



## Cornwall Camelid Association Autumn Newsletter

With Autumn definitely upon us and with no lack of water during the 'summer', I'm sure all our alpacas are enjoying some lovely lush grass – here at our farm, Mother Nature is definitely having a growth spurt!!

Our little ones are also growing nicely and a few of them are well ahead on the consumption of hard food – our youngest seems to think she is one of the Mums and has her head firmly in a bucket whenever she gets the chance!

We've recently microchipped the cria and registered them on the BAS Pedigree Register – the deadline for completing registration is before they are a year old but we find it much easier to get their chips inserted when they are younger and smaller and it feels good to have that task ticked off the list 😊



On the CCA calendar, Autumn always means one thing – **Vet Day!** This year, Nigel and Margaret are kindly hosting us at Carpalla Alpacas and our honorary Vet, Sarah, will be sharing the Top 10 reasons alpaca owners contact the vet – helping us to understand what we can do to identify and treat problems and when the vet is essential – more later in the newsletter, including how to book your place. On the day, we also look forward to congratulating Sarah on her recent wedding, which looked like a wonderful day and we wish her and Matt and very happy life together.

As promised, Teresa has given us a brilliant update on **twins** Mabel and Maud in this issue of the newsletter – including answers to many of the questions we all had about this rare and wonderful event. It's great to see the twins and Mum doing so well – and we are hoping Teresa and all her support team are getting some more rest!

We also have reports on the **Shows** that have taken place since last time - our CCA Fleece Show and The Somerset County Halter Show – CCA members had some very impressive results in both!

If you are thinking of expanding your herd or are able to help with **rehoming**, we also include information on three sets of alpacas searching pastures new – hopefully we can help them all to find new homes.



In the last newsletter I promised an update on plans for next year following the Halter Show at the Royal Cornwall in May. We had a really good discussion at our last Committee Meeting and have an exciting, new proposition to put to you for 2024.

The back story for this new idea is that the Royal Cornwall Showground are unable to offer us a weekend in May for a Halter Show next year due to prior bookings at the start of the month and proximity to the Royal Cornwall Show later in the month (there has to be a clear 30 days before the RCS in which no other livestock have been on the site).

Faced with the lack this as a venue and taking into consideration:

- 1) the other scheduled BAS Halter Shows in Spring / summer (there are 5 between mid-April and mid-May)
- 2) the number of members (herds) who usually choose to take part in a halter show (12 in 2022, usually around 9)

...we talked about putting on an event with broader appeal to the CCA membership that also supported those interested in showing – working title ‘Understanding what makes a Quality Alpaca’.

This would be an opportunity to look in depth at fleece once it’s sheared – understanding the desirable qualities of the fibre (such as fineness, handle and density), learning how to skirt a fleece for processing and/or entering into a show, and the differences and similarities between Huacaya and Suri.

In addition we would take a look at conformation – the qualities of an alpaca’s build that are desirable and common issues that we would ideally breed out.

Putting together conformation and fleece quality, members interested in showing would understand more about what a judge is looking for in the ring. For all of us, learning more about what constitutes a healthy alpaca frame and how to make best use of their fleece are hopefully common goals.

The day would be very practical – working hands on with fleece and alpacas with the opportunity for members to volunteer to bring along their fleece and / or alpacas for assessment by the group. We are proposing this is a 1 day event, taking place at a member’s farm ideally on the first May Bank Holiday weekend (when we used to do the show at Griggs) with content delivered by a BAS judge plus experienced CCA members.

***We’d love your feedback on this as a concept*** – please feel free to email us your thoughts and whether you would be interested in attending. There will also be a poll on the facebook group – so please vote there

I’m sure there’ll be lots more discussion at the CCA Annual Dinner which will be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – details below – hope to see lots of you there and also at the Vet Day ☺ As always, many thanks to all who have contributed to the newsletter, a special welcome to new members Tanya, Laura and Hannah and all the very best to you and your alpacas.

Wendy

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

*Ps check out the special offer for members from Watery Lane Alpacas (p18)*



## DATE FOR THE DIARY

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### CCA Annual Dinner - Sunday 18/02/24

From 1pm



We have decided that the next AGM will follow the same formula as the last one. The AGM will be held via zoom call at the end of January (date to be confirmed), then a separate dinner will be held in February.

After the successful Sunday lunch at The Plume of Feathers in Mitchell, we have decided to go there again. We have made a booking for 14 (based on last year's numbers) for Sunday Lunch at 1.00pm on Sunday 18th February 2024 – however, we'd love to see as many of you as can make it - so if you think you would like to come along, please could you indicate this by emailing [cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com). If we need to adjust the numbers up, then the more notice we can give them the better!

Heather Lester

CCA Secretary



## MABEL AND MAUD – THE ROSECRADDOC TWINS *by Teresa Hawkin*

At the time of writing this promised article I suddenly realised that the twins will be 3 months old tomorrow!!! They're doing great (although Maud is still on restricted exercise while her leg strengthens). Whenever I talk to anybody, they have lots of questions so I decided that I would write this article to answer them - I hope people find it informative (but I've included photos for cuteness too).



Twins: Mabel (black), Maud (grey)

### Questions:

**1. When did you know you were expecting twins?**

When I saw a head coming through the placenta! We honestly had no idea – we have our own pregnancy scanner (a dog one) so can confirm pregnancy, can occasionally make out a cria but wouldn't be able to confirm twins with it.

**2. How rare are alpaca twins?**

I've read that the chances of live twins is around 1 in 50,000. I found a scientific article which said that conception of twins is fairly common (5-10%) but that most are lost or reduced to singletons by 50 days gestation and some aborted later.

**3. Have you/the Mum had twins before?**

No.

**4. Was there anything unusual about the gestation and How many days gestation were they ?**

No, not really. Perhaps a little larger a little earlier on but not the hugest we've had. They were born at 353 days.

**5. Was there much time between their births?**

About one and a quarter hours.

**6. Did you have to intervene?**

The little black girl, Mabel, was born first. Things looked normal with the nose showing but labour just wasn't progressing (Mojo didn't seem to be pushing). She came up and circled me several times and then stood sniffing my face – she knew she needed help (she had done that once before when a cria had a leg back). When I had a good feel inside, both feet were there but up alongside her left ear (now I realise she was probably being pushed to one side by the second cria). It was a fingers in the rectum job to ease her head out and then the rest followed. She looked on the petite side but was good and strong - almost immediately into the





cush and attempting to stand quickly. Tracey and I always share our births, either in person or via our livestock cameras. Ironically, Tracey and I were congratulating ourselves on 2 female cria being born in a single day (she'd had one a little earlier that morning) – that just doesn't happen here! Her cria was up and running already and Tracey was at a childrens birthday party (quite a few people saw Mabel being born)!

Anyway, Vic had made me a sandwich (births always seem to make lunch late here), bless him! So, as everything seemed good (Mum sat lovingly with cria etc.), I popped indoors to scoff it down whilst keeping an eye on Mojo on the camera. By the time I was finishing my sandwich I could see she was delivering the placenta so dashed out again.

Maud made her appearance (or at least her head did) through the placenta! An urgent call to Vic to come and help followed (you'll be pleased to know he'd finished his sandwich)! At first I actually thought Maud was dead as her nose & lips looked very grey and she wasn't moving. Thinking about it afterwards, the 2<sup>nd</sup> placenta was partly out and had probably detached. Luckily, breaking the membranes and slapping her (gently-ish) round the face a few times revived her (phew)! I rang the vet as I was worried about pulling her out through the placenta (we're always told not to pull the placenta due to the risk of haemorrhage, but they said not to worry and I HAD to get the legs out... ). Both legs were right back and I couldn't reach the feet *and* cup them so I had to bend the legs together at the knee and deliver her one knee at a time. She popped out after that.



#### 7. How many birth sacs and placentas were there?

The cria were in separate bags and there were 2 placentas - but it was a bit difficult to tell initially as everything was tangled up around the Maud's head. Apologies, I was in total shock and didn't think to take photos of the 2<sup>nd</sup> birth! Hence the message that got sent to Tracey (who'd rung off thinking all was well (and complete)!



#### 8. How much did they weigh?

Mable was 3.9kg and Maud was 3.65kg

#### 9. Were they born indoors or outdoors?

They were both born out in the field but once the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was born we realised that we'd likely be talking some intensive care so we brought the whole family indoors.



#### 10. Did Mum recognise both of them as her cria immediately and bond with them both?

I was a little worried as Mojo kept looking round and spitting at Mauds head that was sticking out (she obviously wasn't expecting twins either)!!! But once Maud was on the ground and she

realised it was a baby Mojo was all over her (pew). This one was also strong and into cush quickly. From that point on Mojo doted on them both. I often saw her in those first days go over and nudge them individually to get up and feed at different times (I'm sure she knew which one was due a feed and when). When they first went out in the field it took Mojo a 2 or 3 days to learn to count (when I called her in for food she'd come running with one or the other of them and I'd have to go and scoop up the other from the field). But she soon got the idea.

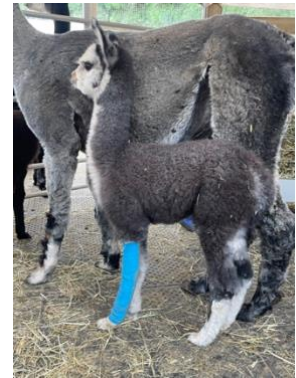
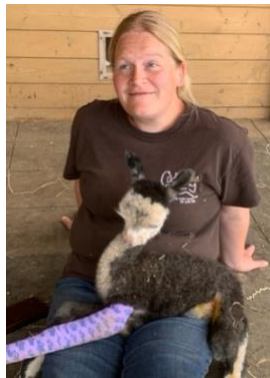
**11. Were they dysmature or have any deformities?**

They were both well developed (teeth had erupted and their ears weren't floppy). Mabel (black) was doing well but Maud had obviously been well tucked up in there so was really down on her pasterns (flattest I've seen) and her front knee joint was so lax it was bending the wrong way! It was obvious that she wouldn't be able to feed herself... Tracey came over to help (on the way back from the birthday party by now), she latched her onto Mum several times whilst I sterilised bottles etc. and made up some Immucol (sooooo glad I bought some of that)!



Maud's pasterns improved very quickly (looked a lot better even just the next day) but her front leg had to be splinted. That's been a long haul: re-splinting every week, removing every couple of weeks or so to see if it had resolved, putting the splint back on again when it hadn't, etc. And Maud had a very exciting trip to the vets for x-rays to confirm that it was only lax tendons and nothing worse (and apparently she was quite at home in Castle Vets office afterwards). Once the splint was finally removed, we were doing physio every day.

The many colours of Maud....



**12. Did you have to bottle feed/give powdered colostrum?**

Mabel was feeding from Mum within a couple of hours. Maud was a bit wobbly due to her leg problem and although really trying, couldn't latch on reliably for any length of time. We bottle



fed her intensively with Immucol for the first 24-48 hours. Interestingly, I tested the Immucol with my Refractometer and got a reading of 25 (adequate level is 22). Once her leg was splinted she could feed from Mum and she gradually took less and less from the bottle until it became a total battle and we stopped (after about 10 days - although we carefully monitored her weight gain).

### 13. Did they need a plasma transfusion?

Mabel definitely didn't. Maud was a tiny bit borderline but other blood indicators suggested good immunity so we weighed up the risk vs the stress of putting her through it (and the impact of that on her immunity) and held off.

### 14. Have you had to keep them indoors?

They were totally indoors for the first 2 weeks and then gradually spent more time out in the field (although this depended on the weather as we had to keep her splint dry). It didn't hold her back at all – she did zoomies round the field with the rest of the cria (the splint was only noticeable when she slowed down). Once her splint was removed, she was on pen rest for 4 weeks and then on restricted exercise (raceway). We're hoping to progress to a small paddock later in the week (but not with the other cria yet as Maud just won't be able to control her excitement)! Mojo has been an absolute star about it all (many wouldn't) – and is very good at being called back indoors every time, bless her. Although I'm sure her 3-4 meals a day is helping with that!

### 15. Did they gain weight and develop normally?

Absolutely. It took Mabel 24 days and Maud only 20 days to double their their birth weights (which is ahead of Jane Vaughan's 30-60 days criteria if any of you follow that). And they were eating sugarbeet etc. by around 4 weeks of age.



### 16. Are they particularly bonded and do they feed together?

They sleep together in their pen, but equally play with the other cria individually and sit with them in the "cria creche" out in the field (when they've been allowed to). They often feed together (but not always) and Maud has got very good at going in the back door...



### 17. How is Mum coping with feeding twins?

She's doing great. Although she's been on pretty much ad-lib dried, chopped alfalfa alongside her hay and we've been feeding her 3-4 times a day with lots of milk-promoting feeds so the



twins have had good weight gains and she's stayed in good condition.

**18. Have you re-mated Mojo?**

No! We are delighted with Mabel and Maud but it's been a lot of hard work and very stressful (we've lost A LOT of sleep). So Mojo is being retired – I wouldn't mate her up whilst she's feeding two cria anyway and she'll be 14 next year so I think she should finish her breeding career on a high note!

**19. Why do you think they were lucky enough to survive when many don't?**

They were born to our most experienced female (who'd had a year off last year and was in really good condition) and we've been lucky in that they were of a reasonable and similar size. I also think that our nutrition, including all the work we've done on mineral status, has gone a long way to help.

AND...I've had an awesome team around me (Vic, Tracey, Sarah and her colleagues at Castle Vets), to whom I shall be ever grateful as I could never have done it without them!







## CORNWALL FLEECE SHOW 2023 – by Sandra Muriel



Supreme Suri Champion Wendy Scott, Dark Sky, Judge Jo Bridge and Supreme Huacaya Champion owner Sandra Muriel, Crewenna

The fourth CCA Cornwall Fleece Show was hosted at Carn Tremayne Farm, Praze and kicked off the qualifying shows for the National Fleece Champion of Champions 2024. 67 entries to be judged by BAS Judge Jo Bridge. The new fleece show scoring system required some homework and preparation prior to the event. As the fleeces arrived, it was interesting to see the high number of entries which were noodled, though it is not yet compulsory under BAS rules.

Under the new scoring system, the computer is calibrating not only the annualised fleece weight, but fleece growth. Jo and the team of stewards did some manual calculations on the first entries to ensure we were correct in our methodology. It was exciting when the judging started, the fleeces being laid out, samples taken, scores recorded and then fleeces repacked and time flew as more stewards arrived for their shifts at the table. A pasty lunch and refreshments available made the event very sociable.

Linda and Abha had scribed at last years fleece show and again, captured the results as Jo judged, moving between the tables; they did a sterling job throughout the day. We started with the dark colours and it was noticeable the scores were trending toward the low side on the new scoring system, which was revisited before we allocated the rosettes and score cards. A great team of stewards ensured the show was a success until the score cards and rosettes were awarded and the top table fleeces were arranged their sashes, Supreme Huacaya and Judge's choice awarded to Crewenna Corinthian, 83.5 points and Best of British Huacaya, Castlings Royal Ermine, 80.5 points. Supreme Suri and judge's choice Suri awarded to Dark Sky Du Maurier, 77.50 points and Best of British Suri, Dark Sky Creme de Cacao 74 points. It was a superb ending for this years show, that Supreme huacaya and suri were awarded to CCA members and members won a colour sash in all colours.

### Huacaya Champions

<b>SUPREME:</b>	CREWENNA CORINTHIAN (83.5 points) owned by Sandra Muriel, Crewenna Alpacas
<b>JUDGES CHOICE:</b>	CREWENNA CORINTHIAN
<b>BEST OF BRITISH:</b>	CASTLINGS ROYAL ERMINE (80.5 points) owned by Miss Rebecca Block, Castlings Alpacas
<b>WHITE CHAMPION:</b>	CREWENNA CORINTHIAN (83.5 points)
<b>RESERVE:</b>	CHAMPION: CASTLINGS ROYAL ERMINE (80.5 points)
<b>LIGHT CHAMPION:</b>	POWWOW HUNKY DORY (73.5 points)
<b>RESERVE:</b>	CASTLINGS FAIRY QUEEN AZUFRE (71 points)
<b>FAWN CHAMPION:</b>	POPHAM ARCHER (79 points) owned by Little Acorn Alpacas
<b>RESERVE:</b>	CARPALLA JAGUAR (72 points)
<b>BROWN CHAMPION:</b>	CASTLINGS EL CONDOR (77 points)
<b>RESERVE:</b>	ARTWORK BR DASH (74 points) owned by Crewenna Alpacas
<b>GREY CHAMPION:</b>	ROSEWALL EARL (70.5 points)
<b>BLACK CHAMPION:</b>	ROSEWALL BLACKTHORN ((74 points)



RESERVE: HEATHERLAND BOURBON (65.5 points)

**Suri Champions**

**SUPREME:** DARK SKY DU MAURIER owned by Tom and Wendy Scott, Dark Sky Alpacas  
**JUDGES CHOICE:** DARK SKY DU MAURIER  
**BEST OF BRITISH:** DARK SKY CREME DA CACOA  
**WHITE CHAMPION:** DARK SKY KAHLUA  
 RESERVE: POPHAM SURI ICE QUEEN owned by Little Acorn Alpacas  
**LIGHT CHAMPION:** DARK SKY DU MAURIER  
**BROWN CHAMPION:** DARK SKY CREME DE CACOA  
 RESERVE: WINSAULA SILENT WITNESS owned by Crewenna Alpacas.

The CCA award our member only entry fleeces champions and reserves based on the points scored by the Judge.

**CCA Huacaya Best in Show: Crewenna Corinthian**

<b>Champion White:</b> Crewenna Corinthian (83.5)	<b>Reserve:</b> Carpalla Jilly (74.50)
<b>Champion Light:</b> Powwow Hunky Dory (73.50)	<b>Reserve:</b> Crewenna First Past the Post (66.50)
<b>Champion Fawn:</b> Popham Archer (79.00)	<b>Reserve:</b> Carpalla Jaguar (72.00)
<b>Champion Brown:</b> Artwork BR Dash (74.00)	<b>Reserve:</b> Heatherland Claudius (61.00)
<b>Champion Black:</b> Rosewall Blackthorn (74.00)	<b>Reserve:</b> Heatherland Bourbon (65.50)
<b>Champion Grey:</b> Rosewall Earl (70.50)	<b>Reserve:</b> Rosecraddoc Lerryn (61.50)

**CCA Suri Best in Show: Dark Sky du Maurier**

**Champion White:** Dark Sky Kahlua (76.00)      **Reserve:** Popham Ice Queen (70.00)  
**Champion Light:** Dark Sky Du Maurier (77.50)  
**Champion Brown:** Dark Sky Creme de Cacao (74.00)

## THE SOMERSET COUNTY SHOW - by Wendy Scott & Heather Lester



The Somerset County Show is both a BAS Halter and Fleece Show, put on by SWAG (South West Alpaca Group) and a part of the wider Somerset County Show at Taunton Racecourse each year.

As the County Show runs for the weekend, the plan for alpacas was to hold the Halter Show on Saturday and then have a public focused day on Sunday with demonstrations and activities in the ring and the chance to showcase products and businesses in the marquees. The Fleece Show was judged in advance and the championship fleeces were all on display across the weekend.

Thankfully, we managed to complete the Halter Show on Saturday with Judge Roger Clarke doing a brilliant job to persevere through the 'damp' conditions – but on Sunday the heavens well and truly opened and the whole show was declared a wash out, leaving us no choice but to pack up and run!

But let's focus on what went well 😊 Dark Sky, Polgrain and Carpalla Alpacas were all representing Cornwall in the Halter Show and Crewenna and Carpalla herds both entered the Fleece Show which was judged by Mary -Jo Smith. Wendy & Tom were both part of the organising committee and Tom

entertained exhibitors and the public on the microphone narrating the halter show. In their first BAS show, Heather and David, Polgrain Alpacas, sponsored championship sashes in both the Halter and Fleece Show (it was a great moment when David got to present Tom with the Champion White Suri Female sash 😊) and Polgrain and Dark Sky launched our new joint venture, Poldark Alpacas stud service, sponsoring the Supreme Suri in the Halter Show and Light Suri in the Fleece Show and with a plethora of banners!





Margaret had her product stall set up next to the Carpalla team along with other fabulous stalls from Cadbury Alpacas, Blacklands Alpacas, Chapel Ground Alpacas and Watery Lane Alpacas & Studio who were also demonstrating spinning fleece for their rugs – together it was a lovely exhibition of alpaca products and experiences.



In the evening, exhibitors were kindly hosted by Mark & Sue Steele of Patou Alpacas to a BBQ in the wonderfully appointed 'Rat & Alpaca' pub in their barn – a fun evening was had by all!

And then Sunday happened....  
enough said!!



**Halter Show successes for the Cornwall herds were as follows:**

Champion White Suri Female – Dark Sky Alpacas, Dark Sky Stella

Champion Light Suri Female – Dark Sky Alpacas, Dark Sky Demelza

Reserve Champion Light Suri Female – Polgrain Alpacas, Dark Sky Louisa

Champion Fawn Suri Female – Polgrain Alpacas, Dark Sky Dolly P

Champion Brown Suri Female – Dark Sky Alpacas, Dark Sky Hnoss

Suri Dams Progeny – Dark Sky Alpacas, Faraway Freya

Suri Sires Progeny – Dark Sky Alpacas, Surico Lorient of Dark Sky (imp)

Best Small Breeder – Dark Sky Alpacas

**Fleece Show successes:**

Reserve Champion White Huacaya – Carpalla Alpacas, Carpalla Jilly (82pts)

Reserve Champion Brown Huacaya – Alpacas of Cornwall, Crewenna Bullion (78pts)

**And Congratulations to the Supreme Winners!**

Halter Show: Supreme Huacaya – Boztdown Alpacas, Boztdown Colour of Magic

Supreme Suri – Lane House Alpacas, Lane House Zephyr

Fleece Show: Supreme Huacaya – Artwork Alpacas, Artwork Jack the Lad

Supreme Suri – Pure Alpacas, Pure Katari



## CCA VET DAY - 21ST OCTOBER 2023 – hosted by Nigel Retallack, Carpalla



### *Top 10 Reasons for Contacting the Vet*

Sharing the most common reasons alpaca owners have to contact the vet – what you need to look out for, what you can do on the farm and when you definitely need the vet!

**Sarah Finch** (née Caldwell) BSC (hons) BVSc MRCVs

Always a brilliant learning day and chance to meet with other alpaca owners and swap experience in addition to the expert tuition from Sarah. Members and non members all very welcome so please feel free to share.

CCA Members £30 each

Non Members £45 each

Please make payment to  
**Cornwall Camelid Association**

**Sort Code: 30 94 07**

**Account: 00878828**

to secure your place, quoting surname or herd as reference  
– and email [cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com](mailto:cornwallcamelidassociation@hotmail.com) to confirm

**Venue:** Higher Carpalla Farm

**Time:** 10am for 10:30am start

Margaret, Ollie, Pippa and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you all here at our farm for the annual CCA vet day with Sarah. Arrival is planned for 10am to start formally at 10.30am

We will be holding the formal classroom part in our living area where we have a large screen and projector we can use for the presentations.



We hope everyone can make themselves at home and relax with access for everyone to tea and coffee making facilities and cakes etc.

Lunch will be pasties plus various extras.

After lunch we will move to the barns for more practical elements and then those that want to can look around the Carpalla herd.

We have been developing our herd of alpacas for twelve years and have made significant progress in improving quality as the years have gone by. Numbers are just over the eighty mark at present. We farm the alpacas for our enjoyment and to provide breeding stock and pets to sell plus fibre for processing.

For us the farm is still very much a work in progress, buildings are slowly being improved, fences put up and the track down widened but it all takes time and money, neither of which we seem to have enough of. Also we haven't got as far as we would have liked in our garden development prior to your visit but we are hoping to get this finished soon.

When we came here there was no planning permission for a dwelling so we had six years in a caravan prior to constructing the bungalow.

We are hoping for a clear day as the views are stunning and there is a good chance if you live west of us that you will all be able to look down over Cornwall and see the area that you live.

We have a lot of parking space around the buildings so just drive down the farm track.

### **Directions.**

May I suggest that from the A30 west you take the summercourt turn onto the A3058 and drive on until the roundabout at Brighton cross where you go straight across taking the St Stephen and St Austell road. Drive up through St Stephen village, out the other side continuing until just after the main Foxhole and St Dennis turn on the left. Just after this turning is a small left turn signed to Peter's Hill which takes you up towards the china clay mountain. ( Try not to miss this little turn)Continue up Peter's Hill, round a sharp left bend and along the top until you reach the water pumping station on the left hand side ( Looks like a concrete bungalow with a mast on it surrounded by a concrete wall at the sides and back. At this, turn left To Higher Carpalla Farm , down our stone lane until you see the bungalow and then park up where we advise.

***Nigel***



## SEASONAL ADVICE FOR YOUR ALPACAS

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Autumn is here and the time to do some husbandry and check your alpacas before winter.

If you have not already, then order in hay for the next few months. Find a supply of fine hay that the alpacas will enjoy. Some haylage for the colder months as well. Keep it in a dry area, putting it on a pallet will help.

- Body score, check jaws, teeth and look for evidence of mites, check toenails
- If you have not already done so, do clostridial vaccination, they are now available again.
- Trim back bonnets if necessary, use round edge scissors.
- If you have a worming routine, ensure it is up to date. If you have concerns, then do some faecal samples. In particular if your alpacas are on wet areas or near rivers, consider fluke.

### **Liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*)**

This flat worm (1.5 – 4cm long) is an internal parasite of grazing species, including camelids.

The disease can present acutely, with sudden death, or chronically with non-specific signs including reduced appetite, loss of body condition, weakness, anaemia and occasionally diarrhoea.

Immature flukes are eaten from the pasture and migrate through the liver to the bile ducts, where they mature into adults and lay eggs, which are subsequently past in the faeces. Eggs lay dormant on the pasture until temperatures are at least 10<sup>o</sup>c and there is enough moisture for them to hatch. The next stage of the life cycle relies on tiny mud snails, where the fluke undergoes two further developmental changes and can multiply up to 500 times, before leaving the snail and waiting for the next grazing animal to infect.

Diagnosis can be challenging and specific faecal tests are required. As a negative test is not conclusive, these are best reserved for individuals you are suspicious of disease in. The recommendation, if you are in a 'fluky' area, is to treat routinely.

Treatment in autumn is recommended to remove any developing immature flukes. If the summer has been wetter, there will be a larger snail population and therefore more fluke on the pasture – avoid grazing poorer draining areas. A second dose should be administered in spring, to kill the adult flukes.

Triclabendazole (Fasinex) at 15mg/kg (1.5ml per 10kg) orally is the treatment of choice as it covers all stages of fluke. However, as with any worming product, there is a risk of resistance, so it is vital to dose accurately. Albendazole (Valbazen) at 10mg/kg (0.8ml per 10kg) orally can be used in spring as it treats only the adult flukes. This is also a worming product but should NOT be used in pregnant females. (Sarah Caldwell, 2016)



## ALPACAS FOR SALE

### Camelford Camelids

Due to a big change of direction on our smallholding, we've made the sad decision to sell our characterful herd of BAS-registered pet boys. They are happy to be hand-fed and are used to children and strangers visiting as we take guests to feed them every morning. They love to come up for tasty chop and friendly strokes.

Up to date with jabs and can supply all paperwork. All their stuff comes with them, remaining food, chop, drench, nail clippers... all that. Which will be really useful if it's new to you (although we recommend you do a husbandry course first like we did). Happy for you to meet them and talk you through everything, just get in touch to arrange.

We have:

Sun Tzu, black, huacaya (Dark Sky Sun Tzu) – always everyone's favourite but by far the naughtiest! First to say hi and happy to be stroked but watch out for his hind leg!

Spirit, light gold, suri (Dark Sky Storm) – the Daddy of the herd, very big, calm and friendly

Rashford, white, suri (Popham Rashford) – the sweet, goofy one at the bottom of the pecking order!

Dougal, copper/gold, huacaya (Popham Brasso) – tries to lie down like a stubborn dog when handled, he's just Dougal

Captain Tom, white, huacaya (Popham Jago) – the baby of the group and a softy.



All born summer 2020 and now roughly 70-90kgs, so big boys. Castrated early 2022. Sheared in May time (we have this year's fleece if you want to see it, it's lovely stuff). Not yet halter trained as have been grazing and meeting the guests at feeding time, but still very young and could be trained. Happy in their own herd or I imagine would also fit in well to an existing one.

Either split by breeder or sold together – Sun Tzu and Spirit are best friends since cria from Dark Sky Alpacas and must stay together, the other three are from Popham Alpacas. If split, £1,000 for Dark Sky boys and £1,500 for Popham, or £2,000 as a herd. Get in touch if you are interested, have any questions, or would like to come meet them.

Location: Camelford, North Cornwall.

Contact: India on 07736 461846 or Spencer on 07860 564164. Alternatively, email [highercullodenfarm@gmail.com](mailto:highercullodenfarm@gmail.com)



## West Kestle Farm

If anyone is looking, my herd is up for sale, as a whole, groups or individually. If you breed and need one or two alpacas to complete a group or a sale, please get in contact. Here's a reference from a visitor:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cwz9oB7SuES/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

Males, females, some with cria at foot and 5 month to 2 years old.

BAS registered excepting the cria- no microchipped yet. Vaccinations and husbandry up to date.

Prices open to negotiation. I am posting this locally to avoid transport costs.



### Boys looking for a loving home - can anyone help?

**Susan Llewelyn and her husband Guy Fielding** who live near Exeter have 3 lovely boys who they feel would benefit from moving to a new home. Here's their story - if you feel you could offer them a new home or help to find one, please email [susan.llewelyn@hmc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:susan.llewelyn@hmc.ox.ac.uk)

"We now have 3 alpacas and are concerned we will at some point no longer be able to provide them with a suitable home. Hence we are looking for a new home for them. They are all registered with BAS, tagged and chipped, and have up to date immunisations. They were last sheared in May 2023. Two are completely healthy as far as we are aware, but we think that Georgio has arthritic fore-legs (we have consulted the vet about this but there is no active treatment)

Armani dob 21-08-09

Georgio dob 25-06-09

Philae dob 06-11-14





## Advert



### Watery Lane Alpacas & Studio

***Not sure what to do with your fibre from shearing?***  
*10% discount for CCA members*

Here at **Watery Lane Alpacas & Studio**, we make beautiful homeware items from your beloved animal's fibre. Each and every piece we make is bespoke and we work with our customers to memorialise their animals exactly how they imagine. Our rugs, runners and cushions are made as ethically and sustainably as possible - we use only natural materials and packaging when processing, creating and shipping our products. Everything we make is handmade using traditional methods, spinning wheels and a large 50 year old floor loom full of character. The rugs are hard wearing, irresistibly soft and so warm and comforting - they really suit any space with lots of designs and patterns to choose from. We are based on the Berkshire/Hampshire border but can deliver to anywhere in the UK. Watery Lane Alpacas & Studio are offering a 10% discount to all CCA members who mention this article when getting in touch. For a quote, please message us on Facebook or email us at [waterylanefarmLtd@gmail.com](mailto:waterylanefarmLtd@gmail.com)

