



**Frost Llama
Ranch**
Since 1979

Lincoln, California

Bob Frost (1943-2011)

It is with great sadness that I report to the camelid community the death of Bob Frost on August 15, 2011. Bob was one of the early llama owners in California. He established a medium- sized herd on his ranch on Twin Ponds Road in Lincoln, California. He took superb care of his animals and also made them available for studies on parenting verification and other projects. He invited students and faculty from the Camelid Medicine Club at UC Davis' veterinary school to gain experience with routine procedures such as vaccinations, worming and dental care of these special animals.

Bob was passionate about applying scientific principles to the breeding and husbandry of his animals. He served in many capacities within the International Llama Association (ILA) and its local affiliate CAL-ILA. He represented camelid interests in the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) beginning in 1989, ultimately becoming the president of that prestigious organization in 2003.

Many within the camelid industry are unaware of the tremendous voice that he provided for camelids and other livestock species. At the national level, Bob's contributions to the camelid industries were without equal.

Heartfelt sympathies are extended to Bonnie, his wife and loyal companion, through thick and thin. We have lost a dear friend and staunch supporter of camelids.

Murray Fowler

Bob Frost Biography

Bob Frost had llamas at his ranch in Lincoln, California, since 1979. He always had a keen interest in camelid health topics and assisted with many camelid research projects at the University of California at Davis. This is where he met Dr. Murray Fowler who became his mentor and close personal friend. Bob served as vice-president of the ILA in 1991 and continued to serve on the ILA board until 1993 and after that, on the ILA Research Committee.

In August of 1990, the Canadian government closed the border to the importation of US camelids due to the lack of a validated live animal test for *Mycobacterium bovis* (bovine tuberculosis). This issue became a concern after outbreaks of TB occurred in farmed deer and elk and Canadian officials suspected llamas and alpacas were also causing TB outbreaks. Bob became deeply involved in the TB issue through his ILA and USAHA connections, working to demonstrate to provincial and state regulatory officials that llamas/alpacas were not carriers of TB and did not pose a TB threat to livestock or wildlife. Through Bob's efforts working with ILA and USAHA the Canadian and U.S. governments spent over \$500,000 on camelid TB diagnostic research. The Canadian border finally reopened to camelids in 1997.

Bob was a member of USAHA since 1989, serving on many committees, including Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison & Lama and Wildlife Diseases. Each year he made presentations to these committees on the lack of either TB,

brucellosis or other diseases in North American camelids. He co-authored a landmark article with Dr. Murray Fowler in 1999, "Prevalence of Selected Diseases of Llamas and Alpacas". He represented the ILA and, more recently, the ILR on the USAHA Board of Directors from 1999-2004.

Elected Third-Vice President of the then 108 year old USAHA in 1999, Bob progressed in the organization to become USAHA president in 2003, the first time someone outside of the cattle or sheep industry held that position. He worked tirelessly in support of the development of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), a network of veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and the "\$460 Million Ames Master Plan" to modernize the three federal reference animal health laboratories in Ames, IA.

Under his guidance at the 2003 USAHA annual meeting, an International Standards Committee was established to bring together decision makers at the international level to encourage discussion, consensus and adoption of science-based policies regarding animal health requirements in world trade.

After 9/11, Bob felt USAHA needed new partners to assist in accomplishing the goals and mission of the Association. Under his presidency the following became members of USAHA at the 2003 and 2004 annual meetings: USDHHS-Food & Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, USDOJ - National Park Service, USDOJ - National Wildlife Health Center, USDOE - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, USDA - Wildlife Services, USDOJ -U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, National Chicken Council and the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association.

Also as USAHA President, he formed a new standing committee. The "Committee on Diagnostic Laboratories and Veterinary Workforce Development" held its first meeting in 2004 at the Greensboro annual meeting and works on North American diagnostic laboratory and veterinarian workforce deficiencies with Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Up until his death, Bob maintained his 100 llamas on the ranch in Lincoln. It has been a "closed herd" since 1991. He did not breed or sell them. He had hoped to see the BSL-3 laboratory space and research funding approved to complete the llama/alpaca research diagnostic projects that he, Dr. Fowler and a U.S./Canadian team had started in the spring of 2000 at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg, Manitoba. West Nile Virus and Chronic Wasting Disease research projects in both countries took precedent that spring of 2000 and without increased funding, the shortage of BSL-3 laboratories in North America will prevent llama/alpaca diagnostic research of that magnitude for the foreseeable future.

The camelid community is represented at the USAHA by Karen Conyngham of the International Lama Registry (ILR), and Pat Long of the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Assn (AOBA).