KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS CHECKLIST

This list is a tool to help you understand the scope of the work we do with camelids. Some of the items are actual techniques or methods others items are concepts that are important to understand and some are situations that a practitioner of camelidynamics would approach consistently.

Camelidynamics Philosophy

☐ Mission statement and the 5 principals that govern our work with camelids
☐ Colander metaphor and how to use it
☐ Handling vs. training relationship of the two
☐ Flight, fight, freeze, fidget, faint responses
☐ Laws of Camelidynamics
☐ TTTouch and TTEAM it’s relationship to Camelidynamics
☐ Applied behavior analysis
  ☐ Functional assessment
  ☐ Antecedent, behavior, consequences
  ☐ Understanding the science of behavior
  ☐ Reward- punishment from scientific point of view
  ☐ Respondent learning vs Operant learning
  ☐ Desensitization
☐ Marker based training techniques (using a clicker or other marker)

Behavioral indicators in camelids

☐ Ears
☐ Tail
☐ Mouth
☐ Balance
☐ Head and neck posture
☐ Breathing holding the breath
☐ Slow blink, fixed stare
☐ Swallowing and the timing of swallowing
☐ Spitting types of
☐ Clucking
☐ Vocalizations
Body posture
Personal space with other camelids and with humans
Anticipating/predicting movement and behavior
Indicators a camelid is relaxed
Indicators a camelid is threatened
Repertoire of interspecies behaviors and what they might mean

Balance & Signals
Use of Bracelet
Leverage: when do you need, when you don’t want
Contact
Signals
Ratchet signal
Preempt signal
The ratchet slide
Yield
Meet & Melt
Understanding and explaining the problem with tug-release, steady push or pull

Body Position and Catching Techniques
The 4 points of animal movement and how to use them
   Escape route point
   Balance point
   Stopping point
   Turning point
Shoulder position and the effect of it on the animal
Wand Method
Weathervane how to use it for teaching and understanding body position
Midline Catch
Using the handling helper
When to use each method
Advantages and Disadvantages of each method
Snuggling up catch rope
Keeping the catch rope organized
Laying the catchrope on animal’s back
Using the catch rope to balance the head
Preparing for Halter
- TTouch for preparing the head for a halter
- Importance of palpating both nose bone and jaw bone
- Using catchrope for halter training
- When and how to use the nose loop with the catch rope for halter training
- Using a wand to put the nose loop over the nose with difficult animals
- The handling helper

Halter Fit
- Understand anatomy of camelid head
- Importance of jawbone and throatlatch relationship
- Importance of nosebone and noseband relationship
- Types of halters (Two-way adjustable, X-Style, Fixed Noseband), how they work, positive and negative aspects of each
- 3 critical elements of halter fit
  - safety
  - comfort
  - effectiveness as a tool for communication
- Using crownpiece of halter to assess halter acceptance
- How to hold the halter
- Re-buckling a zephyr halter when it comes apart
- How to adjust a halter without taking the animal out of balance
- How to take the halter off and keep the animal balance

Leading
- The process of teaching a llama or an alpaca to lead-using a clicker
- Facilities to teach beginning leading
- Coping with a bolt
- Leading methods:
  - Grace of the Cheetah
  - Elegant Elephant
  - Homing Pigeon
- Leading with two leads and one handler
- Maintaining contact as you lead
- The Hokey Pokey
- The statue exercise
Leading signals
   o Meet & Melt
   o Combing the lead
   o The ratchet slide

Obstacles
   □ How to use obstacles-the playground of higher learning
   □ Types of obstacles
      o Labyrinth
      o Plastic
      o Poles
      o Chunking down obstacles
      o Pick up sticks
      o Star
      o The Camelid Cavern of Confidence

Herd Management
   □ Restraint vs. Containment
   □ Types of chutes good bad how to create a container
   □ Use of container, chute, catch pen
   □ Taming the Tiger rope
      o What is it for
      o How to get the animal in and out of Tiger setup
   □ The neck wrap
      o Putting on and taking off
      o When is it useful-when is it not
   □ The Body Wrap
      o Putting on and taking off
      o When is it useful-when is it not
   □ When to use the body wrap vs. the neck wrap
   □ Starting a baby or weanling
      o Pacing lessons (when, how much how often, age)

Barn and Pasture Design
   □ Barn infrastructure: Camelidynamics Handling Facility
   □ Flow of animals
   □ Effective Herding
   □ Herding tools: wand, herding tape
☐ Sorting
☐ Infrastructure to separate males and females
☐ Cria Creep
☐ The Camelidynamics Handling Facility
  o How to build one, where to build one
  o How to use with one person or two
  o Variations of the design to meet specific needs

**Medical Herd Management**

☐ How to assist your veterinarian

☐ Injections
  o Sub Q
  o IM
  o IV

☐ Buckeye blood draw

☐ Giving no restraint injections
  o With a helper and alone

☐ Giving injections to babies and weanlings

☐ Oral worming

☐ Looking in the eyes

☐ Eye treatment

☐ Fighting Teeth

☐ Rectals

☐ Ultrasounds

☐ Micro chipping strategies for helping

☐ Helping an animal that is cast or tangled

**Toenail Trimming**

☐ How to use facilities to support desensitization training and trimming toenails

☐ Preparing animals for picking up the leg
  o Up down up down exercises
  o Using TTouch or brushes
  o Managing the weight shifts

☐ Picking up the leg
  o Physics-Front legs
  o Physics-Back legs
☐ Working with another person
☐ How to trim toenails—what to trim
☐ How to trim toenails on the ground
☐ Using a dremmel to shape toenails

**Grooming/shearing**
☐ Hand vs. electric shears
☐ Stand-up vs. stretch-out method
☐ Preparing for shearing
☐ Organizing for shearing
☐ Getting an animal down and in the ropes for stretch out method
☐ Headwork during shearing
☐ Working with shearing professionals
☐ Removing burrs from fiber
☐ Trimming top knots or assisting with trimming

**Showing**
☐ Understanding how to work with show staff, judges and veterinarians at a show without provoking conflict
☐ Modifications to the process that work and don’t work
☐ Using the show-bracelet
☐ Pre-emptive movement
☐ Statue exercise without wand
☐ Ring steward approach
☐ Judge approach
☐ Showing teeth
☐ Balancing for fleece examination
☐ Preparing males for testicle check
☐ Color checking
☐ Working with animal for performance classes

**Husbandry**
☐ Managing intact males
☐ Breeding
☐ Starting babies
   ☐ Catch rope use
   ☐ TTouch for babies
   ☐ Weighing babies
- Working with a mother and baby together
- Milking
- Novice Handler Syndrome
  - Pitfalls with young animals what and when to correct
- Aggressive behavior: advising owners about options
- Use of clicker training to deal with aggression

**Problem Solving**
- Types of difficult animals - strategies to work with them
- Rehabbing animal that is resistant
- Specific behavioral buttons –kicking, spitting, rearing, what tools to use
- Keeping an open mind to behavioral challenges and changing the behavior

**Teaching skills**
- Coaching with the helping head or full sized training aid
- Coaching from outside the catch pen
- Learning the ONE thing to say technique
- Safety issues
  - Which animals to use
  - Checking pen safety
  - Liability considerations
- Listening to participant questions/Understanding needs
- Managing participants during workshop/clinic
- Time management sticking to a schedule
- How much to teach in what format-lesson vs. workshop
- Structuring a series of lessons
- Managing a group so that everyone’s needs are met
- Professionalism
- TAGTeach- creating tag points, reinforcing skills, mechanics of tagging