

MAPACA

September, 2004

Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 9



Mid-Atlantic Alpaca Association

MaPaca

Officers:

President:

Paul

Connor,

Vice

President:

Jovi Larson,

Treasurer:

A n d y

Schneider,

Secretary:

Fred Brown,

Members at

Large:

Frieda Good-

rich, Nancy

Johanson,

and

Nick Melfi.

Newsletter

Editor:

Alice

Brown.

President's Message:

The votes are counted and the MaPaca Board is happy to announce that Andy Schneider has been re-elected, and Frieda Goodrich and Fred Brown have been elected, all for 2-year terms. We would like to express our thanks to the outgoing Board members Brandon Boyd and Kim DeVos and thank them for their time and input over the past two years.

Having voted to increase the Board from 5 to 7 members last year, there will be 4 openings for new Board members next year for the 2005-2007 term. It is not too soon to consider running for your organizations Board of Directors. As a 7 state regional affiliate our focus should start pointing to a supporting role in conjunction with the many single state affiliates that have come into being in the last few years. Of our seven founding states 3 now have their own state affiliates and New Jersey is in the process of forming one.

The Jubilee requires a great deal of time and effort on the Board's part starting the minute the Jubilee ends, for the following year. The co-chairs and other volunteers start planning and working on their responsibilities as much as 7 months in advance of the event. It has become more difficult to put emphasis on the local needs of the

membership unless our assistance is requested from the local level and then it is addressed one by one.

The local affiliates are better able to address the goals and projects of owners and breeders at the state level and I feel MaPaca can best serve the membership by assisting the local affiliates where they exist and can use assistance, financial or otherwise.

In that regard, as MaPaca members in your specific locations, please let us know how you feel we may assist you, we will definitely put it on our agenda at our next BoD meeting, and get back to you.

Breed Standard - There are comments from the Annual Meeting regarding a "Breed Standard" from page 5. As noted, MaPaca has proven to have a high percentage of member involvement and accounted for 14% of the national response with nearly 40% of our membership voting on this issue. In

(Continued on page 2.)

Time to Renew for 2005

All Membership Renewals must be in the hands of Andy Schneider **by December 31, 2004** for members to receive the 10% discount on pens at Jubilee 2005.

Please fill out the enclosed form or go to www.mapaca.org and fill out the renewal form. Print out the form and send it with a check made out to MaPaca to:

Andy Schneider
13097 Old Annapolis
Road
Mount Airy, MD 21771

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President's Message:

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this regard the Board has been asked to solicit further comment and suggestions. In order to accomplish this I would request members to send me answers to the following questions:

- 1) Do you feel the AOBA Judging Regulations and standards established for the purpose of judging are sufficient to insure the ability of potential and existing alpaca owners and breeders to properly market their alpacas?
- 2) How do you feel the alpaca industry will be better if we have a definition of what the perfect alpaca will be as opposed to how the alpaca industry functions today?
- 3) Assuming you either own or breed alpacas, what do you feel you would do differently, if there were a "Breed Standard" as opposed to what you would do now with the criteria and standards that presently exist?

Please – take a few minutes, answer these questions and email to: paul@bigskyalpacas.com Thank you.

The State of MaPaca – It is noted in the minutes that MaPaca "unofficially" has a balance of \$181,000 on deposit. I say "unofficially" since the balance on account may have debits, bills, charges, and services contracted but not yet rendered that may deplete this sum. As a "non-profit" organization, there are some that view MaPaca as a benevolent contributor and that the organization should operate with a "bare bones" bank account, maintaining a minimum balance for operational purposes. As a Board member for six of the eight years MaPaca has existed – I can't tell you how many "night mares" I, and several other Board members, have had over the years, sometimes over 2 or 3 months, hoping the pen sales and vendor sales would meet the expectations "we" as a Board had to assume in order to make the advance commitments necessary to the PA Farm Show Complex, which has enabled the Jubilee to grow to the incredible event it is today. Going into our "9th Jubilee" it now looks like a "no brainer". As business people we understand there are no "no brainers". There is luck, and there is planned, thought-out, judicious, decision making. As members of a Board of Directors we cannot use "luck" in the administration of the funds entrusted to us. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions with the understanding that we, "your Board of Directors," have the fiduciary obligation to leave you the membership, and the next Board of Directors, a financially stable, viable organization, that will continue to have the ability and available resources to properly serve the membership.

Paul Connor

(Please note: Thoughts and opinions included here do not necessarily reflect the thoughts and opinions of other board members.)

Editor's Ramblings:

By Alice Brown

I've been reading a lot about breed standards, suri llamas, pacunas, and cross breeds the past few weeks and I think my brain is about to explode. Still, reading all the opinions out there is helpful in formulating my own opinion. All of these issues are important and worth taking the time to research thoroughly.

I have my copies of One Voice, LlamaLife II, and The Camelid Quarterly already "dog eared" from go over certain articles. All this reading has helped me to reach one conclusion, at least, that camelid people are definitely free thinkers and definitely opinionated!

The point I would like to make is that with all the differing opinions out there, each of us should take the time to research as much as we can on the various issues facing the alpaca community. We don't want to be complacent and figure, "Oh what does it matter what I think, anyhow!" The point is that it does matter and the more thinking people that we have voicing their opinions, and concerns about the issues, the more likely that, as an industry, we will arrive at the right decision.

When you receive your magazines, by all means read the articles. Learn what is going in and be involved in your industry. Sure it takes time and effort, but in the long run everyone will benefit.

I want to thank those who submitted articles for this Newsletter and I would like to continue to encourage others to send in an article once in a while.

By all means, please read your Newsletter when it comes as it is the means by which the MaPaca Board of Directors communicates with its members. Don't set it aside for a rainy day. At least look through the 8 pages and note any important announcements. There are important issues brought up that may require your attention. For example, in this issue we have put a notice reminding everyone that they must renew their membership for 2005 before December 31, 2004 or the privilege of getting a 10% reduction at the MaPaca Jubilee 2005 will be lost. When you do renew, please make a note of the check number and put a copy of the renewal form in a file for future reference. Computer glitches do happen and if there were ever a question about whether you renewed or not, you would have the form and check number to show that you had.

Fall is in the air, crias are being born, females are being breed, it's a good time to enjoy our alpacas and feel a sense of satisfaction that we have taken our stewardship over our alpacas seriously and have done the best that is humanly possible in taking care of them. Enjoy!

Alice

SEPTEMBER 11 - BLESSING

By Kit Hower, Blankstone Farm Alpacas, Coopersburg, PA

As I hurried to the barn dressed in my finery to go to the church wedding we'd been preparing for all summer, I took one last look at my oldest female who was a week plus overdue and there on the floor of the barn was the evidence of her water having just broken! No trip to the church for me! We were having a baby!

So back upstairs to change back into "farm" clothes and stow the jewels! I ran to the barn to watch, wait, and boil the water! I read you were supposed to do that when you have a baby!!!☺

Meanwhile there were caterers and staff setting up in the tent behind the house, the band rehearsing and the florist setting his gorgeous flowers everywhere.....but they all stopped for 10 minutes to watch the birth...then raced back to their duties as the 200 guests began to filter in for the reception.

Tammany delivered, quite normally, an 18.4 lb little girl at 4:45PM and was instantly named for the bride, Desiree. Obviously, had it been a boy....you know the rest.

Then began the real anxiety for me, since this mom had produced 2 bottle babies and one that nursed normally. Remembering the 4 months of bottles in 2003 and no life for "moi," I had been very concerned as to whether I should continue to breed this Mom who produces beautiful crias and has lovely fleece herself. Well, within ½ hour Tammany was allowing this little tyke to nurse and her facial expression said to me, "So, WHY were you worried?? I'm a great Mom!" And she is!

I went about my business of cleaning and drying off "Desi", doing the Mallon Method of hands-on, checking weight, etc. The line of guests at the fence was at least 3 deep for awhile but Tammany didn't seem to care and Desi was too busy looking for the milk bar to notice. As I opened the garage refrigerator (the caterers were using the garage as their base of operations) to store the after-birth until the following day when the vet came to draw blood, I was surprised to see it full of Crème Brulee.....Not quite the ideal spot for an afterbirth I'd say! They didn't think so either!

Since I was still in barn clothes, I decided to give the young attendees a treat and let them walk a few of the young alpacas. That not only made their day but the wedding guests will never forget the bride's and groom's anniversary and, hopefully it will bring a smile, as well as a tear for those lost on 9/11/2001.

Camelid Humor!

By Janet Boas,
Lilac Lane Alpacas, Glenolden, PA

OK all alpaca farmers! Have we got a deal for you!

Special for MAPACA members, we have the PPPperfect offer to keep you in great shape.

A new exercise book just for you. Includes such simple exercises as:

Squats (Raise both arms straight out in front, and pretend you are sitting down on a bale of hay. If you use a bale of straw instead of hay, you'll have more incentive to *almost* sit without actually touching the bale. Great for hamstrings and glutes)

Step/slide (Find a section of barn floor that you want to clear off - loose hay and stems - and step sideways, then slide feet together. Squeeze those inner thighs!)

Bicep curl (Pick up two five-gallon buckets, one in each hand, and pull upwards toward your shoulders. Check your form with empty buckets, and build up to curls with both buckets full of water.)

Glutes, hamstrings, triceps stretches (Pull a poop-laden sled across dry ground to the dump pile. If the ground is covered by snow, use a wagon on wheels instead of a sled)

Cardio workout (Decide to halter train your most difficult alpacas while they are calmly munching in the farthest pasture. Warm-up by quickly walking out to the field. Gradually work up a sweat by jogging after your fleeing alpacas. Don't worry, your alpacas will think you're playing a game and not tire of it. Time spent on this activity can even be increased to accommodate marathon training. Cool-down by walking - empty handed of course - back to the barn.)

These and other exercises *exclusively* designed for alpaca owners are PPPperfect to keep you in the best shape of your life! Great for gift-giving also. Especially for those hard-to-surprise on your gift list.

Yes, relieve stress, help strengthen your bones, muscles, and heart in simple exercises designed *especially for you!!!* The PPPperfect gift for you, your family, and friends!!!!

MaPaca Annual Meeting

Minutes -

September 19, 2004

Thank you to Kim DeVos and Brandon Boyd, who have completed their terms on the MaPaca Board of Directors. Paul Connor will continue as President. Jovi Larson will continue as Vice-President. Newly elected Fred Brown, will serve as Secretary. Andy Schneider was re-elected and will continue as Treasurer. Newly elected Frieda Goodrich will serve as Member at Large along with Nancy Johanson and Nick Melfi. Alice Brown will continue as recording secretary to take notes at all meetings.

Due to the illness of Andy Schneider, the Treasurers report was not available. Assuming the figures are correct, the numbers are very good. MaPaca has a balance of \$181,000.00 in the bank. Jubilee 2004 was very successful, despite increases in every area. Nick Melfi said we could do the Jubilee with volunteers and this has provided the income from the Jubilee. The BoD is thinking of how to disperse this money.

One thought is the potential for sponsoring an alpaca friendly healthcare facility. New Bolton has an equine specialty which draws most of their attention. We are looking at encouraging local/regional vets. We don't want to hurry and send money out to other areas, as we need to decide how the money can best be spent to benefit the MaPaca membership. We could do a lot of good little things or we could do one really good big thing. Laueran LoVerde said the Mid-Atlantic Large Animal Clinic has performed some alpaca C-sections and may be willing to handle more camelids. New Jersey is central to pretty much the entire region. The BoD spoke to Dr. Mary Beth Hamorski, VMD, of the Califon Animal Hospital. She currently has a mixed practice along with another veterinarian. A facility for larger animals, such as alpacas, would need to be close to the primary facility. Bob Ciszewski, from WV was concerned about the location being so far away from where he lived. Bob did say he was not speaking against the idea of a New Jersey location.

Kit Hower asked if anyone had approached New Bolton and let them know this is what we want to do. Nick Melfi has suggested to New Bolton that MaPaca could offer them a grant if they wanted to get more involved with alpacas. However, the interest wasn't there. A scholarship program was mentioned to New Bolton as well, but there was no response. The Califon Animal Hospital is interested. To help support this effort, we expect that the Jubilee Alpaca Auction will donate animals to support this effort.

Kit Hower suggested that since there is a shortage of vets, especially in out lying areas, MaPaca could have breeders who are members ask for money to send their vet to Ohio State University for the veterinary seminars.

The BoD asked Mary Beth Hamorski, of Califon Animal Hospital if she would be willing to do seminars bi-annually that would be free for MaPaca members.

The BoD has approved purchasing a 16 foot white utility trailer for storage of all the Jubilee materials. Speaking about the trailer purchase, Richard Guido mentioned that he is in the container business. Laurie Walker mentioned she had room at her farm to store a trailer.

In regard to Jubilee 2005, Andy Schneider is the Coordinator. There will be increases this coming year in Jubilee expenses for MaPaca. However, the pen prices have been the same for the last 4 years and it is hoped that we can continue to do the same this year. With the help of the Co-Chairs, we will get the job done. Online registration will be 100% this year. The number of pen spaces at the Jubilee will have to be reduced this year. Next year when the show is full, it is full. Shows sell out. We had a lot of issues with space in 2004, so we will be 150 pens less in 2005 for firecode safety reasons. We will not be mailing out booklets due to online registration.

Marian Sykes expressed concern about whether the rule change last year regarding blocking and/or trimming animals in the show would be enforced for 2005. Will this be enforced for 2005? Judges want the animals in their natural condition. Nick Melfi talked to Peg Stevens about this and was told it is not supposed to be allowed at all this year. Nick told Peg to speak to the Judges and make sure that they know we don't want blocking allowed. The Judges said next year there would be zero tolerance for blocking. It is the rule. It is up to everyone to write to the AOBA Show Committee. We have retained 5 of the top Judges for next year's Jubilee. Sue Tuccillo, an AOBA certified Judge, brought out that the new rules for the 2005 show year are scheduled to come out in January and blocking will not be allowed. Deborah Hoff asked if blocked animals would be disqualified. "That's how it should be." They should not even be allowed in the ring. Monica Kline said that animals should be checked before entering the show ring. Is the animal who is entering the ring the animal that was entered in that class? Microchipping is not now required. Even just spot checking will help. We start at the front door. Bob Ciszewski expressed this concern: "Our animals are not microchipped. Do I have to notify ARI if I microchip them?" If you microchip animals that are already registered, you can just stick the number on your certificate. The Federal Government is close to requiring microchipping. It was also mentioned that there is an article in the current issue of One Voice about microchipping.

Monica Kline also brought out that one animal came in sick and contaminated the entire New Bolton center. Millions of dollars were lost. We could have this happen at the Jubilee. Any show you go to with more than 50 animals, your animals can come home with something. Corona virus, Lauren LoVerde, said can be passed through the air. We had several crias get very sick. The crias had diarrhea and were dehydrated within two days. Corona virus can be spread at shows.

(Continued on page 5.)

(Continued from page 4.)

If you bring animals back from a show, quarantine them and don't let them go near your crias. It was brought out the PA Farm Show Complex is a State of Art Agricultural center and the facility has an air exchange rate that is exceptional.

The PA Farm Show will again be in January, 2005. Jubilee 2005 information will be in the MaPaca Newsletter, so please read your Newsletter when it arrives. Don't file it for reading on a rainy day. Kit Hower asked if vendors would be limited this year? Yes, the vendors will be limited and the cut-off date for vendor registration will be earlier. Since vendors pay for their spot to sell products, it needs to be plainly stated that breeders cannot sell products at their pens, they must purchase a vendor space. This will be spelled out for everyone. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help out with Jubilee 2005 should sign up ASAP. Deborah Hoff volunteered to be the volunteer coordinator this year. At Jubilee 2005 the limit for stalls will now be 6 per farm including farm display. Nothing will be allowed in the isles per fire regulations.

Members present discussed the Breed Standard issue. All who commented were not in favor of further development of a Breed Standard. Reasons cited included observations of the effects on dog breeds that have Breed Standards, with resultant health problems. Another point is that alpacas have been improving yearly in this country without a Breed Standard. This is evident at shows. "The system we have now is not broken, it does not need to be fixed," is one comment that was made. People in favor of Breed Standards site the fact that it will make Judging unbiased. However, it was brought out that at dog shows, where there are Breed Standards, there is still plenty of judging bias, as evidenced by the fact that dog breeders will study what each judge rewards in the show ring and then attend shows where judges that reward their style of dog are judging. Another point mentioned was that even if a general, nonrestrictive Breed Standard were developed, it would later result in people taking some things to the extreme, to the detriment of alpacas. Scott Gove is the Affiliate Committee liaison to MaPaca and is also on the committee to research the Breed Standard issue. In a recent AOBA Breed Standard Survey, conducted on SurveyMonkey.com (survey results in their entirety may be viewed at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=47642022988>). The MaPaca membership had a good turnout, with the highest number of any affiliate responding. According to an email from Scott Gove, which was read to those at the meeting, "MaPaca had 99 people respond. This is a very good response. Results to the first question (Do you favor establishing a breed standard for the U.S. alpaca industry?), were 35% in favor, 46.4% against and 18.6% undecided. Scott Gove asked the BoD to discuss this issue and to give him feedback with ideas for what kind of questions should be asked in the next survey. The BoD plans to meet and discuss this issue further and has requested that the MaPaca membership let them know how they feel about developing a Breed Standard and why they feel the way they do. Please send any comments to any of the BoD and CC Paul@Bigskyalpacas.com .

Classified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad should include a one sentence description and contact information such as phone number and email. We will run your ad for one month, if you do not sell the item and wish to run it again, let me know. This will be a free service to current MaPaca members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ, 08360 or fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

1. ***A Breeder's Guide to Genetics—Relax, It's Not Rocket Science*** by Ingrid Wood (Stormwind Alpacas) and Denise Como, **available from Quality Llama Products (1-800-638-4689) - soft cover: \$20.75, hard cover \$30.25.**
2. The "Hay Saver" double sided, covered feeder helps you keep your alpacas clean while reducing feeding costs. **www.AllAlpacas.com or 724-940-4045.**
3. **Custom designed, hand woven and knitted fashions from your alpaca's fleece, roving or yarn.** Shop online at **www.fleecetofashion.com.**
4. **2 oz. Custom hand-spun sample skeins** from YOUR alpaca! \$10 each plus \$2 shipping. **scmoore@1st.net or 740-934-9318 for details.**
5. **Yarn, batts, rovings, and felt from your alpacas.** Snuggler's Meadow Alpacas & Fiber Mill. **www.snugsalpacas.com or 440-636-5384.**
6. For Sale: **Products designed for alpacas:** Chutes, Shearing Tables, Skirting Trays, Panels, Feeders, and More. **www.AllAlpacas.com or 724-940-4045.**
7. **Alpaca Livestock Panels and Gate Combos** for sale. New, powder-coated in great condition! Indispensable for shows, creation pens, catching , and training. WoodsEdge Wools Farm. **Call Brent at 609-847-2425 or the farm office at 609-397-2212.**

Do You Want to Advertise in the MaPaca Newsletter?

No ads will be accepted that include the PRICE of animals for sale. Stud Service prices are acceptable. Thank you.

We will insert one-page ads for members in MaPaca Newsletters. Ads cost **\$40.00** for one 8 ½" by 11" ad, on 24 pound paper or less, if you supply ALL the copies (they can be in color and two sided if you like). If your ad is on heavier paper than 24 pound, the cost will be **\$60.00**. If you would like us to copy your ad, supply us one copy and we will have it copied in black & white, one sided, for **\$70.00** total.

If you know any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers, that would like to place an insert AD in the MaPaca Newsletter, you can recommend them if you are an existing Lifetime MaPaca Member. The costs for businesses would be an additional **\$100.00** added on to the regular member fee for an insert AD. Thus it would be either **\$140.00, \$160.00, or \$170.00**. Please send copies, along with payment, to Alice Brown, 458 Main Road, Vineland, NJ 08360 by the 20th of the month you want your ad inserted. Make check payable to **MaPaca** and include check with inserts.

If you have any questions, please email Alice Brown at fpalpacas@aol.com or give me a call at—**856-697-8127**.



Photo by Alice Brown
"OK, Which one is mine?"



Members Events Calendar

October 2-3, 2004—Noon—4 PM each day. Second Annual OPEN FARM DAYS, Purple Haze Alpacas, Bangor, PA. Tour the farm, meet the alpacas, take pictures, feed them, hug them. Visit our fiber store packed with luxurious alpaca products. Free Refreshments. **Contact: Arlene Gruter: 610-588-6505 or gruter@epix.net. Web: <http://www.purplehazealpacas.com/>.**

October 2, 2004—Fourth Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale and Open Farm Day. 10AM-4PM— presented by Alpaca Heritage Events, Incorp. This year the Alpaca Heritage Sale will be at the Waldorf School of Princeton, NJ. Free seminars, Free refreshments, Free parking, Alpaca apparel, Llamas, Herdsire Showcase, 20 participating breeders, over 40 alpacas. **Contact Alice Brown for information, 856-697-8127 or fpalpacas@aol.com or go to www.AlpacaHeritage.com.**

October 2 & 3, 2004: Star Events' Breeders Edge Herdsire Symposium & Sale. Featuring offspring of Dom Lucilio, the world's record setting sire and many alpacas & llamas! To be held at Double "O" Good Alpacas, Gainesville, VA. Free seminars. For more information contact **Linda Berry Walker at 609-397-2212 or stareventslc@aol.com.**

October 9-10, 2004: Third Annual "I Love NY Alpacas Autumn Celebration"—10AM-4PM, Sponsored by Spa Alpacas. Fun and educational, activities include farm and facility tours, fleece-spinning demonstrations, free mini-seminars, hands-on alpaca handling and agility handling. **Contact Paul or Kelly Zanella, www.spaalpacas.com or pjzanella@aol.com.**



Members Events Calendar

October 9, 2004—Happy Alpaca Farm Day and Seminars—10AM-4PM—Fenwick Manor Farm, New Lisbon, NJ. Dr. Norm Evans, DVM will speak on herd health, nutrition, and management. Andrea MacDonald will share information on alpaca fiber. \$85 per person or \$125 per couple (includes lunch). **Contact Katharine Thompson, 609-893-5552 or FMFalpacas@Fenwick.net , Web: www.FMFalpacas.Fenwick.net .**

October 9-10—Akron Ohio. Accoyo genetics pen sale, featuring three full Accoyo herdsires and their offspring. 6 Peruvian Accoyo-Accoyo Asante' -Trujillo Alto of Peru over 40 alpacas on display and for sale. Free ask the vet sessions from 9AM-2PM, Free Refreshments. Contact Patrick Cassese 866-668-1308, farmerpat@aol.com or www.glengaryfarmalpacas.com.

November 6, 2004-Alpaca 101 Galion Ohio. "Foundation for Success" Seminar. Featuring Dr. Claire Whitehead-Ohio State University-Jim Loy, CPA. Full day hand on session and workshop \$70.00/person, \$135.00/couple. Breakfast and lunch and materials included. Contact Patrick Cassese 866-668-1308, farmerpat@aol.com or www.glengaryfarmalpacas.com.

November 13, 2004: Fiber Seminar, 10AM-3:30PM. Topics include shearing, show-fleece preparation, breeding and feeding for superior fiber, color genetics, and similarities/differences between huacaya and suri fiber. \$45 per person, lunch included. **Make checks payable to Alpaca Heritage Events and send to Ingrid Wood, 1862 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd., Columbus, NJ, 08022. Information:www.AlpacaHeritage.com or 609-261-0696, or alpacas@uscom.com .**



Members Events Calendar

November 6-7, 2004—ABC Alpaca Buyers' Clinic and Dr. Johnson's World-Famous Neonatal Lab. Sponsored by Fireweed Alpaca Farm and Rock Chimney Farm Alpacas to be held at Fireweed Alpaca Farm in Richmond, VA. ****Saturday Clinic**, taught by 4 experienced alpaca breeders and assisted by Dr. LaRue Johnson, covers hands-on herd management, business plans, evaluating alpacas, working with fiber, etc. Cost: \$99/person, \$179/couple. Includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and book and handouts. **** Sunday**, Dr. LaRue Johnson offers his Neonatal Lab. This is an extensive, hands-on seminar on alpaca reproduction, birthing, and neonatal care, as well as breeding strategies, stages of pregnancy and birth, routine care of newborn cria and dam, hands-on experience with problem births, passive transfer issues, and comparisons of methods for confirming pregnancy. Cost: \$225/person, \$350/couple. Includes breakfast, lunch and handouts. **Contact: Teri Phipps 804-556-2526.**

April 3, 2005 Second Annual Alpaca Heritage Budget Caper Halter & Fleece Show. West Friendship, MD, Howard County Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Alpaca Heritage Events, Inc. Free seminars, parking, and admission. Entry fee \$50/alpaca—unlimited class entries. Limit of 2 pens/4 entries. No stall fees, bring your own panels. Contact: Ingrid Wood, 609-261-0696 or alpacas@uscom.com Kate Perez, kperez@erols.com or www.AlpacaHeritage.com.

April 21, 22, 23, & 24—MaPaca Eastern Alpaca Jubilee 2005— The MaPaca Jubilee will again be held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg, PA. See the MaPaca web site at www.mapaca.org and read your MaPaca Newsletter, to keep abreast of current Jubilee information.

Veterinary News for the East Coast

Ten Tips for Avoiding Vaccination Pitfalls:

By David E. Anderson, DVM, MS, DACVS

1. Clean, new syringe—do not leave syringes lying around. Open them just before using and be efficient.
2. Clean new needle—and keep it that way. Needles can become quickly contaminated in the hair, dirt and debris of the barn.
3. Clean new vaccine vial (vaccines from multi-dose vials should be used or discarded. Many adverse reactions I have seen are from large vials stored for prolonged periods. If you need 20 doses, buy two 10 dose vials rather than a 50 dose vial. That 50 dose vial that had 20 doses removed is unlikely to be sterile when you come back 6 months or a year later to do “another round”).
4. Accurate administration—give subQ preferably, Preferably, not IM. IM increases likelihood of adverse reaction because of accidental IV administration. (Most vaccine reactions are sterile abscesses that break and drain. Although these
- are unsightly, one that breaks and drains from just under the skin is far less likely to cause a problem than one that has to break and drain from deep in a muscle
5. Pull back on plunger before administration—make sure you are not in a vein. (Even a small amount of vaccine can cause reactions when given in a vein or artery. If the animal jumps around, re-check your position.
6. Administer in a clean site. ZEN of vaccination: Part the fiber—”see the site—be the site.”
7. Avoid using multi-dose syringes—These are far more likely to cause a problem because of contamination.
8. Store vaccine correctly—usually in a refrigerator, at minimum cool, dark place. Absolutely follow label storage directions. Do you know your supplier—was the vaccine shipped correctly, stored correctly, how close to the “out of date” date is the vial, etc. You get what you pay for.

9. Talk to your vet-have a plan to deal with vaccine reactions. Plans do no good when they are made after the fact. Discuss risk assessments to decide what vaccines are “critical,” which ones are “optional,” and which are “not needed.”
10. There are no labeled vaccines for camelids so ALL vaccines are used extra-label. You assume the risk in giving them. I feel comfortable in saying that far more camelids have been helped by vaccines than have ever been hurt by them, but that does not mean that there are any guarantees.

David E. Anderson, DVM, MS, DACVS, Head and Associate Professor of Farm Animal Surgery. Director, International Camelid Initiative, Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, Ohio. 614-292-6661, E-mail: Anderson.670@osu.edu .

Comments
about the
Newsletter,
or any
contri-
butions,
send to
Alice
Brown at
fpalpacas
@aol.com .

*Twixt optimist and pes-
simist
The difference is droll:
The optimist sees the
doughnut,
The pessimist, the hole.*

__McL. Wilson,
Optimist and Pessimist