

# **Alpacas – All Things** **Considered**

**Presented by:**

**Dr. Steve Hull, PhD and Dr. Tom Cameron**  
**DVM,**

**co-owners of**  
***TimberLake Farms, Inc.***  
**Edmond, Oklahoma**

**Presented at:**

***“AuSable Valley Alpacas”***

**Jay, NY**  
**Sat, June 24, 2005**

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents	page 2
Preface	page 3
Presenter bios and experience	page 4-5
Seminar Schedule	page 6
Presented Seminar Topics	pages 7 - 58
Extra topics for your reading 83	pages 59 -
66            Dry Lot Considerations	pages 59 -
71            Farm Safety	pages 67 -
83            Fencing Issues	pages 72 -

### ***Appendix: (note new numbering from 1-137)***

<i>Typos in 2003 Alpaca Field Guide</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Intro to the "alpacasite"</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>List of alpacasite topics</i>	<i>pages 4</i>
<i>- 5</i>	
<i>Selected e-mails to alpacasite</i>	<i>pages 6</i>
<i>- 1230</i>	
<i>Useful Industry Contact Information</i>	<i>pages</i>
<i>131-136</i>	
<i>Seminar evaluation (last page)</i>	<i>page</i>
<i>137</i>	

## **Speaker's Biographical Information:**

### **Stephen Hull**

**Dr. Hull grew up on a small rural farm in New England joining 4-H and showing animals. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where he studied animal and veterinary sciences (BS) and doing reproductive research (Honors Thesis). He then graduated with an MS in biomedical engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He continued with graduate education at Michigan State University getting a doctorate in physiology and biophysics with two postdoctoral fellowships after that.**

**Steve and his wife Kathy, a family practice physician, both were then appointed to the medical school faculty at the University of Oklahoma. Steve was awarded numerous research grants, published many articles and was director of an international laboratory studying neuro-cardiology and heart disease. Lecturing to medical, veterinary and other health students was a priority. Steve has lectured world wide at science meetings, as an invited medical lecturer and now on alpaca management.**

**In the mid '90s, TimberLake farm started with a long time friend and veterinarian, Dr. Tom Cameron (see bio below). They combined funds and started with seven female suri alpacas. Their friends/spouses questioned their sanity. Steve now found himself running the farm nearly full time, being a professor full time along with being a spouse and parent with three young children.**

**In the late 90's, the TimberLake seminars started when a speaker missed his airplane and could not get to the show to give his talk (on basic female/male reproduction). Steve knew the area rather well and stepped in to give the talk. Since that time, Tom and Steve have discussed alpacas, their management and care with many thousands of alpaca owners. They strongly believe in "do as we suggest, not as we have necessarily done".**

**With farm duties, home life, three children and now seminars now all pulling on him, Steve resigned from the medical school (2001) to become the full time farm "pooper scooper". But now he had time to serve on the Alpaca Owners Breeders Association (AOBA) and Alpaca Registry Incorporated (ARI) committees. In 2002 he was elected to the AOBA board of directors and served a full term as the corporate secretary. In 2005 he was re-elected and is serving yet another three year "sentence".**

**Steve and his wife Kathy have three children, Tom (22), David (19) and Katy (17). They live in Edmond, Oklahoma where he continues his pooper scooper duties. Steve's only regret is that he should have resigned from the medical school ten years earlier to start the alpaca farm!**

## Tom Cameron

Dr. Cameron is a native of Michigan (Gross Pointe Farms) and attended Alfred College where he got a BA in History. He then worked on Mackinaw Island, Michigan as a horse driver/caretaker and applied to veterinary school. He received his DVM from Michigan State University (MSU) in 1982.

While at MSU, Tom did National Institutes of Health summer research fellowship doing cardiac surgical research in the physiology laboratory where Steve worked. He later presented and published his results. Together with their respective wives, they had a great time exploring Michigan.

Upon graduation, Tom joined a large animal (dairy) practice in Wisconsin focusing on dairy health with a limited small animal practice. In the early 90's, he shifted priorities and decreased his dairy practice time focusing more on small animal practice. This allowed him time to spend with his three young boys and wife Patty. At the same time, he developed a significant interest in alternative approaches to small animal care. He opened his own practice, the DeForest Veterinary Clinic, which includes homeopathic, naturopathic and other holistic issues together with the more accepted traditional veterinary approaches for small animal medicine.

In the mid-90's, Tom told Steve (who was living in Oklahoma) about alpacas that Tom had treated in Wisconsin. They decided together to buy a herd of female suris. Steve would be the part time farm manager in Oklahoma . . . . according to Tom, it would not take much time. Tom would frequently visit to help with veterinary issues. At least that WAS the plan . . . .

Tom actually contributes a tremendous amount to the farm on bio-security, large scale management issues and prevention of disease as a primary focus. These actual on farm experiences (positive and negative) are a critically important part of the seminars that he and Steve give. They not only recommend, but they fully understand the day-to-day consequences of those recommendations. In seminars, Tom is able to specifically address veterinary issues whereas Steve focuses on science, management and farm operations.

Dr. Cameron is a member of many veterinary associations including: American Veterinary Medical Association, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, Dane County (Wisconsin) Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Bovine Practitioners, American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners, and the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association. He has served on the Dane County Veterinary Ethics Board and as also that association's president. More recently, he was appointed by the Alpaca Owners Breeders Association (AOBA) board of directors to serve on their national Government and Industry Relations Committee.

He and his wife Patty have three children, Peter (21), John (19), and Ben (16). They live in Waunakee, Wisconsin. Tom's only regret is that he ever mentioned alpacas to Steve!

## **Seminar Schedule**

- 8:00 – 8:15 AM Introduction, overview and plan for the day  
Steve and Tom (pages 2-6)
- 8:15 – 8:30 AM Important relevant camelid nomenclature &  
physiology  
Steve (pages 7 – 9)
- 8:45 – 9:30 AM Essential camelid nutrition  
Steve (pages 10 – 15)
- 9:45 – 10:45 Rational vaccinations and worming issues  
Tom (pages 16 – 26)
- 11:00 – 12:00 Biosecurity, science and clinical issues  
Tom and Steve (pages x-y)
- 12:00 – 1 PM lunch break
- 1:00 – 1:45 Forages and pastures  
Tom and Steve (pages 27-34)
- 2:00 – 2:45 Breeding, birthing and weaning  
Steve and Tom (pages 35 – 47)
- 3:00 – 3:45 Pasture Fertilization and “Nutrition”  
Steve (pages 48-55)
- 4:00 – 4:30 Question Time (“stump the chump”)  
Steve and Tom
- 4:30 – 6:00 demos on techniques  
Tom and Steve (pages 56-58)
- 6:00 PM - ? hang out for informal “Dr. Dork” stories  
Steve and Tom