UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Llamazing Alpaca Explorers

Part 2: Llama-Alpaca Herds and Handling

What is it and why does it matter?

Llamazing Alpaca Explorers is a series of independent learning guides for youth in grades 3 and up to get to know llamas and alpacas. *Part 1: Llama-Alpaca Body Bonanza*, includes 7 activity guides focused on llama-alpaca history and anatomy. THIS set, *Part 2: Llama-Alpaca Herds and Handling*, includes 4 activity guides that teach you how to handle your llama-alpaca safely. Each guide teaches you about llamas-alpacas through pictures, videos, and hands-on activities. Understanding the behavior of these amazing creatures, you can corral them and enjoy their company in a way that keeps both you and them safe and happy. Stay tuned for Part 3, which will teach you about llama-alpaca housing and care!



What are the guides?

1. Meeting Your Camelid - Learn the difference between a llama and an alpaca and how to be safe around, approach, and lead a llama or alpaca for the first time.
2. Llama-Alpaca Bubble - Learn how to navigate a llama-alpaca's personal space, or personal bubble, so you can approach it safely in any situation, whether it's loose in a pen or with its herd in the pasture.
3. Camelid Headgear - Learn the parts of a halter, how to know a halter fits properly, and how to put the halter on the llama or alpaca.
4. Llama-Alpaca Herding: Easier Than Cats! - Use what you know about llama-alpaca behavior to learn how to gather llamas-alpacas from the pasture into an enclosed space.

Access to an animal

We want everyone to learn to love and appreciate these cool camelids! Though you can use these guides without a live llama or alpaca, it's very helpful to have access to one. If you don't own one yourself, you may be able to lease one. Go to this UMN Extension's animal leasing web page for more information.

© 2025 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this material is available in alternative formats upon request.

A note on safety

As you are engaging with live animals, please respect their space, and don't approach them without the supervision of an experienced adult.

Acknowledgements

Authors:
Pauline Funk, 4-H Volunteer, Dodge County
Jessica Pierson Russo, Regional Extension Educator, UMN Extension Department of Youth Development

Reviewers:
Sharon Davis, Extension Educator and Animal Science Director, UMN Extension Department of Youth Development

Carolyn Dingfelder 4-H Volunteer and former 4-H Extension Educator

Katie Johnson, Regional Extension Educator, UMN Extension Department of Youth Development

Leah Larson, Central Region Program Leader, UMN Extension Department of Youth Development

Feedback

If you have suggestions for how to make these guides better, please contact Jessica Russo at pier0239@umn.edu.

© 2025 *Llamazing Alpaca Explorers Part 2: Llama-Alpaca Herds and Handling*

Materials that appear in this curriculum (except those for which reprint permission must be obtained from the primary sources) may be reproduced for non-profit educational/training activities. We do, however, require that the following statement appear on all reproductions:

Funk, P., & Russo, J.P. (2025). *Llamazing Alpaca Explorers Part 2: Llama-Alpaca Herds and Handling!* St. Paul, MN: Regents of the University of Minnesota.