



### *Welcome to your Summer newsletter!*

Hello everyone and I hope you have been enjoying some of the lovely (long awaited!) summer weather.

For all the breeding herds, this is such a special time of year and we will be featuring some of the lovely cria who have arrived at your farms – who couldn't adore their cooky looks and crazy zoomies! I hope some of you have entered the cutest cria photo competition that BAS are running? Also our thoughts to anyone who has experienced a difficult birth or the loss of a cria or mum which can be so stressful and heartbreaking. In hard times, your friends at the CCA can be a lifeline in terms of in the moment advice and support so I'm sure I speak for everyone in encouraging you to reach out if you ever need help.

Of course, not everyone is a breeder so there is plenty in the newsletter for you too! As ever, we kick off with updates from our Chair, Sandra and the latest BAS Board news from Kate. Focusing on welfare, we have the summer top tips, some intel on birthing and newborn cria and, for anyone who is thinking or, or already, runs alpacas with sheep, Nigel has contributed a piece highlighting best practice.

We have a feature from our vet, Sarah, in which I interview her about all matters connected with poo, worms and poo picking and then reflect on how to practically apply that knowledge.

Then it's all about the upcoming season of fleece shows – kicking off with our very own! All the timings and logistics are covered and then Sandra gives a summary of best practice in getting your fleeces ready for a show.

Finally, we continue to promote our breeders who offer stud services – yes, no sooner are those cria born than we are starting the cycle all over again!!

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](http://www.cornwallcamelidassociation.com)

If you are not already a member of our facebook group, please look it up (cornwallcamelidassociation) and ask to join and we will have you sorted straight away – it's a really easy way to connect to other members and ask questions or join in the chat ☺

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

[cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com)

Thanks, Wendy

## Message from our Chair

**Sandra Muriel**

'Recollections may vary' but this time last year we were all in the first lockdown, Covid was a new word and we were wondering how our lives would be changed. I am unsure if we have learnt to live with Covid, but speaking to people, we do seem to have found our path to living within the necessary restraints which prevail to ensure we have a best chance of not contracting it. Alpaca owning lifestyle seems to be a saviour amongst the storm, living in private and in some cases remote agricultural properties provides an easy way to isolate. Despite not being able to see friends and relatives, I have never been short of company, the alpacas have been great listeners. Whilst I always appreciated my lifestyle with the alpacas, now I realise that it is enviable.



There appears to be two significant events on Cornwall's calendar. Driving on the A30 and on the media, there are constant reminders that the G7 summit will be held in Cornwall, 5 - 13 June. The most important and influential world leaders are coming to Cornwall! Already diversion signs are being hidden on roads, ready to send drivers on detours around the country lanes which will confound the best sat nav systems; prepare for chaos! The other significant event, is of course our second Cornish Fleece Show, on 10th July. Like the G7 summit, we have an international visitor, our Judge Roger Clarke will be flying in to survey the wonderful entries and enjoy our hospitality. Like President Biden (USA) and President Putin (Russia), Roger will also run the gauntlet of being stuck behind a Riviera or SEF tractor for miles.



Entries for the fleece show opened on 1st May.....and shut on 5th May. We were full, even after extending the entry numbers to 80. I am delighted that several CCA members managed to get the entries in. This year we will be awarding CCA colour champions and CCA Best in Show, based on the points awarded by the Judge; whilst the BAS winners are skilfully calculated by Tom with modern technology on his computer, the CCA champions will be worked out by myself the old fashioned way, with a pen and my precious hard copies of the entries and points as the classes are judged. I have an article further in the newsletter about preparing your entries ready to despatch to the show, whilst I am the listed collection point, CCA members in the East might prefer to drop their entries to Dark Sky alpacas, but please contact Tom and Wendy first to arrange this in the allotted time frame. Good luck to all who have entered.

The problem with doing anything well, is that the expectation for the next is higher. Our last newsletter was great, full of current information and veterinary advice. Collating the articles, encouraging members to share their experiences and piecing together key information is an ongoing task, constantly building a library of titles and new ideas. I would like to thank Wendy for her hard work bringing the newsletters together for all our enjoyment. If any new members would like to contribute then please do, if you have anything you would like to share, we would like to hear from you. This month we have an excellent article from Nigel about running alpacas with sheep, this has been prompted by some welfare issues through the winter, where owners had not realised the needs of the alpacas living with sheep in respect of feeding and worming; the article is a good read for owners of both species living together, but also anyone selling to buyers who plan to keep both, it is good advice to pass on.

I am trying not to mention the weather, after May there is nothing to say that has not already been said and we can now hopefully look forward to a summer, some dry days and balmy evenings to enjoy our alpacas. The members who breed are busy welcoming the cria and are hopefully going to post some uber cute photos on our Facebook page for us all to enjoy. Fingers crossed that births are straight forward with good outcomes, but if any members do experience problems and need some advice, do not hesitate to call our welfare officers, Wendy, Mark, Nigel or myself. If anyone does urgently need plasma, some members do have stocks, we should be able to locate some 'in county' to save wasting precious time travelling.

I sincerely hope everyone is now enjoying the better weather, meeting friends again and some hugs. Your committee are hoping to see some of our popular events back on the calendar so we can meet again, albeit with some social distancing, to share our mutual interest and some camaraderie.

Finally, many thanks to all members who have paid their subscriptions. Our membership secretary Liz Brealy has totalled up the current numbers and we have 51 members which we believe is the highest membership in our history! A big welcome to new members Louise Randall and India & Spence Rabey and many thanks to Liz who keeps the list up to date.

Sandra  
Alpacas of Cornwall, the Crewenna herd

*The first of our cria gallery – more are sprinkled throughout the newsletter ☺*



Crewenna Gatsby



Kestle Pearl of May



Kestle Helium



Popham Kellogs & friends



Dark Sky Gray Gordon & Gersemi

## NEWS UPDATES

### BAS NEWS

#### Kate Brookes, Mullacott Alpacas



The BAS board met in early June and there are many things progressing. One of the most exciting things is the work going on to attract young people to join the BAS with their own category of membership. There are lots of plans on how to keep them engaged and enable them to share their experiences with others of a similar age, as well as ways 'oldies' like me can help support them on their alpaca journey.

I am the deputy BAS TB representative and it seems likely that the new contract for on farm advice will allow specialist TB prevention advice to be offered to alpaca farms as well as cattle farms. I'm hoping that will be the case, as any farm specific biosecurity advice from a specialist is always welcome from my perspective, especially here in the South West, where the threat is real.

I have spent a lot of time working on the existing BAS affiliates training programme, making sure that courses are available across the country of the approved material. If you are selling alpacas to new owners and are not offering courses yourself, you should be reassured that anyone who has completed BAS modules 1-5 (husbandry and handling) will understand the needs of their alpacas and how to care for them. Ros Pugh, Gary & Felicia Sanders and myself offer courses in this area, please refer new owners to us for a course if you think it will benefit them.

Here on the farm birthing is nearly over, thank goodness, much as I love the arrival of cria it has been a difficult year, with birth after birth seeming to need assistance. Now to sit back and enjoy the zoomies of the 20 cria outside my window!

**Kate**    [katebrookes2@gmail.com](mailto:katebrookes2@gmail.com)

### Alpaca Match Making

You may have spotted an appeal from one of our members, Sarah Tweedle, on the CCA Facebook page last week. She was in urgent need of new companions for her one remaining alpaca. By fortunate coincidence, a local lady had contacted us via the website looking to rehome a one year old boy, Snowy, prior to a house move. Within a couple of days, Snowy had moved in and is now acclimatising to his new farm and new friend Elmo – we wish Sarah and the boys all the best and hope they become firm friends! Sarah would also like to add one or two more boys to the gang, so please get in touch on the facebook page if you have any 'chilled out' guys who might be suitable.



## WELFARE

### Top Summer Husbandry Tips

1. **At shearing time, take the opportunity to boost vitamin levels** with an AD&E shot (or paste) and a mineral drench
2. **Boost Vaccinations for Pregnant Mums** Don't forget to provide pregnant Mum's with a shot of your usual clostridial vaccination between 8 and 2 weeks before they are due to unpack (check amounts and dates with your vet) – this ensures they pass immunity to their cria whilst still in the womb)
3. **Plasma Supplies** If possible and you are expecting births, take blood from geldings for plasma, alternatively identify a reliable and geographically close source.
4. **Colostrum supplies** In case mum cannot provide enough colostrum in the crucial 48 hrs after birth, make sure you have a backup – Osmonds have a powdered colostrum for alpacas which you feed via a bottle and J G Animal Health now have a colostrum paste available if the cria isn't sucking
5. **Mites** As always be on the lookout for mites – particularly in the armpits and under the tail. There are several treatments available – if unsure you should speak to your vet



### Did you know... birthing & newborn cria Felicia Sanders and Wendy Scott

In birthing season, Felicia and I are often on the phone together comparing notes, tips and general info. Here are a few of our birthing & cria related insights which we hope are useful and interesting 😊

*Disclaimer – we are not vets and not in any way trying to give professional advice – if you are in any doubt with a sick animal, please do always call your vet*

1. Good to know – I've been worrying about the possibility of a uterine prolapse (having heard other people talking about them but never having seen one) and find myself staring at the (ugly) placenta as it comes out and worrying that it might 'bring the uterus with it'. I'm reassured to know that's not how it works! After the placenta passes, if the mother continues to have contractions they may push the uterus out sometime later – this is obviously a serious issue and needs a vet - but at least I don't need to be worrying that it's attached to the placenta.
2. Wheezy cria just after birth – may well have some fluid in the airpipes from the birth experience – try holding the body & gently dangling the neck and head downwards - mimicking what happens naturally when the head and neck is hanging before the body is birthed.
3. If cria hasn't fired into action to breathe just after birth, try sticking a bit of grass up the nose or a tiny drop of water in the ear – to rouse them
4. If cria is a bit lethargic and cold, a warm glucose enema can work wonders – dilute 4 tablespoons of sugar in 20 ml warm water. Give via a syringe and tube through the anus. A lot of the fluid will come back out, but the small amount absorbed and the added benefit of warmth can make a difference.

The normal temp for a cria is between 37.8 and 39 degrees celsius. If the temp is below 37 degrees the cria is considered to be hypothermic. A temp between 32 and 37.2 degrees will require active warming – but CARE must be taken not to heat the cria up too rapidly, as this can actually be more detrimental than you may think.

Other warming methods you can try:

Towel dry the cria

Surround it with and lie it on towels

Use a hairdryer on warm at a distance of no closer than 50cm, turning the cria regularly whilst drying

Use heat lamps – not too close or they can burn the cria

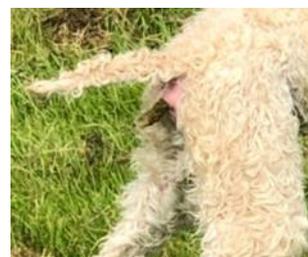
Hot water bottles (covered in a towel so they are not in direct contact with the animal) – you can put the hot water bottle between the back legs as this will be close to the femoral artery

Shivering can be alarming when the cria is first born but it is all part of the natural process and they do it to produce heat, just as we do. Here's what the text book says:

The shivering process is scientifically known as 'shivering thermogenesis' and simply means shivering to produce heat. In order for a newborn animal to shiver, it first needs to generate the energy for this process – it does this by breaking down a special form of fat called brown adipose tissue. A full term cria that is mature and ready to come into the world is born with a supply of this tissue, therefore it is able to shiver after birth and generate heat to warm up it's body temperature.

5. If you haven't seen the cria poo in the first 24 hours, a 10ml slightly soapy or saline water enema may help to get things going – to administer, insert just the tip of the syringe gently into the rectum and fire in as much as will go – it's important that the (usually hard) meconium plug comes out to allow normal pooing thereafter. Here's a pic of one coming naturally...

Meconium is usually thick and tarry, sometimes dark and sometimes greenish in colour. It is made up of cells from the crias intestines and secretions, mucus and swallowed amniotic fluid.



Some people routinely give enemas to every cria, others wait to see if the baby starts straining. If you have any doubt, go ahead and give one as there is not much harm that can be done as long as you administer carefully – on the other hand, meconium impactions can be fatal.



6. When Mum and cria 'kiss' each other, did you know it's 'transfaunation' taking place? This is the process of mum passing some of her stomach content full of good bacteria to the baby so baby's stomach has lots of healthy stuff to aid digestion. Thanks to Judith Newman for that intel on the back of one of my facebook photos 😊

7. Finally, a note on Diatomaceous earth - brilliant for helping to control mites when you let your alpacas roll in it and a particular favourite just after shearing - but don't leave a dust bath in the cria field as babies have been known to nibble on it and get all blocked up as a result – very dangerous 😞

## Some pointers for running sheep with alpacas

### Nigel Retallack, Carpalla Alpacas

Some welfare cases have recently come to light with the committee where alpacas have suffered due to not getting the correct care while guarding the flocks.

Firstly sheep are always faster to the concentrates than alpacas are so it's very easy to underfeed the alpacas in winter when grass is tight and the sheep are being fed. Consider placing some raised troughs for them that the sheep can't reach to overcome this. Gold standard for feeding would be a specialist alpaca pellet with it's elevated mineral and vitamin levels. If this is difficult to source then a small amount of sheep nuts put out for the alpacas in my experience is fine. Alpaca gurus don't shoot me down here, better to have a supplement that is easily available on the farm than nothing at all. Just don't overdo it as they don't need much, maximum 250 grams each. Access to hay or mould free haylage is also important when grass is sparse to maintain bcs.

Remember to give the alpacas some extra vitamin A, D and E during the winter months in addition to what the other feeds provide. This can be in the form of an injection or oral paste. Alpacas are prone to rickets and need a supplement. Ask your vet or the person you bought them from.

When you inject your sheep with their clostridial vaccine also do your alpacas, same dose, same product.

When alpacas run with sheep they will need to be on a good worming regime because they suffer from the same parasites as sheep. If worming your sheep, worm the alpacas too. Caution, check with your vet about how suitable the product you are using is for alpacas and check the dose rate as this will probably be different. It's generally not recommended to use combined fluke and wormer as the dose rates may be different in alpacas for the constituent parts. It's not my place to recommend products or dose rates here so speak to your vet. If your alpacas are scouring then you have got things wrong and you need to act promptly.

At shearing time always inspect the alpacas thoroughly for mange as this is common and can cause discomfort. We use frontline spray but again best to check with your vet on this. Alpacas must be shorn annually or they will overheat and could easily perish.

Teeth are usually checked at shearing and should only be trimmed by a person who has lots of experience. They keep growing and in some animals are not worn down fast enough.

Toenails should be checked a few times a year, anyone who can trim sheep toenails can do an alpacas although they are formed slightly differently and you only trim the horn at the point of the toe and don't touch the heel. Trim the nail down so it is left just proud of the foot and without a very sharp point. They are trimmed with the animal standing up, gently restrained by a second person holding the neck while the feet are gently picked up like a goat or horses foot and trimmed.

Try to be gentle and move slowly if possible when dealing with alpacas, they don't like loud noises or rapid movements. When handling your sheep try to put the alpacas in a separate pen away from barking dogs and loud people which is almost inevitable with sheep. All work on alpacas should be done in a small, hurdle catch pen. You should not chase them around a field or big shed as this will make them wild and unruly. Remember when handling alpacas that they don't like being grabbed by the fleece as this hurts them and will make them more jumpy. Just gently loop your arm around the neck and hold with the force that is needed to keep them still, release the force a bit if you can to reward them for standing still.

One point on fencing, do not use flexinet electric fencing with alpacas as it is dangerous due to entanglement of the neck.

This is a very basic run down of caring for guard alpacas, it pays to buy from a reputable breeder and thus have the backup service they provide if you get problems.

I am also available to help with advice if you get stuck – please give me a buzz on my mobile 07974796792 or contact me through the CCA Facebook page.

Cria gallery continued ....



Polgrain Alpaca girls



Killigorrick cria

## VETERINARY FEATURE

### Everything to do with poo

Sarah Caldwell, BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS

For this newsletter, Sarah and I wanted to put together a piece where we take the knowledge from the vet and then translate that into practical actions for alpaca owners.

To kick off, I took the chance to ask her all the questions I have about poo, poo picking and worms.

Wendy: **What happens once the poo is on the ground?**

Sarah: As soon as poo hits the pasture, 1<sup>st</sup> stage larvae will hatch from the eggs and start to feed on the bacteria in the poo. Over the next 21 days, the larvae will develop into 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stage. The latter cannot eat, so they migrate in a film of water up to the tip of grass in hope of being ingested!

The exception to this process is Nematodirus where the larvae develop inside the walled egg. A mass emergence in spring can occur when the cooler weather suddenly warms.

Wendy: **Why does poo picking reduce chances of a problem?**

Sarah: Simply, you are minimising the risk of exposure to worm larvae. If these are ingested, they develop into adults inside the alpaca, mate and produce more eggs....

Wendy: **Are parasites already in the poo or do they come from visiting flies?**

Sarah: Flies cannot deposit worms that will affect your alpacas but will use faeces as a nutrient source for themselves and their developing larvae. Their presence in large numbers on contaminated fields can increase the risk of fly strike, whereby maggots are laid in the fleece and bury into the skin. Monitor your animals through-out summer, particularly before shearing, for signs of persistent nibbling/irritation and damp areas.

Wendy: **How quickly do you need to remove poo from the pasture to be effective?**

Sarah: Larvae will hatch immediately and so the sooner you collect the poo, the less chance you have of the larvae developing and moving out of the poo and onto the grass, where it is in its infective stage.

Wendy: **Is there any point in poo picking if it has been on the pasture for a few days already?**

Sarah: Yes! You will still be reducing the pasture contamination. Low-level exposure is actually important to growing cria to develop immunity, it is about getting the balance between exposure vs infection. This will often be dictated by grass length, stocking density and risk i.e. underlying disease/late pregnant early lactating females/weanings.

If you are short on time, focus on removing the older poo first as this will contain the more developed larvae.

Wendy: **How can you tell from poo what parasite burden is present?**

Sarah: You can't! Worm eggs are microscopic and can only be detected by examining samples in this way. The exception to this is tapeworm. You may observe long white segmented worms, or pieces of rice in the poo; see later for more information.

Wendy: **How do you check for a parasite burden?**

Sarah: Collect individual or composite (up to 10 animals) samples and submit them to your vet or a camelid-recognised lab for a Worm Egg Count (WEC). Some farms will have the resources and training to do this themselves. Use a 'three-finger pinch' to provide a large enough and fairly represented sample.

A WEC will not only tell you the number of worms present, but will categorise them. This is key to using the correct wormer or in fact identifying whether worming is necessary. Given the increasing level of resistance to wormers within the alpaca population worldwide, this is essential to preserving products that successfully treat burdens – when we need them.

If you have a high WEC and need to treat, performing a WEC 7-14 days post-treatment, will determine the success of the treatment and whether there is any resistance to that wormer group.

NB. Specific WECs are needed for fluke and lungworm if suspected.

Wendy: **How often should you check for a parasite burden?**

Sarah: Late spring to early Autumn will pose the greatest risk of gut worm burdens. The frequency of monitoring by WECs will vary between 2 – 6 weeks depending on a number of factors such as:

- Stocking density
- Pasture management
- Ability to rotate; avoid using the same paddock for cria/weanlings year-in-year-out
- Historic parasite burdens
- Resistance to wormers
- Type of herd i.e. breeding (higher risk) Vs all adult herds (lower risk)

Monitoring for parasites should also include:

- At least fortnightly mucous membrane checks for anaemia
- Regular body condition scoring / weighing

The NADIS website will provide alerts and parasite risk levels according to weather:

<https://www.nadis.org.uk/parasite-forecast/>

Wendy: **What does the poo consistency and colour mean? eg pellets vs 'Mr Whippy'**

Sarah: A healthy animal will produce a brown pellet. The alpaca is specially adapted to dry climates and is well adapted to absorb water through the spiral colon. Therefore, any sloppy pellets suggest a potential issue with the GI tract which may be an indicator of worms or something else. The exception is after a very wet period and a flurry of lush grass. Any major deviation in colour (green/yellow/black/fresh blood), especially in young cria, should be investigated.

Note that rich milk can sometimes cause 'milky scour' in cria (see pic) – these individuals can have a variety of consistency and colour but so long as they look well and are gaining weight this can be a 'variation' of normal – but monitor closely.



Wendy: **Which groups should you prioritise poo picking in eg pregnant females /cria/weanlings**

Sarah: Your birthing paddocks should be as clean as possible at all times, as birthing/early lactating females will have reduced immune systems and be more susceptible to picking up and excreting, which will pose a greater risk to the cria. Weanlings are also at risk due to their developing immune systems and stress of weaning. Yearlings should be grazed away from where they were born to minimise exposure and infection. Any immune compromised animals (thin/old) need to be managed.

In each case, try and keep grass sward heights above 3cm, ideally 7 - 10cm. This will maximise intakes, promote re-growth and avoid ingestion of parasites and soil-containing bacteria.

**Wendy: Is tapeworm related or a different issue?**

Tapeworm is transmitted from adults to cria via the rice segments. It resides in the small intestine and is the only worm we can visibly see – so it is often a topic of discussion and concern. In *healthy*, well growing cria it is not deemed to cause any harm. However, very heavy burdens can cause blockages in poor-doing cria/weanlings and therefore treatment is warranted. NB. You will see more worms after treatment – this means its worked. Poo pick asap to remove.

**TOP TIPS:**

1. Use a white drench at 4 x sheep dose for Nematodirus, typically seen in cria/yearlings in early spring.
2. Injectable wormers do not work sufficiently for gut parasites – reserve these for mite treatments.
3. Oral clear drenches should be administered at 2 x sheep dose.
4. Use Zolvix at 3 x sheep dose for quarantine – including your own animals returning.
5. Avoid yellow drenches or weigh due to toxicity risks.
6. Do not use Albendazole (white drench) in pregnant females.
7. When worming, administer product and keep in the same field for 4/5 days to pass eggs, then move.
8. 90% worms, shed by 10% of herd; if WEC high at weaning likely to carry high WEC for life
9. Check for anaemia – 1000 Haemonchus worms (not uncommon) will suck 50ml of blood per day!!
10. Diarrhoea is significant – don't ignore.

**Practical Actions**

I found this interview really useful – it helped to justify all the time we spend cleaning our paddocks! I'd always been a bit confused about the flies vs the eggs already in the poo and hadn't quite visualised the larvae climbing up the grass – so this has served to reinvigorate my love for the task of poo picking!

We poo pick our pregnant mums and cria paddocks daily and do the boys' fields every other day from March to October. Over the winter months we tend to do everywhere every other day. We've tried various methods and tools / equipment on our farm which is about 20 acres and we keep between 20 and 40 alpacas depending on the season/birthing.

Here's my take on the pros and cons:

	 <b>Manual 'Poop Scoop'</b>	 <b>Paddock Cleaner 'Poover'</b>	 <b>Paddock Sweeper</b>
<b>How it works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elbow grease!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sucks up the poo and collects to be tipped out later</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotating brushes sweep poo into collecting bin which tips to empty out</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tows behind an ATV and swivels through 360 deg</li> <li>(Smaller models also available inc a hand tow one)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tows behind an ATV</li> </ul>
<b>Pros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cheap</b></li> <li><b>Easy to Use</b></li> <li>Environmentally friendly</li> <li><b>Use anywhere</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Picks up every last bit</b></li> <li>Quick – particularly if there are 2 of you (one to drive, one to clean)</li> <li>Reliable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>One person can operate</b> from the vehicle that’s towing – efficient and can stay dry!</li> <li>Good for large, flat paddocks</li> <li><b>Fast</b></li> <li>Reliable</li> </ul>
<b>Cons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easy to leave bits</li> <li>Can aggravate /cause RSI</li> <li>Slow to cover large area / lots of alpacas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expensive to buy £££ (cheaper, smaller models also available)</li> <li>Petrol engine</li> <li>Miserable in the rain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expensive to buy £££</li> <li>Petrol engine</li> <li>Doesn’t always pick up on uneven ground</li> <li>Can smear wet poo around</li> </ul>
<b>When I would use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inside field shelter / barn</li> <li>For small inaccessible areas</li> <li>For a quick ‘fix’</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of daily poo picking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final clean round a large paddock before resting it for a while</li> <li>On large flatter paddocks if only one of us is available, particularly in winter</li> </ul>
<b>When I wouldn’t use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over large areas regularly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Places I couldn’t access when towing with ATV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For my day to day on priority groups such as mums and cria where fields aren’t flat</li> </ul>
<b>Favourite</b>			

Cria gallery continued ....



Dark Sky Tiger and the rest of the cria gang so far..



Rosecraddoc Kaleidoscope



....and a boy for Tracey



A cheeky nibble from Dark Sky Gersemi

## FLEECE SHOWING

### 2021 CCA Fleece Show Wendy Scott, Dark Sky Alpacas

**Judge:** Roger Clarke

**Date:** 10th July 2021



**Venue:** Dark Sky Alpacas, St Breward, Bodmin PL30 4PG

*(Directions: Sat nav gets you almost there!! Look for the yellow grit bin and turn left at the lane with the public footpath sign if coming up the tree lined hill. Coming down the hill from St Breward, go left in front of the grit bin and then right at the public footpath sign. We are first on the left at the wooden alpaca)*

**Fleece Delivery to:** Sandra Muriel, Carn Tremayne Farm, Praze-an-Beeble TR14 9PG  
(or drop off at Dark Sky Alpacas)

**From:** 25th June 2021 to 6<sup>th</sup> July

**Fleece Return:** CCA members are invited to come to view the results and collect your fleece/s  
Fleeces that are not collected will be returned by courier – with the cost invoiced to you  
If you wish your fleece to go on directly to another show, please let us know and the courier cost will be invoiced to you

#### Plan for the day:

The team of stewards will be getting an early start and working with Roger to complete the judging by early afternoon on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July.

The **show results will be displayed from 15:30** and CCA members are invited to come along and view.

**At 16:30 there will be a Q&A session with Roger** in which he is happy to talk about the show winners and also cover any other alpaca topics that members may have – a great chance to pick his brains and share the experience of other members too.

As we are not quite out of the Covid restrictions, we will be in the barn and outside (under cover as required!) and social distancing will be facilitated. We will be providing drinks and nibbles so whilst it's not a formal event, we hope it will be a long awaited chance for a social get together and would love to see as many of you there as are able. Do feel free to bring along a bottle of your favourite tippie if you wish ☺

It will be a great help if you are able to come along and collect your entries – every one fewer box to pack up and label for the courier is much appreciated!!

For last minute advice on getting your fleeces ready, see below. Good luck to all that have entered!

## Fleece Showing - preparing the fleece despatching to the Show Sandra Muriel, Alpacas of Cornwall, the Crewenna Herd

If you are showing a fleece purely for feedback from a Judge, then enter the ones you choose. But if you are entering a show for best result and rosettes, then choosing which fleece to show is helped by understanding the scoring process. Your best, finest fleece may not have a lot of weight, therefore will score low out of the 15 points allocated for weight. Look at the other traits, if the lengths are uneven you will score low in length but if the fleece is very uniform in colour and micron, you will balance those points.

Ensuring the fleece is as clean as possible allows the brightness/lustre to be seen and gains points in its own category 'lack of impurities'.

For light fleeces check if there are any dark fibres, in dark fleeces look for light fibres which are contamination – these will lose points. Ideally the colour needs to be solid throughout, removing a few faded or dark spots may lose a point on weight but will gain more in colour as it will leave a more uniform colour fleece.

Entry for BAS shows is via Grassroots, have your last and current shearing dates ready. Once you have entered and paid the fee, you can print the entry form.

Skirting the fleece properly is essential. Place on a skirting table or frame skin side up. Remove any of the guard/coarse hair missed previously, look through the whole fleece for spots or variation in colour, or any contaminated fibres and very carefully remove them without disturbing the area. Turn the outside edges in approx. three inches to check that no short staples are left or 2<sup>nd</sup> cuts. Look through the fleece for any 'tender' staples which break easily and remove.

The fleece will be Judged on the following criteria:

- Fineness and handle
- Uniformity** of micron
- Uniformity** of staple length
- Uniformity** of colour
- Character and style crimp (huacaya)/ Lock formation (suri)
- Brightness (huacaya)/Lustre (suri)
- Lack of guard hair
- Lack of impurities
- Clean fleece weight

The ideal balance is to keep as much weight in the fleece as possible while removing the impurities or any fibres which are not **uniform** within the fleece. The well skirted prepared fleece, should look clean and as near to perfect.

Preparing your entry :

- Clean, clear, unmarked fleece bag.
- Entry form - signed and dated at the bottom. Do NOT insert any weights, that is for the steward to do.
- Box large enough for all your entries without over squashing them. Addressed to the Show Collection Point and ensure the correct details are given to the courier.
- Return label - it ensures you will receive your fleece/s back.
- You could include a cheque for return courier, but normally the stewards will invoice you after the show.

To ensure you pack your carefully prepared fleece, asking someone to hold the bag open helps while you carefully fold the sides in under and shuffle the fleece, skin side out, into the bag.

Fold the entry form in half, with bottom half up and place inside the correct bag.

Squeeze as much air as possible out of the bag and tie carefully but not knotted tightly.

Your entry is ready to be placed into the box and sealed down. If you are sending more than one colour fleece, then I recommend putting the colour groups together, just in case there is an accident during transit. You could put another bag or sheet of paper between colours. I do not normally seal the box until the day before despatch.

You will be invoiced for the return of your fleeces. When there are no public show viewing days, we all have to wait until our fleeces arrive back to see our score cards and any rosettes/sashes won; any rosettes can be displayed, score cards should be read and interpreted, do the points awarded reflect what you thought of your fleece? Keep a copy of the results or record them for reference.

Your show fleece can be safely stored in the same bag.

## 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](http://www.thehumanvet.com)

Contact Sarah at [info@thehumanvet.com](mailto:info@thehumanvet.com)

## Stud services

If your thoughts are turning to matings in the next few months, make sure you check out the wonderful studs on your doorstep here in Cornwall. Find links to breeder's sites from

<https://www.cornwallcamelidassociation.co.uk/breeders->

# Popham ALPACAS

Here at Popham Alpacas we have a number of high quality stud males to choose from.

Each male is selected for their fleece characteristics, conformation and

behaviour. After 20 years of breeding we don't just rely on show results but will also look for a male of a certain genotype that we feel will enhance our breeding further. For example one of the traits we look for is

longevity of fineness. This can be seen in Suri Carlos who returned a micron of 21 in 2020 (aged 6) , Havengore a micron of 20 (aged 7), Churchill (brown huacaya) a micron of 17.9 (aged 4) and Commander (brown huacaya) 20.2 for his 9th fleece!!

So if you are unsure of where to go with your breeding we are quite happy to guide you in your decisions as much as possible.

20% discount for CCA members.

We can bring the males to you or you can bring your girls to us. We do not offer livery for mating purposes in order to maintain our high level of bio-security



Call Gary on 07812 145 902 or Felicia on 0797 7047 221 or have a look at our website

[www.pophamalpacas.co.uk](http://www.pophamalpacas.co.uk)

## SHADOW WOOD NIGHT MOVES of CWN

**DoB:** 26 March 2016

True black suri male, imported from New Zealand in 2017 with new suri black genetics from Surico and especially his paternal grandsire **Canchones Impressario** (photo below).

1<sup>st</sup> fleece (stats done in NZ): **19.6 mic, 5.2 SD, 96.4**

2<sup>nd</sup> fleece (stats in UK, AAFT1): **23.5 sd 5.6 96% 155mm**

Night Moves has a well built correct frame, he moves well and has great confidence in the paddock and with females. His fleece is true blue black, soft handling, dense and with great locking. He is delivering super cria, black from brown dams, brown from brown dams and black from grey dam.

020/08 Cornish Fleece **ShowSuri** Black Fleece 48- 72 Month 1st and Champion Suri Black Fleece

Eastern Region Fleece **ShowSuri** Black Fleece 48- 72 Month 1st and Champion Suri Black Fleece



Night Moves 2017, after arrival in UK.

Owned exclusively by **Crewenna** Alpacas



**Canchones Impressario**, (paternal grandsire to Night Moves) now standing at **Serials** Black Suri Aust.

## 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% 110mm

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 4a fleece.

		IAR/96762 - <b>Canchones Impressario</b> (Aus) [Solid Black] Suri	
		PER.FS - Peruvian Female Suri <b>Suri</b>	
Sire	IAR/139070 - <b>Canchones Bravo</b> ET (NZ) [Solid Black] Suri		
		PER.MS - Peruvian Male Suri <b>Suri</b>	
		IAR/96742 - <b>Canchones Bonjour</b> (NZ) [Solid Black] Suri	
		PER.FS - Peruvian Female Suri <b>Suri</b>	
		IAR/67708 - <b>Joliment Chemistry</b> (NZ) [Solid Black] Suri	
		IAR/123917 - <b>Canchones Challenge</b> ET (NZ) [Solid Black] Suri	
		PER.MS - Peruvian Male Suri <b>Suri</b>	
		IAR/96748 - <b>Canchones Cabaret</b> (NZ) [Solid Black] Suri	
		PER.FS - Peruvian Female Suri <b>Suri</b>	
Dam	IAR/1006512 - <b>Thistledown Pandapoom</b> (NZ) [Black] Suri		
		IAR/28576 - <b>Suricava Roberto Rejon</b> (NZ) [Solid Light Brown] Suri	
		IAR/58976 - <b>Surico Evening Siesta</b> (NZ) [Black] Suri	

darkskyalpacos.com



Alpacas



Dark Sky



## Stud Services 2021

If you are looking for an unrivalled combination of fleece and frame in your advanced suri breeding programme then **Bolero** is a must.

For improving fleece, **Lorient** is absolutely the suri male you need.

If you are breeding modern grey suri and are questing fine, lustrous fleece with even colour, **Borasco** is a great choice.

If you are a suri breeder looking for classic grey colour with beautiful handle from a superb pedigree then **Inspector Maigret** is the perfect choice.

Our Huacaya stud male, **Ghost** is a classic light silver 'tuxedo' grey male with a great pedigree.



***DATES FOR THE DIARY (as published by BAS 18/06/21)***

**Cornish Fleece Show - CLOSED NOW FULL**

Date: July 10th 2021

Judge: Roger Clarke

Venue: Dark Sky Alpacas

Collection point: Crewenna Alpacas

Entries to arrive at collection point, strictly between 28th June and 6th July.

Organiser: Sandra Muriel Mob: 07870 612559 email [alpacasofcornwallsm@gmail.com](mailto:alpacasofcornwallsm@gmail.com)

**Royal Three Counties Fleece Show**

Dates: 24th/25th July

Judge: Mrs Mary Jo Smith

Venue: Great Witley Village Hall

Entries Open: 29th May

Entries close: 30th June

Entry Fee: £16.20

Fleece delivery: Anne Cheston, The Orchards, The Village, Abberley, Worcs. WR6 6BN by 16th July

Organiser: Roger Mount [Roger.mount@btinternet.com](mailto:Roger.mount@btinternet.com) or [snowhillalpacas@btinternet.com](mailto:snowhillalpacas@btinternet.com)

**East of England (Fleece) Show organised by EAG**

Dates: 14th/15th August

Judge: Mrs Julia Corrigan-Stuart

Venue: Essex Young Farmers Centre

Entries Open: 1st May

Entries close: 31st July

Entry Fee: £16 EAG members: £22 non-members (prices include the BAS Show levy & VAT on the levy)

Fees collected by EAG who will invoice exhibitors direct, [admin@merrifield-alpacas.com](mailto:admin@merrifield-alpacas.com)

Fleece Delivery: Harley Laver, Churchfield Alpacas, Elmlea, Cold North Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HP by 11 Aug 2021

Organiser: Harley Laver - [harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk](mailto:harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk) / 07934 468842

**South West Alpaca Group (SWAG) Fleece**

Dates: 16th September 2021

Judge: Mrs Mary Jo Smith

Venue: East Huntspill Village Hall, Church Road, East Huntspill. Highbridge TA9 3PQ

Entries Open: 16th July

Entries close: 21st August

Entry Fee: £20

Fleece Delivery: J.Newman, Apple Tree Farm, Westhill Lane, Bason Bridge. Highbridge TA9 4RF

Organiser: Judith Newman [judith-newman@outlook.com](mailto:judith-newman@outlook.com) 01278 795699

### **HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show 2021**

Judges: Tim Hey & Jay Holland

Judging days: Thursday 30th September and Friday 1st October

Open Day: Sunday 3rd October - details tbc

Entry details to be announced shortly

### **East of England Alpaca Show 2021 organised by EAG**

Dates: 10th October

Judge: tbc

Venue: Beechwood Equestrian Centre, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford CM3 8DY,

Arrivals: pm of 9th or early am of 10th. Judging on 10th

### **Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show**

Dates; 16th and 17th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Barbara Hetherington

Venue: tbc

Entries open: 1st August

Entries Close: 31st August

Entry fee: £22 +VAT

### **Northern Halter Show**

Dates; 30th and 31st October 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Penrith Auction Mart

Entries open: 1st Sept

Entries Close: 17th Sept

Entry fee: £22 +VAT

Organiser: Ian Mitchell, [treasurer@bas-uk.com](mailto:treasurer@bas-uk.com), 07813 145013

### **HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta 2022**

Show Dates: Friday 8th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

To be held at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre