



Florida Alpaca & Llama Association Inc.

www.falainc.com

LATE SUMMER 2019

Letter from the President

Hello FALA Folks,

Well, we are finally to the end of August; boy, what a long hot and wet summer it has been. I hope this finds you and all your critters well.

Our July day-long meeting was full of great sharing and discussions. Amazing how much knowledge of camelids was in the room. The presenters did a wonderful job and we look forward to similar events in the future. Sharing experience and knowledge is what FALA has always been about and over the years I have told many people that I have gained more insight and information from these meeting and members than anywhere else.

September bring us to the beginning of the Youth starting their projects for the Florida State Fair. The first Youth Seminar is at the Fairgrounds September 21th, anyone interested to helping with the program, leasing animals or selling animals to the Youth contact Tracy Weaver.

The November Annual Meeting will once again be at the Withlacoochee River Park in Dade City. This is an all-day event including packing, spinning, and lunch, with our Annual Meeting and has been a very enjoyable day to visit and reconnect.

So, see Y'all in the Fall.

Mary Rose Collins

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July 2019 **FALA** Educational Seminar



Thank you to everyone who came out and participated in our Health Clinic event. Thank you Rosie, Diesel, Mary Rose Collins, Tracy Weaver, Claire-Marie Warner, Sarah Strautman and Sheila Temple for sharing your knowledge. Thanks to Cheryl Lambert for securing a wonderful venue! A good time was had by all!



FSF FINISHED/SHORN PRODUCTS WORKSHOP

8/24/2019

I would like to extend my thanks to all...Presenters for a fabulous job of demonstrating the finished products; our Exhibitors for the enthusiasm and excitement you extended receiving the information. Special appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Erin Farquar for the use of her Ag room for our demonstrations. Thank-you!

It is my hope that you share the wonderful skills you learned to your groups and begin to discover and enjoy building and designing a llama/alpaca product to present for the Florida State Fair Llama/Alpaca Fiber Arts area!



Presenters:

- Mary Ridge- Wet/dry felting
- Beth Moore– Dyeing fiber
- Claire-Marie Warner- Knitting with needles
- Kathy Nawlin-Knitting with a loom
- Brenda Crum- Stick weaving
- Susan Pritchard– Drop spindle
- Shelia Temple- Weaving with a picture frame



For all FALA members and Florida residents/or folks exhibiting llamas/alpacas at the Florida State Fair: You may enter your shorn fleece, 2-oz sample fleece or your finished products through our new, special, LLAMA/ALPACA Division of the Creative Living Section of the FSF! Items will be judged prior to Fair and displayed in the Creative Arts section for all fair goers to view!

Here is the website: www.floridastatefair.com

Online entries are due December 13, 2019

Items to the FL Living Center- January 23-25, 2020

Items will be exhibited at FSF Feb. 6-17, 2020

Entry pickup at FL Living Center- Feb 19, 20th, & 22(W, Th, F)



IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENT, DISABILITY OR DEATH: WHAT ABOUT THE ANIMALS?

By Southeast Llama Rescue

If one day you were no longer able care for your camelid, who would take over the responsibility? Caring for camelids requires appropriate facilities and some degree of experience. This is usually a far more complex scenario than finding someone to keep your dog or cat.

This might be a temporary situation or a permanent one. Regardless, you need to have a plan in place so your animals will not go without care for even a single day. Below is a high level guide to making the necessary arrangements.

Please note: This is a high level guide intended to cover all possibilities. SELR does not have the capability as an organization to provide temporary care. If animals are surrendered to SELR, the arrangement is facilitated via a legally binding contract (SELR Surrender Form) which transfers ownership of the animal(s) to SELR in order to facilitate permanent placement into screened homes. This form can be completed and signed with a copy held by both parties until it needs to be initiated. In that case, a yearly review is necessary so that when the time comes for the transfer of animals, we can plan appropriately to secure the necessary foster space.

Standard SELR surrender forms can be downloaded from the web site www.southeastllamarescue.org. For forms specific to 6 or more animals, contact your closest Coordinator or the SELR Facebook page to have a "Large Herd Surrender Form" sent to you.

Step One: Prepare an inventory and identify permanent or interim caregivers

Every animal owner should maintain documentation that lists individual animals, the address where they are located (if not your home address) and contact information for interim or permanent caregivers. You are welcome to utilize SELR's standard Surrender Form for less than six animals to create your inventory or in the case of a larger number of animals, the "Large Herd Surrender Form" may better suffice for this purpose as it provides a more condensed format which you can modify as desired.

Interim caregivers are those who would be willing to give care your animals in the hours, days or weeks after an emergency which results in your unexpected absence. You should identify at least two interim caregivers.

Provide these caregivers with the location of your camelid profile information (if you are using a livestock management application make sure they have all access codes!), the name of your veterinarian and information about the long-term provisions you have made for your llamas and/

or alpacas. Identify a date each year that is meaningful to you, such as your birthday or a holiday, when you will revisit your selection of caregivers as well as the inventory of animals currently on the property.

It's also a good time to bring associated medical records up to date as well. Note any ongoing medical issues or medications, special supplements, etc. Emergency caregivers should also know how to contact each other, the feed store you normally buy from and the products you use. Animals in stressful circumstances don't need a sudden change of feed if it can be avoided!

Step Two – Prepare a Written Long-Term Plan for Your Animals

It is important to have a formal written plan detailing how you want your animals to be cared for in your absence. This plan should be formalized in a will, trust or other legal document. Legally animals are considered personal property and therefore, if they are not included in the estate planning process, they could be taken to an auction (particularly if live-stock), given away to uneducated parties who will not care for them appropriately or even euthanized. Your estate plan should include, at a minimum, the following documents with mention of provisions for your animal in each:

- Durable powers of attorney for financial matters
- Durable powers of attorney for health matters
- Last will and testament and trusts.

Permanent Caregivers

The first step in making any plan is to identify options for permanent caregivers for your animals. Consider friends and family members who know your animals and understand the responsibility of caring for them. You must also decide if your animals must stay together or could be placed in separate locations. It is important to have alternate caregivers identified in case your first choice is unavailable.

Another option is to ask a rescue organization, such as SELR, to find a new home for your animals. This should be discussed in advance with the organization and specific instructions written into your estate plan. *If you are considering designating SELR as the permanent caregiver, the inclusion of completed SELR surrender forms is very helpful in ensuring we are able to act within the timeframes necessary and position ourselves to provide the necessary care which may be required by senior and /or compromised animals.*

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In the Event of Accident, Disability or Death: What About the Animals? *continued*

Medical records, even if very basic, help tremendously. If animals are transitioned to SELR among the very first things we do are body score and check eye membranes (FAMACHA). Then unless the animal is visibly compromised we provide a CDT shot, initiate Meningeal worm prevention (injectable Ivermectin), run a fecal test and worm appropriately. Depending on the location of the foster and/or adoptive home, we will often administer a rabies shot as well. Avoiding unnecessary meds, procedures and associated costs are preferable but we will err on the side of caution if we have no medical history to reference.

It is important to have someone designated to make funds available to provide for the care of your animals when permanent caregivers are being identified. You cannot leave property to your animal – funding must be directed to the interim or permanent caregiver. *SELR is an all volunteer rescue organization funded solely by donations and adoption fees. While we are always working to find surrendered animals just the right home, costs associated with feed and supplementation during the time applicants are undergoing our screening process, addressing any veterinary issues which may crop up, as well as transportation to new homes for numerous animals could stress our resources beyond a reasonable point and render us unable to accept other surrenders for a significant period of time.*

Options:

Informal Agreements

Many times, the above arrangements can be accomplished via informal agreements which do not require the assistance of an attorney. Generally, informal agreements include all arrangements for the care of your animals. Although they are not legally enforceable, if you have a viable candidate to take over the care of your animals this might be the perfect arrangement.

A “pre-surrender” arrangement with SELR would fall into this category, although once the owner or their designee confirms the transfer by signing the surrender contract it is considered to be a legally binding contract transferring ownership to SELR. Without the transfer of ownership we cannot remove animals from the premises, provide any necessary veterinary care (including the gelding of all intact males as per our policy) or ultimately place them in pre-screened homes. An agreement of this nature may also be referred to as a “Legacy Arrangement”.

Powers of Attorney

Powers of attorney, which authorize someone else to conduct some or all of your affairs while you are alive, have become a standard planning device. Such documents can be written to take effect upon your physical or mental incapacity. It is important to include animals in these powers of attorney to authorize payments for care, including food, veterinary care, grooming, etc. These documents should also address where your animals are to be housed depending on whether you are at home and in the event you must be moved to a hospital or nursing facility.

Transports of large herds can be costly, time-consuming and often cumbersome. Some owners choose to designate “pools” of animals with specific designations to aid in the decision of who should be moved out first or who can stay in their home environment with perhaps minimal care. For example:

- Older and compromised animals requiring supplementation or other close supervision
- Pregnant/nursing animals
- Animals which are tightly bonded and should stay together, wherever that location might be.
- Animals which CANNOT be placed together for various reasons, usually due to aggression.

Powers of attorney should also give your designee the ability to make critical decisions about your animal’s medical care.

Remember, while a Durable Power of Attorney can be used to designate someone to make decisions regarding the care of your camelids should you become unable, the person will only have the ability to make decisions about your animals *during your lifetime*. Consequently, you still need to consider a permanent arrangement for their future care.

Wills

Although a will is a necessary part of any estate plan, it has drawbacks when it comes to providing for your animals. A will takes effect only upon your death and will not be probated and formally recognized by a court for days or even weeks later. Should a dispute arise such as a conflict among beneficiaries, the final settlement of your property, including your animals, may be prolonged.

However, it remains important that your wishes for your animals be expressed in your will. This should include the identification of your pre-determined caregivers as well as alternates. Your will should also provide detailed instructions

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In the Event of Accident, Disability or Death: What About the Animals? *continued*

about the establishment of sufficient funds to provide for all animal-related care expenses. Your executor or other identified individual should be given flexibility to make alternate arrangements if your original instructions cannot be honored.

Letter of Instruction

A Letter of Instruction can be used to designate a future caregiver for your animal(s) and to leave specific guidelines for their care when you are gone. While it is a flexible way to document arrangements for care, it has limitations. For example, it does not have the same effect as other legal documents and if included as a supplement to a will, its implementation only takes effect upon actual administration of the estate.

Trusts

A stronger, more complicated, and more expensive legal option is to create a "Pet Trust". With a pet trust you can leave your animal(s), money, and a legal obligation to care for them. If the caretaker fails to follow your instructions, he or she can be sued.

There are three main parties to a pet trust: the Settlor (owner) who establishes the trust, the Trustee or person who holds legal title to the trust property (usually cash), and the Beneficiary for which the trust is established (the identified animals). The funds can be distributed in any increments and timeline as specified in the trust. The Trustee oversees the distribution of funds while another person (or entity, such as SELR) may be named as caretaker who actually manages the day to day care of the animal(s). In the case of SELR, that would extend until the llama/alpaca has been permanently placed into a new home.

The Trustee has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure the caretaker is following through with his or her obligations to care for the animals included in the trust. The trust remains in effect until the animal dies, or in the case of a herd, the last animal dies. Usually this includes animals transferred in utero so potentially, planning should consider that this could be 20+ years.

In the past, when owners tried to leave money to their animals in a "trust", the trust failed because "pets" were considered personal property and as such, could not receive money via a trust nor be a beneficiary to the trust. Things started to change in the 1990's when the Uniform Probate Code (UPC) allowed the creation of pet trusts, followed by the Uniform Trust Code (UTC) making honorary trusts for

pets enforceable. Now, all 50 states plus the District of Columbia have a pet trust law. Minnesota was the last state to enact a pet trust law in 2016.

Unlike a will, a trust can provide for your animals immediately and can apply in the event of illness, incapacity or death. You determine when your trust becomes effective and specify a trustee to control distribution of the funds. Typically a trustee will hold property, usually cash, for the benefit of your animals. Payments to a designated caregiver will be made on a regular basis. The trust, depending on state law, will continue for the life of the pet or a specified number of years. There is specific wording that can be included to address longer lived animals such as camelids and equines. Trusts are a more reliable vehicle for ensuring your wishes for your animals will be followed.

Note 1: Some states impose funding limits for pet trusts that permit the court to reduce and/or redirect trust property determined to be in excess of the intended use set forth in the trust instrument. Please consult your states full pet trust statute or a licensed attorney for further information

Note 2: Establishing a pet trust can be far more expensive than other alternatives. It is critical, however that you utilize the services of someone who is very experienced in this area to ensure that the trust is viable and will withstand any possible legal challenges.

When setting up a trust, in addition to having trustees and caregivers identified, you will also need the following information:

- A method of adequately identifying your animals, such as microchips. While often helpful, pictures are not a reliable method of identification, especially in solid colored animals.
- A way for your trustee to regularly validate the care provided to your animals. In the case of animals surrendered to SELR this would extend up until the point where animals are permanently placed (i.e. adopted).
- A reasonable estimate of annual expenses.
- A fee to be paid for the administration of the trust.
- A plan for the final disposition of your animals. *In the case of livestock, most do not go to this degree of specificity.*
- A named beneficiary should there be funds remaining in the trust after the animal's death. *These funds are often donated to SELR for use in supporting other needy animals.*

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In the Event of Accident, Disability or Death: What About the Animals? *continued*

Trusts can be funded in a number of ways, such as direct transfer of money or property, life insurance, funds from the property in your estate, annuities or similar retirement accounts.

Advantages to using a pet trust:

- They create a legal obligation to care for your animal(s)
- They provide accountability for the money that you leave to the caretaker
- They allow you to set up a caretaking plan that will take effect if you become incapacitated.

Disadvantages to using a pet trust:

- They are expensive
- They can be inflexible in some instances if circumstances change after your death
- They are likely to be more planning and structure than you need if you trust your named caretaker.

This would serve as a guide towards making decisions regarding your herd and is not substitution for legal advice. As always, consult an attorney with regards to legal documents and the best way to proceed.

Christine Stull has been associated with Southeast Llama Rescue since 2002 as a Board member and PA Adoption Coordinator specializing in older special needs camelids. She lives in South Central PA on a 35-acre farm along with her husband of 40 years. Their farm provides lifelong care to llamas, alpacas, donkeys, horses, goats, and pigs, along with 2 rambunctious Corgis, and a 35 year old parrot. Christine has worked as a Pennsylvania Humane Officers investigating reports of abuse towards farm animals, operates a real estate firm along with her husband, has 3 grown children, 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

For more information about Southeast Llama Rescue please see our website at www.southeastllamarescue.org

HOW DOES ALPACA MANURE MEASURE UP?

All poop is the same, right? Wrong. Check it.

THE CR@P COMPARISON



Ingredient	Alpaca	Cow	Horse	Sheep
Organic Matter	70.8	83.9	81.7	76.9
Nitrogen	1.49	1.09	1.54	1.27
Phosphorus	0.23	0.09	0.63	0.16
Potassium	1.06	0.42	0.92	0.37
Calcium	0.91	0.65	1.19	1.31
Magnesium	0.45	0.14	0.65	0.19
Sodium	0.12	0.03	0.11	0.07
Total Salts	2.54	1.24	2.87	1.94

ALPACA MANURE:

- Ready-to-use
- Free from weeds
- Zero odour
- Chemical free
- Rich in nutrients



www.endeavouralpacas.com

Fiber Images Around the Internet





2019 Calendar of Events

September 21 — FSF Youth Seminar
Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, FL

September 29 — FALA Meeting — 2pm
At Maxie Mertz's home. Meeting will begin at 2pm, but social time from 1-2pm if you want to come a bit early and visit.

“A simple act of kindness and compassion towards a single animal may not mean anything to all creatures, but will mean everything to one.”

