



## DETAILS

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The ILR is pleased to present a new performance opportunity: "Camelid Companion Certification" (CCC). "CCC" is a level of achievement certification program consisting of "tracks" or levels that llamas and alpacas (hereafter referred to as lama) earn by demonstrating mastery of tasks associated with each "track." Certification trials can be offered in addition to traditional classes at shows; at packing or driving gatherings, or as stand-alone events in public or on member ranches. Achievements earned can be recorded through the ILR (International Lama Registry) UAP (Universal Awards Program) for lifetime achievement awards and possibly viewed on animal's ILR pages.

### Camelid Companion Certification Goals

- To provide a forum for increased participation (especially for beginners) where people are not competing against other llamas or exhibitors, but against the standards for performance only.
- To provide a program for the lama community of trainers and performers and people who want to participate in a program that measures achievement.
- To provide a forum where improvement can be measured, rewarded, and recorded.
- To provide consistency in tasks, judging and the measure of awards.
- To provide a format that can expand to meet the needs of people and llamas at all levels of training and relationship.
- To improve the measure of value for llamas.

### Camelid Companion Certification Trial Definitions and Ground Rules

- a) The Camelid Companion Trial Certification Division is a level of achievement program for measuring lama training and relationship with a human handler. The tracks themselves do not necessarily indicate a stepwise progression of increasing difficulty, just different tasks. Within each "track" however, a series of levels may represent a stepwise level of achievement. Tracks can be assigned L-Levels which llamas can earn or "collect" and have tracked through the UAP program and eventually added to their page on ILR database searches, similar to other awards or merit badges earned.
- b) The program begins with Basic Camelid Citizen Certification, the fundamental level modeled after requirements any lama normally is expected to perform around the

farm and in basic activities with humans off the farm. Basic Camelid Citizen Certification is necessary to pass prior to beginning collecting future tracks.

- c) Camelid Companion Certification Format (this is current as of March 2012; additional titles (and or levels within a title) and levels will be added as necessary.

**1) Camelid Companion Certification Levels**

**Level 1 - Basic Camelid Citizen**

**Level 2 - Good Camelid Citizen**

**Level 3 - Outstanding Camelid Citizen**

To achieve Companion level certification a lama must successfully pass each task in a level three (3) times on two (2) different days under a minimum of two different judges or certifiers. However, only one completion on the farm or at the facility where the lama normally lives is permitted.

**2) All tasks are judged on a pass / not pass basis.**

- (a) Once an individual task has been passed three times, it is not necessary to perform this task again in subsequent trials at that level.
- (b) For a lama to compete in the next level, it must have successfully completed the prior level. For example, an animal will have to have the Basic Camelid Citizen title prior to advancing to the Good Camelid Citizen award.

- 3) At the time an animal enters the trial, no fees are collected.** When all three (3) trials have been successfully completed, the completed sheet is to be sent into the ILR office along with a \$15.00 fee to print your own certificate; \$20 fee if you would like the office to print and mail you a certificate. The ILR will then issue the lama a certificate of achievement.

Participants may register for two (2) trials on the same day under different certifiers. A lama which has completed all but a few tasks at a level will be allowed a maximum of two (2) more attempts per day at the failed tasks. These attempts will be made after all the original registered llamas have been through the course.

- 4) Until a level is completed, handlers / owners will be responsible for keeping their animal's scoresheet** (the original blank form can be downloaded from the ILR-SD site) and obtaining the appropriate certifier signatures after passing each task in a trial. The certifiers nor the office will keep a copy. Preferably, the animal's handler will present the scoresheet to the certifier at the beginning of the trial so that completions can be signed off as the trial progresses.

Once a level is completed, scoresheets, complete with the llama's ILR number, certifiers' signatures, and completion dates, may be registered with the ILR office by sending in the completed sheet with the applicable fee.

- 5) **To become a certifier, all prospective certifiers must have llama handling experience, have read and understood all tasks** in each trial for which they will be certifying llamas, and understand completely what constitutes a pass VS not pass judgment. During each event, the certifier or judge will discuss and possibly demonstrate the ability they expect achieved.
- 6) **The requirements for passing each task will be spelled out and certifiers will not be permitted to pass attempts that clearly show marked resistance** to performing the task, nor will they be permitted to not pass llamas based on any behaviors or criteria that are not specified as "not pass" in the task description. This prevents individual certifiers from creating and imposing their own standards and makes each certification level a useful and predictable measure of a particular animal's training and handling.
- 7) **In the case of unusual and unequal distractive circumstances that may affect the llama's performance or reactions such that it may be caused to fail the task** (such as a child running past the pen, or a dog running around within the llama's range of sight) **during a trial, the certifier has the discretion to ask the handler to begin the specified task(s) again** once the problematic issue has been resolved. If the certifier grants a repeat attempt, the handler also has the discretion to leave the trial area and begin again once the llama has calmed down in the event that the circumstances are severe enough that the llama remains agitated.
- 8) **Certifiers may not certify llamas that they own or that they handle.**
- 9) **If the Camelid Companion judging is being done in conjunction with another competition** (i.e., 4H shows, County Fairs; Youth Days), **the judge can "double score" each task** (one for the Pass / Not Pass and a second score for the same task being a numeric score), allowing the individual animal to be eligible for the level of completion and also show awards.

## Current Levels of Certification Chart

Task	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>LEVEL 1</b>								
<b>Basic Camelid Citizen</b>								
	Lama allows approach while tied in a pen	Lama allows halter to be removed	Lama willingly accepts halter	Lama negotiates gate	Lama walks on loose lead and stop	Lama turns both directions	Lama back 6 feet	Lama loads in trailer
<b>LEVEL 2</b>								
<b>Good Camelid Citizen</b>								
	Lama allows contact on neck, back, chest, belly, rump, and tail while tied	Lama allows handling of or contact on face and ears	Lama allows basic inspection of incisors, canines and gums	Lama allows left front foot to be touched and picked up while tied	Lama allows right front foot to be touched and picked up while tied.	Lama allows left rear foot to be touched and picked up while tied	Lama allows right rear foot to be touched and picked up while tied	Lama conducts change of pace
<b>LEVEL 3</b>								
<b>Outstanding Camelid Citizen (<i>note – kushing may be substituted for any of the assigned tasks</i>)</b>								
	Lama walks calmly by a person with a live animal (not an alpaca or llama).	Lama walks calmly over a tarp with a few branches on it	Lama steps up on and over a platform 12" from the ground	Lama performs a haunch turn within a circular area with a 36" diameter	Lama backs through two chairs in an S fashion	Lama allows all legs to be hosed down with water while tied	Lama allows a parade pack to be placed on his back and cinched	Lama conducts change of pace with pack on

## **Camelid Citizen Certification Level 1: “Basic Camelid Citizen.”**

These are basic tasks and skills every llama should perform for normal handling and transport.

- 1) Approach while tied in a pen by handler.** Llama or alpaca is tied in the pen. Handler enters the pen and approaches to within one foot of llama or alpaca.

Pass: Animal stands calmly for handler approach. Minimal shifting position of feet, looking around, and other normal calm movement will be allowed. Moving to the end of the tie and stopping is allowed.

Not Pass: Pulling on the tie lead, repetitive shifting or dancing around, evasion when approached and similar movement indicating attempts at avoidance.
- 2) Remove Halter.** Untie llama and remove halter and lead.

Pass. Llama stands still, holds head stationary or lowers head in a calm manner to facilitate halter removal, allows halter to be fully removed without pulling out of the halter, and stands calmly next to handler until released (such as by handler removing arm from llama’s neck, or a minimum of two seconds if unrestrained by handler arm).

Not Pass: Llama turns head away, lifts head, plunges head downward, jerks away or out of halter, backs up or moves quickly away from handler before or after halter leaves llama’s face.
- 3) Llama Accepts halter.** Handler leaves pen and returns to halter the loose llama. For consistency among animals, llamas are to be haltered from the normal (left) side. A handler with physical limitations that genuinely prevent haltering from the normal side may receive an exception. Lamas may move a couple of feet to establish secure space and balance, but should not evade attempts of handler to get near the lama. Once haltered, lama is tied to the pen panel again.

Pass: Lama remains still while approached and halter is put on and fastened; lama may hold head stationary or calmly insert nose into halter after halter is presented; lama remains still while halter is fastened.

Not Pass: Lama thrusts nose toward halter before halter is presented; lama evades haltering; lama shakes head during fastening, evasive movement of feet.
- 4) Negotiate gate.**

Pass: Lama follows on loose lead with not more than voice and/or light lead cues to the pen exit and stands quietly while handler opens gate or panel and moves through. When cued, walks calmly through gate or panel opening and waits (stands) with or without a cue once completely through and clear of gates or panels.

Not Pass: Lama evades approach toward exit, balks or refuses to exit when cued, rushes through opening, fails to stand calmly when on outside of opening. Lama requires constant pressure for more than 2 seconds on lead to start or to continue; llama requires cueing due to inattention, stopping, or balking.

**5) Walking on a loose lead and halt.** — Handler leads lama a distance of 15' and then stops.

Pass: Lama walks calmly on a loose lead following handler and stopping when handler stops. Verbal and/or lead cues allowed.

Not Pass: Lama balks, stops, or requires multiple cues and effort to begin walking or keep going this distance, wanders from line of travel. Lama keeps pressure on the lead while walking. Lama fails to stop when handler stops or lama travels past handler.

**6) Turn both directions.**

Pass: Lama responds to light lead pressure to turn both left and right.

Not Pass: Lama requires constant pressure for more than 2 seconds on lead to start or to continue; lama requires additional cueing due to inattention, stopping, or balking. Handler touches or uses physical pressure to initiate or maintain movement.

**7) Backing** — Lama to back 6 feet, or approximately one body length.

Pass: Lama backs the required distance in an essentially straight line (not more than one lama width deviation to either side) with only pressure on the halter or verbal or hand cues from handler.

Not Pass: Use of physical contact to initiate or sustain movement. Lama resists, balks, stops, tosses head, steps forward or other expressed resistance to the backing request. Backs significantly off to right or left rather than in straight line.

**8) Load** for travel using a trailer.

Pass: Lama enters a trailer. Stopping to inspect or to adjust to a darker/lighter interior prior to entry is acceptable.

Not Pass: Evasive attempts to avoid entry, refusal to move forward when cued other than stopping to inspect or to adjust to a darker or lighter interior, partial entry followed by backing out.

**Camelid Citizen Certification Level 2: “Good Camelid Citizen.”**

These are basic handling and tasks every lama can learn to tolerate to facilitate its own maintenance and care.

**1) Lama allows contact** on neck, back, chest, belly, rump, and tail while tied.

Pass: Lama accepts handler patting, stroking, scratching, or a combination of touch techniques on entire body surface.

Not Pass: Including, but not limited to, lama evades, moves other than to maintain disturbed balance, or kicks, spits, threatens with ears back or demonstrates other evasive movements.

**2) Lama allows handling of or contact on face and ears.**

Pass: Lama accepts handler stroking entire head (hand passing over eyes, muzzle, nostrils and lips, cheeks, top of head) and ears (hand stroking up entire length of ears; also rotating each ear to allow interior

inspection). Moving feet a single step to maintain balance or facilitate handling is permitted.

Not Pass: Including, but not limited to, lama shakes, tosses, or jerks head, moves feet to evade.

**3) Allow basic inspection of incisors, canines, and gums.**

Pass. Lama allows lip to be parted to inspect all incisors and canines. Mouth held open for approximately 3 seconds.

Not Pass: Shakes, tosses, jerks head, backs up, or moves away.

**4) Lama allows left front foot to be touched and picked up while tied.**

Pass: Lama stands calmly while handler picks up left front foot.

Not Pass: Lama refuses to lift foot, attempts to evade by dancing, kneeling, kushing, or other evasive movement.

**5) Lama allows right front foot to be touched and picked up while tied.**

Pass: Lama stands calmly while handler picks up right front foot.

Not Pass: Lama refuses to lift foot, attempts to evade by dancing, kneeling, kushing, or other evasive movement.

**6) Lama allows left rear foot to be touched and picked up while tied.**

Pass: Lama stands calmly while handler picks up left rear foot.

Not Pass: Lama refuses to lift foot, attempts to evade by dancing, kushing or other evasive movement.

**7) Lama allows right rear foot to be touched and picked up while tied.**

Pass: Lama stands calmly while handler picks up right rear foot.

Not Pass: Lama refuses to lift foot, attempts to evade by dancing, kushing or other evasive movement.

**8) Change of pace:** Handler exits pen with lama and stops, begins walking and then cues lama to shift into a faster gait (running walk, trot or canter are all acceptable) for approximately 20', slows to a walk, and then stops. The walk-faster gait-walk-halt sequence is then repeated in the opposite direction.

Pass: Lama follows handlers with requested gait changes.

Not Pass: Lama resists cues to move forward (including walking out of pen); fails to transition to the requested gait changes when asked, stops or changes gait prior to being asked; evades or does not maintain a straight line of travel with handler; gets in front of handler (such that the llama's shoulder region or more passes the handler's body).

### **Camelid Citizen Certification Level 3: “Camelid Outstanding Citizen”**

Advanced handling and tasks every lama can learn to tolerate to facilitate interactions with humans and other situations.

**1) Lama walks calmly by a person with another animal (cannot be a llama or alpaca)**

Pass: Lama does not negatively react to the situation and walks in a straight line past the person with the animal

Not Pass: Lama appears scared or jumps away from person and animal

**2) Lama walks calmly over a tarp with a few branches on it**

Pass: Lama walks onto tarp without hesitation and continues over tarp calmly.

Not Pass: Any type of refusal or hesitation resulting in a tight lead .

**3) Step up on and over a platform 12” from the ground**

Pass: Lama follows handler up the platform and off

Not Pass: Any refusal or having to tighten the lead

**4) Lama performs a haunch within an circular area with a 36” diameter**

Pass: Lama completes task without stepping out of area or being touched

Not Pass: Llama is physically touched or steps out of the area

**5) Lama backs through two chairs in an S fashion**

Pass: Llama backs on cue without being touched or excessive pressure being applied

Not Pass: Llama does not complete task or has to be touched to complete the task

**6) Lama allows all legs to be hosed down with water while tied**

Pass: Lama stands calmly while water is sprayed on legs to thoroughly wet legs (cooling mechanism in heat).

Not Pass: Lama refuses to stand for the water.

**7) Lama allows a parade pack to be placed on his back and cinched**

Pass: Lama stands calmly while handler placed pack on back and cinches it.

Not Pass: Lama refuses to stand or expressed discontent

**8) Change of pace with pack on:** Handler exits pen with lama and stops, begins walking and then cues lama to shift into a faster gait (running walk, trot or canter are all acceptable) for approximately 10-20', slows to a walk, and then stops. The walk-faster gait-walk-halt sequence is then repeated in the opposite direction.

Pass: Lama follows handlers with requested gait changes.

Not Pass: Lama resists cues to move forward (including walking out of pen); fails to transition to the requested gait changes when asked, stops or



changes gait prior to being asked; evades or does not maintain a straight line of travel with handler; gets in front of handler (such that the lama's shoulder region or more passes the handler's body).

- 9) Kushing – llama kushes on demand** – this task can substitute for any of the above tasks.

Pass: Lama kushes when asked

Not Pass: Lama refuses to kush or only kushes when forced to.

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