



CCA NEWSLETTER



Summer with the CCA

Shows, fleece, vet advice, member stories and alpaca walking

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

- Our first official BAS Cornwall Halter Show
- 85 fleeces at the Cornwall Fleece Show
- Behind the scenes at Dorset County Show
- Vet Day: Mastering Medicines
- Member stories – Missy and alpaca walking

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Wendy's Chair's Report



Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to our new members – I hope you all find our round up of news and events interesting and useful ☺

What a summer we have had – so much glorious sunshine, so little essential rain and not a lot of the green stuff! I hope your land is bouncing back now that the rain has made an appearance and that your alpacas are enjoying some better grazing.



Here at Dark Sky Alpacas, for those of you who have been following our log cabin construction, I'm pleased to share that Tom and I have now officially completed the inside and have temporarily moved in to test it all out! Taking centre stage in the lounge is a wonderful life-sized sculpture of one of our alpacas (Dark Sky Shaggy), made from scrap metal by talented artist Cindy Chinn in Nebraska. It's also great to be able to see our real alpacas from the veranda, where we plan to spend many hours in our rocking chairs now the build is (almost) finished!

Turning back to the farm, we were delighted and lucky to welcome 8 beautiful cria to the world this summer. Of course it is wrong to have favourites, but we are particularly taken with our two grey Suri (one boy, one girl), who are both mischievous and gorgeous in equal measure! I hope the Birthing Refresher Day that we ran in April was helpful for all those with births this season and that many of you have also been enjoying 'cria antics' around the paddocks. I know that there were also some very sad stories and this year seemed to bring a number of unexplained miscarriages and stillborn cria – our thoughts are with everyone who experienced this and I hope that your CCA friends have been able to support and help in the difficult times.



On another not altogether cheerful note, we've seen some parasite action for the first time in years, which we are putting down to the weather and also the fact that our alpacas have intensively grazed everywhere – including their 'poo patches' – calling for additional poo picking and regular worm egg counts. Do have a careful read of Sarah's piece later in the newsletter, which contains information on what to look out for on your pastures following that dry spell and now that water has been added.

Of course, we also have to mention the current outbreak of Bluetongue which is affecting so many farms and livestock across the South West now. It's possible, indeed that many of our alpacas are being affected and vaccinations are being strongly recommended by APHA and by vets. Whilst the vaccine does not prevent infection, it does reduce the severity of symptoms, so please talk to your vet if you haven't already – it is not too late to take action. A bit like Covid in humans, it seems that many alpacas may carry the virus without showing any particular symptoms, whilst others may be affected, particularly if they are already vulnerable.

On a brighter note, since our last newsletter, we've held our annual Halter Show and Fleece Show and have write-ups about both. It's ironic that we had such inclement weather for the Halter Show, but it did not dampen our spirits and the excellent layout and forethought from the show organising team meant that the show continued regardless and was a great success. We hope that even more members will be able to join in the action next year along with alpaca breeders from further afield. The show will once again be held at Griggs near St Austell on the first May Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday 1 May 2027.

The Fleece Show was oversubscribed once again and we had a mammoth judging day getting through 85 fleeces! Thanks to everyone who helped out – having a smooth process on the day was absolutely essential and our judge, Nick Harrington-Smith, has been mentioning the very professional set-up in dispatches. Congratulations too to all those who entered and enjoyed placings and ribbons – the competition was strong and we hope all the feedback that you received from the show is useful. More on the show in the article later in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, our next big event is the Vet Day which takes place on Saturday October 17th at Carpalla Alpacas. This is always a major date in the calendar providing the opportunity to learn from our expert vets, Sarah and Charlotte, and from each other. Details of the content and how to book are later in the newsletter – do not delay as places are limited.

We don't currently have any other formal events booked in before the end of the year but would love to hear from members with any ideas or offers – we are able to host zoom calls and in previous years have had interesting visits so please shout if you'd like to suggest something – and even better if you'd like to organise it!! 😊

We'd also like to invite people to come forward to join the CCA Committee. We want to make sure that we help and appeal to all our members whether brand new to alpacas or with years of experience – and it would be great to have committee members representing all those different perspectives. We are due a rotation of a number of our 'officers' including the Chair, Secretary and Newsletter editor – so please do nominate either yourself or others if you would like to get involved. You can send nominations by email to cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com and feel free to shout if you would like more information or to discuss. The committee make up and officers will be confirmed at our next AGM at the end of January 2027.

To conclude, I'd like to give a big shout out to Sophie Norman who has created the members map now live on our website cornwallcamelidassociation.co.uk. The map is designed to show the location of all our members and help people to get in touch with one another. Visiting other people's farms is one of the best ways to share experience and get great ideas so I'd really encourage everyone to see who is close by and get in touch. And if you would like to add your name and information to the map, please email cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com.

Enjoy the newsletter and hope to see you at the vet day!

All the very best

Wendy

Cornwall Camelid Association Halter Show 2026

Saturday 2nd May 2026 | Griggs Country Store, St Austell



The Cornwall Camelid Association Halter Show brought breeders together from across Cornwall, Devon and further afield.

Saturday 2nd May saw alpaca breeders from across Cornwall, Devon and further afield come together for the Cornwall Camelid Association Halter Show 2026, held once again at Griggs Country Store, near St Austell.

This year's event was particularly special as it was our first official BAS Cornwall Halter Show, marking an important step forward for the Cornwall Camelid Association and for alpaca showing here in the South West.

Despite the Cornish weather doing its best to test us, we had a fantastic turnout, with 78 alpacas forward - 49 Huacaya and 29 Suri - representing 13 exhibitors. It was wonderful to see such a good mix of established breeders alongside some newer faces, with plenty of friendly competition throughout the day.

The show was judged by Caroline Barugh, working in tandem with Mary Jo Smith. We would like to extend a huge thank you to them both for making the journey to Cornwall and for the time, knowledge and enthusiasm they brought to the ring.

With classes covering the full spectrum of colours across both Huacaya and Suri, there was plenty of quality on display and some extremely competitive classes.

Supreme Champions

The top Huacaya award of the day went to Classical MileEnd Rowan, exhibited by Chas Brooke and Rachel Hebditch of Classical MileEnd Alpacas.

Rowan began the day by winning the Junior Light Female class before going on to take Champion Light Huacaya Female and ultimately being selected as the show's Supreme Champion Huacaya.

Snowhill Danny Zuko, exhibited by Roger and Mary Mount of Snowhill Alpacas, took the Reserve Supreme Huacaya award after winning the Junior Brown Male class and becoming Champion Brown Huacaya Male.

There was equally strong competition in the Suri ring. The show's Supreme Champion Suri was Winsaula Mardi-Gras, exhibited by Mark and Paula Winsor of Winsaula Alpacas. Mardi-Gras won the Junior Brown Male class, progressed to Champion Brown Suri Male and then took the day's highest Suri honour.

Dark Sky Whispering Angel, exhibited by Tom and Wendy Scott of Dark Sky Alpacas, was awarded Reserve Supreme Suri, having earlier won the Junior Fawn Female class and Champion Fawn Suri Female.

Congratulations to all four Supreme and Reserve Supreme winners - a fantastic achievement in a quality field.



Championship presentations at the Cornwall Alpaca Show.



One of the day's successful Suri exhibitors with their rosettes.

Plenty of Success for Cornwall Breeders

One of the most pleasing aspects of the show was seeing so many breeders from Cornwall and the surrounding area represented in the ring.

There were successes throughout the day for herds including Little Acorn, Dark Sky, Rosecraddoc, Carpalla, Lanwarnick and Wringworthy, alongside visiting exhibitors including Classical MileEnd, Winsaula, Snowhill, Lakemoor, Powwow, Sunrise and Tor Vale.

For us at Little Acorn Alpacas, it was particularly rewarding to have a successful day at our home show. Among our results, Little Acorn Wren won her class and went on to take Champion Light Suri Female, with Little Acorn Moonshine taking the Reserve Championship.

Little Acorn St Agnes also had a fantastic result, winning her class and going on to become Champion White Suri Female.

As organisers as well as exhibitors, however, the real satisfaction was seeing the show come together and watching so many breeders enjoying the day.



A friendly atmosphere around the ring was at the heart of the day.

More Than Just the Results

Although showing is naturally competitive, one of the things we wanted the Cornwall show to retain was the friendly atmosphere that has always been at the heart of the Cornwall Camelid Association.

For many of us, shows are as much about catching up with other breeders, talking alpacas and comparing breeding programmes as they are about the ribbons.

There was a great atmosphere around the ring throughout the day, with exhibitors supporting one another and plenty of spectators stopping to watch the judging and find out more about alpacas.

Events like this are also an important opportunity to showcase the quality of alpacas being bred here in Cornwall and the wider South West. It was particularly encouraging to see the strength and depth across both Huacaya and Suri entries.

Thank You

A show like this simply wouldn't happen without a considerable amount of work behind the scenes.

A huge thank you to Griggs Country Store for once again providing us with a fantastic venue and for their continued support.

We would also like to thank all of our sponsors, whose generosity makes putting on an event like this possible.

Our thanks must also go to everyone who volunteered their time before, during and after the show - from setting up the pens and ring, stewarding and administration, through to helping exhibitors and clearing everything away afterwards. We are equally grateful to every breeder who entered and supported the show. Some exhibitors travelled a considerable distance to join us in Cornwall and we genuinely appreciate that support.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along to watch and support the event.

For our first official BAS Cornwall Halter Show, we couldn't have asked for much more. Despite the weather, the feedback following the event was extremely positive and it has given us a great foundation on which to build.

Planning is already turning towards 2027, and we hope that next year's Cornwall Halter Show will be even bigger and better.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Cornwall!

Alex and Hannah Price

Show Organisers

Cornwall Camelid Association

The Cornwall Fleece Show 2026

Wendy & Tom Scott, Show Organisers



The Cornwall Fleece Show is open to BAS members from across the country and is now established as the first fleece show of the season. This year we had a slow start to entries but finished with a big bang, attracting 85 fleeces which is 15 above our target. Our judge, Nick Harrington-Smith said he was game for the challenge so we went ahead, knowing that we'd have to be super slick on judging day to get the job done!

It usually takes 8–10 minutes to judge each fleece as they are assessed across 14 attributes – ranging from fineness, length, weight, lustre / brightness and uniformity through to how well the fleece has been skirted. Scores are added up from each attribute and the fleece with the highest score in the class is awarded first place, with the remainder achieving rosettes up to 6th place. If a fleece scores higher than 70 points (maximum 100), it is eligible to be awarded a colour champion or reserve champion. The aim of a fleece show is to rank the entries with the best quality fleeces at the top, focusing on what makes a commercially valuable fleece. In a nutshell, the judge is looking for a fine, consistent fleece that feels soft to touch, is long enough to be spun and weighs as much as possible!

We held the show at Dark Sky Alpacas in one of our barns, which had been scrubbed down for the day and set up with two judging tables and all the fleeces organised into their colour and age classes. Before the show we open each fleece and check the colour matches the class entered, then weigh it and log it into the BAS computer programme. Many thanks to Heather who came across to help with the pre-show work and also for lending her tables!

On the day the stewards lay out each fleece for judging and the judge's scores are recorded manually in addition to being entered into the computer – so we can double-check all the scores are correct! After judging, the fleeces are carefully re-noodled and placed in their bags along with their scorecard and any rosettes or championship sashes awarded.

The day itself was indeed a mammoth one. We kicked off at 8am and finished just before 9pm – and then resorted to some emergency fish and chips!! Nick and our fabulous team of stewards worked tirelessly and diligently and we thank them all.

And as if that wasn't enough excitement for one day, we also had a cria born in the middle of it all!

Congratulations and thanks to all that entered – here are the Champions and Reserves:

Supremes

Huacaya: lot 29 Acton Hill Constantina - Acton Hill, Angela and Stuart Wilson 87pts

Suri: lot 63 Hilly Ridge Storming Norman - Hilly Ridge, Mrs J Bridge 84.75 pts

Judges Choice:

Huacaya: lot 15 Legacy Born to Run - Legacy, Mrs Myerscough and Mr Henderson 83 pts

Suri: lot 74 Snowhill D'yquem - Snowhill, Mr Roger and Mrs Mary Mount 78.5 pts

Champions and Reserve Colour Champions

(must be awarded 70+ pts)

Huacaya:

White Champion- Acton Hill Constantina 87 pts

White Reserve- Acton Hill Capitana 84.25 pts

(Both Acton Hill, Angela and Stuart Wilson)

Light Champion- Acton Hill Smooth Criminal 81 pts (Enchanted, Tara Harding)

Light Reserve- Legacy Mistral 80.75 pts (Legacy, Mrs Myerscough and Mr Henderson)

Fawn Champion- Fangdale Flash Harry 82 pts (Fangdale, Dr Nicky Mayes & Dr Deborah Sporton)

Fawn Reserve- Willowbrook Jackpot (Kestle, Mr Thomas Boyd-Lander) 81 pts

Brown Champion- Acton Hill Jail Time 86 pts (Acton Hill)

Brown Reserve- Snowhill Danny Zuko 78 pts (Snowhill)

Grey Champion- Snowhill Anna Blu 73 pts (Snowhill)

Grey Reserve- Rosewall Rocky 72.75 pts (Crewenna, Mrs Sandra J Muriel & Mr Allen Muriel)

Black Champion- Crewenna Giselle 75.5 pts (Crewenna)

Black Reserve- Acton Hill Stir It Up 72.25 pts (Acton Hill)

Suri:

White Champion- Hilly Ridge Storming Norman 84.75 pts (Hilly Ridge)

White Reserve- Dark Sky Pastelitos 81.5 pts (Dark Sky, Mr & Mrs Tom & Wendy Scott)

Light Champion- Hilly Ridge Never Say Never 82.5 pts (Hilly Ridge)

Light Reserve- Dark Sky Armond 81.25 pts (Dark Sky)

Fawn Champion- Snowhill Dreamfyre 77 pts

Fawn Reserve- Snowhill Sungyre 73.75 pts

(Both Snowhill)

Brown Champion- Snowhill Golden Phoenix 81 pts (Snowhill)

Brown Reserve- not awarded

Grey Champion- Snowhill Grey Ghost 78.5 pts

Grey Reserve- Snowhill Dusk Rose 77 pts

(Both Snowhill)

Black Champion- Snowhill Dolcetta 70 pts

(Snowhill)

Black Reserve- not awarded

Judge: Nick Harrington-Smith

Show Organisers: Tom and Wendy Scott

Stewards: Alex and Hannah Price, Heather Lester, Matthew Brown, Sandra Muriel, Carolyn Wilson

Behind the scenes at the Dorset County Show Fleece Show

Abha Wells

This summer I found myself on the Dorset County Show fleece show committee, looking after the computer entries and helping to keep everything running smoothly on the day.

I was very lucky to have Stewart and Angela from Acton Hill helping, along with Tamsin, Tina and Sam, who many of you may know through alpaca shearing with Colin Ottery. We started the afternoon before the show, checking in the fleeces, weighing them and getting everything organised ready for judging the following day.

We had a really good team and received some lovely feedback from our judge, Nick Harrington-Smith. We certainly worked him hard, though, with 77 fleeces to get through in one day! It was not quite the mammoth number we had at our own CCA Fleece Show, but still plenty to keep everyone busy.

One of the nicest parts of holding the fleece show at the County Show was that visitors could actually watch the judging taking place, ask questions and find out a little more about what the judge was looking for. It created a lovely opportunity to talk to the public about fleece quality and about alpacas in general.

If you have never helped at a fleece show, I would really recommend it. For anyone interested in breeding, fleece quality or simply wanting to learn more, it is such a good way to get your hands on lots of different fleeces, feel the differences for yourself and start to understand what makes one fleece stand out from another.

You learn a huge amount just by being there, listening to the judge and handling the fleeces — and you usually have a good laugh with the team along the way too.

Crewenna Alpacas - Cornwall Fleece Show results



I entered three Huacaya fleeces and was proud to achieve two firsts, BLACK CHAMPION FLEECE and GREY RESERVE CHAMPION FLEECE at a high-scoring show with entries from some top herds.

BLACK CHAMPION FLEECE. CREWENNA GISELLE.

Sired by Crewenna Corinthian. (EP GOLDEN AGE X FOWBERRY REGAL LILY)

GREY RESERVE CHAMPION FLEECE. ROSEWALL ROCKY.

Sired by NZ MYSTIC GREY ZION

Very pleased with these results. Four year old Giselle has retained her fineness, length of staple holding her uniformity of colour with barely any white fibre.

Sandra Muriel

VET DAY - Book your place now!!

Saturday October 17th at Carpalla Alpacas, Foxhole.

Hosted by Sarah Finch and Charlotte Bain from Castle Vets



This year at the CCA Vet Day:

Mastering Medicines

As 🦙 owners, you are in a privileged position to request and manage your own medicines. We will be exploring how to correctly;



Select



Handle



Administer and



Dispose of medicines

This is essential for new owners and a useful refresher for all.

Keep a look out for an online survey for you to complete beforehand (we did this 6 years ago so thought it was a good time to review!)

The rest of the day will be split between the seasons ❄️🌸☀️🍁 and what husbandry tasks may be needed during these periods, as well as health conditions you may see and some first aid 🧯 tips!

This course is suitable for breeding and non-breeding herds.

The day will consist of theoretical and as many practical aspects as Charlotte and I can achieve 😊

Arrival and refreshments from 9.30am with a prompt start at 10.00am.

Please bring appropriate clean footwear and clothing (you won't be getting dirty) for being in the barn.

Thanks to Nigel and Margaret Retallack for hosting:
Higher Carpalla Farm,
Foxhole,
St Austell,
Cornwall,
PL26 7FD

Handouts will be provided - bring a pen if you're a note taker!

Any questions, or anything you'd specifically like covered, please get in touch; otherwise, see you then!

Cost: £30 for CCA Members, £45 for non members

To book your place, please email cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com and make your payment to:

Cornwall Camelid Association

Sort code: 30 94 07

Account: 00878828

VETS WRITE UP FROM SARAH

Whatever Next...

As we fast head through the summer months, we need to prepare ahead for Autumn and how to prepare your camelids for the season ahead.

The recent outbreak of **Bluetongue Virus – 3** has hit our area hard. There have been significant diseases and losses in sheep and cattle. Thankfully there has only been one confirmed case in a llama in North Devon, but surveillance of sick camelids continues.

Fortunately, there is a vaccine available for the current circulating strain and with midge activity set to peak at the end of August, beginning of September, there is still time to vaccinate. We do not know at this current time how the presence of the virus will affect fertility and early pregnancy and foetal development in camelids, so pregnancy scanning is recommended.

This summer has also delivered the driest summer in 190-year history. That means grass is non-existent and water, for some, is an increasing challenge. Thankfully camelids are naturally designed for these conditions and appear to have taken them in their stride! That said, our domestication of them means they will still be reliant on supplementation in the form of minerals, as these are likely lacking in the ground under the current conditions. I would urge you to review your selenium, iodine, cobalt and zinc levels in growing cria and breeding females to ensure they are receiving sufficient support, as we are seeing an increase in deficiencies, despite regular supplementation. This includes an increase in zinc-deficient skin-related disorders that can look like mites.

The hot weather has provided a welcome break from gut parasites, but at some point a wet period will follow this dry spell and with it will emerge the worms. Hopefully the high UV levels will have desiccated some of the eggs on the pasture, but those that have survived and worms lying dormant inside of the gut will emerge en masse. Yes, I'm talking about *Haemonchus* – the barber's pole worm and the one that sucks blood causing anaemia. Cue my body condition scoring, mucous membrane dance – if you know you know! I would encourage you to start checking mucous membranes weekly, using the FAMACHA scoring, to catch any early signs of anaemia. The *Haemonchus* life cycle is one of the shortest at 20 days, so suspect animals should be checked using a worm egg count sample.

Whilst it remains dry, now is a good opportunity to re-fresh your **winter housing**. Disinfecting with Killcox Extra and allowing a thorough period of drying, is the best way to remove protozoa parasites such as coccidiosis, including *E. mac*, and reduce the risk of infection for next year's cria.

You have the advantage with camelids that they don't require winter bedding, but this year's harvest has been challenging for farmers so I would ensure that you have a reliable, **quality source of hay** to see you through.

Circumstances are tough for anyone owning livestock now, so please take solace that we are facing these challenges together and that there is a **network of support**.

Sarah x



ALPACA WALKING - MORE THAN JUST A WALK

Abha Wells, Powwow Alpacas



For me, offering alpaca walks is a lovely way of giving the public something a little different to do. You meet people from all walks of life - quite literally - and the best bit is that I get to talk alpacas for an hour! Many visitors have never been close to an alpaca before, and I really enjoy watching them get to know the animals and discover that they all have very different characters.

I don't start by heading straight out for a walk. We begin with some feeding, which gives everyone a chance to settle in and the alpacas a chance to decide who they fancy making friends with. It also gives me time to introduce each of them, explain their personalities, who is cheeky, who likes their own space and what visitors need to be aware of before we set off. By the time we start walking, people already feel they know the alpaca they are with.

Because I work full time in a job completely unrelated to alpacas, the walks are useful for me too. They make me stop and spend proper, unhurried time with the herd. Walking alongside them gives me a chance to watch how they are moving and behaving and to notice any little changes I might miss when I am rushing through the normal jobs before or after work. It turns what is a public experience into a useful opportunity for me to check in with the alpacas as well.

I keep all of my walks to individual groups rather than mixing bookings. That means I can make the experience personal and tailor it to the people in front of me - their confidence, mobility, age, pace and how much interaction they want. Some visitors have a hundred questions and others just want to enjoy quietly being around the animals, and both are absolutely fine.

I have seen some wonderfully intuitive connections, with people sometimes seeming completely at ease around the animals. I try not to make assumptions about what anybody will enjoy; keeping the walks private means we can take our time, follow the visitor's lead and let the alpacas be part of the experience in whatever way feels comfortable.

Thinking of offering alpaca walks?

If you are thinking of offering alpaca walks to the public, speak to your local authority before you start taking bookings. In England, a commercial alpaca experience is likely to fall under the Animal Activities Licensing regime for 'keeping or training animals for exhibition', sometimes described more informally as an animal entertainment or exhibition licence. The application is fairly detailed and the council will normally inspect your premises before granting the licence. You should expect to provide written procedures covering feeding and water, cleaning and hygiene, transport, disease prevention, monitoring animal health and welfare, and what you would do in an emergency, or if an animal escaped, became injured or died. You may also be asked about veterinary arrangements, staff experience and training, suitable housing and rest areas, record keeping, risk assessments and public liability insurance. Any interaction with visitors must be supervised, and animals should never be forced to take part if they are showing signs of stress or want to withdraw. Licences for keeping or training animals for exhibition are normally issued for three years, although application forms and fees vary between councils, so always check the current requirements with your own local authority.

ROSEWALL MISSY - FIRST BIRTHDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER



Missy was an unexpected birth last September, arriving early weighing a little over 3kg and very floppy. Mum was unable to feed her so Immucol colostrum replacer was necessary then a commitment to bottle feeding. Luckily, she was a willing bottle feeder and despite the odds she gradually gained weight.

She lived indoors during the winter with a small area to wander by the deck but that was sufficient for her to explore and she has thrived since, doing everything in her own stride. For such a small birth weight cria it is amazing she survived.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17 October 2026 | CCA Vet Day | Carpalla Alpacas, Foxhole

End of January 2027 | CCA AGM | Full details to follow

Saturday 1 May 2027 | Cornwall Halter Show | Griggs Country Store, St Austell

Have an idea for a future CCA event or visit? The committee would love to hear from members who would like to suggest, or help organise something for the group.

cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com