

# El Paso County 4-H Camelid Rulebook



## Acknowledgements and References

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Credit to Camelid Community Standards of Care Working Group

Credit to Alpaca Llama Show Association (ALSA) <http://www.alsashow.net/index.html>

Credit to Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) <https://www.alpacainfo.com>

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## **El Paso County 4-H Camelid Show Rules**

This rulebook provides uniform regulations and procedures for conducting 4-H Camelid activities in Colorado.

A major goal of the 4-H youth development program is to build and strengthen the youth's character. Good sportsmanship is essential in the 4-H Camelid Project competition.

The 4-H Camelid Project is designed to emphasize youth development. The program's emphasis is on the handler and skills he or she has learned and applied. The camelid is a vehicle used to reflect this knowledge and skills learned by the handler. Since the 4-H Camelid Project is a learning experience, disqualification is discouraged. However, disqualification and/or zero scores are permitted in certain classes. See individual class rules and scoring for further details.

The rules encourage judging and competition that reflects the standards of skill and abilities in ownership and training emphasized by the Colorado 4-H Camelid Program.

### **Use of the Name and Emblem of the 4-H Club work**

Use of the name and emblem of 4-H club work is regulated by Federal law. This law states that only activities or programs under supervision of Colorado State University Extension may use the name and emblem of 4-H club work. Therefore, any local, county, district, area, or state camelid show must have the approval of the Colorado State University Extension through county, district, or state personnel.

Shows or events sponsored by other organizations or individuals and shows that do not provide separate classes for 4-H members are not permitted to use the name and emblem of 4-H club work. In such cases, the title "Junior Camelid Show" or a similar name should be used.

## Section 1. Animal Welfare

1. Exhibitors shall not knowingly enter an animal that shows unsoundness. Examples: obvious lameness indicated by untrimmed nails, a painful gait, or dropped fetlock or pasterns resulting in the fetlock or pasterns touching the ground.
2. Judges will dismiss any animals that show unsoundness or appears to be in distress.

### Humane Policy Statement

Minimum Standards of Care are mandatory for llama and alpaca survival and humane treatment. These are the most basic requirements that all llamas and alpacas must have for physical well-being and, as such, define minimum requirements for animal control officers and government officials investigating questionable llama and alpaca care situations.

1. WATER: Animals should have continuous access to potable drinking water.
2. NUTRITION: Animals should have nourishment adequate to sustain life and health.
3. SHELTER: Animals should have natural or man-made shelter that enables them to find relief from extreme weather conditions. The sheltered area must allow for the ability to stand, lie down, rest, and reasonably move about.
4. MOBILITY: Animals should have a living area through which they can move freely and exercise independently.
5. NEGLECT: Animals should have a physical appearance free from signs of serious neglect. Signs of serious neglect may include such things as crippled ambulation due to severely curled toenails, ingrown halters, or living conditions not meeting the minimums listed above.
6. SAFETY: Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from injury or death within their defined living environment and/or when traveling.
7. CRUELTY: Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from cruel treatment and actions that endanger life or health or cause avoidable suffering.
8. SOCIALIZATION: Llamas and alpacas are herd animals and should not live alone without a companion animal. A cria (a baby llama or alpaca under six months) should not be raised apart from other llamas or alpacas.
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## Section 2. Heat Stress Considerations

1. If the camelid superintendents feel the heat or humidity is too high for the animals in the show, they may require all exhibitors to hose down their animals.
2. Shearing of heavy or medium wool animals BEFORE entering the show/fairgrounds is the best prevention of heat stress. Camelids under 2 years of age may be excused from the shearing requirements based on their coat density.

## Section 3. General Rules

These rules apply to ALL classes and shows unless otherwise specified.

1. Each 4-H member is responsible for knowing the specific rules of the show in which he or she has entered. The rules of this book apply to the Colorado 4-H Camelid program.
2. Exhibitors are expected to be ringside with their animals 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of their class.
3. General show clothing is a business casual shirt with a minimum of capped sleeves and long pants. Tank tops, shorts, and leggings are not permitted. Show clothing should be conservative, neat, and appropriate for the class. \*Showmanship and costume class attire are separate.
4. Shoes should be appropriate for the show ring. Shoes must be closed toed and completely cover the entire foot. Inappropriate footwear is not permissible, and the exhibitor will be dismissed from the show ring.
5. The halter and lead should fit properly, be clean, in good repair, and be safe. Halters shall not have tassels, pom-poms, or other removable decorations. No guide knots or tape are allowed on the lead. Showmanship and costume class halter requirements are separate.
6. Final course maps will be provided at the show but are subject to change based on the judge's suggestions or requests.
7. Only voice and hand commands may be used when exhibiting animals. The use of food, clickers, or any other device is strictly prohibited.
8. Coaching from the sidelines by volunteers, parents, or superintendents is prohibited and will compromise the exhibitor's scoring.
9. Any camelid that presents itself throughout the year as a potential safety hazard due to poor training, socialization, or Aberrant Behavior Syndrome may be subject to safety testing by the superintendents or extension agents at any point. Any camelid that fails a safety test may face probation or dismissal from the program if behavior does not improve by April 30th or the day before the official El Paso County animal add/drop

date. The same camelid may be shown by no more than 2 exhibitors as long as the exhibitors are in different age classes, but that same camelid may only be shown in one costume class. (exhibitors must have followed the 4-H/FFA animal ownership submission concerning Animal ID's if showing at county fair.)

10. Striking the camelid or forcibly yanking the lead is grounds for dismissal.
11. The same camelid may be shown by no more than 2 exhibitors as long as the exhibitors are in different age classes, but that same camelid may only be shown in one costume class. (exhibitors must have followed the 4-H/FFA animal ownership submission concerning Animal ID's if showing at county fair.)
12. An exhibitor may use up to 2 camelids at the shows. However, they must use the same camelid for all performance classes, or they will not be eligible for any high point awards.
13. Ties are to be broken using ranked obstacles named by the Judge prior to the beginning of the class and shared with the scorekeeper.
14. Unruly animals will be dismissed from the ring by the judge or superintendent if the animal is deemed to be a safety threat to either its handler, other animals in the ring, or other exhibitors showing their animals.
15. Exhibitors may not enter the ring or practice with their llamas/alpacas in the ring or around the obstacles during or before the show.
16. Superintendents and volunteers will set up the obstacle courses.
17. Classes are open to any camelid six months of age or over, having been weaned for at least 30 days. Dams with nursing crias may be entered, and crias are allowed to be housed in the stalls with the dam.
18. If the dam is being shown, the cria may enter the show ring for classes. However, if the cria is not within an appropriate distance from the dam and is interfering with another exhibitor's performance the judge may dismiss the dam and cria from the show ring.

## Section 4. Showmanship

The Showmanship class demonstrates the handler's ability to show an animal to its best advantage at halter. Judging is based on the exhibitor's basic skills in preparing the llama to a clean condition and an alpaca to a pasture condition with as little disruption to the architecture of the fiber as possible, following directions, and the style presenting the animal to the Judge for evaluation. The animal's conformation is not to be considered. Judging criteria shall include the ability of the handler to control the animal for close inspection of the fiber and teeth.

### Showmanship Judging Criteria

1. All general rules from section 3 apply.
2. The halter and lead should fit properly, be clean, in good repair, and be safe. All camelids shall be presented for judging with a halter and lead rope with no additional decorations. Halters shall not have tassels, pom-poms, or other removable decorations. A halter that complements your camelid and a minimum 4-foot lead are suggested. No bright colors are allowed. No guide knots or tape are allowed on the lead.
3. Exhibitors must wear long-sleeved western or white collared shirts tucked in or appropriately tailored, along with dark-colored jeans or slacks, or a dark ankle-length skirt. Jackets, vests, and/or western hats are also permitted but not required.
4. The handler should be neat, clean, properly dressed, prompt, alert, confident, poised, and courteous.
5. Animal and equipment: the llamas/alpacas should be clean and well-groomed. The alpacas are shown in "pasture condition," with as little disruption to the architecture of the fiber as possible.
6. All camelids should be in good physical condition with the toenails trimmed.

### Showmanship Pattern Work

The pattern may include individual pattern work chosen by the Judge. Conduct of the class is at the individual Judge's discretion. Exhibitors should check at the "in" gate to see if the Judge has posted a class routine. Examples are as follows:

1. Back and lead forward a required number of steps.
2. Change positions in the line.
3. Exchange animals.
4. Demonstrate a pivot turn away from the handler.
5. Answer questions on general llama or alpaca knowledge or conformation.
6. Demonstrate a change of pace.
7. Judge touches the animal to check grooming and animal-handler reaction.
8. Follow directions from the Judge or the Ring Steward.

## **Showmanship Guidelines and Expectations**

The llama/alpaca should always be led from the left side of the animal with the lead line in the exhibitor's right hand at least 8 inches from the halter. The remaining portion of the lead should be held in a figure 8 coiled in the exhibitor's left hand. At no time should the line be coiled around the hand.

When lining up, the animal should stand or be set up squarely on all four feet. The exhibitor should always keep their camelid in line with the first camelid, not the one next to them. The exhibitor should face the llama/alpaca at a 45-degree angle off the opposite shoulder to the judge's position of the animal using the quarter method. The quarter method is designed so that the exhibitor's body position never obstructs the judge's view of the camelid during the inspection.

When asked to move out of the lineup, the exhibitor and animal should move in a straight line forward. The exhibitor should be positioned on the llama's or alpaca's left side (unless specifically asked to lead from the right) close to its shoulder. The exhibitor should never stand or lead directly in front of the animal.

When turning the animal, the exhibitor should always turn to the right, away from the handler, putting the llama or alpaca on the inside of the turn (unless it is a quarter turn or less). In an individual workout, plan the turns so that the llama's or alpaca's hind feet are nearly in place when turning (haunch or pivot) to keep the turn collected and safe and to stay on straight lines so the Judge can best evaluate the llama's or alpaca's "way of traveling."

If asked to change positions in the line, leave your space by walking forward and clear of the line, then turn to the right, go back through your space in the line and clear the line again, turn in the correct direction for the new place you are to enter, and then enter the new place in line from the rear.

When backing, the llama or alpaca should respond to the handler's request to back a minimum of 3 steps (or the number indicated by the Judge) and then move forward to the original position. The exhibitor should stand at the animal's left side, facing the rear while backing.

During the class, touching the animal to rebalance, reposition, or move it forward or backward may become necessary. This is permissible but will be judged accordingly.

Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objectionable. Position faults of the animal should be recognized and corrected quickly.

## Showmanship Hints and Tips

### When Interacting with the Judge:

#### DO

- Talk directly to the Judge.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Wear your “showmanship” attire.
- Talk in a conversational tone, speaking clearly and distinctly.

#### DON'T

- Slouch or shift your weight.
- Chew gum.
- Stand too close to the Judge.

### Showmanship Tips:

#### DO

- Maintain a safe distance between animals
- Lead the animal from the left side
- Hold the lead in his/her right hand at least 8 inches from the halter
- Hold the excess lead in a figure eight in the left hand
- Set up the camelid squarely on all four feet, stand facing the camelid at a 45-degree angle off its shoulder, move smoothly from side to side, passing in front of the camelid as the judge moves around and be aware of his/her position relative to the judge at all times

#### DON'T

- Crowd or touch others
- Lead the right side
- Hold the lead close to the halter or so far away as to lose control
- Coil the lead around the left hand or let the end dangle
- Obstruct the Judge's view of the camelid. The animal should be trained to lead safely and to stand quietly in a balanced posture

## Section 5. Performance Classes

Performance classes are designed to simulate conditions and obstacles that could be encountered in certain situations by llamas and alpacas on hikes and during human interaction: e.g., Herd health, nursing homes, and parades. These classes should demonstrate the intelligence and versatility of the animals and the rapport between handler and animal.

1. [Obstacle](#)
2. [Pack](#)
3. [Public Relations](#)

### Performance General Rules

1. All general rules from section 3 apply.
2. In Pack classes, the handler and the animal must negotiate the obstacles. The exception is an obstacle wherein a separate route for the handler has been defined or provided.
3. All packs must have at least 2 straps.
4. No written notes may be used in the actual performance classes, but written notes may be taken on paper during the walkthrough.
5. The animal must be shown in a clean, well-fitted halter and lead. Use of a halter where the chin strap tightens with pressure from the lead rope is not allowed in the performance ring.
6. After a refusal (i.e., planting all four feet, sidestepping an obstacle, etc.) the exhibitor is allowed to move to the next obstacle or try again. The exhibitor is allowed no more than three opportunities to complete an obstacle unless otherwise specified by the judge.
7. It is recommended that prior to each class, the superintendent or the presiding judge conducts a brief walk-through of the course for the exhibitors to outline the course expectations. At a minimum, the superintendent should allow a brief time for specific questions about the obstacles from the exhibitors.
8. If time constraints in the arena are required, and the show management has determined to run two courses with the exhibitor's consecutive time in the arena; each course must be clearly marked at the beginning and end. This will help youths participating in only one of the two courses to determine when and where to begin and end their course.
9. Show management is responsible for seeing that every obstacle is properly in place for each competitor.
10. The competitors will work through the course one at a time.

### Course Design, Construction, and Management

1. Performance courses should be designed to test the abilities of both the handler the animal's training by the handler, and the relationship that exists between them. The

course should have safe obstacles appropriate to the level and type of competition. It should be challenging yet fair to all participants.

2. The Pack, Obstacle, and Public Relations courses must differ from each other by at least three different obstacles.
3. The junior classes must use at least eight obstacles, and the intermediate/senior classes must use at least ten obstacles. Senior and intermediate courses may be the same. Still, each age category must be judged and placed separately.
4. All courses must include the mandatory obstacles described for the class.
5. Multiple tasks within a single obstacle are not allowed. If more than one obstacle requirement is performed at the same location, each obstacle must be clearly defined as a specific task at the completion of each obstacle, and the exhibitor must pause and receive an acknowledgment from the judge that the task was completed or attempted for the multiple obstacle sequence.
6. Kushing is not to be used as an obstacle in any performance class.
7. A pack course simulating natural conditions may be set up in an arena.
8. Obstacles, and obstacle accessories, i.e., leg wraps, ponchos, llama/alpaca blankets, hats, etc., must be consistent in design for all camelids and exhibitors.

### **Performance Course Requirements Summary**

1. Bridges, Ramps, and Stairs
  - a. Minimum width of 30 inches for Junior class divisions.
  - b. Minimum width of 24 inches for Advanced and Master divisions.
  - c. The recommended length of a bridge is approximately 8 feet.
  - d. All surfaces must be treated or toughened to avoid slippery surfaces. ALSA recommends carpet or commercial treads for all surfaces.
  - e. Shall not swing, sway, or sag.
  - f. Maximum height for any bridge is 24 inches.
  - g. Ramp requirements must meet all of the above.
  - h. The width and height of stairs and ramps shall match the width and height of the bridge.
  - i. Minimum depth of stairs is 10 inches, with risers a maximum of 9 inches.
  - j. Bridges, ramps, and stairs must not follow a water obstacle **(If allowable in the arena)**.
2. Jumps or Barriers
  - a. Jumps a maximum of 20 inches in height. The maximum height for jumps in senior and intermediate classes is 18 inches. The maximum height for jumps in junior llama and alpaca classes is 15 inches.
  - b. The width of the obstacle should be a minimum of 4 feet.
  - c. In combination jumps or barriers, the distance between them may range from a minimum of 4 feet to a maximum of 6 feet.

- d. Poles (cross bars) must be a minimum of 2 inches in diameter.
  - e. A solid jump shall be greater than 4 feet wide but no more than 12 inches high and 20 inches deep at the base.
  - f. The jumps or barriers should be solid or anchored so as not to tip over easily, but the poles themselves should not be anchored.
3. Flexibility and Maneuvering
- a. Weaving around objects (Intricate weaves are not recommended.)
  - b. Walking through gates or doors.
  - c. The height and width of openings through which an animal must pass shall be constructed to accommodate the division's largest animal/pack system.
4. Change of Pace
- a. The handler and llama/alpaca shall be required to jog or run for some distance.
  - b. There shall be a definite starting and stopping point.
5. Manageability
- a. Types
    - i. Haltering
    - ii. Taking off a pack
    - iii. Adding items to a pack
    - iv. Touching and inspecting specific llama/alpaca parts
  - b. Rules
    - i. Haltering must take place within an enclosure. For example, four portable corral panels
    - ii. When an obstacle in a junior class requires two hands of the handler to perform a task, the exhibitor has the option of the animal being tied or held by an assistant.
    - iii. The assistant shall not participate in any activity other than holding the lead rope.
    - iv. Correct saddling, loading, and unloading (if allowable in the arena) procedures must be followed.
6. Water Obstacle (If allowable in the arena)
- a. This obstacle shall be a minimum of 4 feet wide and 4 feet long with a minimum depth of water of 4 inches.
7. Deadfall
- a. A jumble of posts, logs, tree limbs, etc.
  - b. This obstacle should be a minimum of 8 feet in diameter.
  - c. The height of this obstacle should not exceed 8 inches where the animal crosses.
  - d. The number of posts, etc., should be at least six.
8. Backing
- a. The passageway may be defined as minimally as 2-inch PVC pipes or 2"x 4"s, a flat plank walkway, a low angled ramp, or as extensively as panels or a wall.

Ropes and other similar thin materials are unsuitable for defining a backing obstacle.

- b. Passageways may be straight, angled, or curved.
  - c. Passageways shall be a minimum width that allows passage of the largest llama/alpaca and a length of at least 10 feet.
  - d. The backing activity (i.e., backing into or out of) should reflect the degree of proficiency expected of the age division.
  - e. The minimum width of the backing obstacle is 24 inches.
  - f. Backing down steep stairs, ramps or other unsafe obstacles is not permitted for safety reasons. Backing over low ramps, bridges or planks is permitted if approved by the judge as safe.
9. Animate and Inanimate Objects
- a. Animate objects include but are not limited to backpackers, dogs, pack horses, mules, goats, people in wheelchairs or beds, youth on tricycles, etc.
  - b. Inanimate objects include tents, motorcycles, bicycles, etc.
  - c. Animal skins may be used, provided they are not of a predator, alpaca or llama skin.
10. Ducking
- a. Any time an animal must pass under an obstacle, the obstacle must be securely anchored so as not **to** move when an animal presses against the crosspiece or upright.
11. Additional Obstacles
- a. Superintendents may add other pertinent obstacles as they see fit.

### **Criteria of Performance Classes**

The following criteria are the basis for the formation of an ideal mental picture of a llama or alpaca proceeding through an Obstacle, Public Relations, or Pack Class.

1. Rapport, mutual confidence, and trust between animal and handler are desirable.
2. The animal should follow the handler through the course on a loose lead.
3. The animal should be allowed the freedom to pause momentarily before attempting an obstacle.

Entries are penalized for the following categories of faults:

1. Handler Errors including but not limited to:
  - a. Tight Lead
  - b. Short Lead
  - c. Dangling free end of the lead rope
  - d. Inattentiveness to animal
  - e. In Pack class, the halter is too tight for trail work

- f. Lack of handler rapport
  - g. Lack of flow
2. Minor Faults, including but not limited to:
    - a. Touching of obstacle
    - b. Too wide or too tight in turns
    - c. Slow response to handler's request
    - d. Inattentiveness of the llama/alpaca
    - e. Bad disposition or unwillingness
    - f. Nervousness, agitation, fearfulness
    - g. Poor jumping form
    - h. In Pack class, improper placement of pack or filling out of panniers
    - i. In Pack class, improper cinching
    - j. In Pack class, dangling straps that reach below the knee of the animal
    - k. In Pack class, spooking during saddling or unsaddling
    - l. Llama/alpaca persistently out ahead of the handler
    - m. Too slow of pace through the course
    - n. Moderate safety hazard (i.e., reaching under llama/alpaca to pick up rear foot)
  3. Major Faults, including but not limited to:
    - a. Knocking down of poles, jumps, or other obstacle parts
    - b. Stepping out of obstacle confinements
    - c. Extreme irritation, spooking, or nervousness
    - d. Not accepting the pack
    - e. In Pack class, excessive shifting or bouncing of the pack
    - f. Rushing out ahead of the handler on exiting or entering an obstacle
    - g. Failure to execute a complete stop
    - h. Improper or unsafe knots when tying a lead rope
    - i. Major safety hazard (i.e., standing in the space where the llama/alpaca would jump as it is coming out of the trailer, wrapping lead rope around hand or having a hand on the clip where the lead and halter are attached.
    - j. In Pack class, loosening front cinch before back cinch
    - k. In Pack class, fastening any strap before the front cinch
    - l. Taking an obstacle backwards
    - m. Taking multiple jumps in the wrong order
    - n. Going in or out of the wrong door of the trailer
  4. Incompletions
    - a. Not closing a gate
    - b. Missing an upright pole in a weaving obstacle
    - c. Not completing one of a series of jumps
    - d. Not backing all the way
    - e. No response to request for change of pace
    - f. Losing pack or added items

- g. Off the side of the bridge or ramp without another successful attempt to complete the obstacle
  - h. Entering, but not successfully completing or exiting any obstacle or activity (Entering an obstacle is defined as all four of the camelid's feet being inside or on the obstacle, except such obstacle as the sidestep where only 2 feet are required to enter.)
5. Off Course
- a. Forgetting or skipping an obstacle
  - b. Taking an additional obstacle
  - c. Taking an obstacle out of sequence from the posted course

### Performance Class Definitions

- A. **Course:** The course may be located indoors, outdoors, or a combination of the two and must include the minimum required obstacles for each class. The course for each specific class should be different and reflect the intent of that class with all mandatory obstacles included.
- B. **Loose Lead:** A Loose Lead is one in which the handler has his/her hand on the lead rope in a position that permits the lead rope to form a "J" from the llama's head to the handler's hand. The handler should walk on the alpaca's left side holding the lead in the right hand 8 to 16 inches from the halter, not on the snap or snap attachment, with the tail of the lead folded neatly in the left hand. The lead shall not be used to continuously pull the alpaca's head up nor used to hold up the handler's hand and arm but should be held slightly to the left of the halter ring with no continuous pressure applied. When walking, the handler should be positioned just behind the eye of the alpaca.
- C. **Tight Lead:** A Tight Lead is one in which the lead rope is persistently stretched tight from the handler's hand to the animal's head and is not the result of giving necessary direction on a particular obstacle.
- D. **Short Lead:** A Short Lead is one in which the handler's hand is close to the animal's head, resulting in restriction of movement of the animal's head and neck.
- E. **Refusal:** The determination is made when the animal has been presented with the obstacle and
  - (1) plants all four feet refusing to budge,
  - (2) will not respond to pressure on the lead rope to move forward,
  - (3) steps to the side of the obstacle to avoid the obstacle or
  - (4) takes a step backward from the obstacle. Includes placing only 1, 2 or 3 feet in or on an obstacle, except such obstacle as the sidestep where only 2 feet enter. This should not be confused with "Incomplete," where the animal does not totally complete an entered obstacle.

- F. **Lack of Rapport:** Lack of Rapport is the lack of trust between the animal and the handler.
- G. **Lack of Smooth Flow:** Lack of Smooth Flow is the absence of a smooth negotiation and transition of handler and animal through the obstacle.
- H. **Safety Hazard:** Potential safety hazard is when the handler or animal does something in performance of the obstacle that can potentially create a hazardous situation to the handler or animal.

### **Performance Show Hints**

- a. Exhibitors should encourage their camelid to walk out briskly on a slack line, never giving the appearance of having to “drag” their animals or jerk on the lead.
- b. The camelid should always be led from the left side with the lead line in the exhibitor’s right hand at least 8 inches from the halter. The remaining portion of the lead should be held in a figure 8 coiled in the exhibitor’s left hand. At no time should the line be coiled around the hand.
- c. When turning the animal, the exhibitor should always turn to the right, away from the handler, putting the camelid on the inside of the turn (unless it is a quarter turn or less). In an individual workout, plan turns so that the camelid’s hind feet are nearly in place when turning (haunch or pivot) in order to keep the turn collected, safe and to stay on straight lines so the Judge can best evaluate the camelid’s “way of traveling.”
- d. The handler should be neat, clean, properly dressed, prompt, alert, confident, poised and courteous.
- e. Be natural. Over showing, undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.
- f. Position faults of the animal should be recognized and corrected quickly.

### **General Performance Class Scoring**

Each obstacle or activity will be worth 10 points. Points will be subtracted for faults as described under judging criteria.

#### **Rules for Scoring**

1. A handler and llama/alpaca must make at least one attempt at each obstacle, or they will be considered off course.
2. A llama/alpaca and handler going off course cannot place over an animal who completed the course.
3. If the same fault occurs at each obstacle, points may be subtracted from each occurrence.
4. The animal completing the course with the most points wins unless it has gone off course.
5. Tie breakers shall be determined by the Judge before the class **and shared with the scorekeepers.**

6. The Judge(s) shall audit and sign the final class placings. Upon the Judge's signature, the class results are final.
7. An animal refusing the obstacle will be scored accordingly, based on the number of attempts necessary for the successful completion of the obstacle.
8. All performance score sheets should remain the property of show management/extension office.

### **Obstacle Class**

The purpose of the Obstacle Class is to demonstrate the well-trained animal's obedience and willingness to complete the activities requested by the handler.

1. Equipment
  - a. The animal must be shown in a clean, well-fitted halter and lead.
  - b. The animal will not wear a pack for this class.
2. Conduct of class
  - a. If there is just one Judge, the competitors will work through the course one at a time.
3. Course
  - a. The junior class must use 8 obstacles, the Intermediate and Senior classes must use 10 obstacles.
  - b. All courses must include the mandatory obstacles described for this class.
  - c. The Obstacle Course must differ from the Public Relations and Pack course by at least **3** obstacles.
4. Mandatory Obstacles
  - a. Bridge or ramp
  - b. Jumps
  - c. Flexibility and maneuvering
  - d. Change of pace
  - e. Backing (Only one backing obstacle permitted per class.)

### **Pack Class**

This class is designed to present or simulate the conditions and obstacles actually encountered when packing llamas on the trail. Llamas and alpacas must be 6 months old to compete in any Pack Class.

1. Age Requirements
  - a. 6 months to 36 months: llamas or **ALL** alpacas carry no weight but must carry a pack system or training pack with two cinches, complete with fill material to simulate a full pack loaded for an actual packing trip. It is not required that the panniers be removable.

- b. 36 months and over: llamas carry 20 lbs. Alpacas will not carry any additional weight to pack system other than light weight fill material for panniers.
2. Pack Requirements
  - a. All packs must have at least 2 straps.
  - b. Llamas and alpacas 6 months to 36 months of age must not carry measurable weight beyond negligible fill materials in their packs. The packs must be the proper scale for the animal's size.
  - c. Llamas aged 36 months and over must carry a pack system with two cinches with a minimum of 20 lbs. The pack must appear to be fully filled out.
  - d. **ALL** alpacas must carry a pack system with no added weight. Alpacas of all ages may wear day packs. The packs must be of proper scale for the animal's size. The pack must appear to be fully filled out.
  - e. All exhibitors must provide their own saddle and panniers, or training pack as specified above, whether owned or borrowed.
3. Equipment Requirements Other than the Pack.
  - a. Halters, lead ropes and pack should be sound and practical for use in the backcountry.
  - b. The halter shall be adjusted to allow the llamas/alpacas to graze and chew comfortably.
  - c. The handler shall wear clothing, including footwear, suitable for packing.
4. Conduct of the class
  - a. Conduct is the same as in the obstacle class.
  - b. Show Management shall provide a scale for weighing packs.
  - c. Show Management shall check all packs before classes and may use a marking system (such as a colored tag or strip of tape) by which the Ring Steward and/or gatekeeper can see that the pack has been officially weighed. Young llamas not carrying weight can have their packs marked with an alternative color or type of marking.
5. Course
  - a. The junior youth divisions must use 8 obstacles. The senior and intermediate youth divisions must use 10 obstacles.
  - b. When possible, the course should be set in natural conditions.
  - c. When necessary, a course simulating natural conditions may be set up in an arena.
  - d. The course must include the mandatory obstacles described for this class.
  - e. Intermediate and senior age classes may have removal of the packs during an obstacle during the class.
  - f. Junior age participants may not remove the pack during class.
6. Mandatory Obstacles:
  - a. Bridge or ramp

- b. Stepper (12 inches maximum height)
- c. Manageability
- d. Take off the pack (except for **Junior** Youth classes)
- e. Flexibility and maneuvering

### **Public Relations Class**

This class is for the animal that participates in community activities, goes to schools, hospitals, service clubs, parades, charity functions, children's homes, and rehabilitation therapy with a variety of patients, television, or other media appearances for promotion.

- A. Equipment: The animal should be shown in a clean, well-fitted halter and lead.
- B. Conduct of the class: same as for the Obstacle class.
- C. Course
  - a. Junior class divisions must use 8 obstacles. The intermediate and senior class divisions must use 10 obstacles.
  - b. The course must include the mandatory obstacles for this class.
  - c. The Public Relations course must differ from the Obstacle and Pack courses by at least **3** obstacles.
- D. Mandatory Obstacles:
  - a. Stairs or Ramps
  - b. In defined area, pick up foot and show pad, or show teeth.
  - c. Backing: Recommend going around and between obstacles such as chairs, tables, beds, desks, etc. (Only one backing obstacle per class.)
  - d. Petting: One or two adults stroke the llama/alpaca on the neck in a subdued manner. The petting process must be performed identically on each animal in the class. Only adults may be used as petters.
- E. Optional Obstacles
  - a. Animal wears a hat around the course.
  - b. Handler grooms the camelid in confinement area.
  - c. Give animal to stranger (person selected by the superintendent or show management) to walk around and return llama to handler.
  - d. Walk through defined area with different textured materials or messy room.
  - e. Animal views self in mirror.
  - f. Weave through school desks or nursing home chairs, beds, desks, etc.
  - g. Wheelchair patient (adult ALSA member or exhibitor) touches animal on the neck or takes flash pictures.
  - h. Sidestep.
  - i. Animal stands behind a line or outside a circle while handler steps across line or inside circle to search for and find object. Animal stays on other side of line or outside circle during search.
  - j. Animal goes through hula hoop or inner tubes.

- k. Multiple additional obstacles can be used that relate to showing llamas and alpacas in public but keep it safe for the animals and handlers.

**Performance Course Mandatory Obstacles**

<b>Obstacle</b>	<b>Pack</b>	<b>Public Relations</b>
Bridge or Ramp	Bridge or Ramp	Stairs or Ramp
Jumps	Step Over (12" Max)	Pick up foot, show teeth
Flexibility and Maneuvering	Manageability	Backing
Change of Pace	Take off Pack (except juniors)	Petting
Backing	Flexibility and Maneuvering	

*8 obstacles required for Junior classes*

*10 obstacles are required for Intermediate and Senior classes*

*Only one backing obstacle allowed per course*

**Performance Course Obstacle Size Requirements**

<b><i>Bridge, Ramp, and Stairs</i></b>	
Bridge/Ramp/Stair Width	Min. 30" Min. 24"
Bridge Height	Max. 24"
Stairs	Min. 10" depth Max. 9" height Stairs must be the same width as the bridge
<b><i>Jumps And Step-Overs</i></b>	
Jump	Height Max. 18" Max. 18" (Int/Sr) Max. 15" (Junior)
Jump Crossbar	Min. 2" diameter
Solid Jump	Min. 4' width Max. 12" height Max. 20" deep
Step-Over	Max. 12"
<b><i>Other Obstacles</i></b>	
Deadfall Min. 6 sticks	Min. 6' in Diameter
Platform Obstacle	Max. 10" height if turn around Max. 12" height if carrying pack Min. 5' sq. if doing turn around
Water Obstacle (If allowable in the arena)	Min. 4" - Max. 12" water depth Min. 4' x 4' in size
Backing	Min. width 24" Min. length 10'

Load in Vehicle (If allowable in the arena)	Minimum size 10' x 5' Max. height 30" off ground
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## Section 6. Additional Classes and Awards

### Costume

The Costume Contest in 4-H is not about dressing up your camelid, but rather how the 4-H member has trained and desensitized the camelid to various stimuli. This class's purpose is much like the other courses, such as Showmanship, Obstacle, Packing, and Public Relations. Although it may be an entertaining event for spectators, it's important not to lose sight of the purpose behind it. The more your camelid is trained to accept being touched, wearing the costume, and having coverage on different parts of their body, the higher your score will be. Points are awarded for things like dragging items, hats, glasses, noise-making items, and reflective items, all showing how well the 4-H member has worked with their camelid. Additionally, the handler's attire and theme are also considered in the score because the camelid's acceptance of the oddity of the handler's attire shows the desensitization of the camelid. The costumes can be purchased or made, but the focus is on the training and desensitization of the camelid BEFORE the show.

Judging Criteria: All categories have the capacity to earn 1-10 points for a total of 40 possible.

#### 1. Training

- a. (How much training of the camelid has the Exhibitor shown in the camelid's acceptance of wearing the different items with the costume? Things to consider are things camelids do not like, for example, eye coverage, dragging items, dragging noisy items, leg coverage, large items attached to their bodies.)

#### 2. Coverage

- a. (The more coverage on the camelid's body, the higher the score.)

#### 3. Originality

- a. (Does the costume show originality?)

#### 4. Consistency of theme

- a. (Does the camelid and the Exhibitor's costume show understandable consistency to the theme used?)

### **Sportsmanship Award**

This award is given to an exhibitor who shows true sportsmanship. The recipient acts with ethics, kindness, fairness, and integrity throughout their project. Their respectful behavior and positive presence promote teamwork and respect among peers, judges, and the community. Nominations can be submitted by another 4-H member, a parent, a club leader, or a 4-H volunteer via a google form. You can find this form at <https://forms.gle/6CDizr8tYyahjEgq7>

The winner will be decided by an independent third-party organization and announced at the Fall Achievement Awards Ceremony.

### **Camelid Mentor Award**

This award recognizes an exceptional exhibitor whose mentorship has empowered others to achieve their project goals. By providing moral support, educational guidance, and social encouragement, they foster an inspiring environment for growth and collaboration. Nominations can be submitted by another 4-H member, a parent, a club leader, or a 4-H volunteer via a google form. You can find this form at <https://forms.gle/b67mZp5zuZfkb9Sr7>

The winner will be decided by an independent third-party organization and announced at the Fall Achievement Awards Ceremony.