MINIMUM BREED STANDARDS FOR LLAMAS

Diagrams showing negative traits are attached. Faults are considered unfavourable traits that may detract from the overall soundness of an animal depending on the degree of the fault.

An asterick (*) denotes a congenital defect - an inherent serious fault at birth
Animals displaying these traits (visual observation) should not be bred, and can not be registered.

General Appearance: The objective of this standard is to develop a strong, healthy, sound and correctly conformed true llama in our registry.

The ideal llama is proportionate in shape, balanced and symmetrical and stands on four strong legs. The length of the neck equals the length of the legs and is 2/3 the length of the back. The limbs of a llama are closer to the midline than most other domestic animals and giving them the ability to move freely. The llama has three natural gaits: the walk, pace, gallop.

Height and Weight

The height at the withers of the llama: Juvenile less than 85 cm
Yearling greater than 100 cm
Adult greater than 102 cm

(Please note that this is an average for juvenile and yearling with the adult being the desired height)

The average weight of an adult llama is 113 kg (250 lbs) and ranges up to 250 kg (555 lbs).

Faults: Small size with less than 102 cm measurement at 2-3 years of age at the withers

Head and Neck

The head of an alert llama rises vertically from the withers area with the neck measuring 2/3 the length of the back and equates to the length of the legs. The neck flows smoothly into the back.

The head is tapered with a well fitting jaw. The head bears two upright banana-shaped ears. The eyes protrude slightly from their sockets and are round and large. There can be several shades of black with another acceptable color being brown (flecks are also acceptable). The mouth fits well together with the lower incisors meeting the upper dental pad. The upper lip is centrally divided and mobile to give them more dexterity in gathering food from certain plants. The nose has two well defined open nostrils with the ability for a clear air exchange.

Faults: Over or under shot jaw - fig. A
Ears showing a spear shape (indicative of alpaca traits) - fig. B
Forward set ears - fig C
Disproportionate length of the neck (too long/too short) - fig D
U-neck - fig. E

***Congenital Defects:**

***Gopher Ears -** short, rounded and deformed ears
***Fused ears -** closed opening of the ear
***Wry face -** lateral deviation of frontal nose place; can be slight to extreme
***Entropion -** eyelid rolls in and hair rubs on eye
***Ectropion -** eyelid rolls out or is very loose
***Coanal Atresia -** deviation of the nose; can be slight to extreme
***Juvenile Blindness**
***Deafness**
***Juvenile Cataracts**

Body

The back of the llama is very straight with a squared off appearance to the rump. The chest should have depth to allow for adequate capacity for air exchange.

Faults: Herniated umbilicus
Sagging Back - fig F
Roach back (e.g.camel/hump back) - fig G

***Congenital Defects:**
***Lateral deviation of the spine** - curvation of the spine
***Crooked tail** - permanent deviation

Legs

The legs should be strong and straight. **Front view:** A plumb line dropped from the mid point of the shoulders should fall through the mid point of the knee, fetlock and between the toes. **Rear view:** A plumb line dropped from the mid point of the hip should fall through the middle of the hock, fetlock and between the toes. The body is supported by four strong legs with feet having two toes with hard nails on each toe, and a healthy leathery pad that protects the feet.

Front leg faults: Knocked kneed - fig. H
Calf Kneed - fig. I
Cocked pasterns - fig. J
Bucked Knees - fig. K
Dropped pasterns - fig. L
Medial or lateral deviated pasterns
Splay foot - fig. M
Post legged - fig. N
Pigeon toed - fig. O

Rear Leg faults: Cow hocks - fig. P
Sickle Hocks - fig. Q
Bowlegs - fig. R
Cocked pastern - fig. J
Dropped pasterns - fig. L
Post Legged - fig. N
Medial/lateral deviated pasterns
Splay foot - fig. M

***Congenital Defects:**
***Syndatyl -** fused toes
*** Polydatyl -** more than two digits on the foot
***Luxating patellas -** loose knee cap movement

Gait

A free flowing stride is characteristic of the llama. Its normal speed gait is a stable three gait. A walk where each foot is moved and planted separately. At a faster speed the llama has a pacing gait which is two point, where the two feet on either side are moved together, with the third gait being the gallop.

Faults:
Excessive angular limb deformity causing excessive movement of the body
Joints tracking medially or laterally to the vertical plumb line
Gaits associated with angular limb deformity such as – winging, (splayed foot movement; knock knees), arcing (bow legs), and rope walking (base narrow)
walking

***Congenital Defect:**
***Luxating patellas causing abnormal rear movement**

Genitalia –Female Reproductive Organs

The female reproductive organs are protected internally and therefore are not visible from the outside. However, the vaginal opening should be well covered by the tail, should not be too small and should be situated in a vertical rather than a horizontal plane. **A vaginal opening that is not near a vertical plane is more suspectible to infection.**

Faults:

Tipped up clitoris

Too small vaginal opening

***Congenital Defects:**

***Vaginal opening not near a vertical plane**

***Hemaphroditism -** male and female genitals

***No more or less than functional 4 teats**

***Lack of or incorrect anatomical position of any visible part of the reproductive system.**

Male Genitalia

The most visible part of the male genitalia are the testicles which are situated and protected underneath the tail. The scrotum is well attached and carries the testicles, which are even in size and correct in anatomical placement.**This is not applicable in geldings.** The penis is also an external organ, which is situated under the belly between and in front of the rear legs. The normal size of fully developed testicles is: 4.2 cm in length, 2.5 cm in width in the adult male llama.

Faults: Too hard or too soft testicular consistency

Cystic testicles

***Disqualifiers:**

***Hermaphroditism -** male and female genitals

***Eptopic testicles** (not in scrotum; located in abnormal location)

***No more or less than two equal sized testicles in the scrotum** (not applicable in geldings)

***No more or less than 4 teats** (exception of geldings)

SUMMARY OF CONGENITAL DEFECTS that disqualify an animal for registration

*Gopher Ears
*Fused ears
*Wry Face
*Juvenile Blindness
*Juvenile Cataracts
*Deafness
*Eyes: entropion, ectropion
*Coanal Atresia
*Lateral deviation of the spine
*Crooked tail (permanent deviation)
*Syndatyl
*Polydatyl
*Luxating patellas
*Vaginal opening not near vertical plane
*Hermaphroditism
*No more or less than 4 functional teats on a female
*Eptopic testicles
*No more or less than 2 equal sized testicles in the scrotum (exception of geldings)
*No more or less than 4 teats on a male (exception of geldings)
*Lack of any part of the reproductive system

Llama Breed Standard Diagrams

Ai. Overshot Jaw

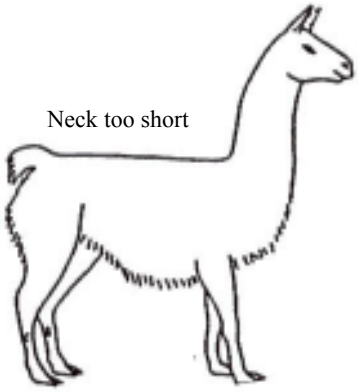
Aii. Undershot Jaw

B. Spear-shaped ears

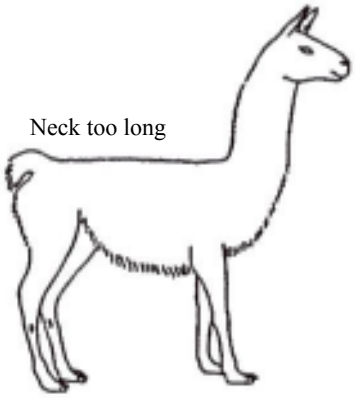
C. Forward-set ears

D. Disproportiante length of neck

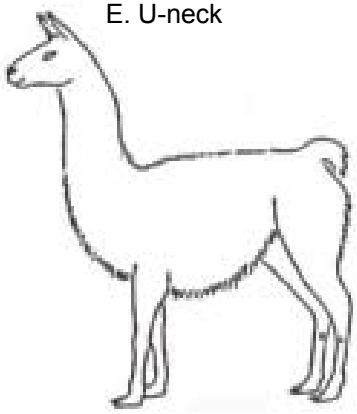
Neck too short



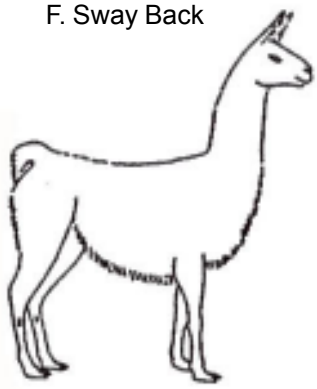
Neck too long



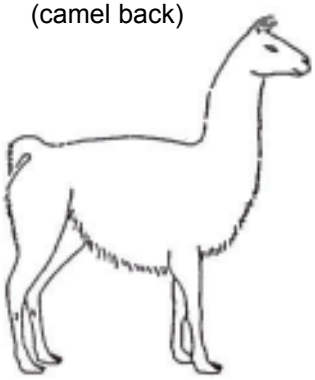
E. U-neck



F. Sway Back

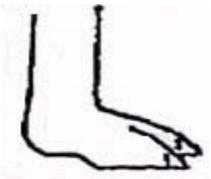


G. Roach Back
(camel back)

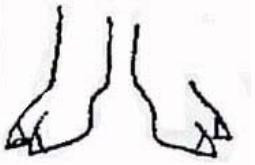


J. Cocked pastern

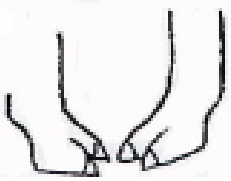
L. Dropped pastern



M. Splay footed

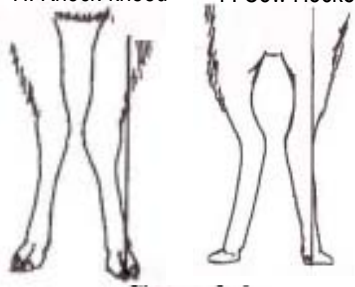


O. Pigeon Toed



Front legs
H. Knock-kneed

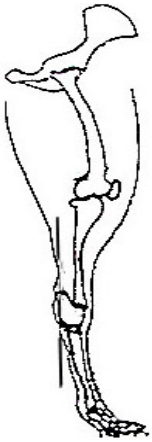
Rear legs
P. Cow Hocked



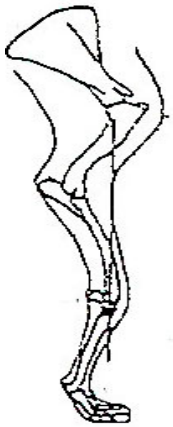
Q. Sickle hocked
rear legs

Front side view
I. Calf-kneed

Front view
N. Straight/
Post legged



Front side view
K. Buck-kneed



Front view
R. Bow legs