



SOUTHERN ALPACA GROUP NEWS

Those members anxious to get started with their alpaca training, will be pleased to know that the 1-day Introduction to Camelidynamics has now been re-scheduled and will take place at Meon Valley Alpacas on SATURDAY 5TH APRIL. We will be able to let you know nearer the date about whether it will be possible to bring your own alpacas. All those who booked for the postponed course will be automatically transferred to the new day.

On MONDAY 14TH JANUARY we will be having a get-together to start the New Year at the Village Hall in Godshill, near Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Camelid Vet, Gina Bromage, will be giving a presentation which will include advice on subjects such as Nutrition, Digestive Problems, Care of the Pregnant Female, Birth and Cria Care. This talk will be invaluable to new owners but experienced owners will also be sure to benefit from Gina's knowledge. Copies of her book "Llama and Alpacas – A Guide to Management" will be available for purchase. The talk will be followed by a "fish and chips" lunch provided in the Hall by the pub next door, and an opportunity to "talk alpacas"!

Booking forms for these two events are attached.

Also enclosed is a questionnaire which we would be very grateful if you would take the time to complete and return by the end of December. It will help us enormously in planning events for you in 2008.

Thanks to everyone who offered a home to the alpaca who had been left on his own when his companion died. It can never be stressed enough that alpacas must never be kept on their own and if anyone finds themselves in a similar situation, they should contact a member of the committee who will be able to either re-home or find a replacement companion without delay. We shall be compiling a list of members who are willing to offer permanent or temporary homes. We shall also be getting together a list of members willing to assist transport breakdown situations.

Just a reminder that you should check current movement restrictions on the Defra website before moving alpacas and always have enough halters and ropes on board for the number of alpacas you are transporting. Hay and water should be available on longer journeys.

Please remember that alpacas, particularly cria, benefit from Vitamin AD & E, either as in injection or as a paste. Injectable AD&E is available from the Alpaca Stud on 01903 891425. Oral AD & E paste can be ordered from Eggsport on 01434 600602. Paste should be given every 6 weeks from November – February, 15 ml for adults and 5 ml for cria.

Finally, because of the uncertainties over movement restrictions next year, we have decided to postpone our first Show until 2009!

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and hoping to see you on 14th January.

Southern Alpaca Group Committee: Karen Oglesby, Chris Moor and Nikki Hayton

December 2007