute. The way I feed it to Pepper is to soak a little beet pulp in warm water along with the herbs, a pinch of salt and some sweet basil for flavoring (Pepper loves sweet basil). He gets it every morning.

Looking for Llove



Fritz is a young gelding that was surrendered due to owner relocation. He is a bit difficult to halter at first for he is very head shy. He walks like a dream, exploring and inquisitive, but very responsive to just a slight tug on the lead. His foster mom says that his wool is like cotton candy, it is so fine. Fritz is ready to become a fine member of a new loving family.

For more information or to fill out an adoption application, please contact the NC State Adoption Coordinator at llamacoordinator@bellsouth.net

Communication Network For Disaster Response

By Susan Gawarecki, SELR BoD, Pathfinder Farm

As a result of the networking efforts of several camelid organizations, a communication system for disaster response and relief has been set up on the web site for the International Camelid Institute (ICI). The tornadoes and floods in the Midwest were the most recent impetus to putting such a plan together, but the wildfires and droughts in other parts of the country started the discussions much earlier. Contact information and links have been provided on the site for national, regional and local agencies involved with disaster preparedness, response and relief for both people and animals. A list of owners with immediate needs such as water, pasture, hay and shelter will be posted on the site shortly, as will a list of people offering help (transportation, pasture room, water, etc.). The list will be updated often over the next several weeks as ICI receives additional information. Specific concerns and suggestions from camelid

veterinarians regarding disaster response and relief also will be posted on the site.

Much of the data in several of the reports was compiled by Sandra Wallace and her team members on the Alpaca Owner and Breeders Association (AOBA) Affiliate Congress who then worked with ICI and the IRC Council to get the actual communication system in place. Though the current concern is with the problems in the Midwest, the system is intended to provide immediate communication regarding any disaster nationwide. Please inform your members they can go to ICI's web site at www.icinfo.org and click on "Help for Affected Flood Owners" under the Hot Topics section for information and help not only for this latest weather related crisis, but also for future disaster concerns.

An Alpaca's Secret Life

On our web site, we have an email address for one of our alpacas so kids can write to her, and get an answer back from an alpaca.

From some of the correspondence that Tasha receives, I am convinced that she leads a rather unsavory secret life. I have no idea why she needs all that Viagra or wants to download those kinds of pictures. A certain political candidate needs her help to get elected. She seems to buy Rolex replicas by the dozens. And it looks like she's going to be in serious trouble with some bank in Colorado if she doesn't provide them with her Social Security and bank account numbers!

I don't know how she manages to sneak these activities in. I guess I'll have to keep a closer eye on my stealthy girl.

The only bright spot is that someone in Nigeria wants to send her a cashier's check for nine million dollars. See, you CAN make big money with alpacas!

(PS - I'd spam-block her addy but some days it's just too amusing.)

Cindy Aldrich
Shepherd's Purse Alpacas
Mount Airy, Maryland



Youth Participation

By Pat Cothran, SELR BoD, NC Adoption Coordinator

Three "Humms" for Cory Wilde!
by Pat Cothran, proud Auntie

LANA (Llama Association of North America), among other things, operates a wide-ranging youth program encouraging creativity, leadership, community service, and personal development. It holds Youth Across America contests annually that are open to all youth. Categories include Llama Project Record Book, Art, Community Service and Essay.

This year my great-nephew Cory, whom many of you have met and worked with, and others of you have read about on volchat and in the SELR newsletters, entered the Community Service contest. LANA states that the service work done by the contestant must be done "for free," and that the contestant cannot be reimbursed either financially or otherwise for the work. The judging criteria included the number of hours spent in service, the type of work, the documentation of the work, and originality and creativity. The work had to be completed within the last 12 months, and accompanied by a note from the parent or guardian verifying that the entrant did the service work.

Cory's entry was a scrapbook-type documentation of his volunteer work for SELR from May 2007 though April 2008, just before the deadline for submission. This included his help at two Shear Chaos days last spring, his help with exhibiting two llamas at a local day-camp one day last summer, his help in manning the SELR booth at SAFF last October, his help with tagging and loading the Texas-bound llamas last fall, his help to Alvin with fencing paddocks at a foster home, his help with the clean-up and closing down of the Mountin' Hopes facility last December, his fostering of two SELR llamas - Noches and Showoff, his assistance with my



own SELR fosters by feeding, mucking stalls, shearing, giving shots and oral meds, and parasite identification, and several other SELR-llama related volunteer activities. In addition to the positive comments made by those of you who got to know Cory that I pulled from the volchat archives, I requested letters from some of the folks who had worked closely with Cory during the volunteer days, and I appreciate the time invested in those letters highlighting Cory's contributions. His scrapbook contained the letters and volchat comments, SELR newsletters, photos of Cory in his various llama activities, and his descriptions of his various duties.

I am so excited to announce that Cory received a call this evening congratulating him on his 1st place Gold Medal win in his age division (8-13) in the Community Service contest!!

I am grateful that SELR provides opportunities for youth to be involved in llama rescue and ways to contribute to a higher good. And I am grateful that LANA honors the youth who do just that.

This article was first published on the SELR website: www.southeastllamarescue.org

Krisco & Jose By Linda Grotzinger

This is a story of a special bond between two rescue llamas in my bachelor herd in Western PA.

Jose the llama arrived seven years ago after spending the first six yrs of his life in a 6x6 ft pen with a deer companion. Jose is now 20 & in his last summer. He's always been very careful walking, as the listeriosis (circling disease) that he survived before coming here left him with neurological damage & one really bad knee. He often keeps his nose to the ground to avoid tripping on uneven ground. Needless to say, he moves much slower than the rest of the herd & we have to start early if he needs to move any distance.

In 2004, I began fostering two young llamas, Kokopelli Krisco (photo) and his brother Neeko, for SELR. Krisco and his brother had no known issues when they arrived, but we thought they could benefit from being in a larger herd of established geldings. His brother left about 4 months later (& is now in an adoptive home), so Krisco had to find his place in the herd on his own.

Not long after his brother's adoption, I watched an old 'grandpa' teach a young gelding some manners. Due to Jose's health, I kept him in a separate pen at night and let him eat in the barn while I everyone else ate outside. One day, after I herded Jose into the barn, we both noticed Krisco already inside & making a meal of Jose's hay. In a split second a proud, old llama puffed himself up & hopped over to Krisco to teach him a lesson. He actually jumped up on Krisco's hind quarters, not something I thought he would have been physically able to do. Needless to say, Krisco never bothered Jose's hay again. Perhaps this event helped Jose earn Krisco's respect and started the bond between the two llamas. As Krisco turned three, he started exhibiting strong guarding behaviors and began watching out for his buddy old Jose.

One evening last summer, I wasn't able to get Jose in from the far pasture before dusk. (When it gets dark, Jose is afraid to walk, so he settles in for the night.) I normally close the gate between the two pastures so that Jose is contained in the pasture near the barn for the night - especially when rain is

forecast. I couldn't do that not only because Jose hadn't made it in, but also because Krisco was kushed in the open gate area so he could keep a close eye on both Jose & the rest of the herd - in both pastures.

Another evening, I had everyone in the near pasture except for Krisco. I walked down to him & did my customary herding, but Krisco would not budge. I walked back up for a halter & even after getting the halter on, Krisco did not want to move! I realized he thought I was separating him from Jose, so as soon as I led him through the gate, I walked him back to Jose & removed his halter. Krisco was happily surprised.



Jose can no longer walk enough to leave his stall in the barn. Just this week I noticed K r i s c o kushed, his side pressed

against Jose's stall. Krisco is using his body as a physical barrier to prevent the other boys from stealing Jose's hay. Sadly, this friendship is coming to a natural end, and Krisco will need another llama buddy. He keeps his distance from the other llamas in the herd as Jose is his special friend. Although we'd hoped to place Krisco as a guard, this is no longer an option as he tore some tendons or ligaments in a rear leg and can no longer serve as a 'working llama'.

Krisco will soon be in need of another companion llama to watch over. While Krisco still wants to guard the herd from strangers, he allows haltering in the field & petting once he knows you are family. He is available for adoption. For more information about Krisco or to fill out an adoption application, please visit the SELR website at www.southeastllamarescue.org.

Editor's Note: Linda informed us that Jose passed away as this issue was going to press.

Latest SELR News

In June twelve more ABS llamas traveled south in preparation for joining the herds at Circle Ranch in West Texas. Many thanks to Randall Gooding and all the other folks involved with transporting these llamas, and to Susan Coley for providing a temporary home for these llamas as they acclimate to the Texas environment. The llamas will make the final leg of the trip to the ranch in the fall. Look for more news about the Circle Ranch llamas in future issues.



Tracy Snell and Deb Logan have been cooking up some great new items for the SELR Café Press store! Check out the cool new llama bumper stickers and mugs at www.cafepress.com/selr.

L A M A P H O T O S



Kim Melton of Chinquapin Ridge Farm shares a quiet moment with (Princess) Leigha the llama.

In This Issue...

Herbal Arthritis Remedy, An Alpaca's Secret Life, and more!

Favorite Llama Tunes By SELR VolChat

Our recent issue's "Favorite Alpaca Tunes" by Rick Horn generated quite a stir on the SELR Volunteer Chat site. Here are just a few of the llama tunes that our volunteers shared:

Little Old Llama from Pasadena
 She Loves Me, Humm, Humm, Humm
 Honky Tonk Llamas
 Dancing in the Barn <Dancing in the Dark, for llamas>
 Singing in the Barn <Singing in the Rain>
 Llama Crias Dreamin <California Dreamin>
 If You're Going to Nationals <If You're Going to San Francisco>
 Cria Alley <Creek Alley>
 Jumpin' Jack Llama
 Sympathy with the Llama
 I can't get no Llama Action <satisfaction>
 - Kris Paige

'All You Need Is Llamas'
 'Llama in the Sky With Diamonds'
 'Llama Tried' (to raise me better)
 'Me and Llama McGee'
 'Llamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys'
 'Walk Like an Alpaca'

'She Thinks My Alpaca's Sexy'
 'Baby, You Can Drive my Llama'
 - Lynette Melton

"It's My Pool and I'll Pee if I Want to" (original by Leslie Gore, later rendition by "The Woolies")
 "I want to hold your...foot!"
 "The llama sleeps tonight"
 - Deb Logan



Karma Bolivian
 'Paca, Don't Preach
 Shiny, Happy Llamas
 Llamas Just Want to have Fun (Cyndi Leaper)
 Llama Shack (B-livian's)
 You Dropped a Llama on Me (Gap Herd)
 - Melissa Perryman

"La Llama" by Ritchie Vvalens
 - Pat Cothran

"Waltzing with Llamas" - Bob Huss

Lord Won't you Buy Me a Champion Llama
 Llama, llama bo llama, banana fanna mo llama, fie fie fo llama...llama!
 - Claudia Hammack