

Alpaca/ Llama Round Robin Questions

General:

1. **What is alpacas and llamas country of origin?**
South America
2. **What are baby alpacas called?**
Cria
3. **Approximately how much does a full grown alpaca weigh?**
Anywhere between 120-180 pounds
4. **Approximately how much does a full grown llama weigh?**
Anywhere between 200-400 pounds.
5. **How long do alpacas live?**
18+ years.
6. **What is the gestation period for an alpaca?** Between 11 and 12 months.
7. **Approximately how much does a newborn alpaca weigh?** 14-18 pounds.
8. **How often does an animal get shorn?**
Once a year
9. **What is their species called?**
Camelids
10. **What are three different South American camelids?**
Vicuna, 2- alpaca, 3-llama and 4- guanaco.

Breed/Care:

1. **What are three differences between an alpaca and a llama?**

1-Alpaca have fine single coat and llamas have a double coat. Llamas

have a downy undercoat with course guard hairs in it. 2- Llamas can be used for various things, packing, driving a cart, livestock guardians, and for fiber. Alpaca are livestock bred for fiber purposes only. 3- Llamas are larger than alpacas. 4- Llamas have very different ear shape- they are banana shaped where as alpacas are more leaf shaped.

2. What are the two different types of alpaca and describe their fleece characteristics.

1-Suri (with silky pencil-like locks, resembling dreadlocks but without matted fibers) and 2-Huacaya (which produce a dense, soft, crimped sheep-like fiber)

3. What color is alpaca wool?

Ranges from white to black, shades of gray, beige, brown, red and roan. May be solid, spotted, or marked.

4. What unique feature do llamas and alpacas eyes have and why? Llamas have a unique feature in their eyes that protects their pupils. Since llamas and alpacas originated from the high mountains of South America, they adapted to a climate with few trees and little shade by the use of the granula iridica, otherwise iridic granules. The iridic granule is a part of the eye that shades the pupil and decreases the amount of light that enters the eye and reaches the retina. The pupil is horizontally elliptical, which allows the pupil to close and decrease the amount of light that enters the llama/alpaca eye in sunny, bright conditions. The pupil changes automatically, like the photochromic lenses in someone's glasses. You can see the iridic granule by looking into the animal's eye.

5. Describe the appearance of an angry llama/alpaca. Ears pulled back and head up. Sometimes the tail up.

6. Q: What do alpacas eat?- The alpaca is an herbivore, grazing on grass and munching weeds, shrubs and trees. They process their food through 3 stomachs where special secretions enable the animal to absorb 50% more nutrients than sheep.

7. **What sounds do alpacas make?** **Humming** is the most common sound an alpaca makes, a sort of musical purring. The mom calls to her cria by humming, or they hum to communicate with each other within the herd. When alarmed, a staccato **tooting** is made by one animal, then joined in by the rest of the herd as they focus attention in the direction of potential danger. During breeding, which lasts from 20 to 30 minutes, a male trumpets or '**orgles**' a lovesong to his mate.
8. **Are alpacas environmentally friendly?** The alpaca's two-toed feet are soft pads protected on the top and sides by toe nails. Unlike hard hooves, they leave the terrain undamaged. And as they graze, they only nibble the top of the pasture grass rather than uprooting it. By rotating between two or three pastures, there is always a fresh supply of orchard grass.
9. **What diseases do alpacas get?** They are suited to harsh environment and are mostly very hardy but they can get intestinal and external parasites.

Generalize To Your Life

Q. What did you do when the lama wouldn't perform?

Q. Why is patience and perseverance so important when working with a lama?

Apply What You Learned

Q. What did you learn about yourself as you trained your lama?

Q. What would you recommend to someone who is just starting to train a lama?

Showmanship Tips

Catch --Once the lama is in the catch pen, make use of body language to encourage the lama to become calm and allow you to walk up to it. A recommended approach is as follows:

1. Move behind the hind quarters to encourage forward movement.
2. Move in front of the front quarter to encourage change of direction.
3. Move opposite the shoulder to encourage a stop.
4. Move mid-way of the barrel to encourage a balanced stance.

Once balanced, walk to the lama and throw the lead over the withers, encourage change of direction, catch the lead and encircle the neck to make a collar OR corner the lama in the catch pen, approach and reach around the lama's neck with one arm to grasp the lama's neck.

Halter--Method 1 --As described in the activity Catching a Lama, with your right arm around the lama's neck, halter buckle in your left hand and the crown piece in your right, slip the nose piece over the lama's nose (keeping the heels of your hands on the lama's cheeks to prevent its head from tossing and getting away from you).

Halter-- Method 2 --With the lead wrapped around the lama's neck like a collar, hold the halter at the bottom of the nose piece and slip the nose piece up and over the lama's nose from beneath his chin. Reach under the head and throw the crown piece behind the ears, then buckle.

Pet --Petting your lama will prepare it for the judge's hands-on exam. The judge will place a hand on the withers to feel the area at the base of the neck for cleanliness of grooming, and then run a hand down the back of the lama feeling for cleanliness and watching for your reactions and the lama's. The lama should stand quietly while you use your right arm to form a make-shift wall (lead is temporarily in the left hand).

Walk out briskly on a slack line (lead) --This move is much like teaching a dog to heel. The lama should step out as you step out. It should not need a cue from the lead rope. The lead rope cue is for teaching an inexperienced lama. Be sure to step out with the same foot each time. If you are consistent the lama will eventually recognize your body language.

Stop --Choose a voice command to use each time you want your lama to stop, such as "stop." If you are going to use voice commands, the words need to be simple and used the same way every time. Use body language and lead rope cues to reinforce your voice commands. For example, make

stop very definite and exaggerated at first by making a stomping motion with your last step (same foot every time), and a short tug on the lead backward. Eventually, the lama will stop without the tug on the lead and with less and less exaggerated foot motions.

Set up Square --The lama should stand with weight equally distributed on all four feet. Ideally, the front feet are directly below the shoulder and the rear feet are directly below the point of the pelvis. Very few lamas are built well enough to stand exactly like this. You will need to learn how to place the lama so that it appears in its best light and teach it to stand based on its conformation. This may mean the rear feet are a little behind the point of the pelvis or another stance based on the lama's conformation. When beginning, try to get all four feet to be at the four points of a rectangle.

Turn right (haunch or pivot turn) --To begin teaching the lama to perform a haunch turn, keep the lead rope short (8-10 inches). Begin by standing to the left of the lama with your right shoulder about even with the lama's left eye. Reach with the right hand to the right, beneath the lama's chin so that the lead rope puts pressure on the halter forcing the lama's head to the right. If your arm is shorter, make the lead rope shorter. If the lama does not understand the cue, extend your right elbow so that it pushes against the lama's neck (this is for training only - remember, there is no touching the lama in showmanship) and attempt to push the lama around. The first attempts will be more like a right hand circle. Practice this until the lama turns to the right by picking up its right hind foot and placing it in nearly the same spot with each step until you have turned as far as you want to go. As the lama learns the maneuver, use less and less physical pressure with your arm, elbow and tugs on the lead so that the performance is fluid.

Back up --Turn to face the rear of the lama so that your left shoulder is alongside the left side of the lama's nose. While you are turning around, pass the lead rope from your right hand to your left. Teach the lama to back ONE STEP AT A TIME. Be sure to use voice command of "back" and put pressure on the lead straight back. Try NOT to pull down on the lead at the same time. If necessary at the beginning, use pressure with one hand on the lama's neck. When the lama has taken one step, stop and relax for a second, then ask for another step, then asking for three steps until the lama will back willingly. Gradually add more steps. Practice by backing between two benches or other obstacles to teach the lama to back in a straight line.

Pick up a foot --This action should be practiced EVERY TIME the halter is placed on the lama. Build a routine of checking the lama's overall physical health each time the lama is haltered by doing a quick body score, review for any wounds and pick up all four feet in the same pattern. Begin picking up feet with the lama tied securely. Eventually, practice holding the lead (lama is not tied to a fence) and picking up all four feet. This is often one of the tasks in an obstacle course with one of the four feet named to be lifted.

Show teeth --Over a period of 3-5 lessons before actually putting the halter on, slide your left hand up the lama's neck to under the chin until you can insert your fingers under the lama's lips massage the upper dental pad. Eventually, part the lips to show the alignment of the teeth with

the upper dental pad. If this is practiced every time the halter is put on along with picking up the feet, the task becomes easier and less stressful.

More Challenges

1. Help another youth train a lama.
2. Demonstrate each of the actions to a parent or friend.

Resources

Purdue 4-H Lama Book Reference, Catching a Lama – Book 1, page 38, Challenge – Catch Me If You Can!

5. TRAINING FOR INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP

Level of Expertise: Intermediate.

Lama Project Skill Practiced: Training a lama for showmanship.

Life Skill Practiced: Cooperation.

Success Indicator: Successfully trains a lama to perform 8 of 10 showmanship skills.

Once you and your lama have mastered the novice showmanship skills, the intermediate skills in this activity should be relatively easy to learn.

Experience

With your lama, a halter and a lead, show that you and your lama can perform each of the 10 skills listed by Week 5. Indicate how you think you performed for each skill. Score utilizing the following scale: 1 for Needs Improvement, 2 for Good or 3 for Excellent each week. When you have awarded yourself 3's for 8 of the 10 skills, you will have completed this activity.

Action with Your Lama	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Change pace within a certain distance.					
Set-up square.					
Back three steps, return and reset to square.					
Change places to the end of line in a side-to-side line-up.					
Move right to the end of line in a side-to-side line-up.					
Move left to the end of line in a side-to-side line-up.					
Adjust a disruptive lama in a side-to-side line-up.					
Pose and position your lama to best advantage.					
Answer three judge's questions.					

(extra).

(extra).

Talk It Over

Share What You Did

Q. How successful were you training your lama to do the skills?

Q. How did you train your lama to do the skills listed?

Process What's Important

Q. What skills were the most difficult for your lama to learn?

Q. What are the steps you take to change your position in a side-to-side lineup to the end position on your lama's right?

Generalize to Your Life

Q. What personal life skills did you practice as you trained your lama?

Q. What might be another situation where you would use these skills again?

Apply What You Learned

Q. How important was being patient while still being persistent when training your lama?

Showmanship Tips

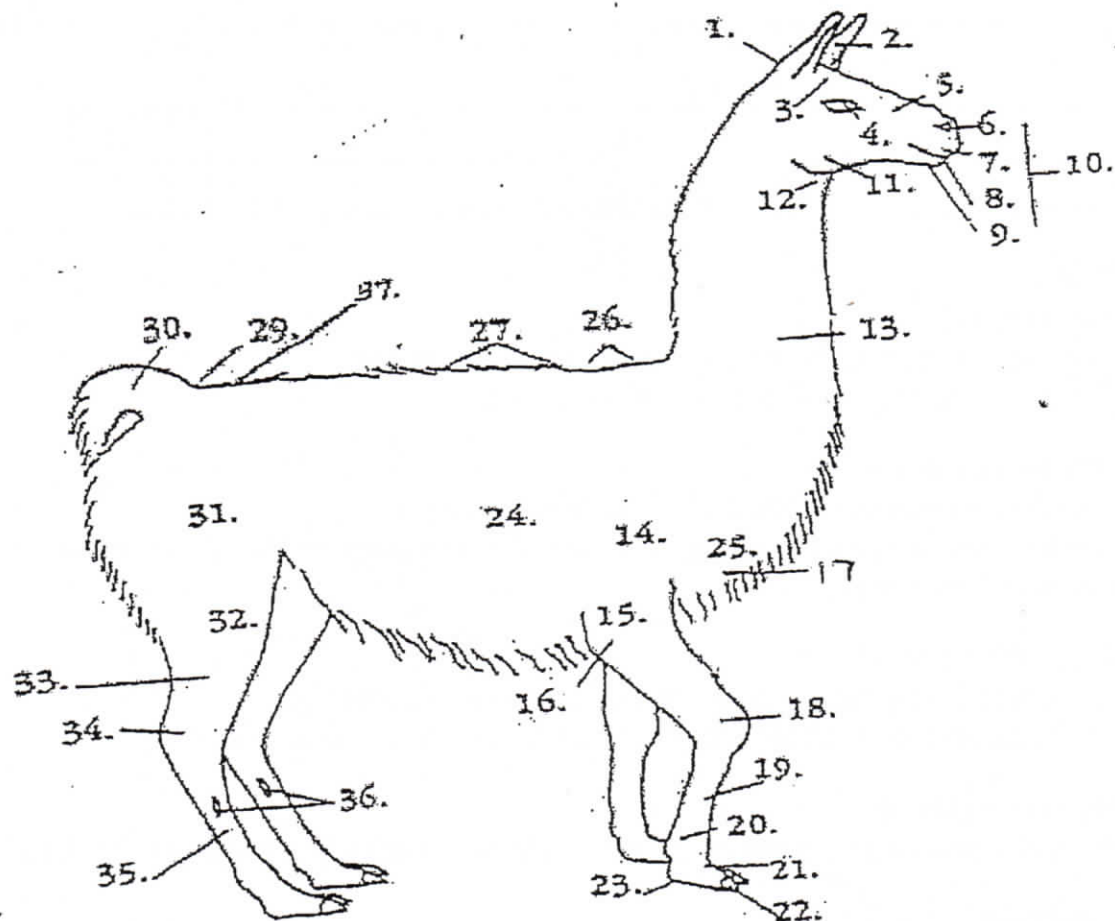
As part of an individual work pattern, you may be asked to jog your lama between a marked starting point and marked stopping point. The change of pace is usually a walk-jog-stop within set markers.

Setting-up Square --Your animal is set-up properly when it is standing squarely on all four feet. This means that your lama should be standing tall and not leaning backward or forward. The front feet and back feet should be approximately the same distance apart. The animal should look alert with head high. Each time your animal stops, be sure to set it up squarely so it always looks its best. Only use the lead and not your hands or feet to properly position the feet.

Backing --When asked by the judge to back your lama, turn and face your lama from your position off its left shoulder. Then change hands on the lead from your right hand to your left hand and back at least three steps in a smooth, straight line. Walk your lama forward the same number of steps. Be sure to square your lama when you have completed backing. An unsafe move is holding the snap of your lead.

Adjusting a Disruptive Lama --When your lama becomes disruptive, your challenge is to calm it and not add to its discomfort.

Resetting in a Side-to-Side Lineup --When your lama is having trouble standing still while in line, you may need to start over and reset it. This means walking forward out of line, haunch turning to



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|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Poll | 8. Mouth | 15. Humerus (Arm) | 22. Toenail |
| 2. Ear | 9. Lower Lip/Chin | 16. Elbow Joint | 23. Pad/Slipper |
| 3. Forehead | 10. Muzzle | 17. Sternum (Breast Bone) | 24. Ribs |
| 4. Eye | 11. Jaw | 18. Knee | 25. Chest/Sternum |
| 5. Cheek | 12. Throat | 19. Cannon | 26. Withers |
| 6. Nostril | 13. Neck | 20. Fetlock (Ankle) | 27. Back |
| 7. Upper Lip | 14. Shoulder | 21. Pastern Joint | 29. Tail Head |

- 30. Tail
- 31. Thigh
- 32. Stifle
- 33. Gaskin
- 34. Hock Joint
- 35. Hind Cannon
- 36. Metatarsal Gland (Scent Gland)
- 37. Croup