

Appendix “A”

Techniques for Measuring Llamas

All measurements should be done on a smooth and level surface, preferably concrete or pavement.

Wither Height: Measured at the withers (top of shoulder blades). You will need either an equine measuring device on a sliding upright measure, or carpenter’s level, a stick about 5’ in length, and a tape measure.

With the llama standing in a balanced and square stance, stand the stick upright alongside the llama’s shoulder. Lay a carpenter’s level across the withers and mark the point where the bottom side of the level intersects the stick. Measure from the ground to this mark.

You can also stand the llama up against a wall, lay the level across the withers and mark where the bottom edge of the level touches the wall. Measure from the ground to this mark.

Try to have the llama standing in a square and normal stance, neither slouching nor posturing.

Hip height: Same technique, laying the level across the top of llama’s pelvic bones

Leg length: This may be a little tricky depending on the llama. If the llama refuses to cooperate, try to get a reasonable estimate.

Measure from the callous on the chest floor (brisket) or just behind this where the girth would rest, to the ground. For llamas that won’t tolerate the rattle of a steel tape, a cloth seamstress’s tape measure may be useful here. Hold one end on the ground and run your other hand quickly up the tape to the llama’s brisket.

Girth depth: Is the difference between wither height and leg length.

Or, if the tool is available, use calipers designed for directly measuring girth depth.

Then leg length is wither height minus girth depth. See photos in the NACA brochure.