



JUDGE ALONG

Llamas

at the Missouri State Fair

What a judge might look for in llamas:

- ◆ All body parts that are symmetrical and proportionate to one another (neck, length of body, length of legs).
- ◆ Straight legs, straight topline and a high tail set.
- ◆ Good bone density and minimal to no body fat.
- ◆ Clean, soft wool on body. Textures vary from fine to coarse, and from very short to very long in length.
- ◆ Correct "way of traveling" (walking and running).
- ◆ Trusting spirit and gentle disposition.

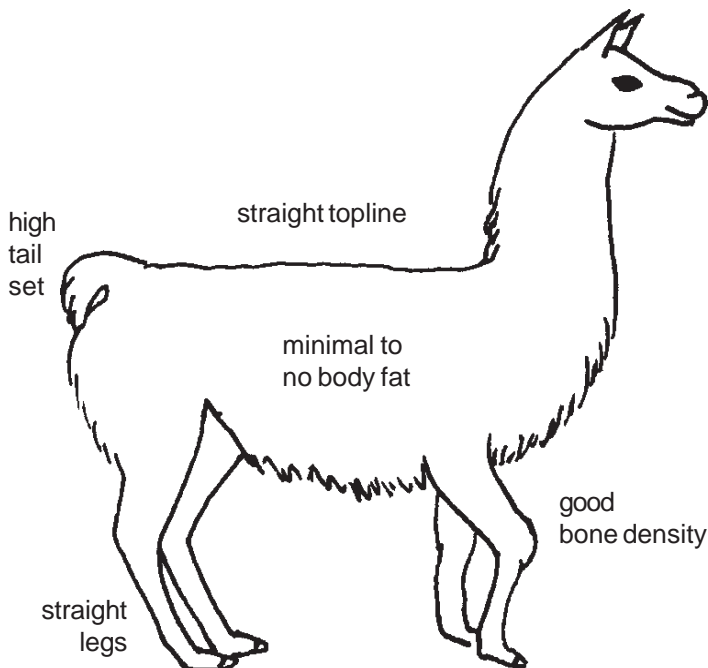
What a judge might look for in the show ring:

- ◆ **COSTUME CLASS:** The exhibitor's attire is judged on beauty and/or originality, coordination with the llama's equipment, and spectator appeal. The class also examines the llama's ability "to endure" its costume on its head, back, legs, etc.
- ◆ **OBSTACLE COURSE:** The animals are kept on a loose lead through obstacles, which represent those that may be found in woods or while hiking or packing. This competition also examines the llama's trust in its handler, while using its own intelligence to evaluate tackling each obstacle.

◆ **SHOWMANSHIP CLASS:** This class demonstrates the handler's ability to show the animal to its best advantage at halter. Judging is based on the exhibitor's basic skills in fitting, grooming, following directions, and style of presenting the animal to the judge. The llama's conformation is not considered. The handler's attire should neat,

clean and appropriate for the class.
◆ **PUBLIC RELATIONS ("PR") CLASS:** This class shows the llama's willingness to negotiate any obstacle and handle any unexpected situation as the animal participates in visits between the handler and the general public.

◆ A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animal and to the judge at all times.



Look for similar "Judge Along" sheets near the other livestock show rings, or at www.mostatefair.com

Did you know . . .

- Llamas are native to South America and have been domesticated for over 5,000 years.
- Llamas are members of the camel family because they are even-toed (two toes), are cud chewers, have more than one stomach (three), have padded feet, and are pack animals.
- Common uses for llamas are: companion animals, breeding stock, packing, wool production, cart driving, therapy for the elderly and handicapped, and guard animals for sheep and goats.
- Mature llamas (3-4 years) weigh between 250-500 pounds and are about 5-6 feet tall. Their average lifespan is 15-20 years.
- Llamas have single births, and their period of gestation is about 11-1/2 months.
- Normal **crias** (young llamas) average 25-30 pounds at birth.
- Llamas cannot bite and do not kick. They have very gentle, trusting dispositions.
- Llamas can carry a third of their body weight for 10 to 12 hours a day!



You give it a try and see how your placings compare to the judge's (fill in the exhibitor's number):

Your Choice:

1st Place _____
2nd Place _____
3rd Place _____
4th Place _____
5th Place _____

Judge's Decision:

1st Place _____
2nd Place _____
3rd Place _____
4th Place _____
5th Place _____