



## Welcome to your summer newsletter!

As the lockdown starts to be relaxed, here's a little something to reconnect you to your fellow alpaca owners in Cornwall with some hints, tips, stories, updates and, hopefully, inspiration. Maybe, like us, you'll be spending many hours sitting in your fields waiting for cria to arrive – an ideal opportunity to catch up!

As ever, please let me know any special requests for the future issues – in particular questions or topics for Sarah, our vet. Also, please feel free to promote or advertise your own businesses, ventures and news updates.

Thanks, Wendy

### Message from our Chairman

I write this with us having gone through a somewhat quiet time for the CCA through no fault of it's own.

It is great to report however that the fleece show being organised is now fully subscribed so hopefully at least one event can proceed this year. Thank you to all who have supported it with entries and sponsorship. Thanks also to Sandra for getting this off the ground and organising it for us all.

At least the weather was good for shearing this year and this was done fairly smoothly without the delays of last year.

Some welcome recent rain has now ended what I had feared was becoming a drought and the grass is growing again.

Now we await our first cria of 2020 and hope things run smoothly for birthing. I also hope that you have all the luck in the world with your own cria being born this year and that you get a fantastic outcome for the hard work put in.

Take care.

Nigel



## NEWS UPDATE

### Cornwall Fleece Show 2020 by Sandra Muriel, CCA Secretary

I had thought this update of the Fleece Show for the newsletter, would be to encourage more entries and interest in our first fleece show as the organisers. Tom and Wendy Scott, Liz Brealy and myself have all been holding our breath as to the response from members and non members for our venture. I have been muttering about trying to do a fleece show for quite a while and late last year threw the idea forward to the committee for comment and interest. At the CCA AGM I approached the members for feedback and we all felt the majority were positive so decided to start the process.



As we were planning to run the show as a BAS show, with Grassroots system, BAS show rules and Judge I approached Duncan (CEO) first who after discussions with Val Fullerlove (Show Committee) decided we had put forward a strong enough plan to approve our show. The champions will be eligible for the National Show Champion of champions 2021. This was the green light to flesh out the hard details, dates, venue, awards etc.

Tom and Wendy of Dark Sky very generously offered their farm as the judging venue and for the fleece show. I am already a fleece collector Alpaca UK, so used to receiving quantities of fleece and labelling etc, plus have plenty of spare ban capacity and offered to be the receiver for the entries. Our plan is pre the judging week, for my skirting table which is identical to Tom and Wendy to be transported with the entry fleeces to them for a dual table set up for the judging.

Of course the Covid crisis arrived which has turned all our lives upside-down. We are liaising via messenger now rather having meetings and planning 'social distancing' teams to assist with the fleece on the day and the show day will have to be limited but doable. The show..(as they say)..will go on!

Several options were put forward for Judge but I felt that Cathy Lloyd (EPC UK and Aus) would be a good option to approach first and was delighted (and surprised) she agreed immediately. Cathy judged our halter show previously and her feedback is excellent, her knowledge extensive.

The update for the newsletter, is positive. As of Friday 12th June the entries were closed as we had exceeded our target of 60 and more. I hope all members who had considered entering did manage to get a place as the catalogue is now being drafted and details finalised. I have several volunteers to steward on the judging day and I think, an excellent lunch is planned.

I have to thank our sponsors, all CCA members. Their swift response for our request for sponsors was an amazing encouragement for us as organisers.

**SUPREME CHAMPION AND RESERVE SUPREME CHAMPION HUACAYA FLEECE**

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **ROSECRADDOC ALPACAS** <http://www.rosecraddocalpacas.co.uk/styled-2/>  
**SUPREME CHAMPION AND RESERVE SUPREME CHAMPION SURI FLEECE**

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **HEATHERLAND ALPACAS**

**COLOUR CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION HUACAYA SASHES**

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **ALPACAS OF CORNWALL**

**COLOUR CHAMPION AND RESERVE CHAMPION SURI SASHES**

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **ALPACAS OF CORNWALL** <https://www.alpacasofcornwall.co.uk/>

**CLASS ROSETTES 1st to 6th places HUACAYA**

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **POLGRAIN ALPACAS**

**CLASS ROSETTES 1st to 6th places SURI**

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **DARK SKY**

**ALPACAS** <https://darkskyalpacas.com/>

More information will be released soon, on our Facebook page and via email.

**MEMBER STORY**

**Devotion** by Felicia Sanders, Popham Alpacas

Talk about alpacas being stoical, this little female alpaca makes us humans look like moaning whingers.

One morning when we brought the mums and babes into the barn we noticed Devotion, a beautiful spotty girl about 4 months old, wouldn't put any weight on one leg. I caught her and manipulated the leg, she did not react in any way at all but just let it hang loosely at her side.

Miranda the vet came and suspected a broken humerus. So off to the vets we charged for an X-ray which confirmed this initial diagnosis. After discussion with the senior vet at Calweton we decided to proceed with surgery. No guarantees were made but in view of her value and the fact that Gary had very proudly brought her safely through her first few days we decided to go ahead. I think she is one of his favourites!! Following the surgery she now has a plate connecting the two pieces together.

We brought her home later that day and crossed all our fingers that she would make a full recovery. Devotion and mum were kept in a small pen and settled very quickly into this routine.

3 weeks after the operation the staples were removed and although the actual break seemed to be healing well, she was not weight bearing which was concerning as this indicated nerve damage.

Devotion was not showing any pain was putting on weight and appeared happy so I decided that she deserved the chance to see how she managed. After 6 weeks unfortunately she still was not using the leg. I decided to set up a physio program to gradually get her to bring her leg forward, massage and with time make her try to use the leg.

Devotion has worked with us and I am pleased to say she has started to benefit from the physio. She is now weaned and has another weanling called Tiffany as her playmate. They have been inseparable since birth so now play together in a restricted area outside. I think only with time we will know how her mobility will improve. Apart from not having full use of her leg she can run and do all the normal things you would expect. Every day she is getting more movement, is happy and getting back to her mischievous self.

It has been a difficult few months and at times you wonder if you have made the correct decision but I am so pleased we gave her the chance to prove that she can still enjoy life.



**UPDATE JUNE 2020**

DEVOTION COPING WITH OUR HILL



Devotion has made such an amazing recovery you wouldn't know she had suffered that awful breakage. She's been back with her peer group for 6 weeks now and lives life to the full. Very often she is first in the race up the hill to greet the food bucket, has gained weight and muscle, survived shearing with no problems and remains a very happy and cheerful alpaca. The vets at Calweton have been brilliant, they never promised a satisfactory result and have only just invoiced us for the operation 7 months later once they were happy with the outcome.





## VETINARY FEATURE

### Contracted tendons in cria and AD3E supplementation

by Sarah Caldwell, BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS

#### 1) Contracted Tendons

Contracted tendons are a relatively common condition in cria due to their naturally long limbs. Cria that are over-due and larger in size are at greater risk purely from being tucked up in the uterus. The condition presents from birth whereby any, or all 4 limbs, appear stiff and can't fully straighten from the joint. This varies in severity and can be categorised as:-

##### *Type I – Mild contracture*

Cria able to hold its own weight, fully mobile and nursing without assistance.

*Tendons will naturally relax and limbs will straighten without intervention.*

##### *Type II – Moderate contracture*

Cria may stumble under own weight and require assistance to nurse.

*The limbs can be manually stretched into a normal position.*

Physiotherapy will prove beneficial in these cases to speed up the relaxation process. Bandaging and splints provide additional support for those requiring it. To avoid pressure sores developing, remove splints every 24hours, provide physio and replace as necessary.

##### *Type III – Severe contracture*

These cases are uncommon but do occur - whereby the limbs cannot be manually straightened even under anaesthesia.

*Surgical intervention is necessary if a resolution is to be attempted.*

If there is any associated swelling or pain in the limb, then an anti-inflammatory such as Metacam, can be provided. Do not exceed 3 consecutive days dosing unless advised by your vet.

High doses of Oxytetracycline antibiotic is sometimes used in foals to bind calcium and aid relaxation of the tendon. This product has not been researched for this purpose in camelids and could be toxic to the kidneys of cria so should only be considered as a last resort and with discussions with your vet.

AD<sub>3</sub>E supplementation is also recommended in these cases to support bone development.

Type I and II contracted tendons should make a full recovery within a couple of weeks.

#### 2) Vitamin AD<sub>3</sub>E

Supplementing vitamin AD<sub>3</sub>E, either by paste or injection, to camelids is essential. In their natural habitats they are exposed to high levels of UV light, which aids the production of vitamin D. In the absence of this, they can develop Rickets, a painful condition of the joints which will cause lameness, abnormal development of the limbs and stunted growth. This condition can be seen in all ages but more commonly associated with growing animals.

The main reason for mentioning this – as many of you will already be familiar – is to highlight a **new ADE injectable formulation**. The product ‘**Belavit AD3E**’ is manufactured in the UK so we no longer have to reply on importing other products, which in the current climate is a huge relief!

The concentration of **vitamin D is 100,000IU per ml** so a preventative dose of 1000IU/Kg = **0.1ml/10kg**. Treatment doses for Rickets are higher and should be discussed with your vet as phosphorus and pain relief may also be warranted.

**I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the CCA and its members for your patience and support in my absence from work.** I am pleased to say I am back vetting and am continuing my enthusiasm for farm and camelid work within Cornwall and Devon at Castle Veterinary Group. If you do have any alpaca related queries my personal email address is [sarah\\_677@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_677@hotmail.com)

**I hope you and all your alpacas are safe and well and I look forward to when we can meet again.**

### PROMOTION



#### SPECIALIST ALPACA KNITWEAR DESIGN AND MAKE UP STUDIO

We are a family owned knitwear design and production studio in Exmoor Somerset. We use specialist spinners to make alpaca yarns to our specification so that we can knit high quality commercial garments and accessories.

We have our own designers and technicians and our own state of the art Shima Seiki knitwear machine in our studio on our farm.

Alpaca breeders in the UK know about their fibre and the properties of alpaca. However they have little knowledge of the intricacies involved in creating a highly specialist yarn that is capable of creating high end garments on industrial machines. We have spent over 10 years refining the art of creating industrial yarns that are capable of making high quality textiles and knitwear.

Our aim is to help alpaca breeders to understand how to commercialise their wonderful alpaca fibre to make knitwear accessories and household items such as throws and cushions in their own designs which are saleable. We provide an advisory service and also can organise production from your own fleece to make product within your budget.

We would like to invite all members of the Cornwall Camelid Association to contact us for further information. We will be running a series of day workshops (with lunch included) in our studio (subject to the rules regarding release of lockdown) in July and August so that you can bring your fleece, have it graded for spinning and understand how to start the process for the production and design high end knitwear. This will enable you to use your alpaca fibre, determine your own design and production possibilities for the forthcoming Autumn Winter season.

CONTACT : Anila Preston

Tel 07736 351973



Instagram [british\\_alpaca\\_fashion\\_company](https://www.instagram.com/british_alpaca_fashion_company)

E mail [anila.preston@britishalpacaafashion.co.uk](mailto:anila.preston@britishalpacaafashion.co.uk) Website [www.alpacaexclusive.com](http://www.alpacaexclusive.com)

## FEATURE STORY

### Shearing through the Covid crisis 2020

by Allen Muriel, Cornish Alpaca Shearing

Preparation for the shearing season takes a few weeks in normal years, topping up supplies, checking long range weather forecasts, preparing equipment, planning routes and contacting clients but nobody was expecting the added burden of this years' Covid virus lockdown. I had also taken on extra clients and new ones had been added to the list during the winter. There was a time when it was believed the New Zealand shearers were not coming and I had some of the larger UK herds booked but that was reshuffled when the NZ guys arrived. There was a brief time of uncertainty as to whether shearers were going to be allowed to travel to clients but it transpired that the British Alpaca Society had early negotiations with APHA re the shearing on welfare grounds and a pass was issued by BAS CEO to all the shearers to carry if stopped. Advice was also given as to social distancing with clients throughout the shearing process - most seriously that we would not be allowed to accept the lovely and welcome cups of tea.

Working out systems how to have the alpacas penned so that owners could 'pass' them to the shearing mat without direct contact was a challenge and the idea of shearing wearing face masks was just impossible. I was fortunate that an old school friend offered to go into quarantine for two weeks and come to stay with us in one of the shepherds huts at the farm for a month exclusively, so we would be isolated together to help shearing, this was a huge bonus to get the season started and larger clients done safely. The only issue was that Justin had never handled an alpaca so a crash course was given the day after arrival here.

Planning the days to allow for longer stops, extra rations for both of us to eat and drink each day as we might not be able to find food readily with so many shops shut, it was more like going away on a military exercise each day. As the shearing equipment supplier and couriers were not working at full pace, I had to purchase extra spare equipment to keep the show on the road throughout the season. A warm Easter started to give the whisper that shearing could start earlier this year for the herds who had shelter if the weather changed, so mid April we started; this was the earliest I had started shearing since I started 5 years ago. Working within of the social distancing did slow down the shearing process somewhat but I have received so much co-operation from owners this year, everyone wanted to help and pull together.

Alpaca shearing is always dirty, dusty, hot and hard work, Covid did not make that any worse or better. This year I had my wife Karina at base helping with paperwork and mum Sandra as always taking calls and sourcing pasties. Other than a week of cold bitter winds in May the weather has been dry and warm, so much so the pressure built to get the shearing speeded up as so many owners were reporting hot alpacas in the sun. Many days we worked 12 -14 hours days to get to as many as possible. I was overwhelmed by generous offers of accommodation in empty holiday lets so I could stay overnight in mid-Devon and Wales to cover the surrounding areas - this was a tremendous help to have a safe place to stay each night without travelling back to base camp.

Justin had to leave after a month so Kari stepped up to handle and we have managed to retain our own social distancing to keep us and clients safe. Writing this in early June with less than 100 more alpacas to shear I feel a sense of achievement more than other years, to have reached all my clients and been able to provide the shearing within the perimeters of social distancing. It has been hot these weeks, similar to the drought of 2018, so shearing into the evenings rather than mid-day is sometimes has been the best option. At some stops we were greeted like long lost relatives, clients were so pleased to see us and I began to understand how concerned some had been just how the shearing was going to be managed this year. I sincerely hope that the Covid crisis will be resolved soon for everyone and next year will be back to normal, *in the meantime enjoy your lovely alpacas.*



## ADVERT

### CREWENNA CORINTHIAN

#### New genetics for Cornwall.....

#### Corinthian sired by EP Golden Age (Windsong Valley Firedragon), dam Fowberry Regal Lily, sired by EPC Top Account.

A white huacaya male from elite Fowberry genetics. His sire is EP Golden Age, a son of Windsong Valley Fire Dragon who I admired as soon as he entered the UK, he is producing progeny from dams of all colours, black progeny from black dams. Corinthian's dam is Fowberry Regal Lily, a stella white female who is full sister to the multi Champion Fowberry Nobility, Lily has her own Champion sashes to her name, notably Champion White Female at Futurity and NWAG 2013 - it does not get much better. Corinthian has the top genetics from both parents.

Corinthian has inherited the qualities of both his parents, a ultra fine, advanced style fleece, low in primaries, dense with outstanding coverage and the softest handle on a compact frame. This combination earned him a very close 2nd place in a large split class of 13 at BAS National Show 2017, Judges pulled both boys forward to be examined closely together, Corinthian was just pipped, behind Beck Brow Hey Now who went forward to win Reserve Champion White Male. Placed 1st at the Cornwall Halter Show 2018 as in intermediate, on fineness, density but ultimately it was the finer primaries which earned him the 1st place.

For phenotype and genotype Corinthian ticks every box and will add valuable qualities to any coloured breeding programme.

Corinthian's progeny have started to arrive and are surpassing expectations, he is passing on all his traits on strong well boned cria.

2019 - 3rd fleece stats: 17.9 sd 3.6 99.8% 110.mm

Drive by matings only - £500. White to fawn females only unless by prior discussion. Discounts are available for 2 or more matings.

**Contact: Sandra Muriel, Crewenna Alpacas 07870 612559**



2020 – Corinthian in 4<sup>th</sup> fleece.

**LIGHT HEARTED HINTS & TIPS**

**How do you tackle getting iodine on to a cria's umbilical cord??**

**Sandra....**

Births are always exciting after the long wait. I am usually working on my own when the cria arrive so it has to be a one handed job. I lift the cria from under, back against me with my right hand, then spray the cord - as the photo will show, the downside is that my hand gets a good dose of the spray as well. The reason for using the purple spray is I breed across the colours and clear spray is not easy to see on the blacks, I can check on the purple spray that it has not washed off or if it needs another spray.



**Felicia...**

I do it the old fashioned way! I put iodine in a small plastic bottle which I put over the cord and then shake. Usually works a treat

**Nigel...**

Regarding iodine I buy it in a little spray bottle from Griggs and spray it on while holding the lamb/ Cria by its front legs. Still get smokers fingers sometimes though 😊

**Wendy & Tom....**

As you can see in the photo, we've tried the small bottle, the calving teat cups and this year gone for the spray... one holds the cria and the other one sprays whilst wearing blue gloves – I still manage to get it all over me though !!:)



**And finally... a look inside Sandra's BIRTHING BOX**

I pulled out the contents of my birthing box and photographed the contents - this crate is in the stables next to the nursery field from May, packed and ready. I can carry it into the field to administer next to a newborn and includes what I think is my bare essentials for a birth, the immediate care of a cria who does not need any further outside support. The contents are:

- Plenty of towels - always washed after each use
- Supply of cria jackets (fleece and waterproof) – sizes 14" - 20"
- Scales and sling
- Thermometer
- Hot water bottle
- Knitted neck warmer
- Gloves
- Waterproof lamb covers - in case it is raining
- Cord clamps - never needed yet
- Lube
- Purple umbilical spray
- Iodine spray
- Identity collars
- Clean cotton sheet



## *Dates for the Diary (as published by BAS 30/5/20)*

### 2020

#### **Three Counties Fleece Show**

Date: 28th-29th July

Judges: Roger Clarke

Entries open: 4th April

Entries Close: 3rd July

Fleeces delivered by 6th July.

#### **Cornwall Fleece Show **SHOW FULL Entries Closed****

Date: Saturday 1st August 2020

Judge: Cathy Lloyd

Entries open: 15th May 2020

Entries close: 17th June 2020

#### **Ellingham and Ringwood Show**

Date: Sat 8 Aug 20

Judge: Shirley Bettinson

Halter Show - Short Fleece

#### **EAG Fleece Show 2020 - 15th August**

Date: Saturday 15th August 2020

**Entries open:** 1st May

**Entries close:** Thursday 30th July

**Maximum number of entries** 120 (1 day show)

Judge: Mr Nick Harrington-Smith

#### **Westmorland Show**

Date: 14th September 2020

Judge: Julia Corrigan-Stuart

#### **Somerset County Show**

Date: Sat 19th September (Fleece)

Fleece Judge: Julia Corrigan-Stuart

#### **HoEAG Autumn fleece show**

Date: Sunday 4th October

Judges: Shirely Bettinson and Roger Clarke

#### **Welsh Alpaca Show - 10th Oct 2020**

Judge: Julia Corrigan Stuart

#### **EAG Halter Show 2020 - 18th October**

#### **NEBAG Halter show - 31st October**

Date: 31 October 2020

Judge:

Entries Open: 6th July

Entries close : 31 July

Fees: £21 + VAT

#### **Northern Fleece Show**

Date: 29 November

Judges: Rob and Shirley Bettinson

Organiser: Stuart Ramsey

### 2021

#### **BAS National Show**

Date 26th, 27th and 28th March 2021