



ALPACA POSTER JUDGING

Listed below are the areas in which the judge will be evaluating your project poster.

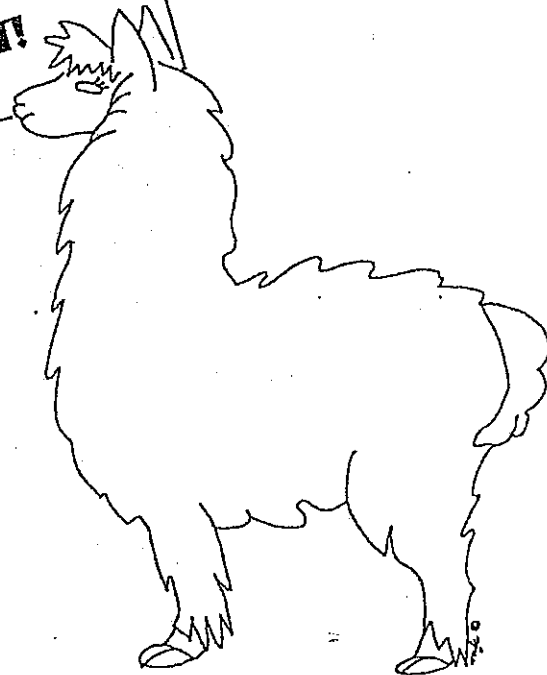
- A. STOPPING POWER
 - 1. Has effective title
 - 2. Main idea is specific
 - 3. Exhibit is well-designed

- B. INTERESTING
 - 1. Attracts and holds interest
 - 2. Makes effective use of line, shape, texture and color

- C. CONVINCING
 - 1. Expresses idea well
 - 2. Conveys message

- D. MECHANICS
 - 1. Lettering is uniform and well-done
 - 2. Exhibit is neatly done
 - 3. Exhibit meets objectives of division

**BE CREATIVE.....
CHOOSE YOUR OWN
SPECIAL INTEREST!**





4-H ALPACA SHOWMANSHIP

Definition - There are two basic classes in which alpacas are presented in shows: Halter Class and Showmanship Class. Of these two, 4-H'ers usually exhibit only in Showmanship Class. Halter and Showmanship are two different types of classes, but the rules for showing are the same in both classes.

It is important to know where the emphasis is placed in each class.

Halter Class - The alpaca is the central figure and the handler is secondary. 95% of the judging is on the alpaca, its soundness, conformation, balance, travel, disposition. 5% is on the handler, the way he/she looks, the way he/she has prepared the alpaca and the way he/she handles the alpaca.

Showmanship Class - Emphasis is placed almost totally on the handler. He/she has the main role while the alpaca plays the secondary part. Showmanship is simply the handler's ability to show his/her animal to its best advantage. It has nothing to do with the alpaca's conformation. It has everything to do with how you have trained and handled your alpaca. 50% of the judging is on how you show your alpaca, follow directions, leading, turning, stand in relation to the alpaca, backing, stopping, showing to the alpaca's advantage and your control when in line and working. 25% is on the handler's appearance, and 25% is on the alpaca's appearance and the equipment used (halter and lead).

SHOWMANSHIP:

- ✓ You should dress neatly and be clean.
- ✓ Don't wear logos or emblems, or a name tag.
- ✓ Don't wear flashy jewelry...show your alpaca, not yourself.
- ✓ Be courteous and show good sportsmanship at all times.
- ✓ You may use soft voice commands with your alpaca.
- ✓ You are not supposed to touch your alpaca at any time except to smooth messed up wool, or assist the judge during inspection.
- ✓ Don't be distracted by anything or anyone outside the show ring.
- ✓ Be confident and stay "up" all the time, even if you don't feel like it.
- ✓ Be alert to the judge, keep your eye on him/her and keep smiling!
- ✓ Your alpaca should be clean and well-groomed.
- ✓ Make sure alpaca's toenails are trimmed.
- ✓ Halters and leads need to be clean, in good repair, and well-fitting.
- ✓ Respect your alpaca...you may be dismissed from the show if you jerk your alpaca, become angry, or otherwise mistreat him/her in the ring.

IN THE RING:

- ✓ When you enter the ring, you will walk on parade...keep an alpaca length apart. You will be asked to reverse direction. Walk with your lead held properly, never drag your alpaca.
- ✓ Never pass the alpaca ahead of you on the inside, always pass out of the line of the judge's view unless the ring steward tells you to do so. Keep your proper distance.
- ✓ Keep your feet at a 45 degree angle towards the alpaca's front legs.
- ✓ Hold the lead rope about 8 inches down from the snap. Never hold onto the snap, you could accidentally let your alpaca loose in the ring.
- ✓ Don't talk to the judge unless he speaks to you first. If you don't understand, ask him to repeat the question or instruction.
- ✓ You may speak to the ring steward if absolutely necessary.
- ✓ Don't bluff an answer...simply say you don't know the answer.
- ✓ Keep showing even if the judge is at the other end...he may be watching you out the corner of his eye.
- ✓ Never talk to another showman...it is bad manners and distracting.
- ✓ If your animal is nervous, do the best you can...the judge knows alpacas can be nervous.
- ✓ When holding the lead, keep your arms up and try to keep the lead slack...never let your alpacas hold your arm up.
- ✓ Smile...Smile...Smile...watch the judge and Smile...Smile...Smile!
- ✓ The judge will inspect you and your alpaca.
- ✓ You will be asked some questions by the judge...know your alpaca's name, age, sex, weight. Know alpaca anatomy and body parts. Be courteous.
- ✓ As the judge moves around your alpaca, you move around your alpaca appropriately.
- ✓ After the judge makes his selections, he will call you out and place you...don't quit showing...he may change his mind after he sees how he has lined up the places.

WHATEVER PLACING YOU RECEIVE; whether 1st place or last, remember it is only one person's (the judge's) opinion on that particular day. Leave the show ring just as proud as you entered, knowing you did the very best you could on that day. Some of the audience will be watching you all the way out because you were their favorite! Have a good time and remember why you are out there showing...to learn and to have fun! Be a gracious winner!



PHYSICAL FACTS ABOUT ALPACAS

- Life Span:* About 15-20 years
- Mature Weight:* 110-170 pounds
- Mature Height:* 31" to 39" at the withers
- Average Gestation:* 340 days
- Birth:* A single baby ("cria") is normally delivered without assistance from a standing mother during morning hours. Twinning very rarely occurs.
- Babies:* Birth weight is usually 14-20 pounds. Babies are normally up and nursing within 90 minutes. They are weaned at about six months of age.
- Reproduction:* Females are first bred at about 18 months of age. Alpacas do not have a reproductive cycle, but are induced ovulators (ovulation occurs 24-26 hours after a proper breeding). They can be bred at any time of year. Males usually reach maturity anytime between the ages of 2 and 3 years.
- Colors:* The international alpaca community has recognized the Coberg color chart which lists 22 natural colors used in the commercial wool industry. Alpacas sometimes have white on the head, face and extremities. "Fancy" multicolors and piebald patterns exist.
- Health:* Alpacas and their ancestors are especially suited to the harsh environment of their Andean homeland; however, North American owners have found them remarkably hardy, healthy, easy to care for, and remarkably disease free.
- Gait:* Alpacas, like all camelids, are "pacers." They have three natural gaits, the walk, the pace, and the gallop. In the pace, the legs on the same side of the body move forward together.



INTRODUCTION TO THE ALPACA

NOTE: For the purposes of this manual, the terms "wool", "fleece" and "fiber" will be interchangeable.

Alpacas are members of the camel (camelid) family of South America. Their predecessors originated on the central plains of North America about 10 million years ago. These llama-like animals migrated south over the land mass and evolved into the guanaco and vicuna. By the end of the last ice age (10,000-12,000 years ago), the camelids were extinct in North America. It is believed that alpacas were domesticated from the wild vicuna in the Andean highlands of Peru about 7,000 years ago and are among the oldest domestic animals in the world.

The alpaca was intensively selected for production of abundant, fine fiber (or wool). The alpaca was involved in every aspect of the Andean civilization. Besides providing wool for warm, luxurious clothing, they were also used for meat, hides, and as religious symbols. Even their dung was collected and used for fires in the peasant's homes. The alpacas were also used as the basis for determining an individual's personal wealth.

Alpaca husbandry reached its zenith in the 11th and 12th centuries A.D. under the Inca Empire. At that time, the alpacas were cared for by a special nobility. During the 16th century, when the Spanish conquered Peru, the alpaca was driven from its pedestal in the Inca Empire and relegated to the higher elevations of Bolivia and Peru called the "altiplano" (high plains). This area is above 14,000' elevation and is a very harsh environment. The alpaca adapted amazingly well and did survive. Due to the limited vegetation and husbandry practices (and also slaughter by the Spanish), the numbers of alpacas remained relatively small.

Today there are about 1.5 million alpacas in Peru (roughly 85% of the world resource) which limits their exportation severely. The United States had its first importation of alpacas from Chile in 1983, another in 1984, and an additional importation in 1988. In 1993, we received our first importation from Peru. As of 1996, we have about 7,500 alpacas in the North American registry.

Alpaca fleece is considered a "specialty" fiber due to its limited availability. The only fleece finer than the alpaca is from the vicuna, which remains wild and protected in its native land. There are two breeds of alpaca, the Huacaya and the Suri. They are similar in size and form, but easily differentiated by their distinctive type of fiber. The Huacaya has crimped, dense fleece which gives them a round appearance; Suri fleece parts along the top line and hangs down in long, silky, crimpless locks.



ALPACA FACTS

Alpacas are adaptable to any climate or altitude. In extreme weather, a three-sided shelter is recommended for protection from wind, snow or heat. In very hot and humid climates, alpacas should be shorn just prior to the hottest time of year. Some owners prefer to keep their alpacas in barns at night in areas where there are nighttime predators such as dog packs, mountain lions or bears. Usually, alpacas prefer to remain outdoors whenever possible.

Alpacas communicate in several ways. Sometimes, they communicate with a series of ear, body and tail postures. At other times, they make a soft humming sound. The mother alpaca will sometimes "cluck" to her baby. If danger approaches the pasture, the dominant alpaca(s) make a shrill "alarm" call.

Alpacas historically are prized for their fine fiber which is equivalent to mohair and surpassed only by vicuna. Alpaca fleece grows continuously at the rate of about 1/2" per month, and must be shorn every 12 to 18 months. In very cold climates, they can be shorn at two year intervals. After two years, the ends of the fiber will begin to "cot" and tangle. One alpaca usually produces 5-7 pounds of wool, with the industry striving towards a yield of 10 pounds per animal. Many people hand shear their alpacas using standard sheep shears. Breeders with larger herds usually use electric shears to help save time. Alpacas do not have lanolin like sheep, and much care must be taken not to let electric shears overheat. Sometimes alpacas are shorn to the skin, but many people prefer leaving 1" to create a fluffier look and help protect the animal from sun and sudden changes in the weather. Alpacas do not shed. Alpaca fiber is very strong; three times stronger than Merino sheep wool, and has uniform fineness. Alpaca fiber is not scratchy, and people are not allergic to it. Alpaca fiber has a hollow center filled with air which gives it a tremendous thermal quality. Guard hair (thick, coarse hairs) has been systematically bred out of the alpaca fleece. The best part of their fiber is considered the "blanket" which is on the sides, top and loins. Individuals vary greatly, and many alpacas have excellent fiber on the rest of their body as well as the blanket.

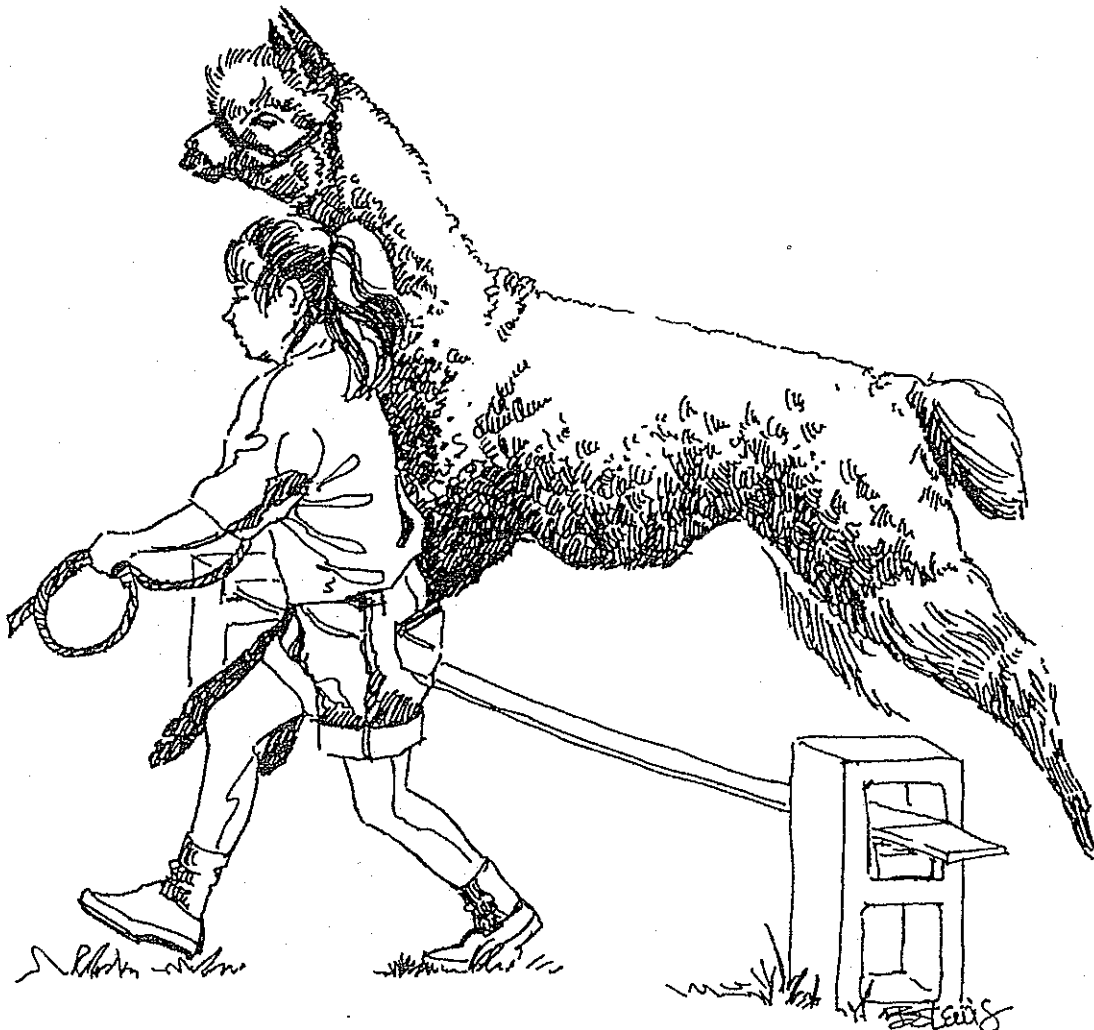
All members of the camelid family have the ability to "spit." Adult alpacas usually use spitting as a form of communication within their herd. It is their way of telling other alpacas to "Back Off." Spitting mostly occurs at two times: when warning off an annoying suitor, or competing for food. Alpacas rarely spit at humans unless gravely aggravated. Baby alpacas usually do not spit, so it is thought to be a learned behavior.

Alpacas require little care compared to other animals: good hay or pasture, fresh water, and a mineral supplement which is specially formulated for their needs. Some United States pastures and hay crops are low in selenium, necessitating a mineral supplementation containing sufficient selenium. Alpacas enjoy a variety of grains, but they are not usually

necessary with good quality pasture or hay. Alpacas can be fed commercially prepared "Llama pellets" which usually have alfalfa, and a variety of other nutrients in them. An alpaca eats about 1-2% of its body weight per day of dry forage, and costs less than a dog to feed.

Any type of standard fence, except barbed wire, but including electric, is adequate for alpacas. Four feet in height for interior fencing is sufficient. Outer fencing should be a minimum of five feet in height. Board, wire mesh, pole, or high tensile wire are all fine. Fencing must be able to prevent predators, such as dogs and coyotes, from crawling or digging under; predators such as mountain lions from leaping over the top; and also keep the cria from crawling out. Many alpaca owners use an electric wire a few inches off the ground, and one along the top. Alpacas can usually jump over obstacles about one foot high. Alpacas usually don't run away, and if loose, generally graze right next to the rest of the herd anyway. Alpacas prefer to stay home! Little land is required; one acre can accommodate about six to ten alpacas.

Alpacas are very clean animals and have little odor. They usually use one manure pile and do not graze around it. Alpaca manure is high in nutrients and makes an excellent fertilizer either in shredded form, or in hard pellet if cultivated into the soil.





**INFORMATION/RESOURCES FOR
ALPACA PROJECT LEADERS**

ASSOCIATIONS

ALPACA OWNERS & BREEDERS ASSN.
c/o Hobert Office Services, Ltd.
P.O. Box 1992
Estes Park, CO 80517-1992
Phone (970) 586-5357
Fax (970) 586-6685

AOBA LIBRARY
c/o Hobert Office Services, Ltd.
P.O. Box 1992
Estes Park, CO 80517-1992
Phone (970) 586-5357
Fax (970) 586-6685

INTERNATIONAL LLAMA ASSN. (ILA)
2775 S. Locust Street, Suite 114
P.O. Box 370505
Denver, CO 80237
Phone (303) 756-9004

LLAMA ASSN. OF NO. AMERICAN (LANA)
Box 1882
Minden, NV 89423

*ALPACA AND LLAMA SHOW
ASSOCIATION (ALSA)*
Jo Stewart Riley, Manager
P.O. Box 1189
Lyons, CO 80540
Phone (303) 823-0659
Fax (303) 823-0643

INT'L LLAMA REGISTRY (ILR)
Registrar
P.O. Box 8
Kalispell, MT 59903
Phone (406) 755-3438
Fax (406) 755-3439

PUBLICATIONS

ALPACAS® MAGAZINE
Clay Press, Inc.
P.O. Box 100
Herald, CA 95638
Phone (209) 223-3464
Fax (209) 223-0466

LLAMA LIFE MAGAZINE
5232 Blenheim Road
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Phone (804) 286-2288
Fax (804) 286-4983

LLAMAS MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 100
Herald, CA 95638
Phone (209) 223-0469
Fax (209) 223-0466

LLAMA LINK
Drawer 1995
Kalispell, MT 59903-1995
Phone (406) 752-2569
Fax (406) 755-4423

TRAINING

Marty McGee
TTeam Training
500 N. Guadalupe G366
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone (505) 983-0775
Fax (505) 983-0775

Betty Barkman
34190 Lodge Road
Tollhouse, CA 93667
Phone (209) 855-6227



BEGINNER PROJECT QUESTIONS
AGES 8 - 10

1. Alpacas are a member of the _____ family.
2. List three ways the alpaca can help people:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
3. How many toes are on an alpaca's foot?
4. How many compartments are in an alpaca's stomach?
5. How many years does the average alpaca live?
6. How many days are there during the average gestation period of a female alpaca?
7. What is a baby alpaca called?
8. A baby alpaca at birth can weigh from _____ to _____ pounds.
9. How tall is the average alpaca at the withers?
10. List two reasons an alpaca may spit.
 1. _____
 2. _____
11. For 7,000 years the alpaca has been praised for its fine _____.
12. Alpacas should be shorn every _____ to _____ months.
13. One alpaca usually produces _____ pounds of fleece.
14. Name the only animal which produces a finer, more valuable fleece than the alpaca?
15. Alpaca wool is _____ times stronger than Merino sheep wool.
16. What is the name for the area where the best fiber is produced on the alpaca?
17. Alpacas come in _____ natural recognized colors.

Reference Materials (continued)

Secrets of the Andean Alpaca Field Guide (<i>Book</i>)	Richard and Maggie Krieger
Shearing Alpacas & Llamas (<i>Article</i>)	Phil Switzer
Spinning Llama & Alpaca (<i>Book</i>)	Chris Switzer
Training Your Cria (<i>Article</i>)	Jim and Janet Faiks
Turning Wool into a Cottage Industry (<i>Book</i>)	Simmons

VIDEOS

All About Llamas (Tape No. 2) Breeding, Birthing and Newborn Care	Taylor/Gavin Communications
Basic TTeam with Llamas	Marty McGee
Competitive Edge in the Show Ring	Alpaca/Llama Show Association
Fences, Barns & Feeders	Barkman Animal Enterprises
In the Land of the Llamas-NOVA	PBS
Llama Reproduction - A Neonatal Clinic	L. Johnson, DVM, PhD
Secrets of the Andean Alpaca	Richard and Maggie Krieger
Step by Step Shearing for Alpacas & Llamas	Ted Chepolis
Treasures of the Andes	PBS
Wonderful World of Llama Wool, The	Marty McGee

PAMPHLETS

"Leads for Leaders" 4-H Guide	Series of pamphlets - Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office (Also available from the AOBA Library)
-------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Beginner Project Questions (continued)

18. Name the two types of alpacas, which are easy to tell apart because of the appearance of the fleece:
19. Label the following body parts on the alpaca diagram.

Head
Neck
Pastern
Withers

Fetlock
Stifle
Back

Hock
Poll
Toenail

Elbow
Tail
Pad

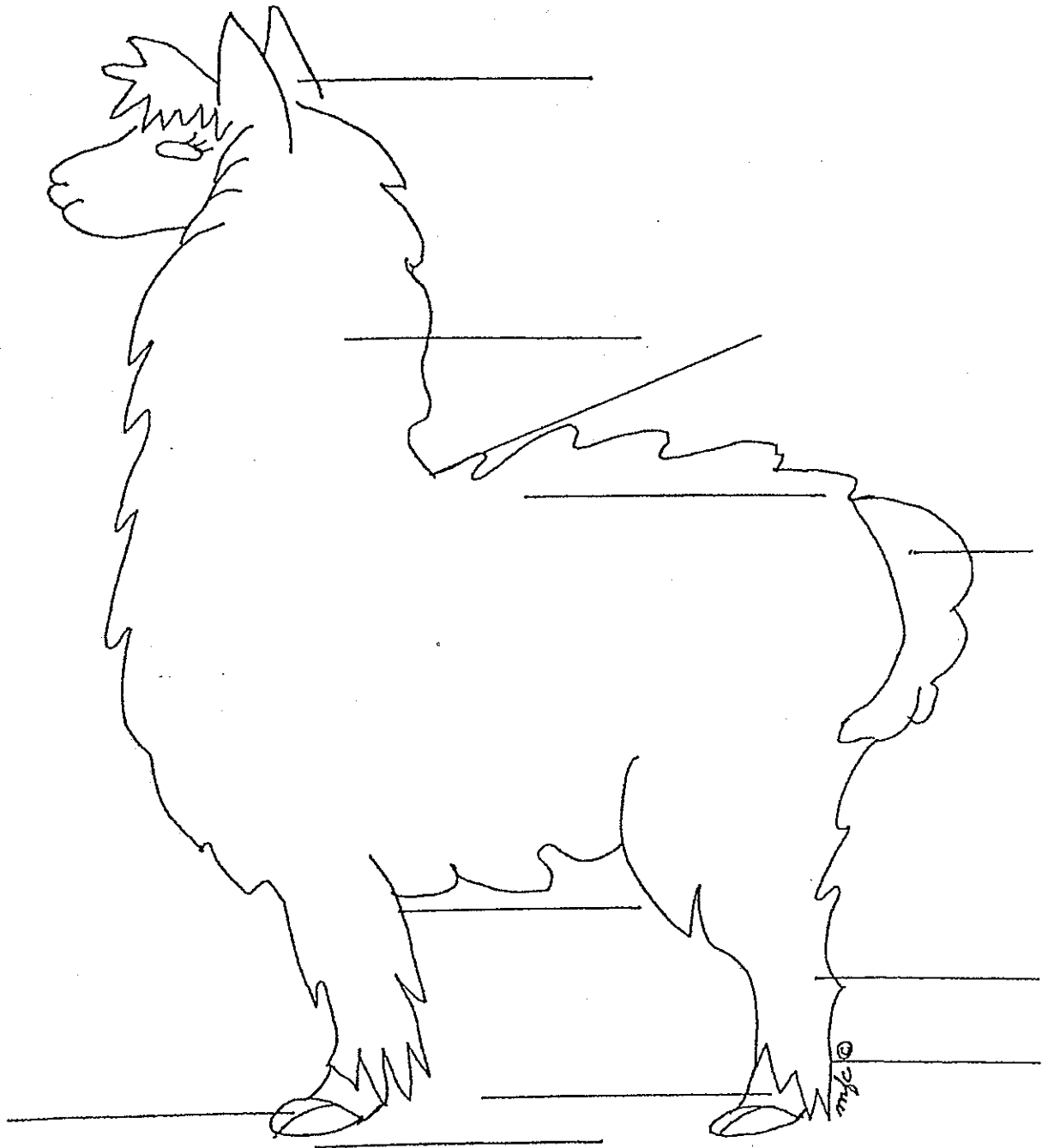


**LEADERS ANSWERS FOR
BEGINNER QUESTIONS
AGES 8 - 10**

1. Alpacas are a member of the **CAMELID OR CAMEL** family.
2. List three ways the alpaca can help people:
 1. **WOOL PRODUCTION**
 2. **BREEDING STOCK**
 3. **PETS**Also: **THERAPY**
3. How many toes are on an alpaca's foot? **TWO**
4. How many compartments are in an alpaca's stomach? **THREE**
5. How many years does the average alpaca live? **15 - 20**
6. How many days are there during the average gestation period of a female alpaca?
340 DAYS
7. What is a baby alpaca called? **A CRIA - A spanish word meaning baby animal**
8. A baby alpaca at birth can weigh from **14 to 20** pounds.
9. How tall is the average alpaca at the withers? **30 - 42"**
10. List two reasons an alpaca may spit.
 1. **AT AN ANNOYING SUITOR**
 2. **TO COMPETE FOR FOOD**
11. For 7,000 years the alpaca has been praised for its fine **FIBER.**
(OR WOOL) (OR FLEECE)
12. Alpacas should be shorn every **12 to 18** months.
13. One alpaca usually produces **5 - 7** pounds of fleece.
14. Name the only animal which produces a finer, more valuable fleece than the alpaca?
THE VICUNA
15. Alpaca wool is **3 times** stronger than Merino sheep wool.

Beginner Leader Answers (continued)

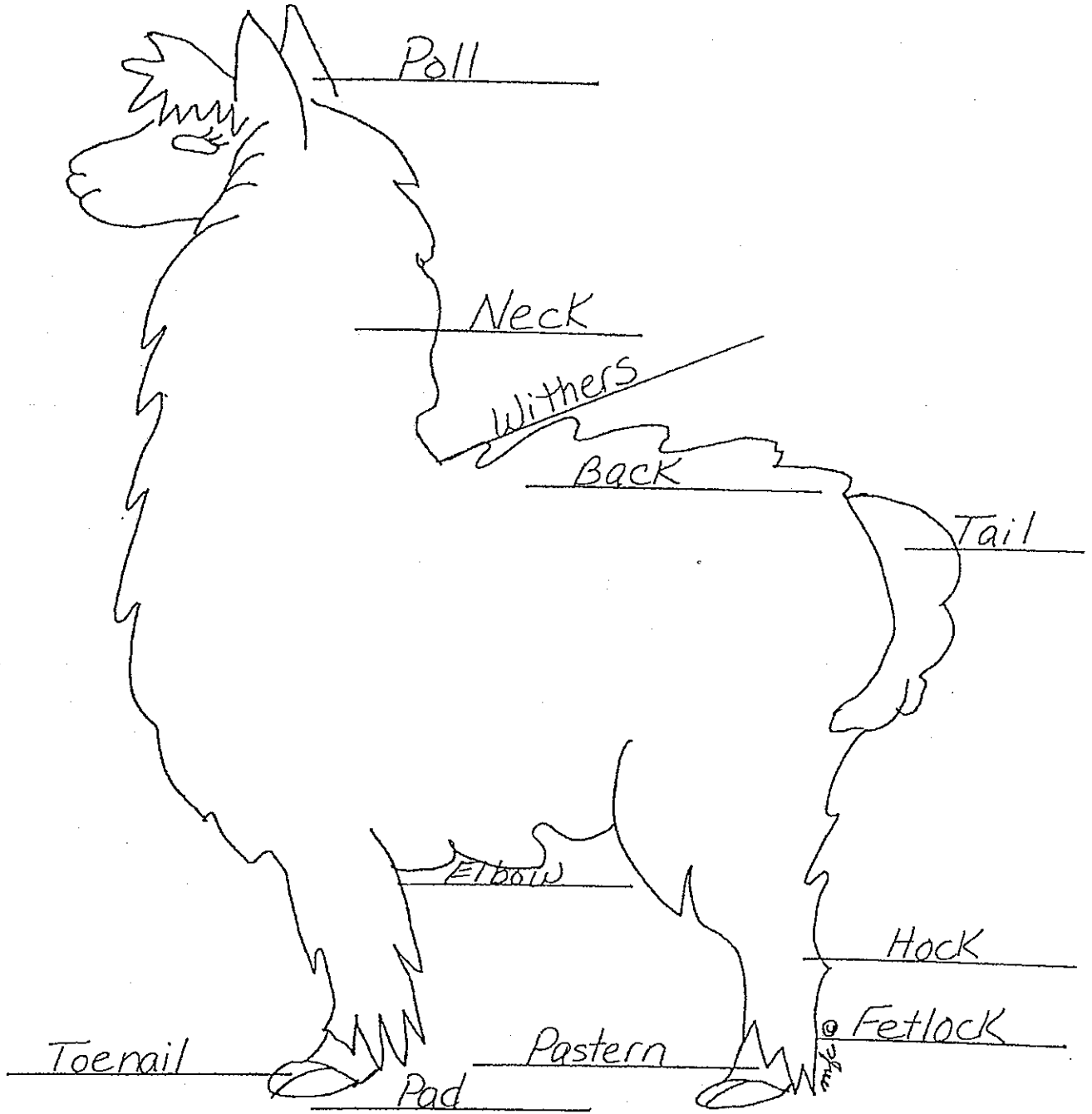
16. What is the name for the area where the best fiber is produced on the alpaca?
THE BLANKET
17. Alpacas come in 22 natural recognized colors.
18. Name the two types of alpacas, which are easy to tell apart because of the appearance of the fleece: **HUACAYA AND SURI**
19. Label the following body parts on the alpaca diagram.
- | | | | |
|---------|------|---------|---------|
| Fetlock | Hock | Elbow | |
| Neck | Poll | Tail | |
| Pastern | Back | Toenail | Withers |
| Pad | | | |

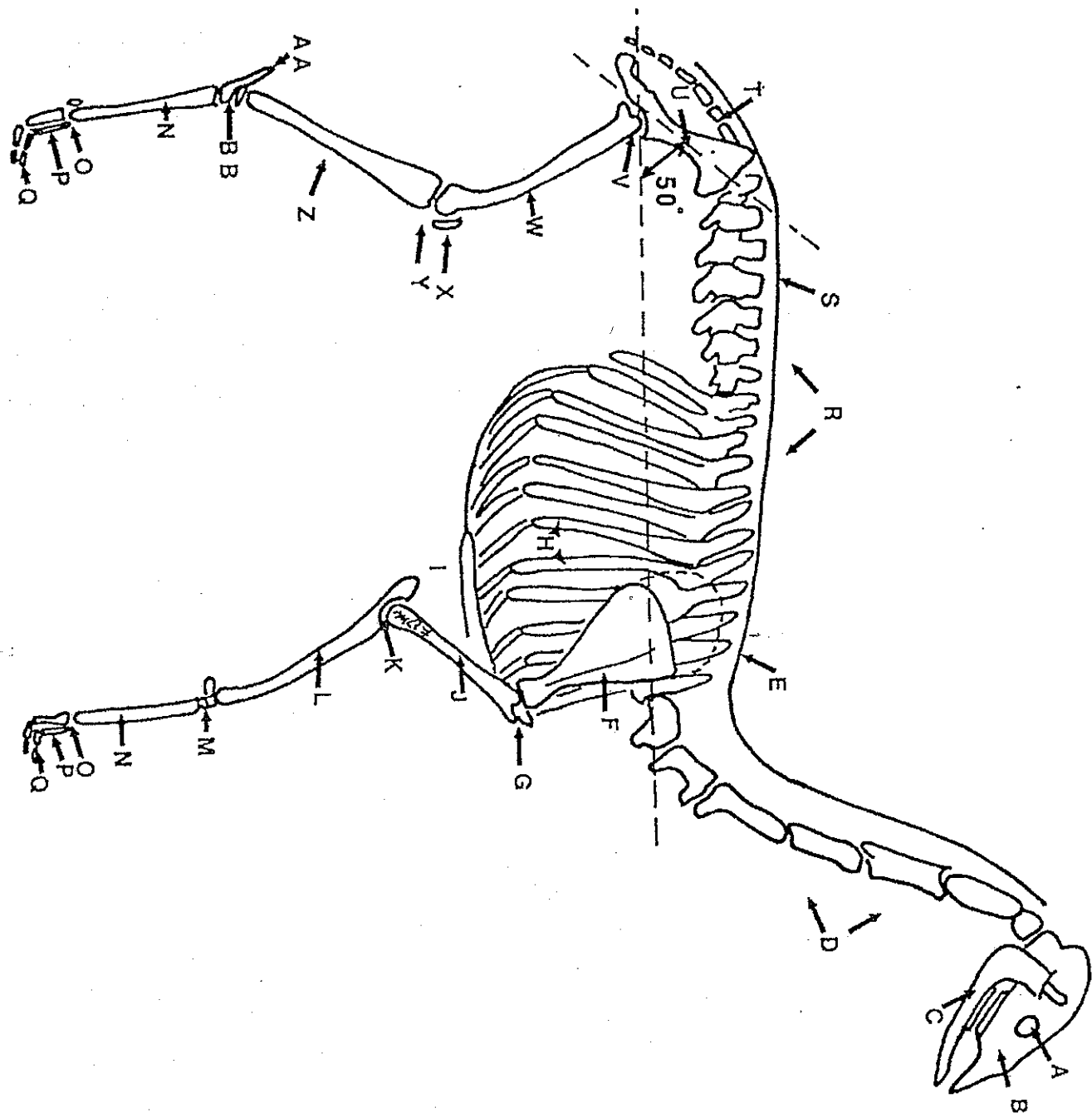


BEGINNER ALPACA DIAGRAM

Ages 8 - 10

Leaders Answers







INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
AGES 11 - 13

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Name four members of the South American Camelid family.

1. Alpaca
2. Vicuna
3. Guanaco
4. Llama

Explain the difference between a wild and domestic animal.

Wild: An animal in its natural environment

Domestic: An animal developed to help man

Name four uses for alpacas.

1. Wool production
2. Breeding stock
3. Pets
4. Therapy

Look at the map of the Western Hemisphere. Identify the continent from which alpacas and llamas originate. Label and color it green.

Locate on this map where you live. Color that continent blue.

2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR

An average adult alpaca is 31 - 39 inches tall at the withers.

Where are alpacas missing teeth?

Alpacas have no top front teeth.

How many compartments are in an alpaca's and llama's stomach?

Three compartments.

Since alpacas and llamas are herd animals, they should always have other alpacas with them.

List two reasons an alpaca might spit?

At an annoying suitor, or to say "Bug off"

Identify the following body parts on the alpaca diagram.

Pastern Joint

Fetlock Joint

Abdomen (belly)

Hock Joint

Poll

Toenail

Back

Neck

Tail

Knees (carpus)

Withers

3. TYPES

Name the two types of alpacas:

1. Huacaya
2. Suri

Describe the differences between the fleece characteristics of the two types:
Huacaya has crimped, dense fleece which gives them a round appearance; Suri fleece parts along the top line and hangs down in long, silky, crimpless locks.

Which type of alpaca might need extra care or consideration due to his different fleece and constitution? The Suri

Name some things you could do to take extra special care of this type of alpaca:
Provide extra shelter, since topline is not protected from the elements as well.

Which type of alpaca is more rare?
The Suri make up less than 10% of world alpaca population.

Are these two type of alpacas ever shown in classes together?
No, not under current ALSA rules.

4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS

The way an alpaca is put together is called: Conformation

An alpaca with several llama characteristics would be called: Huarizo
Describe how an alpaca's front legs should look when viewed from the front and sides:

They should appear mostly straight.

5. TEMPERAMENT

Alpacas like all other animals and people have their own Personality

Name three personality characteristics most alpacas share:

- Intelligence
- Curiosity
- Gentleness

6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA

Alpacas are good companions and pets because they are Intelligent and gentle.

7. SHELTER

How should you provide protection from sun, rain and wind for your alpaca?
Usually a three-sided structure is adequate.

What type of fencing is NOT safe for an alpaca? **Barbed wire.**

What size should the openings in your alpaca fence be?
2" x 4" rectangular openings from ground to 4 - 5' high.

What are you trying to fence out or away from your alpacas?
Predators such as packs of stray dogs, coyotes.

8. **DIET**

What are the three main parts of an alpaca's diet?

1. **Water**
2. **Forage**
3. **Minerals**

9. **GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE**

Describe one type of preventive medicine an alpaca owner should use to help keep an alpaca healthy:

A mineral supplement (There are many more possible answers).

VACCINATIONS

Why do alpacas and llamas need to be vaccinated?

Alpacas are vaccinated to prevent them from getting diseases.

PARASITES

Worms living inside an alpaca are an example of an internal parasite.

TEETH AND FEET

List two parts of an alpaca's foot:

1. **Toenails**
2. **Pads**

How many teeth do alpacas have in the front of their mouth on the bottom? **Six**

HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER

What is the normal temperature of an adult alpaca? **99 to 102**

What type of weather causes the most stress to an alpaca?

Extreme heat or extreme cold

What type of feed can you give an alpaca in extremely cold weather to help them stay warm? **Grains, like corn, oats and barley.**

10. **ALPACA TRAINING**

List two ways to decrease stress on an alpaca while showing the animal:

1. **Talking gently, frequent practice, anticipate alpaca's actions.**
2. **Hold firmly, rub or stroke alpaca gently, interpret alpaca body language and be consistent.**

If a trainer talks softly to an alpaca, what will probably happen?
An alpaca will relax upon hearing a calm, reassuring voice.

EQUIPMENT

Is it acceptable for the trainer to wrap an alpaca's lead rope around his or her hand?

It is never acceptable to wrap a lead rope around your hand.

Where should the nose band of a halter lay on an alpaca's face?

The nose band should lay on the bone near the eye and not on the fleshy part of the face where it can prevent breathing.

How far down from the halter should a trainer grip the lead rope?

Hold the lead rope 8 - 10" from the halter. The excess rope should be lapped over into a figure 8 in the free hand - not wrapped around it.

PROCEDURE

Should a trainer move fast or slowly around an alpaca and/or a llama to help cause the animal to grow in trust for that trainer?

A trainer should move slowly to help an alpaca trust him.

List three ways to gain an alpaca's trust:

1. Be consistent, repeat the process, talk softly
2. Allow the alpaca to become familiar with you
3. Use a short tug on the lead rope to encourage the alpaca
4. Move slowly and steadily

What are the two most important things a trainer can do while working with an alpaca, when teaching him to accept a brush or halter?

1. Move slowly
2. Be patient

If an alpaca does not want to walk with its trainer, how might it be encouraged by that trainer?

Use a short tug on the lead rope.

What does desensitize mean?

Teaching an alpaca to be touched all over without being afraid.

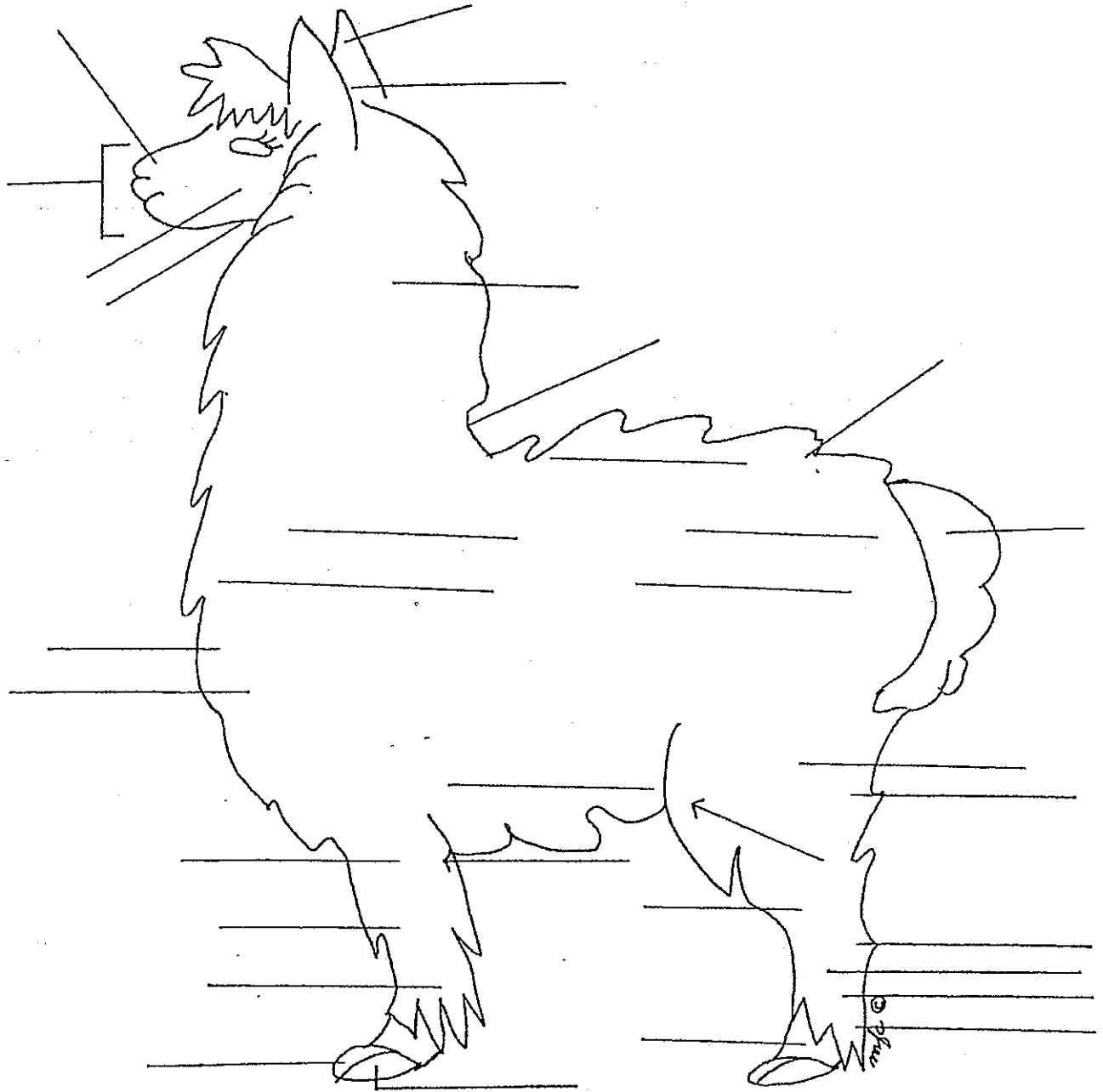
What is the word that means an alpaca's particular way of lying down?

Kush (also properly referred to as sternal recumbency)

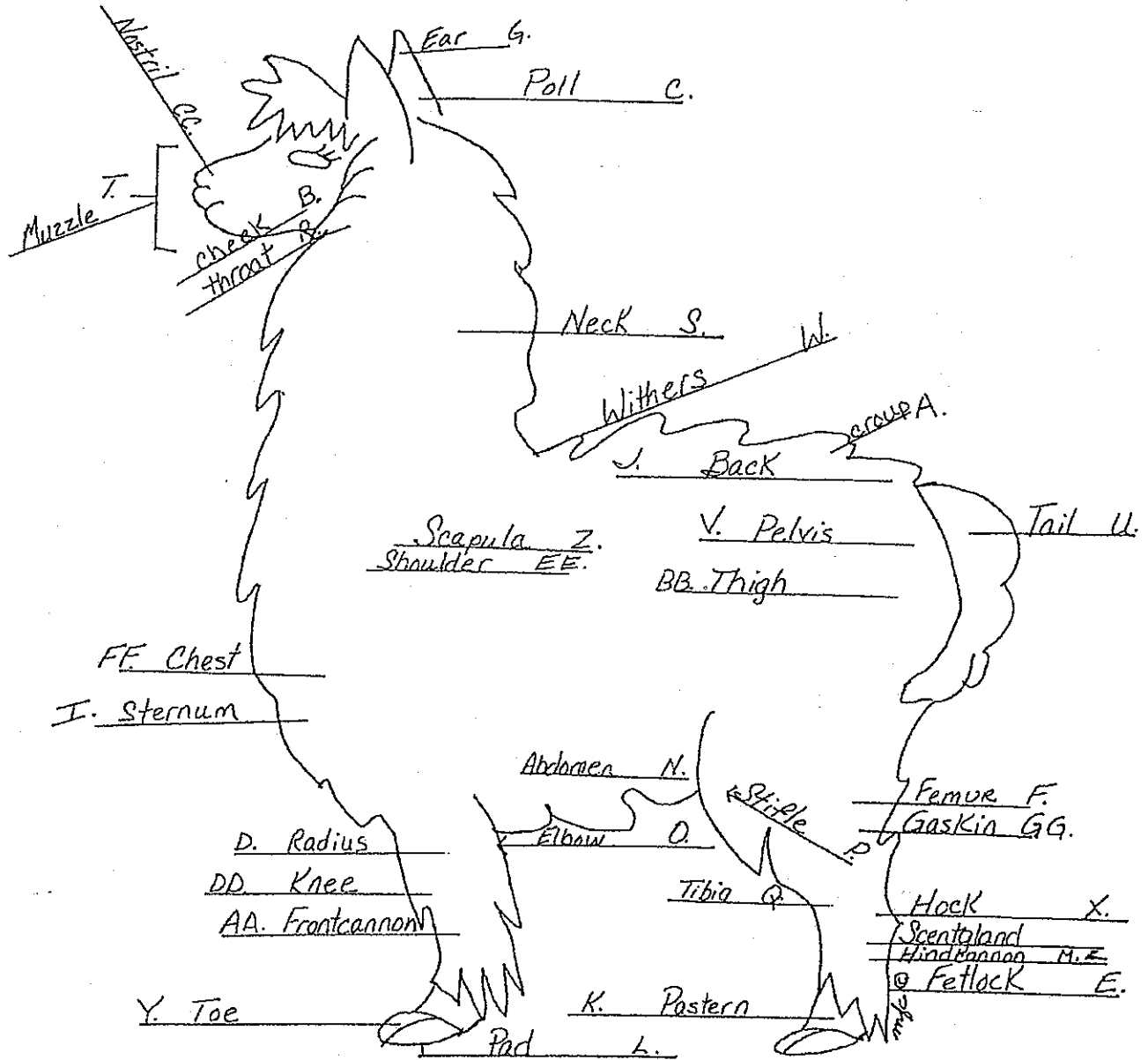
11. FIBER

1. Alpacas are prized for their fine Fiber.
2. Alpaca fiber is equivalent to Mohair.
3. Alpaca fiber is surpassed in fineness only by the Vicuna.
4. Alpaca wool is 3 times stronger than sheep wool.
5. Name the area of the alpaca which produces the finest fiber.
Blanket or barrel
6. Alpacas need to be shorn at least every 2 years.
7. One adult alpaca usually produces 5 - 7 pounds of prime fleece every year.
8. Alpacas come in 22 natural colors.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
BODY PARTS DIAGRAM



INTERMEDIATE LEVEL BODY PARTS DIAGRAM





**ALPACA YOUTH PROJECT
OUTLINE FOR ADVANCED LEVEL
PROJECT LEVEL AGES 14 - 19**

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND
2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR
3. TYPES
4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS
5. TEMPERMENT
6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA
7. SHELTER
8. DIET
9. GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE
 - A. VACCINATIONS
 - B. PARASITES
 - C. TEETH AND FEET
 - D. HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER
10. ALPACA TRAINING
 - A. PROCEDURE
 - B. EQUIPMENT
 - C. SHEARING
11. FIBER



ADVANCED LEVEL
AGES 14 - 19

1. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

List four members of the South American Camelid family and explain in detail the differences in each:

1. Alpaca - smaller - used for production of fine wool
2. Llama - largest - domesticated - originally bred for packing
3. Vicuna - smallest - wild - recently removed from endangered species list. It is believed that the alpaca is descended from the wild Vicuna.
4. Guanaco - larger - wild - believed the llama is descended from the Guanaco.

List three countries in South America where alpacas come from:

1. Peru
2. Chile
3. Bolivia

What is the genus for the South American Camelids?

Genus: Lama

Lama glama - Llama

Lama pacos - Alpaca

Why are alpacas and llamas classified in the camelid family?

There is some debate on classification of these animals. Different texts give conflicting information. However, Dr. Jane Wheeler argues effectively that the alpaca is more closely linked with the vicuna than to either guanacos or llamas. (See "The Alpaca Book" chapter 1, page 15).

Describe the South American climate in which alpacas live.

The climate is tierra fria which means cold at the top of the Andes; tierra templada which means mild on the plateau area of the middle of the Andes, and tierra caliente which means warm on the low lands.

Look at the map of the Western Hemisphere and identify the following information about where alpacas originate.

- A. The continent
- B. The countries
- C. The mountain ranges in those countries

Locate where you live. Color the entire map.

2. THE ALPACA AND HIS BEHAVIOR

The average horse weighs around 1,000 pounds. How many average size alpacas would it take to equal a horse's weight?

It would take approximately 7 alpacas with an average weight of 150 pounds.

What is the size comparison between alpacas and llamas?

Alpacas are approximately one-half to one-third the size of a llama.

List three other cloven-footed animals.

1. Cow
2. Pig
3. Goat

Why are alpacas less destructive to terrain than horses?

Because of the pad on the bottom of the foot.

Why is an alpaca's upper lip called prehensile?

Because it is structured to seize or grasp grasses when eating.

What is the term for an animal with 3 or 4 compartments in its stomach?

Ruminant - but also because it ruminates (i.e. chews, swallows, & regurgitates).

List four different ruminants including one which occurs in the wild throughout the United States.

1. Deer - wild
2. Sheep - domesticated
3. Cow - domesticated
4. Goat - domesticated

An alpaca may live as long as 15 - 25 years.

An alpaca may have cria for their entire adult life.

Define the function of the following parts of an alpaca:

Lungs: Bring oxygen into the body to send it through the system; and to oxygenate blood.

Heart: The heart pumps blood throughout the entire body to deliver oxygen and nutrients and remove by-products so that the body can function.

Liver: The liver works in the formation of blood, secretes bile, metabolizes carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals and vitamins.

Kidneys: A pair of organs that function to maintain proper water balance, regulate acid base concentration and excrete wastes as urine.

Cud/Stomach: Food regurgitated from the first stomach to the mouth to be chewed again. The stomach is where food is first broken down so that the nutrients can be used by the body.

List two other types of animals that naturally live in herds.

Elephants, Antelope, many others

List two reasons why an alpaca might spit:

1. If they are pregnant and introduced to an intact male alpaca
2. Arguing over food; the alpaca's way to say "bug off"

Explain the process that enables an alpaca to spit.

Being ruminants they are naturally able to bring up or regurgitate a bit of stomach contents (a bolus or cud) which they can then project out of their mouths.

3. TYPES OF ALPACAS

Describe the outward appearance of the Huacaya alpaca:

Their fleece is full and stands out from the body giving them a rounded or "spongy" appearance.

Describe the outward appearance of the Suri alpaca:

Their fleece hangs down toward the ground from the top line and hangs in long locks, has luster, but no crimp.

4. CONFORMATION AND CORRECTNESS

List three conformation points to observe in a correct alpaca:

Front legs that are straight

Back legs that are straight (when viewed from the rear)

Head held high

Neck length that is approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the back

Ears that are correct; i.e. spear shaped

Etc.

5. TEMPERMENT

Explain Aberrant Male Behavior:

If an alpaca is bottle fed, it may imprint upon humans. When it grows up it will treat people the same way it treats other alpacas, i.e. jumping on them or bumping them. This can be annoying in an alpaca, but due to their small size, it is not as serious a problem as if a larger animal like a llama behaves this way. There have only been a few incidents of this in the United States. It would always be important to ask the breeder if a particular alpaca was bottle fed, prior to purchasing.

6. PURCHASING AN ALPACA

List the main organization from which someone could gain information concerning alpacas.

The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association. (See Resources section, page 20, for address and phone number).

7. SHELTER

What is the minimum height of a perimeter fence suitable to contain alpacas?
5 feet; 4 feet may be acceptable on an interior fence.

8. DIET

An alpaca consumes approximately 2.0% of its total body weight of dry food per day.

How much feed does your alpaca require per day?

List a mineral that should be provided for all alpacas at all times:

Salt. A loose mineral salt formulated to go with your area and type of feed is a good choice.

9. GENERAL HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE

What is the best way to detect if an alpaca is not healthy? Careful observation.

How might "stoic" apply to an alpaca?

Stoic means an animal does not show outward signs when sick or upset. Alpacas often do not show any signs of being ill until they are very sick.

List four types of preventative medicine an alpaca owner should use to help keep an alpaca healthy:

1. Vaccinations
2. Cut fighting teeth from males
3. Provide minerals/salt
4. Provide proper food
5. Provide fresh clean water
6. Trim toenails
7. Clean pens/stalls/barns
8. Body Condition/Scoring/Weighing

A. VACCINATIONS

What are three things alpacas and llamas need to be vaccinated for?
To prevent tetanus, Clostridium, C & D

B. PARASITES

Describe how best to control parasites for your area:
Check with your local veterinarian.

What deadly parasite might a white tail deer pass on to an alpaca?
Meningeal worm

List some reasons why an alpaca might lose its fleece:

Alpacas do not shed. Reasons for loss might be ill health, bad nutrition, fever, ectoparasites, skin disease, or standing in water for long periods of time.

C. TEETH AND FEET

How can an alpaca owner tell if his alpaca needs its toenails trimmed?

Look at its feet regularly - they should be trimmed before they start to curl.

How old are alpacas when their fighting teeth appear?

Approximately 2-1/2 - 3 years of age.

How many fighting teeth do male alpacas grow and where are they?

Six fighting teeth. Normally two on top and one on the bottom on each side.

D. HEAT STRESS AND COLD WEATHER

What is the normal temperature of an adult alpaca and how do you check it?

99 degrees - under 102 degrees. With a rectal thermometer.

How does an alpaca owner prevent heat stress?

Provide plenty of fresh water at all times and provide shady shelter. Avoid stressful handling when temperature is high, especially in high humidity.

What are three signs of heat stress?

Extreme laziness, open-mouth panting, loss of coordination.

List three ways to help an alpaca experiencing heat stress.

Spray the alpaca's wool-free areas of legs and underbelly with cool water and use a fan to circulate air, wading pools and shade.

What should be done to prevent problems when changing an alpaca's diet?

Changes made slowly, combining old and new for a period of time so that their system can adjust.

List six ways to decrease stress on an alpaca while showing the animal:

Practice	Interpret alpaca body language
Talk softly	Be patient
Stroke alpaca	Anticipate alpaca's actions
Hold firmly	Be consistent

10. ALPACA TRAINING

A. PROCEDURE

In your opinion, what are the two most important parts on an alpaca to desensitize? Head and legs.

List four steps in desensitizing the back legs:

1. Let the alpaca get used to you standing at its side
2. Brush down the back and front of legs with your hand (or a wand)
3. Use a brush or wand to gently stroke the legs in a downward motion
4. Then run your hand down the legs, finally picking up the feet

Advanced Level Ages 14-19 (continued)

A good alpaca trainer can anticipate his/her alpaca's actions by first recognizing and interpreting the alpaca's movements.

Explain how you would try to correct behavior such as kicking or spitting:
Move slowly and work easily using a lot of repetition.

B. EQUIPMENT

Why is it important to put a halter on and off continually when training an alpaca? To gain trust.

List three things an alpaca trainer might do to help an untrained alpaca follow on a lead rope:

Say "walk," tug sideways, have the alpaca walk with a buddy, have a human friend walk behind the alpaca.

List three ways to gain an alpaca's trust:

Talk, feed and stroke gently.

How can an alpaca trainer use "Mom" while training babies and weanlings to lead?

Lead the Mom in front of baby and it will probably follow.

What is the tug and release technique?

To pull and release giving them a choice instead of forcing them to move.

List the two most important things to remember when desensitizing an alpaca:

Move slowly and be patient.

Reward the alpaca with verbal praise, and some of his favorite food.

11. FIBER

List the 9 traits by which Huacaya alpaca fleece is judged:

Character including crimp

Luster

Density

Fineness

Hand

Uniformity of density, fineness, and crimp throughout the blanket

Condition and quality of fiber throughout the fleece and lock

Abundance (fiber coverage on legs)

Absence of guard hair in the blanket

For Suri fleece:

The same except - character without crimp

Advanced Level Ages 14-19 (continued)

Describe the following fiber terms:
(use glossary in *The Alpaca Book*)

Crimp

Scale

Grading

Grease

Handle

Lock

Medulla

Picking

Prime Fleece

Skirting

Sorting

Seconds

Second Cuts

Staple

Essay questions:

Describe the current process of harvesting and selling alpaca fiber in the United States. Discuss the market, prices and creative ideas for reaching the market in your area.

Describe the entire process which alpaca growers in Peru must go through to bring their product to market. Discuss the market, prices, total exports in tons, and the role of intermediaries in the sales.

What suggestions would you make to enable the United States Alpaca fiber producers to graduate from the cottage industry market to an international export market?

Identify the following body parts on the external Alpaca diagram

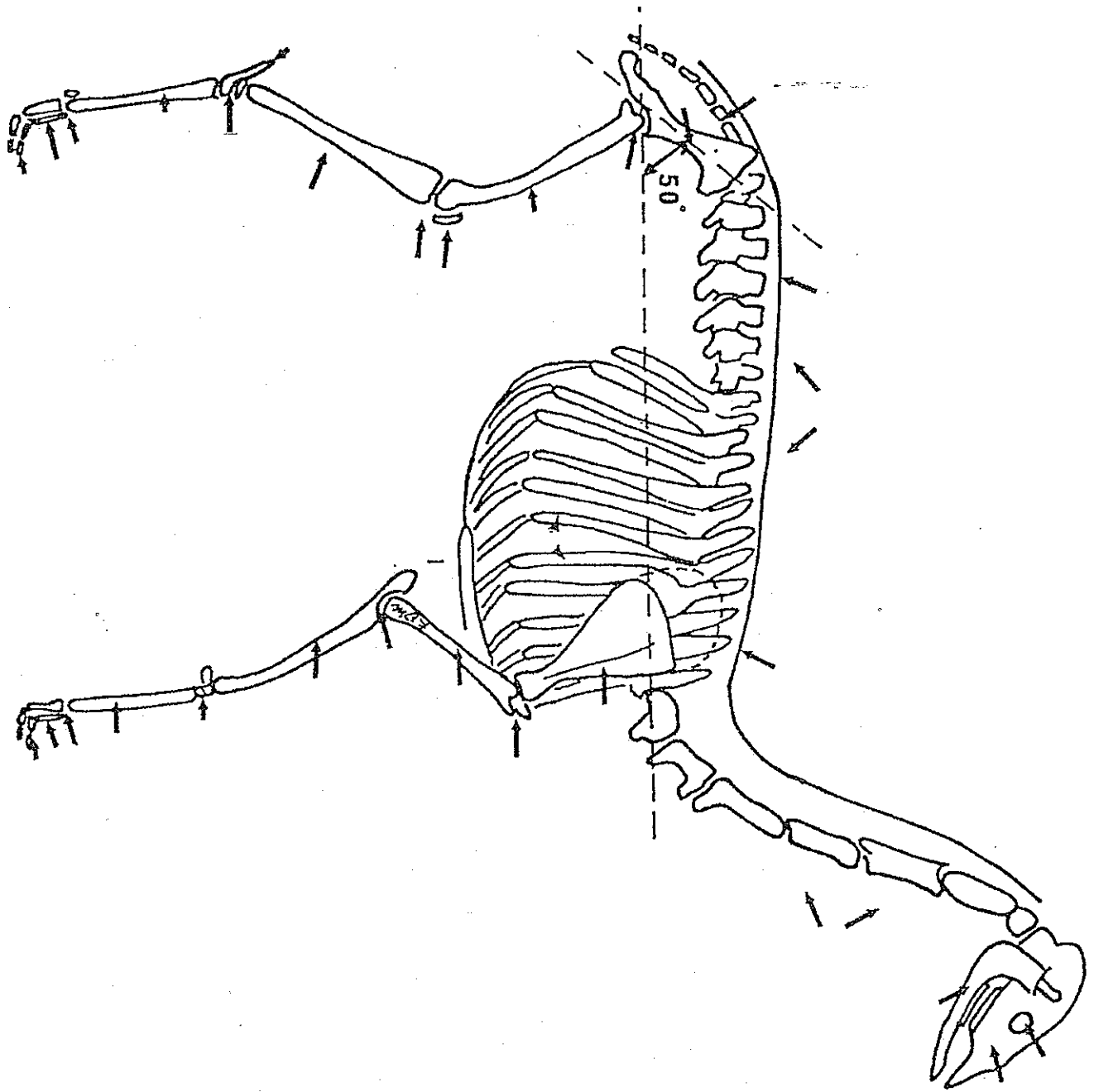
_____	Pastern Joint	_____	Abdomen (belly)
_____	Poll	_____	Back
_____	Tail	_____	Knees (Carpus)
_____	Withers	_____	Cheek
_____	Fetlock Joint	_____	Elbow Joint
_____	Neck	_____	Toenail
_____	Chestnut	_____	Ear
_____	Croup	_____	Fetlock Joint
_____	Nostril	_____	Pad
_____	Hock Joint	_____	Stifle Joint
_____	Chin	_____	Jaw
_____	Throat	_____	Hip
_____	Chest	_____	Shoulder
_____	Thigh	_____	Foot

Identify the following bones on the internal alpaca diagram

LEGEND FOR DIAGRAM OF SKELETON OF AN ALPACA

A. Eye socket, B. upper jaw (maxilla), C. lower jaw (mandible), D. neck vertebrae (cervical vertebrae), E. withers, F. shoulder blade, G. shoulder joint, H. ribs, I. breast bone (sternum), J. arm (humerus), K. elbow joint, L. forearm (radius), M. knee joint (carpus), N. canon bone (metacarpus), O. ankle (fetlock joint), P. pastern, Q. foot, R. back (thoracic vertebrae), S. loin (lumbar vertebrae), T. tail (coccygeal vertebrae), U. pelvis, V. hip joint, W. thigh bone (femur), X. knee cap (patella), Y. stifle joint, Z. leg bone (tibia), AA. point of the hock, BB. hock joint

Diagram courtesy Dr. Murray E Fowler, University of California, Davis.



ADVANCED LEVEL
EXTERNAL DIAGRAM

