

LMRG report
Camelid Community
 August 1-2, 2009

The **Lama Medical Research Group** met twice this past year to review and discuss nine new proposals submitted for funding to **Morris Animal Foundation**.

Those participating were:

Dr. Allan Dewald, MD, South Dakota, past LMRG chair, ARF Board member, ARF and LMRG liaison to LMRG.

Dr. Julie Ann Jarvinen, DVM, PhD, Iowa, representing the Alpaca Research Foundation (ARF)

Dr. Art Kennel, MD, Minnesota, past LMRG chair

Dr. Scot Lubbers, DVM, Washington, Willamette Valley Llama Foundation (WVLF)

Glen Pfefferkorn, Oregon, WVLF Research Comm. Chair

Debby Ullrich, CA

Dr. Joy Bishop-Forshey, DVM, Ohio, Ohio River Valley Llama Assn (ORVLA)

Dr. Milissa Meister Cooper, DVM, Pennsylvania, PA Llama and Alpaca Assn (PLAA)

Dr. Tim Thompson, DVM, Colorado, Llama Association of North America (LANA)

Hilary Ware, RN, Maine, LMRG Chair, Greater Appalachian Llama and Alpaca Association (GALA).

Called away for her job was **Dr. Karen Oertley-Pihera**, DVM, Georgia, Southern States Llama Association (SSLA).

On our teleconference calls we are able to exchange thoughts and updates on research needs and camelid community support throughout the country - the primary purpose for the LMRG's existence. Glen reported that over \$435,000 has been raised and donated to research in the 16 years that WVLA and WVLF have been fundraising for this purpose! Other support has come from every area of the country. From the East coast (through GALA, Lama Assn. of the Middle Atlantic States, PLAA, Maine Llama Assn., Vermont Llama Assn., SSLA, Hudson Valley Camelid 4-H Club, and others); the Midwest (Llamas of Minnesota, Iowa Llama Association, Illinois Llama Association, Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association and others, including individual owners); the West (through LANA, San Marcos Equine Practice, Southern CA Llama Assn, RMLA, WVLF, and others); and internationally by the International Llama Foundation and Canadian Llama and Alpaca Association.

The **Alpaca Research Foundation** has been the most generous donor in history - surpassing even the contributions of the now defunct International Llama Association - not only for studies through Morris Animal Foundation but many other worthy and scientifically sound studies that will improve our understanding and treatment of camelid health issues.

New studies approved by MAF:

Dose Titration of Oral and Injectable Moxidectin and Oral Morantel Tartrate in Camelids, Lisa Williamson, DVM, U. of Georgia, Year 1 (total) = \$22,074.

The effects of Mycoplasma haemolamae genetics to virulence, detection, and vertical transmission. Jeffrey Lakritz, Ohio State, Year 1 (total) = \$28,751.

Generation of an integrated physical map for the alpaca genome, Terje Raudsepp, PhD, Texas A&M, and Warren Johnson, PhD, NCI; Year 1- \$63,078; Year 2- \$50,952; Year 3- \$41,497; Total = \$155,527.

Ongoing studies:

Investigation of the Multiple-Malformation Syndrome in Llamas and Alpacas Associated with Choanal Atresia, Anibal G. Armien, DVM, University of Minnesota, 2 Years, First Year: \$30,159.00,(completed), Second Year: \$31,239.00, Total: \$61,398.00

Prevalence of Mycoplasma haemolamae Infection in South American Camelids in the Southeastern United States, Alessandra Pellegrini-Masini, DVM, Ph.D.,The University of Georgia, 2 Year(s), First Year: \$13,716.00 (completed), Second Year: \$9,713.00, Total: \$23,429.00

Arginine Stimulation Testing in Healthy and Sick Camelids, Anna Firshman, BVSc, Ph.D., Oregon State University, 3 Years, Second Year: \$6,599.00.

Completed study:

Prevalence of Anthelmintic Resistant Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Camelids, Lisa Williamson, DVM., The University of Georgia, Total: \$66,295.00.

To protect the investigative protocols of the researchers, findings from ongoing and completed studies will only be available one year after completion date. Most of the researchers usually present and/or publish their findings to augment veterinarian knowledge and the general base of information, as we learn more and more about the health and well-being of camelids. Donors receive regular progress reports and MAF itself has rigorous follow up to assure timely completion. For more information on these particular studies, you may visit www.morrisanimalfoundation.org online.

In 2010, Morris Animal Foundation will be reviewing proposals for research in large animals (including the Llama/Alpaca Division) several months later (in October, not June) than in previous years. The LMRG and ARF will report the newest studies to be funded as soon as that information is available. The LMRG members and the associations they represent always encourage any tax deductible support of studies through MAF - no matter the amount - which furthers our understanding of these marvelous species. Please refer to the Morris website to facilitate your contribution directly to the Foundation on behalf of our speechless companions.

Reported on behalf of the LMRG members,
Hilary Ware, Chair