

Camelid Companion Certification LEVEL 1 Specific Criteria

(Can be printed on back of scoresheet or as a separate page.)

1) Approach while tied in a pen by handler. Animal is tied in the pen. Handler enters the pen and approaches to within one foot.

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: Any avoidance

2) Remove Halter. Untie animal and remove halter and lead.

Pass. Animal 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 neck, or a minimum of two seconds if unrestrained by handler arm).

Not Pass: Animal 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 lama's face.

3) Animal accepts halter. Handler leaves pen and returns to halter the loose llama (from the left side). A handler with physical limitations that genuinely prevent haltering from the normal side may receive an exception. Animal may move a couple of feet to establish secure space and balance, but should not evade attempts of handler to get near the llama or alpaca. Once haltered, animal is tied to the pen panel again.

Pass: Animal 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; animal remains still while halter is fastened.

Not Pass: Animal thrusts nose toward halter before halter is presented; evades haltering; shakes head during fastening, evasive movement of feet.

4) Negotiate gate.

Pass: Animal 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, animal 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: Evasiveness on approach toward exit, balks or refuses to exit when cued, rushes through opening, fails to stand calmly when on outside of opening or requires constant pressure for more than 2 seconds on lead to start or to continue; or 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: Animal walks calmly on a loose lead following handler and stopping when handler stops. Verbal and/or lead cues allowed.

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

6) Turn both directions.

Pass. Llama or alpaca responds to light lead pressure to turn both left and right.

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

7) Backing — Animal backs 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. Animal 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: Animal 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.