What sounds do they make?

Llamas communicate in many ways. Their body language includes a series of ear, body, and tail postures. They vocalize with a shrill alarm call and a humming sound, in addition to a variety of other low pitched noises.

Do they spit?

Spitting is the lama’s way of saying “Bug off!” Normally it is used only among other llamas to divert annoying suitors, ward off a perceived threat, or most commonly, to establish pecking order at mealtime. However, an occasional lama who has been forced to tolerate excessive human handling may have developed an intolerance for or fear of humans and will spit if it feels threatened by them.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are llamas used for?

Uses for both llamas and alpacas include breeding stock, show competition, fiber production, therapy, and companion pets. Llamas are also used for pack animals, driving animals, and guardians for sheep & goats.

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Are they intelligent?

Llamas are intelligent and easy to train. In just a few repetitions they will pick up and retain many behaviors such as accepting a halter, being led, loading in and out of a vehicle, pulling a cart, or carrying a pack.

Are they good pack animals?

Llamas are excellent packers. Conditioned animals can carry 50-120 pounds, but are not ridden except by children. Alpacas, being much smaller, are not generally used for packing. Their two-toed foot with its leathery bottom pad give both llamas and alpacas great surefootedness. Due to their soft feet and the ability to browse, llamas have a much smaller impact on the environment compared to other larger pack animals such as a mule or horse.

What is their personality like?

These highly social animals need the companionship of their species. Plan on having at least two llamas unless they are in a guardian position over other livestock. Independent yet shy, llamas are gentle and curious. Their calm nature and common sense make them easy for anyone, even children, to handle.

What and how much do they eat?

Llamas are a modified ruminant with a three compartment stomach. They chew their cud and have a relatively low protein requirement due to their efficient digestive systems. They can be kept on a variety of pastures or hay and free choice lama mineral supplement. In this area, it is common to feed a specially formulated lama grain supplement to meet their mineral and vitamin requirements.

Can you use their fiber?

Fiber is warm and luxurious. It is popular with spinners, weavers, knitters, and in felting projects.
REGISTRATION OF LLAMAS & ALPACAS

If you buy a lama, you should know that there is a registry for llamas, alpacas and guanacos. This is now a closed registry for llamas and there is a separate closed registry for alpacas. Unregistered animals can be difficult to register and it may also be difficult to sell their unregistered babies. The registry aids in tracking the heritage of the animals that we buy. The registry can also be a computer source to locate progeny, trace lineage, etc. to use as an aid to find specific llamas.

The International Lama Registry (ILR) is the largest accurate compilation of genealogical information in the world. The Registry is a not-for-profit corporation with the purpose of maintaining an official genealogical registry system and research services for owners of sub species of the genus lama: llama (lama glama), guanaco (lama guanicoe), vicuna (lama vicugna) and cross-bred. It can be compared to a large library, a valuable storehouse of information, whose job is to gather and maintain accurate genealogical records.

Alpacas (lama pacos) are registered under their own registry, The Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI). The most important services these registries provide are the prompt and accurate documentation of lineage. In addition, the ILR and ARI are research centers for members wishing extended pedigree information on multiple generations, statistical data, herd lists, progeny lists, country of origin, age and color - invaluable tools in a breeding program. Statistical data provided by the ILR and ARI enables the entire lama community to monitor industry growth patterns.

OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The purpose of the Alpaca and Llama Show Association (ALSA) is to promote Llamas and Alpacas by enhancing the visibility and demonstrating the versatility of llamas at shows. In so doing, ALSA establishes guidelines for the shows, educates the judges and records the achievements of the individual llamas. The result is a better educated lama community as to the soundness and conformations of these unique animals.

ALSA
607 California Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15202
www.alshaow.org Email: alsa@nauticom.net
Phone: 412-761-0211 Fax: 412-761-0212

The Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association (AOBA) serves to promote public awareness and membership appreciation for the alpaca’s unique qualities; to educate the masses (in this case the lamas) on the care and breeding of the alpaca; to promote the growth of the alpaca industry as a whole; and to foster the establishment of the breed outside of its native land by encouraging husbandry and breeding practices based upon, but not limited to, herd health, overall soundness, and alpaca fiber production and products. Additionally, it has its own Alpaca Certified Show system.

AOBA
17000 Commerce Parkway, Suite C
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054
www.alpacainfo.com Email: aoba@ahint.com
Phone: 800-213-9522 Fax: 856-439-0525

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LAMAS recommends that you meet as many llamas (and breeders) as you can before you make a final decision on whether to buy llamas or which llamas to buy. Become a informed consumer. LAMAS is not interested in promoting any specific breeders or types of llamas but we are interested in making sure that first time lama buyers are exposed to the relatively large amount of information that is available to anyone interested in finding out more about llamas.

WORLD WIDE WEB

http://www.l-a-m-a-s.org

LAMAS has a detailed website that introduces the association and its members. A calendar of events, a current membership list and many links to more llama information are available.

MAGAZINES

There are several publications which offer different perspectives about llamas and the lama breeding community. The largest of these are:

Llama Life
5232 Blenheim Rd, Charlottesville VA 22902
805-734-3633 Email: llamalife2@aol.com
Website: http://www.llamalife.com

Llama Banner
PO Box 1968 Manhattan KS 66502
785-537-0520
Website: http://www.llamabanner.com

Camelid Quarterly
70 MacEwan Ridge Place NW Calgary, Alberta Canada T3K 3M1
403-275-5170
Web site: http://www.lamas-alpacas.com

For more information, application for membership, & breeder list contact:

L.M.A.S.
PO. Box 252
Ashland, VA 23005
or log onto the web site at: www.l-a-m-a-s.org

Or contact the lama owner listed below

Farm:
Owner:
Address:
Phone:
Email:
Website:

A publication of The Llama Association of the Mid Atlantic States
Serving Llamas throughout the Mid-Atlantic States and the People who ‘love them’

www.l-a-m-a-s.org