



Welcome to your Winter newsletter

Hello everyone and a very Happy Christmas!

Since our last newsletter we've put on the **Annual Vet Day** which was a really enjoyable and informative day as always – many thanks to Sarah Caldwell, our honorary Vet, and Gary and Felicia for hosting – and to everyone who came and made it such an interactive session.



Sarah's vet spot in this issue of the newsletter includes her reflections on 2022 including information on weight loss (alpacas not humans!), Vitamin D and a recent Veterinary conference.

We've also included the advice that BAS issued about looking after your alpacas in cold weather – rumour has it that another cold snap is on the way so this may come in handy.

The rest of this edition is given over to the results of our Member Survey and the proposed CCA Calendar of events for next year. Many thanks to all of you who completed the survey – as you can see, this has been used to focus our efforts and endeavour to keep providing you all with value for money and a thriving association. We are kicking off the year in earnest with a **free webinar on Breeding for Success**, hosted by BAS judge and owner of Beck Brow Alpacas, Barbara Hetherington on **Thursday 26th of January** – please let us know on the CCA email if you'd like to attend so we can send you the log in details – more information is included later in the newsletter.

Hot on the heels of the webinar is our **AGM on Tuesday 31st January** – we will post all the documents and log in details on facebook and also send to all members on email a couple of weeks beforehand.

And on the subject of money (!), **subs are due by the end of January for 2023**. If you've set up a standing order, that's fantastic – if not, please make payment by BACS to:

Cornwall Camelid Association sort code: 30 94 07 account number: 00878828

I hope you enjoy the read and don't forget that you can look back on previous issues on the website and get all sorts of other info there too: www.cornwallcamelidassociation.com

As ever, all contributions and ideas are welcome for the next newsletter ☺

cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com

Wendy, CCA Secretary

Message from our Chair Sandra Muriel

Dear Members

Though it does not seem long since I last wished you all a Happy Christmas, here I am again, with the same sincere wishes for all of you and your families, for a Happy Christmas, good health and prosperity in 2023.



We are experiencing the extremes of weather this year, during the summer we had to give advice about heat exhaustion and dehydration, in this newsletter we have some advice shared from the BAS about caring for your camelids in these ice and snow conditions. I even turned out my water urn, usually only used for events and workshops, but I have been boiling litres of water to add to the mangers so they could have luke warm drinks. I did not appreciate how many hammers we owned until I rounded them all up so I could keep one in each barn/stable/shelter to break the ice in the water mangers as the usual punch is not enough.

I am unsure what is forecast for the new year months, but we will endeavour to share advice and tips ongoing for them.

We have our annual AGM in January, we will be holding it via zoom so more members can join us. If anyone wishes, we are anticipating one or two seats to be available on the committee and new members could be proposed and voted on at the AGM. This is my last newsletter as your Chair, so there will be a shuffle at the committee table and if any members feel they have any secretarial or committee skills that they could volunteer, please contact either myself or Wendy.

There have been several cases of owners trying to rehome their alpacas across the country - BAS have a welfare officer to ensure any alpacas in need of a home do not end up thrown out or in danger. I have helped rehome one Cornish group this winter, purely by putting people in touch with each other which resulted in a good outcome for the alpacas. So if anyone is struggling with their alpacas (for any reason, loss of land, feed costs, a bereavement) please get in touch, we will try to help.

I have just returned from visiting my son in Let Gets and Morzine France, whilst there I had a magical experience visiting the Alta Lumina display above Les Gets. I was not sure what to expect going there, though it was deep snow and pouring more, plus dark, but it was extraordinary to walk through a forest only lit by lighting displays and holograms with the most evocative music playing around - I likened it to being on a James Bond film set, with the lights firing overhead and the floor lit like glow worms, while I hugged a tree to ensure I did not disappear over the edge. I have seen some spectacular events but this was quite memorable as you are actually in the display rather than just watching it; it certainly kicked me into Christmas mode and I came back feeling very much more festive.

Best wishes to you all, I hope we will see as many as possible of you at the AGM and other events planned.....and good health for 2023.

Sandra

WELFARE

VET SPOT

Sarah Caldwell BSc (hons) BVSc MRCVs

2022 REFLECTIONS

Weight-loss

This year has been seasonally uncharacteristic, with the prolonged warm period coupled with wet conditions. This created a mass emergence of worms, particularly *Haemonchus*, later in the year than normal and brought about issues in all species, including sudden weight loss, anaemia, diarrhoea and death. The recent frost will reduce the survivability of eggs on the pasture for next year, but parasites can remain in the gut unless treated.

- **Body Condition Score (BCS)** regularly to identify weight loss early, which is impossible to do unless you get hands-on. Severe weight-loss can be difficult to correct and in camelids can trigger irreversible, fatal, changes in the liver. It is often the first and only clinical indicator of ill-health in alpacas
- **Mucous membrane checks** should be done at the same time as BCS and should be nice and pink. Camelids' ability to live at altitude means they are absolute masters of disguising a reduction in red blood cells (anaemia) as they can cope with such low oxygen levels.
- **Worm Egg Count (WEC)** any animal or group that is showing signs of weight loss and/or paler membranes. This year we have had counts in the 1000's in herds that rarely get parasite issues.
- **Diarrhoea** is not something we typically associate with camelids due to their ability to absorb and retain water from the diet. This year, however, we have definitely had an increased number of cases – some were just the heavy rain fall, whereby the supply was greater than the demand, but others did have parasite burdens and also infectious causes including Johne's disease.
- **Studies** have shown camelids have the ability to adapt their metabolism to conserve energy in harsh conditions. Younger animals and geriatrics are less efficient and require additional support i.e. coat, housing, nutrition, to maintain their body condition

Vitamin D

Having seen a higher number of dental issues this year, possibly as a result of the shortage, it is great that we have an injectable Vitamin D product available again. Liaise with your vet with sufficient time for your needs due to the importation process and supplement ALL animals throughout Winter/Spring.

I think most of you are aware that I am now recommending a higher dose of 2000IU/Kg under the skin at an 8 week interval (this equates to 0.2ml per 10kg of the Bioveta Vit ADE product 100,000IU Vit D).

If you have sourced an alternative product – please check this is a safe dose as their compositions differ.

Camelid Veterinary Conference

Last month, about 30 vets from the UK and Europe gathered in Newbury to discuss all things camelid! It is always a great opportunity to discuss cases and current thinking.

Part of the agenda was TB – unfortunately the number of cases in the UK is rising, including in the South-West, with some herds experiencing severe outbreaks. TBAS, which is a TB advisory service, have recently included Camelids into their free scheme. I would suspect that most of your veterinary practices have vets that are trained and could offer a free visit to discuss how to protect your farm and animals.

There is a meeting due to take place next year at Mullacott Alpacas if anyone is wanting to know more about this.

In the meantime, please continue to use the private Enferplex blood test for any animals moving on and off farm.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas

& here's to 2023 and more alpaca babies!!!!



COLD WEATHER TIPS

Shared from the BAS Weekly Newsletter 9/12/22

Most alpacas will be perfectly fine in the colder weather but should they be showing signs of being chilly (rather than hypothermic) e.g. fore & hind feet slightly closer together giving a hunched-up appearance &/or visible signs of shivering which is the body's natural way to try and generate heat, they should be offered small quantities of additional feed such as unmolassed sugarbeet soaked with water & then topped up with hot water so their feed is warm (not hot), as well as additional hay as fibre related feed provides more warming to the alpaca.

Older or compromised alpacas may need a coat during colder spells. Please note sugarbeet pellets require soaking for 24 hours before being fed; speedibeet is flaked & unmolassed & requires only 10 minutes of soaking.

Animals who are hypothermic are often laying down, lethargic and with reduced respiration & heartbeat. They need to be warmed before being fed & are likely to need the attention of a vet as an emergency. While waiting for the vet, get the alpaca into a barn/shelter on a deep bed of straw, (move onto a tarpaulin & drag the tarp if they will not stand). Take the temperature & pop a coat on (a duvet, thatched with straw or a human coat will do!) and use empty milk cartons filled with warm (not hot) water in the armpits & groin area to slowly raise the temperature into the normal region. It is vital that the process of warming is slow.

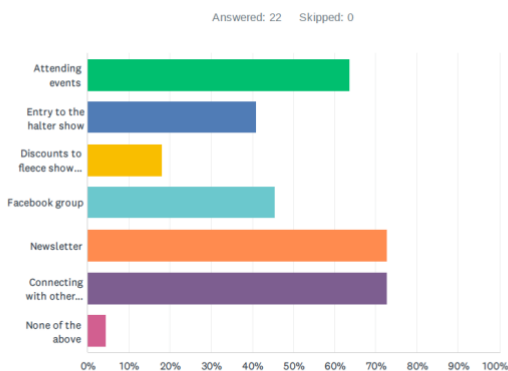
Your vet may administer warm fluids via IV drip. Often shivering will recommence while warming. Once sufficiently warmed & temperature is in the normal range offer small quantities of feed & hay & monitor as per vet instructions.

Ensure your alpacas continue to drink fresh water during cold weather. (Add warm water to take the chill off if not drinking sufficiently)

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey last month to provide us feedback on what you value from the CCA and your priorities for the future – the results are in and here’s what you had to say:

Q9 Value for money What do you value from your membership?

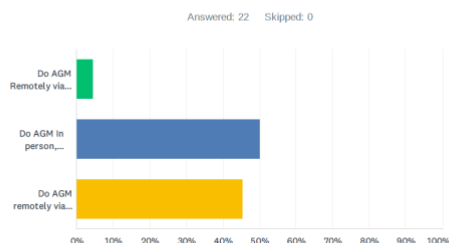


Conclusions and actions

Connecting with each other through the facebook group, newsletter and getting together for events and the halter show were all popular – so in the main, this seems a good endorsement of what we do

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Attending events	63.64% 14
Entry to the halter show	40.91% 9
Discounts to fleece show entries	18.18% 4
Facebook group	45.45% 10
Newsletter	72.73% 16
Connecting with other members	72.73% 16
None of the above	4.55% 1
Total Respondents: 22	

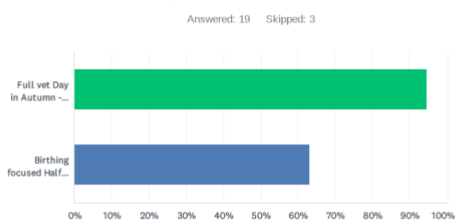
Q1 AGM - Prior to Covid we used to combine the AGM with a dinner and are considering this again now that restrictions are lifted - this could be at the same time as the AGM or on a different day. What would be your preference ?



The vote was split between having a dinner at the time of the AGM or a different time – so to make sure as many members can make the AGM as possible, we’ve decided to do the AGM by Zoom on Tuesday 31/01/23 and to hold a dinner for everyone who wishes to attend in early February – we’d love to see as many of you as can make it at both 😊

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Do AGM Remotely via a zoom video call, no dinner	4.55% 1
Do AGM In person, combined with a dinner	50.00% 11
Do AGM remotely via a zoom video call with dinner at another time	45.45% 10
TOTAL 22	

Q2 Vet Days - traditionally we hold an annual Vet Day in the Autumn. In 2022 we also held a Birthing Refresher half day in Spring. Which, if any, would you like to attend in 2023

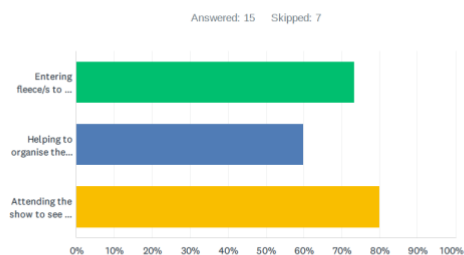


Whether you’ve been going to it for years (it was the 10th annual vet day that the CCA has held in 2022) or are new to alpaca world, the annual Vet day is always a popular event that people give great feedback on.

We will definitely hold the annual autumn vet day again in 2023 and are encouraged from the results that we also have some good interest in a breeding special again in the spring – nearer the time we will check to see if we have sufficient numbers to make this one happen too given the costs involved.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Full vet Day in Autumn - approx £30 per member	94.74% 18
Birthing focused Half day in Spring - approx £20 per member	63.16% 12
Total Respondents: 19	

Q3 Cornish Fleece Show 2023 This is a national BAS show with CCA members offered discounted entry fees. Are you interested in any of the following/

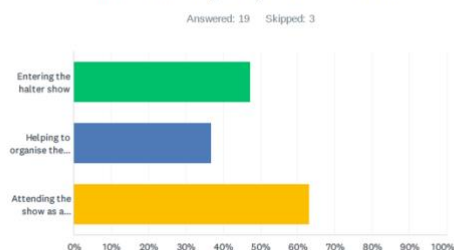


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Entering fleeces to the show	73.33% 11
Helping to organise the show	60.00% 9
Attending the show to see the results and meet the judge	80.00% 12
Total Respondents: 15	

It's great that the fleece show is popular with members of the CCA and over the last 3 years we have also had good entries from across the country – although 2022 numbers were a little down in common with fleece shows in other regions and Grassroots made a little error on the closing dates.

We will definitely be putting the show on again this year – the date has been set as 15th July with judge Jo Bridge – this is a week later than usual to allow a bit more time for people to shear and assess which fleeces they want to enter 😊

Q4 CCA Halter Show 2023 This is a show for CCA members only Which of the following are you interested in:

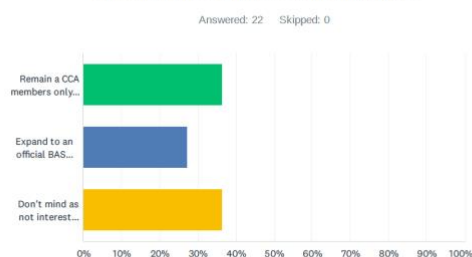


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Entering the halter show	47.37% 9
Helping to organise the show	36.84% 7
Attending the show as a visitor	63.16% 12
Total Respondents: 19	

With 9 members saying they would like to enter (which is the same as entered in 2022) we will go ahead with the show again this year.

To weather proof the event, we have been in discussions with the Royal Cornwall Showground about hiring one of the indoor halls and it looks as though this will be viable – at this point we have pencilled in Sunday 7th May 2023 which is also a Bank Holiday weekend (due to the Coronation on Saturday 6th). Given that holding it at such a great venue will cost the Association a bit of money it would be great if as many members as possible could enter their alpacas please.

Q6 Halter Show in future years Looking ahead, what do you think the direction of the halter show should be?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Remain a CCA members only show - run to BAS rules but not officially recognised or recorded	36.36% 8
Expand to an official BAS Show, open to anyone (date and venue to be decided)	27.27% 6
Don't mind as not interested in showing	36.36% 8
Total Respondents: 22	

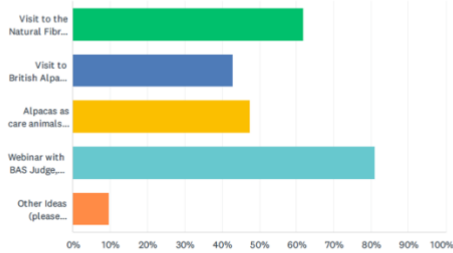
For future years, the jury's out on whether to keep this show just for CCA members or to expand to a full BAS show.

Once we have experience of running the show at the Showground where it would be feasible to expand to a full show if we wanted to, we can reassess.

In the meantime, the Royal County Showground gives us the ability to attract more members of the public, so we're looking at opportunities for complementary revenue streams and opportunities for members to sell their products - more to follow in due course.

Q5 Other 2023 events - would you be interested in any of the following if we were to organise?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Visit to the Natural Fibre Mill, Launceston	61.90% 13
Visit to British Alpaca Fashion Company, Dulverton	42.86% 9
Alpacas as care animals event, Staracre Farm nr Bude, children included	47.62% 10
Webinar with BAS Judge, Barbara Hetherington on improving your herd, no matter your starting point	80.95% 17
Other Ideas (please specify)	9.52% 2
Total Respondents: 21	

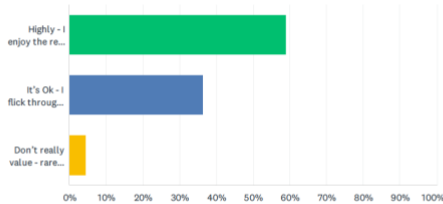
You showed a good appetite for other new events and initiatives, particularly the webinar from Barbara Hetherington – so we have gone ahead and scheduled that in. The event will be on January 26th at 7pm – details later in the newsletter.

As a committee, we will now look for people to lead on some of the other ideas - they will share details and potential dates with you in due course and see who is interested

Since the survey, we have been approached by the Art of Fibre, who provide fleece tests, to see if we would like to host one of their Fibre Roadshows early next year. Information is provided later in the newsletter and there will be more on the CCA Facebook page on this soon

Q7 Quarterly Newsletter We put a lot of effort into producing the Newsletter, so want to make sure it's worth it! (please be honest!) Overall, how much do you value the Newsletter?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Highly - I enjoy the read and get value from the content	59.09% 13
It's Ok - I flick through and sometimes find things of interest	36.36% 8
Don't really value - rarely read or don't find content interesting	4.55% 1
TOTAL	22

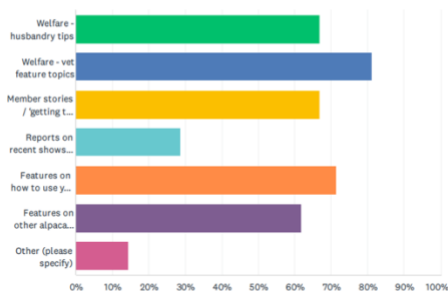
Finally, thanks for the feedback on the newsletter which we hope will continue to be useful and interesting – and Sarah has promised to keep the Vet feature articles coming!

Please do send in your ideas and contributions or let us know if you'd be interested in being interviewed or showcasing your farm, alpacas and business.

If you'd like to be even more involved than that, we are looking for a new volunteer to take over being the newsletter editor and producer when we shuffle committee roles in the New Year – please let me know if you're interested!

Q8 Which articles interest you most?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Welfare - husbandry tips	66.67% 14
Welfare - vet feature topics	80.95% 17
Member stories / 'getting to know' interviews	66.67% 14
Reports on recent shows / events	28.57% 6
Features on how to use your fleece	71.43% 15
Features on other alpaca business ventures (eg trekking)	61.90% 13
Other (please specify)	14.29% 3
Total Respondents: 21	

2023 CCA CALENDAR

After the survey, this is how next year’s calendar is shaping up. We will talk through at the AGM and are working to firm up some of the details so this will be updated in due course.

CCA 2023 Calendar
Provisional

Plus:

- Natural Fibre Company Mill visit?
- British Alpaca Fashion Company visit?
- (*) Art of Fibre Roadshow – potential dates in Feb and / or March being explored

January	Webinar - Barbara Hetherington	26/01/23 (Thurs)
	AGM	31/01/23 by Zoom (Tues)
February	Art of Fibre Fleece Roadshow (*)	Potentially weekend of 3rd/4 th 02/23 tbc
	Members dinner	Date & location tbc
March	Spring Newsletter	
	Art of Fibre Fleece Roadshow (*)	Location & date tbc
April	Possible mini vet day	Date & venue tbc
May	(CCA) Halter Show	Proposed date Sunday 07/05/23 @ Royal Cornwall Showground - tbc
June	Summer Newsletter	
July	(BAS) Fleece Show	Saturday 15/7/23 @ Sandra's: Carntremaigne Farm
August		
September	Autumn Newsletter	
	National Alpaca Farm Day	early Sept – dates tbc
October	Vet Day	Date & venue tbc
November	Zoom Talk?	Topic & date tbc
December	Winter Newsletter	

More details on events:



BREEDING FOR SUCCESS - How to improve your herd

7pm Thursday 26 January 2023 by Zoom

(CCA Members only event - free of charge)

The CCA Committee are pleased to announce that one of the UK’s most renowned breeders and BAS Judge, Barbara Hetherington of Beck Brow Alpacas, has kindly agreed to present the above topic to the CCA Membership.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn from one of the best on how we can all improve our herds in line with our personal goals and no matter our starting point or budget!

Key Points:

- Defining your goals and making a plan - considerations eg budget, ambition...
- Assessing your alpacas
- Importance of females
- Choosing a stud - traits, bloodlines, budget, location...
- Common mistakes and misconceptions
- The 'Beck Brow approach'

Please email cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com if you wish to attend and we will email you the zoom link the day before the event

BAS/Art of Fibre’s 2023 Fibre Roadshow presentations
 ‘How to maximise the value of your alpaca fleeces using effective fleece preparation’



Topics

Preparation and conduct of shearing

- Includes handout
- This topic is based on 15 years on-going consultation with breeders, shearers and buyers/mills

How to ‘Read’ a fleece

- Lecture and Demonstration on how to assess the relative value of a fleece before skirting

Using objective data to appraise a fleece

- Relating main fibre traits to actual fibre/fleece

How to identify problem fibres and understand why they are a problem

- Includes fibre testing different sections of a fleece to relate objective data with visual fibre attributes

Demonstration and explanations on how to skirt a fleece to optimise end-uses/maximise relative value

- Demonstration will incorporate real-time fibre measurements

Current opportunities for environmental/animal welfare standards

- Outline of current market premiums and opportunities

Benefits of seeking market feedback

ADVERTISEMENTS

The CCA’s honorary vet; Sarah Caldwell BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS is now providing a **bespoke camelid consultancy service**.



TheHumanVet offers:

- A second opinion for clinical cases; working alongside your vet for a consistent approach,
- Health planning for all herd sizes, new and established, for all experience levels.

For more information visit www.thehumanvet.com

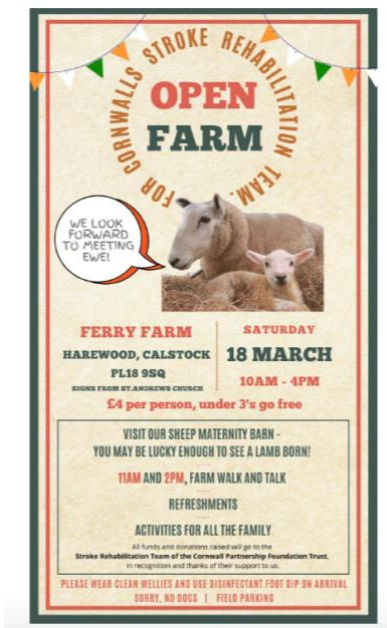
Contact Sarah at info@thehumanvet.com

An extra message from Sarah:

As an Aside - Raffle Requests

On 18th March 2023, Matt and I are opening up our farm in the middle of lambing (must be mad!!!) to host a fundraising event for the Stroke Rehabilitation Trust of Cornwall. For those of you who don’t know, Matt, had a stroke in 2020 and the nurses funded by this charity were exceptional in supporting us and have benefited Matt’s recovery significantly.

We will be holding a raffle on the day, so if anyone has any gifts they are able to donate to this that would be very greatly appreciated and of course we would love to see you if you are can attend!!



FOR CORNWALLS STROKE REHABILITATION TEAM

OPEN FARM

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING EWE!

FERRY FARM | **SATURDAY**
HAREWOOD, CALSTOCK | **18 MARCH**
PL18 9SQ | **10AM - 4PM**
BOOK FROM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

£4 per person, under 3's go free

VISIT OUR SHEEP MATERNITY BARN - YOU MAY BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SEE A LAMB BORN!

11AM AND 2PM, FARM WALK AND TALK

REFRESHMENTS

ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

All funds and donations raised will go to the Stroke Rehabilitation Team of the Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust. In recognition and thanks of their support to us.

PLEASE WEAR CLEAN WELLIES AND USE DISINFECTANT FOOT DIP ON ARRIVAL. SORRY, NO DOGS | FIELD PARKING