British Llama Society

INFORMATION LEAFLET
Choosing llamas

- Join the British Llama Society (BLS). Talk to as many members as possible, attend any seminars that are being organised on the welfare and handling of llamas AND ask questions!

- Ensure you have enough land (recommended maximum four llamas per acre) with water, secure fencing and shelter to keep llamas.

- Be prepared to have animals that may live for many years.

- Visit as many owners as possible and see as many llamas as you can. Ask questions. Do as much background reading as you can.

- Check the seller is a signatory to the BLS Sales Code of Conduct.

- Decide what you really want a llama for:

  - Trekking?
  - Fibre?
  - A companion?
  - Showing?
  - Guarding?
  - Breeding?

- Do not buy an entire male unless you have the right facilities to keep him.

- Consider the health of the animal and any others in the herd from which you are buying. Check vaccination and worming records.

- Look carefully and critically at its conformation and the way it moves. Is it sound?

- What is its temperament like?

- Can you see the parents?

- If it is halter trained, can **YOU** put a halter on it? Can **YOU** lead it?

- Will it load confidently into a trailer?

- If it is not trained in any way, are **YOU** confident that **YOU** can do it yourself?

- Check whether the animals are registered with the British Llama Society.

- If you are considering guanacos...
  - Be sure that you can handle them and/or have suitable facilities.
  - Whilst some guanacos are remarkably tame, if pure then they are the exception.

REMEMBER: Llamas and guanacos are herd animals and should **NEVER** be kept on their own (except guard llamas). Two females or two castrate males make the best pets. Never buy a breeding pair unless you have the facilities to separate them at the appropriate time.

If all these points are met, ***it just comes down to the right llama finding you!***

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