

• August 2019 Edition •

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## Cria Training 101

Now that all our Spring 2019 babies have arrived and adapted to their new life in Barn 2 with their mamas, we've begun the fun yet sometime challenging task of cria training.

An important part of our husbandry is to accustom our alpaca to accept a certain amount of handling so shearing, hoof trimming, and veterinary exams and treatments are less stressful for them and can be quickly accomplished. Helping them learn early on to trust us and remain calm also is key to insuring the alpaca and we both stay safe and are not hurt during the

very difficult to handle and exhibit excessive spitting toward humans. So as much as the urge to cuddle the cria exists for all of us on the farm, it's critical they be allowed far more playtime with each other compared to the time they spend with us petting them.

Since cria come fully fleeced at birth, it's important we shear the babies before summer temperatures and humidity become severe. Although cria are much smaller than a grown alpaca, they are still cabled down as we do with the adults, so they develop a certain acceptance and familiarity with the process.

After their first shearing, we will wait patiently to see how their new fiber comes in to determine what quality of fiber each ultimately will grow and who will become a show animal.

We're pleased to report that all cria did splendidly and no one got spat on! Come our annual shearing next April, this will be no big deal for them! We now have six baby alpaca running around butt-naked in the pastures!

Next on the schedule is halter and lead training so they are comfortable being walked around on a lead and being

loaded on and off trailers or in vans for transport to shows and events. We'll keep you posted on how that goes! ■



performance of various procedures. Remember, some cria will grow up to weigh as much as 195 pounds, and they are strong!

It's also important to note, that there is a fine line between gentling an alpaca during training and overhandling. As affectionate as some are from birth, overhandling can result in personality issues and psychological disorders, such as Berserk Male Syndrome. This can happen when human-raised alpaca (and llama) become overly familiar with or over-imprinted on humans. It results in aggressive and dangerous behavior, such as chest ramming and biting by males as they come to consider humans as fellow alpacas. Make no mistake—male alpacas can play rough! Females also can develop this condition and become

### CAPTIONS

*Top Left: Volantis is cabled and doesn't seem to mind that one bit.*  
*Top Center: After gently being laid down and stretched out, the shearer's assistant strokes his neck and talks to Volantis to keep him calm.*  
*Top Right: Volantis gets his first shearing. Looks like that might tickle a little.*  
*Bottom Left: Princess Shereen sweetly peeks out from under the shearing assistant's arm as he holds up her ears so the shearer can trim her neck and cape.*  
*Bottom Center: Grey Ghost seems a bit shy about being naked for the first time and hides behind Lady Winterfell.*  
*Bottom Right: Volantis sports his first halter and a somewhat puzzled look as if to say, "What the heck will they do to me next?"*

**August Boutique Specials:  
STOCK UP ON SOCKS and  
Winter Coat Clearance Sales Continue!**

By popular demand, we are extending our Stock Up on Socks Sale to our e-newsletter subscribers. At your request, we are continuing to offer 10% off all socks through the month of August for *The Paca Post* subscribers ONLY if you bring in the coupon provided. This is in addition to the already marked-down prices on select socks in the store.

We have socks for everyone, every taste, and every lifestyle! And, if you want something special from our farm, you can't beat our heavy duty survival socks made from our alpacas' fiber. If you missed taking advantage of this coupon last month, make sure you stop by before the end of August and Stock Up on Socks!

We also are extending our Winter Coat Clearance Sale through the end of August to make room on our racks for the new line of men's and women's coats arriving soon. Selection is still good, but won't last long at these reduced prices! ■



**Our Ducks Have Gone  
QUACKERS!**

The girls are really outdoing themselves this summer, and we want to share these farm fresh duck eggs with you for the special price of \$3.50/dozen. That's right, a 50% discount off the normal price of \$7.50/dozen! Bakers love them and they have more heart-healthy Omega 3 fatty acids than chicken eggs, so come on in and get some duck eggs while supplies last! ■



FOX WIRE FARM  
**ALPACAS**  
STORE & BOUTIQUE

AUGUST E-Newsletter  
**COUPON**

**10% Off ALL SOCKS  
in Our Store!**

**Good thru August 2019**

*Cut Out and Redeem at Store  
Not Applicable to On-Line Purchases • Cannot Be Used with Other Discounts*



**October Classes Are Open for Registration**

The following classes are currently open for registration. To register, please call 757.879.1037. All classes will be held on the farm, and light snacks and beverages will be provided. Additional classes will be posted as they are scheduled.

More information is available at [www.foxwirefarmalpacas.com/classes-events/classes](http://www.foxwirefarmalpacas.com/classes-events/classes).

**FELTED ANIMAL FUN**

**Saturday, October 12; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
(Adults 18+) \$100**

Inspired by our farm animals and your own imagination, you will learn the basics of needle felting while creating a small felted animal sculpture from our alpacas' fiber. (Register BEFORE September 20 and save \$5 off the class price.)

**CARDBOARD LOOM WEAVING**

**Saturday, October 19, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
(Adults 18+) \$100**

This class will teach you how to construct a small cardboard loom on which you will weave a small purse, cell phone case, billfold, or spirit bag using alpaca yarn from our farm. (Register BEFORE September 30 and save \$5 off the class price.) ■

**E-Newsletter Questions or Comments?**

Please contact Tamera at [tmyermams@foxwirefarmalpacas.com](mailto:tmyermams@foxwirefarmalpacas.com).