

Outline for Llama Orientation Course

- I. Equipment
 - a. saddles
 - b. panniers (size 23 ½"l x 19 ½ "h x 8" deep total of 7300 cubic inches)
 - c. halters
 - d. lead rope
 - e. picket stake and tie out lines
 - f. pack scale – to balance loads
 - g. water bucket
 - h. Rain fly (water resistant), need heavy duty garbage bags to complete water proofing
- II. Camping with Llamas
 - a. need good grass pasture
 - b. llamas need to be tied out 200 feet from water
 - c. unloading llamas
 - d. how to tie out llamas in camp
 - e. provide water for llamas with water bucket
 - f. moving llamas to prevent over grazing
 - g. spreading feces
 - h. catching loose llamas: To avoid this have control of the llama with lead rope and don't take off lead rope until you fasten the tie out line. If llamas get loose they won't leave other llamas, so approach slowly and surround them with ropes. Catch around neck.
- III. Hiking with Llamas
 - a. Leading llamas and how to tie them together if needed.
 - b. Weight and mileage. Llamas carry 60-70 lbs of your gear (30-35 lbs per pannier), and cover 8-10 miles per day depending on the terrain.
 - c. Horses have right away on the trail, get off the trail preferably on the down hill side
 - d. Urinating on trail, llamas stop and won't move until finished
 - e. Water crossings: don't let llamas stand in streams as they tend to relieve themselves. Offer them a drink if they stand on the side of the stream.
 - f. Rest stops: depending on conditions a 10 minute stop every hour and stop where there is grass for them to graze on
 - g. Heat stress, avoid hiking in temperatures above 80 degrees and give them extra breaks in hot weather. Mouth breathing is a sign.
 - h. Lighting and thunder storms: these usually occur in the afternoon so it is best to hike early and finish early afternoon especially if the terrain is exposed
 - i. Sit downs: llamas sit down for various reasons, heat stress, tired, equipment needs adjusting, too much weight, hiked too many miles etc. Assess the situation and make adjustments if necessary, good idea

to give the llama a break. To get the llama up go behind him with the lead rope and pull his neck around.

- j. Poisonous plants, Larkspur, Hemlock, Lupine etc. Avoid camping or rest stops in areas with flowers.

IV. Llama Behavior

- a. Sensitive areas: head, legs and tail.
- b. Llama sounds: humming, alarm cry, screaming
- c. Injured or hurt llama will lay down and not move, so need to find a clear area with good pasture and tie llama out let us know.
- d. Padded feet with toenails, very easy on trails, sometimes the toenails bleed but no treatment is necessary
- e. Interaction with potential predators and precautions to take.

V. Saddling Llamas and Loading panniers

VI. Traveling with Llamas

- a. Loading llamas in trailers
- b. Llamas usually lay down when traveling and you don't need to tie them up
- c. Rest stops every four hours and offer them water