



## Llama Protocol with Pass to Pass Hikes

Always ask your trip leader if you have questions. We take turns leading and caring for llamas once you are comfortable with them.

Feed llamas one half pound of pellets in the morning and one half pound in the evening to supplement their grazing. DO NOT let them eat hellebore, ferns, or any plant with berries with the exception of huckleberries and blueberries. We carry treats to give the llamas a boost to entice them across a stream or if they go on strike on the trail. Make water available in camp morning and evening.

### Hellebore



Always have your personal gear packed up before saddling and loading the llamas. Panniers are loaded and checked for weight (30-35 lbs. each), depending upon size of animal. Trip leaders will train you on saddling and loading panniers. Load panniers on llamas on level ground.

- On the trail, have a lead hiker about 50 yards ahead of the group to warn oncoming hikers.
- The lead hiker and llama lead hiker always carry a radio for communication. This is especially important when horses are encountered or expected.
- Ask hikers to step off the trail on the downside of the trail, if safe, while we pass.
- Hikers with dogs should have them put on leash or held off trail.
- Warn horse riders to wait until we get llamas downside off trail to pass. HORSES SPOOK EASILY.
- Lead 3 llamas in one group or 4 llamas in two groups of 2 back to back. DO NOT SEPARATE. Llamas get separation anxiety, so they like to be together.

Take care of llamas first when arriving at camp. Drop your personal gear, unload panniers, remove saddles and put llamas out to graze on 20 foot leads. Do not linger to minimize chance of llama poo in camp. Remember to offer them water. Only then set up your personal camp.

Spitting? The llamas don't spit at you but may spit at each other if they get irritated. When their ears perk up, they are trying to tell you something. They like to smell you: blow lightly into the llama's nose. Llamas are a bear deterrent since bears do not like to be around llamas.

By the end of the trip, you too will be a llama wrangler!