



Palmira's leg which shows the amount of leg wool on her FRONT leg.

SO WHAT'S IN A WORD... THE WORD ARGENTINE THAT IS?

by Kelly Brown

As their number grew so did my breeding program take on its identity. Now when I look over my animals I am very clear about how I would like to see Argentine traits blended for the positive with the balance of the llama population.

Just as many llama owners before me and those sure to follow, when the llama bug first bit me I felt compelled to learn more. The internet being such a wonderful educational tool soon led me through Chilean, Bolivian, and Peruvian llamas and then finally, and seeming not as common, to Argentine llamas. I was intrigued. What was different about this group of llamas that they had taken so long to turn up? Turned out that they were a relatively recent import, still few in number in comparison to imports from other countries and therefore, somewhat rare. Are they different from other llamas? Yep...they are.

I was immediately attracted by the traits that were obviously different and even though my breeding program hadn't formulated itself yet, started slowly building a small herd of pure Argentines.



Palmira full body. Neck shows one year of re-growth in fiber also awesome top line (Argentines tend to have VERY straight backs and are nicely proportioned.)



9 month old with fiber "beard".

When I look at Palmira, one of my girls who is as fine an example of an Argentine as you ask for, I can picture combining her dense, dense fiber coverage with some of my stretchy silkies. Argentines were bred for fiber over 100's of years. Their abundant fleece is fine, dense and fast growing. It is also speculated that orphaned Vicuna females were adopted into Argentine herds



9 month old front legs already showing trademark bone size and fiber coverage.

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and as such have added some of their wondrous fiber qualities to the Argentine population. These are all qualities I would like to see passed on and blended with the array of colors and fiber types present in other llamas. For example, breeding for a tall, stretchy body with abundant, dense, fast growing suri fiber. Many Argentines

Continued on page 22...



Iceman front leg - sometimes fiber coverage takes the form of tight curls on the legs such as picture.

have front leg fiber down to their toes... wouldn't that be an amazing trait to see in all llama fiber types?!

Another trait and one that appears to be harder to consistently breed (although I can honestly say I've yet to see a fine

boned example) is their trademark heavy bone. They often remind me of a draft horse or even a mammoth when you look at their wool too...heavy boned animals that some how manage to look graceful. I love this look. Argentine Kobra, Don Zunca, Sarmiento and Omar are several original imports that have managed to pass this on more often than not and their offspring in turn have been able to do the same. There are definitely llamas out there that could use an injection of this type of bone to their genetic makeup giving them a more robust and solid appearance.

Lastly, but to me just as important, is the gentle and mellow personality that the majority of Argentines are endowed with. Calm, manageable animals are a benefit to all of us breeding better stock no matter what type of fiber or bone present.

I am truly excited about the contribution Argentines can make to the llama population. Since their numbers are still relatively low their impact is only now slowly emerging but as more full and



Mercurio - 1 year fiber regrowth evident on neck - very find and dense - fabulous colour and ears

crosses make names for themselves in the show rings and fleece contests, their mark will become distinctly recognizable. And definitely desirable too.

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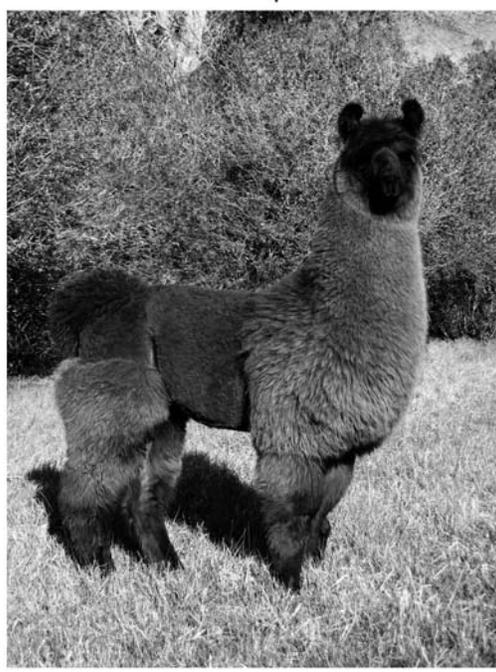


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Showing Your Argentine!

by Natalie Langowski



If you are reading this magazine, or this article, it means that you love llamas. One of the best activities to do with llamas is to take them out and get them in to the show ring. Most people that are competitive will love to show. Whether you have been showing for years, or you are just considering the idea of showing, Argentines are great to show in the ring for many reasons. They are incredibly unique looking, have great personalities, and everyone recognizes that you have one. I would like to talk about some ways to get your Argentine out into the show ring and perform at its best.

To start, you must prepare your Argentine to perform in the ring. Yes, this does include the entire grooming process. I am sure that you are overwhelmed that it is a lot of wool to brush, wash, and that it takes a lot of effort to make them look great. Really, it isn't as hard as it looks. First of all, the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to do it all at once. Take your time. Remember, if it is making you tired, it is most likely making your Argentine tired, too. I would suggest that you start at the bottom and work your way up, it is essential to hit every wooly spot that you can. Another great idea would be to wash your Argentine. With the build up of dirt and debris, the fleece does not have the luster and the movement that it should. Another helpful tip for bathing Argentines would be to make sure that they air dry after you wash them. In addition, make sure that there is not a strong wind in the forecast. Argentines are extremely dense, and if you were to blow them, or have them in a windy spot, it will blow their coat and make them appear even fluffier than most desire. Now that you have the knowledge and understand the essentials, you have no choice but to show them in the ring.

When showing an Argentine, it is very similar to showing another llama. Your primary goal is to make your animal look and feel the best it possibly can, while still having fun while you are showing. I have also come to find that Argentines are very smart and relaxed. Even when you are taking them out for the first time, they perform extremely well. They are very calm, and

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it is not essential to have the Argentine include a lot of training out in public. Although it is always hard at the first show with any animal, the second or third show will definitely prove that your Argentine knows its proper etiquette. The greatest and most important part of showing is to make sure your animal walks with you, stops and stands still, and lets the judge handle them.

I hope that these tips that I have been able to share with you give you a better understanding of the Argentine llamas. I have been showing Argentines for the past three years, and I must say that they are a joy to show off. With fourteen years of experience in showing llamas, these last three have been my favorite. Please remember the few tips that I have been able to share with you; get your Argentine as clean as possible, make sure they meet the minimal training criteria, and most of all, have fun showing off the great animal you love.



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