

Llama

THE
CUVILLY
CRITTERS



Charlie, our llama/alpaca mix.

Did you know that...

- llamas are members of the camel (camelid) family
- they originated in the central plains of North America about 10 million years ago and migrated to South America
- it is estimated that there are 7 million llamas and alpacas in South America; in the U.S. and Canada there are about 65,000 llamas and 7,000 alpacas
- llamas are primarily pack animals but they are also used for meat, wool production(fiber), hides, cart pulling, animal facilitated therapy, companion animals, golf caddies and guardians of other livestock such as sheep
- llamas can carry about 80 pounds or about 25% of its body weight
- llamas live about 20 years
- llamas weigh about 200-450 pounds
- babies are called "crias"
- llamas normally give birth during daylight hours

- only one "cria" is born; twins are very rare
- llamas should be shorn once a year and they have fiber that is grease free, lightweight and warm-- highly prized among spinners and weavers
- they have two-toed feet with leathery pads which give them a low environmental impact; it causes less damage than a hikers shoe
- llamas are browsers eating a variety of grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees; efficient foragers, llamas have less impact on plant life than native deer
- llamas have a three-compartment stomach
- llamas cannot tolerate too much heat and love to lay wading pools, stand over a sprinkler, or get hosed down in summer
- llamas communicate by humming as well as with ear, body and tail postures
- on rare occasions llamas will alert their herd and human keepers with a distinctive alarm call if they perceive any threats
- they will spit at each other to establish the pecking order or if another llama is bothering them; a llama that has been mistreated will occasionally spit at people

