



Herd Talk

CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT LAMA ASSOCIATION

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Why Should I Join?

What is CAL-ILA Doing?

As a Board Member I am often discouraged when people say “why should I join CAL-ILA, what do they do for me?” A first blush that may appear to be a valid question, it’s always good to check something out before you send your money. I guess where I get frustrated is in knowing that if people did spend a little effort looking into what CAL-ILA is doing, they would gladly support the organization.

So for those who haven’t taken the time to check us out, and for those of us who may not be familiar with everything CAL-ILA is doing, let me give you an overview.

CAL-ILA was formed in 1984 to educate llama owners and veterinarians about llamas and alpacas. We were supremely lucky enough to be in close proximity to UC Davis and the renowned Dr. Murray Fowler. The close relationship formed with Dr. Fowler and UCD continues to this day. Julie Dechant, DVM now leads the camelid medicine program at the Teaching Hospital. The members of the Camelid Medicine Club may change every year, but camelid medicine is alive and well at UCD. CAL-ILA participates in events throughout the year to further camelid research and to keep the young veterinarians interested and willing to add llamas and alpacas to their practices after graduation. CAL-ILA, along with CALPACA, supports the Camelid Symposium; we teamed with Llamas of the Wine Country to donate a llama restraint chute to the hospital; we donated funds to cover the treatment costs of the llamas rescued from the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary so Dr. Dechant can continue to treat rescue camelids; and we have provided live in-the-field training labs for the vet students. Camelids have been here in North America for a relatively short period of time compared to other

Special points of interest:

- **ANNUAL MEETING**
JULY 9TH - VACAVILLE, CA
- **MEMBERSHIPS**
DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
- **MICROCHIP CLINIC**
CAL-ILA IS OFFERING FANTASTIC DISCOUNTS FOR INSERTING PERMANENT MICROCHIP IDs AT THE GRASS VALLEY SHOW, SATURDAY MAY 28TH. **REGISTER ONLINE NOW!**

Annual Meeting



July 9th, 2011

Our annual meeting has been rescheduled to **July 9, 2011**. Dr. Murray Fowler and other great speakers will be presenting the latest information. We also have some great hands-on break-out sessions ready for you. Go to the CAL-ILA website to register on-line.

To get the same information presented at this conference you would have to pay well over \$95, and you can get it here for only \$20 per person, plus you get a FREE lunch!

Sign Up Today!

www.cal-ila.org

Grass Valley Show May 27-29



livestock species. Keeping one of the leading teaching hospitals actively involved in camelid medicine and the camelid community benefits everyone. That alone is the worth the price of membership.

But wait, there's more! Though there is a lot more that we do, CAL-ILA has gained a reputation as a llama show group. We do offer a number of shows throughout the year at many different venues. We feel that shows are a good way to involve the public in llamas.

In the public relations department llamas tend to get a bad rap. Youngsters, typically those in Jr. and Sr. high school love to tell about the spitting llamas! Come on, what other animal does that?!? The really neat thing (in their opinion) is all you have to do is call the llamas like you would a horse; tilt your head back and click, and presto, they spit!

Now of course, we know that head-tilting and clicking is how one llama warns another that they'd better stop what they are doing or else they'll get spit at. These kids don't know that, and the llamas don't know that the kids are just coming over to see them, not giving them a warning. So, spit happens! Now here's the PR problem; when these kids grow up and become voting citizens all they remember are that llamas are mean nasty spitters. You might as well lump them in with pit bulls, rottweilers and Brahma bulls, dangerous animals that should be kept out of the public eye. CAL-ILA is fighting this misconception.

One way we do that is by sponsoring shows where the public can see firsthand that llamas don't deserve the bad press. CAL-ILA sponsors four shows during the year, Grass Valley, the California State Fair, Solano County Fair and the Hot August Nights Performance Show. CAL-ILA also supports the Llamas and More Show in Nevada, LANA's Hobo and Roundup Shows and the Llamas of the Wine Country Harvest Fair Show. The public gets to see that llamas are intelligent, trusting and fun to work with. Plus it gives like minded llama owners a venue to get together and socialize. Whether you are personally interested in showing or not the value you get from the public relations effort is worth the price of membership.

But wait, there's more! CAL-ILA believes that it's important to be able to use llamas for their original intended use, packing. We have scheduled three very different hikes this year, the annual New Year's Morning day hike and two overnight trips into the Sierra Mountains. We have also sponsored several Sutter Buttes hikes in the Marysville area. And we have gone on several river clean-up days where the packs have been used to haul out trash. CAL-ILA supports the Pack Llama Trial Association (PLTA) where pack llamas can become certified trail-ready. This year CAL-ILA is providing a web page for the Llama Pack Festival in Silverton, Colorado, at the end of September. If you enjoy, or even think you might enjoy hiking with your llamas these hikes alone are worth the price of membership.

Yeah you guessed it...**But wait, there's more!** CAL-ILA was founded on the idea of educating llama owners about these wonderful creatures and we are carrying on that legacy. CAL-ILA sponsors a number of clinics throughout the year. This year we have already held the Performance/Showmanship Clinic where you could learn some secrets of handling your llama in the show ring. We held the annual Llama Shearing Clinic where you could learn to shear your llama and get the latest word on current show fashions. We have a Microchip clinic where you can have your llama permanently tagged with a state-of-the-art microchip. We have a llama care clinic at the Annual Meeting where you can learn restraint techniques and tips on trimming toe nails and fighting teeth. We have a clinic where you can make your own parade pack or blanket. We are planning a Driving Clinic where you can learn how to train your llama (and

EDUCATION



HIKING



MICROCHIP CLINIC SATURADAY MAY 28th 11am-1pm \$15 MEMBERS (\$20 non-members)



yourself) all about pulling a cart. And we are closing out the year with a Craft Clinic where you can make gifts using llama fiber and other materials just in time for Christmas! Surely, the educational programs alone are worth the price of membership.

And still there's more! CAL-ILA supports Youth activities with llamas. Whether it's 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom, or college, CAL-ILA is supporting the youngest members of the camelid community. We have made youth project program information available to a number of youth clubs. We have participated in Ag in the Classroom day throughout Northern California giving students a chance to see llamas in a controlled setting and get their most pressing questions answered (do they spit?). CAL-ILA sponsors youth judging competitions at most of our shows, helping the youth become more knowledgeable about llamas. And we have partnered with LANA on Youth Awards and the highly valued Youth Show Jackets. Supporting the youth and the future of the industry is worth the price of membership.

Okay...okay...**what else is CAL-ILA doing?** CAL-ILA has gathered a great deal of information about llamas, herd management, medical concerns, new owner information and much more on our website. We have information on making your own llama chute. We have plans for loafing sheds and quick llama shelters using hog panels and shade cloth or tarps. We have information on fencing, biosecurity, scholarships, building your website, trailers and vehicles, standards of care, feeding, heat stress and much more on the website. We even have links to other resources and organizations where you can get even more information. And yes, I think this too is a value worth the price of membership.

So your question should be "What doesn't CAL-ILA do?" And that I can answer for you; **CAL-ILA is not very good at telling everyone what we do.** So help us get the word out. CAL-ILA is more than a group of folks showing their llamas. CAL-ILA is the organization of camelid aficionados dedicated to educating owners, llama lovers, veterinarians and the public about the care, use and value of llamas and alpacas.

Now that is a reason to become a member today!

RESOURCES



Don't miss Solano Co Fair!



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CAL-ILA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) unincorporated association that promotes the education of the Association's members and the public in the caring for, breeding and raising of llamas and other camelids.

CAL-ILA is committed to supporting, promoting and developing Youth related llama activities. CAL-ILA supports and promotes camelid research. CAL-ILA works through cooperative efforts with other associations, organizations and/or groups to meet these objectives.

www.cal-ila.org

DISCLAIMER

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REPRINTS

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Grass Valley Show and Microchip Clinic

May 27-28-29, 2011

Llama & Alpaca Show
Rick Adams is the superintendent for this Double Point ALSA Llama and Alpaca Show.

Held each year at the beautiful Nevada County Fairgrounds this is a wonderful that you shouldn't miss.

Microchip Clinic
CAL-ILA has arranged for **Robin Skillman, DVM** and members of the UC Davis Camelid Medicine Club to run a Microchip Clinic on Saturday May 28 from 11am

until 1pm. The latest *Destron Fearing* llama and alpaca approved **Lifechip** will be inserted at the ridiculously low price of only **\$15 per animal**. (\$20 per animal for non-members).

Insuring each member of your herd is permanently identified will make recovery of a missing or stolen animal much easier. It will also add piece of mind in the event you are incapacitated and someone else needs to match herd members to their registrations.

Take advantage of this offer by signing up on-line today!

Go to
www.cal-ila.org

EHV-1
CAL-ILA has checked with **Dr Murray Fowler** and the Nevada Co Fairgrounds and there is **NO risk** of contracting the Equine Herpes Virus that infected horses at a Utah horse show.

No horses or other livestock have been at the fairgrounds within the incubation period for the disease.

It's safe to come and participate!