



President's Message:

Dear members:

I want to thank those of you that read and voted on the new By-Laws, and Wayne Robinson for performing the tally. The By-Laws were passed by a 134 to 9 vote. 80 member farms responded in total. We are now able to proceed and apply for our Letter of Determination from the IRS establishing us as a non-profit once and for all. We also need your input on the candidate for board ballots you have received. Please take the time to learn about the candidates and vote for your next board members. The ballots are due back soon, please review the biographies and return your vote on time.

Please remember that our annual meeting date has changed to Sunday November 4th for calendar conflict reasons. We are again meeting at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA. Susan and Hazen Reed from Breed-Works will be there and will be giving a seminar on marketing in the afternoon. Come and meet your new MaPaca board in the morning, have a nice lunch, and learn marketing from Hazen and Sue in the afternoon. We also may have a surprise guest!

Cheers,

Carol Pfister
President, MAPACA

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MaPaca Meeting Schedule—2007

**Annual Meeting,
November 4, 2007 (Sunday)**

*Please mark your calendars for this date and plan to attend. Check the announcement in this Newsletter on page 2 for details.

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- Newsletter Editor:** Alice Brown
Forever Precious Alpacas, NJ
(856) 697-8127
fpalpacas@aol.com

Editor's Ramblings:

Just a quick note to say hello and remind all to vote and mail in their election ballots postmarked no later than **September 15th**. Hope you will all make plans to attend the Annual meeting in Hershey, PA. It's a beautiful place and lunch was great last year! I'll be looking forward to seeing many of you there. Check the details in the announcement below.

Best, Alice Brown

Please Mark our Calendars and Plan to Attend.....

MAPACA Annual Meeting
2007

The Hershey Hotel
Hershey, PA
November 4, 2007

Registration: 10:30am
Meeting starts at 11am
Lunch Provided

☺ DOOR Prizes For all you chocolate lovers out there,

Speaker: *Internet Marketing*
presented by BreedWorks
Hazen Reed & Susan Muther
Reed

The Hotel Hershey
100 Hotel Road
Hershey, PA 17033
Phone: 717-533-2171

Website: www.thehotelhershey.com

International Camelid Health Conference

Synopsis and Highlights
By Shari Silverman, VMD

Camelid Neonatology-

presented by Claire Whitehead BVM&S, MS, DACVIM, MCVS

- Most born without complications
- Standing within 30-60 min.
- Nursing within 2-4 hours (often sooner)
- Meconium passed within 24-36 hours
- Normal to lose up to 0.5 lbs. in the first 24 hrs.
- Should then gain 0.25 to 1 lb daily after that
- Because of intensive line breeding (inbreeding) for superior fleece, genetic flaws have also been accentuated and extensive physical exam should rule out congenital defects.
- ALWAYS check all 4 teats on dam's udder for function and clear of mastitis
- After first 8 hrs, gut begins to lose ability to absorb antibodies
- Premature crias may have delayed absorption
- If dam has insufficient milk, frozen camelid colostrum or goat, cow or sheep colostrum can be used (fresh or frozen)
- AVOID powered colostrum supplements which are NOT substitutes
- Feed small amounts frequently (at least every 2 hrs) to simulate nursing behavior
- Neonatal disease discussed included:
 1. Hypothermia/Hypoglycemia—*Can give dextrose per rectum—20cc of 50% dextrose for severe hypoglycemia or IV fluids + Dextrose + Vitamin B at 1.5 ml/lb/hr*
 2. Cerebral hypoxia
 3. Septicemia
 4. Premature lungs
 5. Retained meconium
 6. Diarrhea—*Diagnosis is essential! Treatment for symptoms—if mild, give oral fluids, probiotics/yogurt, transfaunation, +/- antibiotics; if watery diarrhea, give IV fluids; for chronic diarrhea, there is a potential for renal complications even failure, may need intensive IV treatment and multiple transfaunations.*

7. Rickets—*Prevention—Vit ADE (1000 IU/kg by weight of Vit D) twice in the winter (Nov and Feb) or oral every 6 weeks*

8. Congenital defects.

Guidelines for Medical Success in Camelid

Herds—presented by Christopher K. Cebra VMD, MA, MS, DACVIM-LA

- Assess your animals often, subjectively and objectively.
 1. 10% drop in body weight warrants vet attention.
 2. 20% drop warrants immediate action and will likely have life threatening complications from the weight loss.
- Assume that abnormal animals are sicker than they appear.
 1. Need to overreact
 2. Quick fixes are unlikely
 3. Refusal to eat and inability to stand are common reasons owners call vets but are unfortunately usually common **endpoints** to a variety of disorders—usually the animal had earlier manifestation of disease that went unnoticed.
 4. Factors—stoicism of animals, lack of monitoring, not responding to subtle early signs (i.e., loss of weight or partial decrease in appetite)
- Learn to recognize the signs of abnormality.
- Do blood work!
- Treat with fluids—correct dehydration slowly
- Plasma is an essential part of sick camelid treatment (sick camelids almost always have low total protein)
- Do not surpass the animal's stress threshold
- Use adequate restraint, physical or pharmaceutical
- Repeat negative fecals!
 1. Some of the most pathogenic parasites are intermittent shedders of oocytes.
 2. Can have disease prior to shedding of oocytes.

Anemia in Llamas and Alpacas—

presented by Claire Whitehead BVM&S, MS,

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DACVIM, MCVS

- Causes:
 1. Parasites = 43%
 2. *Mycoplasma haemolamae* = 8%
 3. Both = 6%
 4. Parasites + other = 16%
 5. Parasites alone or with other causes = 65%!!!
 6. Chronic disease = 9%
 7. Misc. = 4%
 8. Undetermined = 10%
- Clinical signs are varied
- SCC = Sick Camelid Syndrome—lethargy, anorexia, depression Vs. Acute Anemic Crisis—dyspneic, recumbent, shocky
- Chronic anemia—may present acutely with very low PCV, crashes easily with stress (including transportation)

Update on *Mycoplasma haemolamae* in Camelids—presented by Susan Turnquist, DVM, PhD, DACVP

- Importance of disease—usually only causes mild anemia and is cleared by otherwise healthy animals
- Bigger issue is in animals with other problems—immunocompromised
- Diagnosis—PCR is best; blood smear has low specificity and low sensitivity
- Suspected route of transmission is biting flies
- Can get passed maternally but not always
- Treatment with tetracycline often decrease clinical signs, improves anemia and usually clears organism from blood smear but often remains detectable by PCR or reoccurs-not known if there is any advantage to oral medication

Eimeria Macusaniensis — presented by Christopher K. Cebra VMD, MA, MS, MACVIM-LA

- For best results—need to treat before the animal has clinical signs
- Fecals done early in infection will be negative as this species has a long pre-patent period (time from infection to appearance of oocytes is feces)

- If suspect this—treat prophylactically with SMZ or Amprolium
- Underappreciated cause of disease
- Very prevalent—weight loss, ill thrift—look for *E. mac*
- Can have severe disease with no oocytes seen in feces

Vitamin D Rickets; Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention—

presented by Robert J. Van Saun, DVM, MS, PhD, DACT, DACVN

- Clinical signs—shifting leg lameness, enlargement of joints, slowed growth rate, reluctance to move
- Dark animals less able to absorb Vit. D from sunshine and more susceptible to deficiency
- Increased blood levels seen after shearing—fleece blocks much of sun's rays
- Fall born crias more susceptible to deficiency
- Can supplement dam prior to birthing—Vitamin D will be higher in colostrum however, it is probably better to supplement the dam orally to avoid the stress of injections.
- Dosing— for a product containing 75,000 IU/ml of vitamin D—give 0.9 to 1.2 ml/100 lb body weight.
 1. can be given IM or SC (recommended)
 2. lasts up to 120 days+
 3. inappropriate to give multiple injections in a short period of time
 4. two does in winter—Nov and Feb
 5. oral dosing does not provide as high bioavailability at the same dose—instead give 30- 40 IU/kg body weight per day

Intestinal Parasitism and Meningeal Worm— presented by David Anderson, DVM, MS, DACVS

- Why cleaning dung pile is not enough
 1. Dung in shelters, near feeders, and spread on foot pads
 2. Youngsters and social outcasts become infected during feeding because they are forced to eat dropped hay
- The ability to rotate pastures SHOULD include rotating shelters!

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- To monitor the general herd risk
 1. Composite sampling of fresh dung
 2. Appropriate for dewormer selection and evaluating strategic deworming decisions
 3. Appropriate for serial monitoring of herd risk
- Individual sampling
 1. Use to evaluate thin animals or animals with diarrhea or poor doers
- Fecal egg count reduction test—should see greater than or equal to 90% drop in numbers
- Causes of failure:
 1. Error in dosing
 2. Error in route of administration
 3. Error in drug selection
 4. Incorrect weight of animal
- Use slug and snail management
- Pre graze pastures with other species (those that do not share parasites only)
- Use of dry lots
- For herds displaying resistance to the Avermectins and fenbendazole
 1. Albendazole—effective but can cause abortion
 2. Levamisole—oral is safe but injectible must not exceed 6 mg/kg to avoid neurological signs

Selection of Early Maturing Males with Large Testes—

presented by Jane Vaughan, BVSc, PhD, MACVSc

- Body size closely correlated to body weight
- Testicular weight correlated with testicular length
- Larger males should have larger testes
- Need good nutrition during growth
- Genetics
- Larger testes produce more sperm
- Smaller dimensions have a lower conception rate
- Early puberty may be hereditary; may be related to larger size, may lead to earlier breakdown of adhesions (increased testosterone level)
- Check the scrotum at Measure every 6 months and record length as well as body weight/body size
- Check scrotum during summer for scrotal edema

Reproduction in Female Alpacas—

presented by Jane Vaughan, BVSc, PhD, MACVSc

- Pregnancy diagnosis—Indirect methods:
 1. Sexual behavior
 2. Blood/milk progesterone level
- Pregnancy diagnosis—Direct methods:
 1. Ultrasound—heartbeat after day 25
 2. Manual rectal palpation—after 35 days
 3. Transabdominal ballottement—after 8 months
- Post partum—ideal breeding is 20-30 days after “unpacking”

Challenges in Breeding the Maiden Female Camelid—

Ahmed Tibary

- History
- Know owner knowledge
- Breeding history
- BCS
- Previous treatment program
- Nutrition
- Ovarian hypoplasia
 1. Unable to see ovaries on ultrasound
 2. Estradiol consistently low
- Prebreeding soundness exam—allows verification of presence of follicular activity and help ID congenital problems; also to avoid overbreeding immature animal or passing on genetic defects
- Most common complaints
 1. Refusal to breed and abnormal behavior
 2. Repeat breeding
 3. Early pregnancy loss
 4. Premature offspring
 5. Low birth weight of off spring
 6. Dystocia or postpartum problem
 7. Agalactia (no milk)

Challenges in Breeding the Older Female Camelid—Ahmed Tibary

- Often a true fertility issue will not be diagnosed or resolved in one visit by the vet

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- Frequently requires monitoring and multiple visits
- Uterine infections
 1. Little actually definitely known about how to interpret results!
 2. Treatment—may include uterine infuser and/or systemic antibiotics
- Uterine fibrosis/endometriosis
 1. Need to biopsy to diagnose
- Luteal insufficiency (vs inability to have normal endometrial function)
 1. Progesterone needed for maintenance of Pregnancy
 2. Regumate does not work in camelids
 3. Hydroxyprogesterone caproate—increased likelihood of failure of cervical dilation at parturition
 4. These females should be considered HIGH risk and be closely monitored for embryo death (will not abort if fetus dies!)

Please note that I have only covered the subjects which I felt were of a suitable nature to share directly with owners/breeders. Other information was of a technical nature and really directed towards veterinarians. I also did not detail the BVD discussion. What was supposed to be a two hour round table went on for nearly five hours! This truly reflects the controversial nature of much of what is known and not known about this disease in alpacas. Much of what was covered can be found in other previously published documents (including the internet).

Calendar of Events

September 1-2, 2007—Herd Reduction Sale & Open House—4 Farms, 2 Days. Location: Warford Creek Alpacas, LLC, 174 Kingwood Station-Barbertown Road, Frenchtown, NJ 08825. **Call us for a copy of our Sales Catalog at 908-996-2128 or 908-894-8044.** Please RSVP if you plan on attending this exciting event! Attend and find out how you can WIN a Free Breeding to our Multi-Reserve Champion & 10 Time Blue Ribbon Winner, Hemingway-Accoyo Nautilus' Nexxus!

Calendar of Events

September 7 & 8, 2007—Eastern Extreme Alpaca Auction. Join us for the Premier Alpaca Auction of the FALL! We are proud to offer an ELITE selection of over 60 Huacaya alpacas, including Champions & Blue Ribbon Winners at MOUNTAINEER RACE TRACK & GAMING RESORT! Join us Friday for a Meet & Greet and alpaca viewing followed by a night out at the Race Track. On Saturday morning our guests will have the opportunity to attend seminars followed by a night out at the Race Track. On Saturday morning our guests will have the opportunity to attend seminars followed by the auction at 3 PM. Please visit us at www.easternextremeauction.com to preview the auction lots, R.S.V.P. and plan to join us for a wonderful weekend at the MOUNTAINEER! **Contact—Helen Humphreys-1-877-MY-ALPACA**

September 22 and 23, 2007—Camelid Dynamics Clinics with Dorothy Hunt (attend one or both days)- Columbus, New Jersey. **For details and sign-up form, visit www.StormwindAlpacas.com or call 609-261-0696.**

October 6, 2007—7th Annual Alpaca Heritage Sale. To be held at Terhune Orchards, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540. A private treaty sale in an idyllic setting, with free seminars sponsored by 20 Mid-Atlantic breeders. **For more information visit: www.AlpacaHeritage.com .**

October 6 & 7, 2007—SAFONA Fall Classic Alpaca Show, Sale & Fiber Festival—Full fleece Halter Classes, Obstacle Classes, Costume Classes, Silent Raffle/Auction, Fleece, Skein & Fiber Arts Competitions, Free Demonstrations & Seminars, Alpaca Yarn, Fiber, Rovings, Farments & Craft Sales. Registration now open. Registration deadline, September 8, 2007. **Go to www.safona.org/events.html for all the registration forms and info needed.**

Nov. 3-4, 2007—Dr. Norm Evans, DVM—2 Day Seminar—Topics include: Herd health/management, Parasite Control, Nutrition, Breeding and Birthing, Mother and Cria Assessment, Reproduction, Skin and Fiber Issues, Skin Biopsy. \$225 per person. **Contact Misty Sheehan, Misty Starr Alpacas 304-279-5321, info@mistystarralpacas.com.**

November 10, 2007—Fiber Seminar with Winnie Labrecque—Fleece Show (certification pending). Bordentown, New Jersey. **For registration form and**

C lassified Ads:

Any member may post an ad for alpaca and/or alpaca farm related equipment and items. The ad may include a short description and contact information. This will be a free service to current MAPACA members ONLY. Please send your ads to Alice Brown, fpalpacas@aol.com or call 856-697-8127.

- 1. Alpaca Equipment:** Destron microchips, Premier shearing machines, combs & cutters, scales by Salter-Brecknell & Arlyn, chutes, hay saver feeders, bar & mesh panels, gates, travel pens, & shearing tables by MSA; alpaca restraints by Pro-Tie; & tooth trimmers by Tooth-A-Matic. See our insert in this month's Newsletter. **Visit us online at www.lightlivestockequipment.com or call Jay Ward of AuSable Valley Alpacas at 866-999-2821.**
- 2. Transportation Services** from Origins Alpaca Ranch: Private Transport, Emergency 24/7 Transport and "The Show String" - Will transport your alpacas to shows and show them on your behalf. **If interested contact Mike Kober at 908-239-8676 or mike@originalpacaranch.com.**
- 3. Non-Breeder Boarding**—Fenwick Manor Farm is now offering a discounted boarding option for non-breeder alpacas. In our lush 5 acre pasture, alpacas have plenty of grass and room to roam. One nominal fee covers a year of boarding, basic shots and shearing. Save your pasture space for your ladies! Let us care for your fiber Animals. **Contact Katharine Thompson, Fenwick Manor Farm in New Lisbon, NJ—FMFAlpacas@Fenwick.net.**
- 4. Custom Fleece Processing**—Rovings (loose or center pull bump), batts, various weights of yarn or felt sheets available. The Fiber Factory, 1086 Industrial Park Road, Hornell, NY 14843. **Call Wendy at 607-382-7811 or contact us at east-valley-alpacas@eznet.net or www.east-valley-alpacas.com.**
- 5. Transportation and Showing Services** provided by Warford Creek Alpacas, LLC. No trailer or time to show your alpacas? Let us Transport and Professionally show your alpaca (s) for you. We will be attending all the Spring and Fall shows for 2007, so book early. **Contact Deborah Hoff at 908-996-2128 or 980-894-8044.**
- 6. Advertise** your alpacas for sale, herdsires or alpaca equipment or services on our highly ranked website. **Go to www.MountAiryAlpacas.com/ads.html for more information.**
- 7. Alpaca Care DVD**—shots teeth & toenail trimming, birth, breeding, comprehensive segment on shearing and shearing equipment and more. **Contact Kate Perez 301-607-9129 or www.mountairyalpacas.com/.**

C lassified Ads:

- 8. Still Showing Animals and Haven't Sheared Yet.** If you do your own shearing and would like to save your back and make the job significantly easier, we have a shearing table for you. Our table is the Totara Grove Shearing Table that was developed in New Zealand. We have used this table for 5 seasons and it is in excellent condition. It comes with a shearing guide and a "how to" video. It is a steal at \$995. **Call Bob or Lee of Almost Heaven Alpacas at 304-496-1073.**
- 9. Shearing Table**—Excellent condition, used 1 season for 12 animals. Asking \$850.00. **Call 302-381-6062.**
- 10. Boarding or Long Term Leasing of Farm Land for Your Alpacas**—The Farm at Rainbow's End, located in Lafayette, New Jersey, in Sussex County offers Boarding or the opportunity of Leasing Land for your Alpaca Farm. With 60 Acres of pasture and Woodlands available, there are unlimited possibilities for structuring your own design or simply to integrate your herd with ours. We also have 75 acres dedicated to growing Premium Orchard Grass Hay. Our Complete Package is Full Care including Veterinary Services on the Farm. Facilities include a Maternity Barn. Dr. Lori Walker DVM co-owns and lives on the farm. Call or visit us and make the Farm at Rainbow's end your alpacas home. **Contact Larry Scheer at 973-903-8624 or email larryscheer@earthlink.net.**
- 11. Big Sky Alpacas Ranch for Sale**—Downsizing and relocating to PA near our children. Magnificent 6 acre "Gentleman's Farm", home, barn and property in Southern New Jersey. MLS listing #4960739. Also available with part of our alpaca herd. Contact Paul at 856-223-0570. Recommendation fee for MAPACA member, commission on any alpaca sales.



Camelid Veterinar- ian Continuing Education Grant Program

PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR VET!

The MAPACA Board of Directors has established a program to support continuing education for camelid veterinarians serving alpaca owners in the MAPACA region. Grants will be available up to **\$1000** to attend camelid educational programs. Includes travel expenses, meals, rooming as well as the conference. Grants are limited to one per year for each veterinarian. In the case of veterinary practices, only one grant per practice per program. Contact Alice Brown, with any questions.

Funds will be available retroactively for programs attended in 2006. The Camelid Veterinar-ian Continuing Education Grant Application is available at: www.mapaca.org. **Print out the application on line from the MAPACA website (www.mapaca.org) and give it to your veterinarian to fill out and send to:**

**Alice Brown
458 Main Road
Vineland, NJ 08360**

Please send your comments, articles, or submissions to Alice Brown at:
Fpalpacas@aol.com.

Advertise in the MAPACA Newsletter!

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

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.

Any AOBA affiliate may advertise their event for \$200. Any business that sells products or services relating to alpacas or farming in general that would benefit alpaca farmers may place an insert AD in the MAPACA Newsletter at a cost of **\$200.00**.

Please send copies of your ad, 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. When you send inserts, do not require that I have to sign for them! **Any questions email Alice Brown: fpalpacas@aol.com or call: 856-697-8127.**

