LLAMA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA INC.

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Llama Association of Australasia Inc. (LAA) expects that members have a commitment to a code of ethical behaviour in owning, breeding, and selling llamas. The LAA code of ethics outline a minimum standard of practice expected of its members in the following areas:

- Care & Maintenance
- Breeding
- Buying & selling of llamas

Repeated failure to abide by this code can result in loss of membership to LAA and any privilege such membership may enjoy with forfeiture of any dues or fees paid.

Owners

1. Provide adequate and suitable feed and clean water. Sufficient to maintain appropriate weight, in an adult llama or to enable healthy development of cria. This will depend on availability of grazing, age etc this should always include plenty of roughage. Conversely overfeeding should be avoided due to the risk on health and conformation issues.

2. Provide adequate paddocks and shelter. Shelter should be available to protect against weather extremes suited to location and climate. Paddocks to be adequately and safely fenced with special consideration to ensure separation of breeding males especially from females and other livestock.

3. Provide regular maintenance for good health. Nails require attention on a regular basis by a competent person so as to maintain proper function and movement with no pain. Shearing is completed at appropriate time to ensure there is no possibility of health issues and manner of shearing and restraint to ensure safety of all. Teeth should be checked and possible attention by a dentist or vet and required vaccinations and parasite control are completed as required. Castrations are performed no earlier than 18 months by a vet – unless behavioural issues have been detected due to bottle rearing. Regular health assessment is important to ensure appropriate level of intervention for prevent and treatment of any issues. Faecal counts support appropriate level of parasite control rather than one sizes fits all approach.

4. Llama Cria. Llamas should not be weaned too early. Cria gain nourishment and also emotional development from their mothers and should not be weaned before six months, optimally allowing a short period of adjustment to being weaned before being available to new homes. Llamas benefit from companionship either their own kind or other suitable grazing species. Cria should be handled from birth so as they have confidence in humans. Cria should not be bottle-fed/hand reared except in life-threatening circumstances.

5. Training. All Llamas require training to halter/ and or access to suitable facilities to enable basic regular care to be administered in a safe and calm manner. Further training as suited to age and purpose is highly recommended especially for larger Llamas. Minimum would include handling feet, legs, head tying up and leading.

6. Veterinary advice. Veterinary advice should be sought for any ill or injured llama. Any llama who through illness, advanced age or accident etc cannot be treated should be humanly euthanized.

Breeders

7. Free of disqualifying faults. Llamas of either sex selected for breeding should be free of serious disqualifying faults. An animal apparently without visible faults, but who consistently produces off spring with serious faults such as misaligned jaws etc. should not be further bred from. Any intact males sold should be of breeding quality or with a commitment to gelding for pets. For a listing of disqualifying faults refer to the LAA Breed Standard on our website: Llama Association of Australasia Inc - Breed Standard

8. Improving breed standards. Breeding of registrable Llamas should be done with an eye to maintaining or improving the breed standards and breeding Llamas with good temperaments.

9. Breeding at maturity. No female llama should be producing a cria before maturity which is considered to be no earlier than 36 months and even in some cases individual females may not mature for until around 48 months or longer.

10. Methods of Breeding. Breeders need to educate themselves as to best practice in breeding systems, whether they use paddock or hand service. In either case the methods used should be conducted in a safe environment for handlers and all llamas.

Buying and Selling

11. Full Disclosure. Member's advertisements verbal or written shall be factual and transparent as possible. Members should ensure they explain the eligibility, registration and transfer requirements etc for llamas they are buying. Members should disclose to potential buyers all known information about llamas offered for sale such as hand rearing, veterinary history, health status, worming, vaccinations, soundness to purpose, temperament and registry eligibility of the animal and any future offspring. Members should not knowingly offer cross-bred, in-bred, or infertile llamas, or related pairs without declaring them as such.

13. Document the Agreement. For the protection of both buyer and seller, LAA recommends members should commit all sales agreements to writing and provide copies of such agreements, bearing original signatures of both buyer and seller.

14. Vet Check. Seller should allow access, if requested by buyers at buyer's expense, for a vet to ascertain soundness and check microchips.

15. Approval of Buyer. Sellers to be discriminating in the sale of llamas. Sellers should ensure buyers understand the pros and cons of owning llamas, long term commitment and that they require daily observation, care and attention. No member shall knowingly sell a llama to a buyer who is unable to provide a suitable environment, proper nutrition and appropriate care.

16. Seller to handle registration transfer. For all registered/registrable llamas it is expected that the LAA member handle the registration and transfer of ownership. The member shall supply buyers with a copy of any and all forms necessary for a registered llama and the transfer of ownership properly completed and signed, plus a copy for their own records. The seller should make sure the original certificate and signed transfer

certificate is sent to the LAA registrar to enable the registrar to transfer the llama and update the certificate it to show the new owner.

17. Buyers have all the information. Members selling llamas should provide a copy of the LAA Llama Buyers Handbook, Code of Ethics and care instructions etc to new buyers. Buyer should offer after-sales advice particularly concerning care and welfare.

18. Appropriate transport. Members selling llamas should discuss transport arrangements of llama/s with buyer and ensure they are loaded and transported by safe means.

Buyers Responsibility

19. Be Informed We advise buyers to be informed and are advised to take responsibility checking for registration, unsoundness, eligibility etc.

20. Research the Breeder. Choose reputable breeders who knows and loves the breed.

21. Conduct Assessment Checks:

- Quality, conformation [not as important to those who want a pet and performance and will not be breeding]
- Good pedigree [important to those who will be breeding]
- Good disposition
- Affectionate, trusting cria [this comes from imprinting at birth and spending time with the cria]
- Fair price reflecting for example pedigree known animals, conformation, imported bloodlines etc.
- Service after the sale [answers for questions which always arise after the llama goes to a new home.

LAA cannot deal with disputes between members and/or buyers and sellers that are contractual matters between the individuals involved.