

Washington County 4-H

Master Showmanship

Alpaca and Llama Fact Sheet

What type of camelid are you showing?

- Llama: Tall; no fiber on legs or head; coarse fiber
- Alpaca: Smaller than llamas; soft fiber all over body.
 - Suri Alpaca: Fiber is in pencil-sized ringlets, very sleek overall.
 - Huacaya (wah-KYE-uh) Alpaca: Fiber stands out from body, very “poofy” appearance.

Information:

- *Camelid* refers to llamas, alpacas, and other related animals such as guanacos or vicunas.
- A baby camelid is called a *cria*.
- An intact male alpaca is known as a *macho*, a female is known as a *hembra*, and a castrated male is known as a *gelding*.
- Gestation period for llamas and alpacas is 11- 11 ½ months.
- Camelids have a three-chambered stomach, which means though they chew their cud they are not true ruminants.