

K.Ruby Blume, Camelids +
SHEARING DAY PREP & POLICIES 2024
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HELLO & THANK YOU! I appreciate the work. I care about every customer and every animal. You can return that respect by reading this document carefully and making sure we are on the same page, so that shearing day is an enjoyable social event that brings us together in care for our livestock.

Once I give you a shearing date, **WRITE IT DOWN**. The date is firm unless I contact you. I may otherwise not be in touch until the day before. If you forget and have to reschedule I ask a \$50 rescheduling fee. If I show up and you are not prepared or animals cannot be caught I ask my minimum fee of \$130 (OR) or \$160 (CA) for my time & fuel to show up at your farm.

Please make sure I have a **TEXT CAPABLE** phone number, correct street address and any special directions to your place (gates, gate codes, hard to find street numbers etc) at scheduling. If your number is not text capable, make sure I know you need a phone call.

I will text or call you the night before your shearing date to confirm a ballpark time for the next day. Please reply to this contact **ASAP** so I know I am expected. I will text or call again on the day of shearing when I am en route to you. I am generally punctual, however please be prepared for me to arrive as much as 30-60 minutes to either side of the ballpark time I give you, as exact timing when dealing with driving and multiple small jobs in a day is impossible.

PREPARE FOR SHEARING with everything set up BEFORE I ARRIVE:

Animals caught, tarp laid out, electricity run, etc. If you have questions about which area will be best for our shearing station, you are welcome to text me pictures of the possibilities and I will let you know. **PLAN TO BE PRESENT** and available for your shearing and/or provide helpers as specified in the prep details below.

CANCELLATIONS, RESCHEDULING & RAIN DATES

Please choose a date you know you can keep. Rescheduling is discouraged. If you have to reschedule, be aware that my available dates will be limited. Cancellations with less than 48 hours notice will be charged a \$50 reschedule fee as I have held time in my schedule for you that I will not be able to fill with other work.

If rain is predicted please do everything you can to keep your animals dry. I cannot shear wet sheep. Alpacas, Llamas and goats may be damp, but cannot be soaking wet. If you cannot keep your animals dry please give me as much advance notice as possible so we can reschedule.

ESSENTIAL PREPARATION INFORMATION BY ANIMAL
Please read!

ALPACAS

1. Shearing Area. A dry, flat, shaded area at least 12 feet square where the animal can be stretched out on a tarp on the ground and the shearer and helpers have room to move about. We need a post, beam or other tie down spot on either side of the tarp to affix the hobbles (15-18 feet apart and within 1" of the ground). A fence post, barn beam or trees work and if nothing else is available be prepared to pound stakes or posts.
2. Electricity must be available at the shearing area. An outlet or extension cord with three-prong plug.
3. Your animals should be as clean as possible. This increases the value of the fiber and makes shearing easier. You use a leaf blower, brush or your hands to release dirt and dust from the fiber

4. Sorting. If fiber quality is essential, sort your animals for shearing from light to dark. I don't care if males and females are mixed, just be sure to make me aware of their gender, so I take care around the important bits.
5. Helpers. For 1-2 animals 1 helper is fine. For herds 3-10, I require a minimum of 2 people on hand to help, although 3 is even better. Herds over 10, 3 helpers required. Helpers will bring the animals to the shearing floor, assist with hobbling, help restrain the animal during shearing, collect fiber and clear the shearing floor between animals. I will train inexperienced helpers with clear instructions and we will work as a team.
6. Catching & bringing animals. Owners/helpers are required to bring the animals to the shearing floor. Animals should be caught in a small pen before my arrival and haltered with appropriate halters. If you need help catching them as part of the service, please alert me before our appointment so I can adjust my itinerary/timing. I will charge for my time to help with this.
7. Fiber. Fiber can be sorted as it comes off the animal into firsts, seconds and thirds, or blanket and thirds. Be prepared to catch and bag your fleece and to clear the tarp between each animal with a broom or blower.

Things You Will Need For Alpaca Shearing

- ~ A heavy duty tarp to lay your alpacas down. Minimum size 12 x12.
- ~ (If you are collecting fiber for use) Large plastic garbage bags to hold the shorn fiber- clear bags are best. You will need one bag for each blanket. Thirds can go together in one bag.
- ~ Permanent marker to mark bags
- ~ Broom or blower to clean tarp after each shearing.
- ~ Towels for the nervous alpacas that have "accidents" during shearing...this will help keep your fleece clean.
- ~ Power cord run to the shearing area.
- ~ 5 or more animals please provide a table for my gear

LLAMAS

1. Llamas are shorn standing. They should be caught and haltered before my arrival and brought to the shearing area where they can be tied securely to a gate or paddock.
2. Electricity must be available at the shearing area via three prong outlet or electrical cord.
3. Llamas are strong animals with varying temperaments. I do my best to shear thoroughly but will not shear legs if I am in danger of being kicked. I also trim toes and file teeth at my discretion, based on their ability to be handled.

SHEEP

1. Catch your sheep THE NIGHT BEFORE. There is a minimum extra charge of \$75 if your sheep are not caught when I arrive and I have to catch them or wait while you catch them.
2. Hold your sheep off feed and water the night before and that morning, pregnant ewes just that morning. This is for the comfort of the sheep while held in shearing positions and so that shearing does not have to take place in a puddle of pee & poo.
3. Pen your sheep in a small pen. Small means packed closely together so they cannot run. Livestock panels are great for pushing them into an even smaller space for the actual shearing.
4. The pen should be as close as possible to the shearing location so that no one has to drag sheep across a wide space. If they are not close, please have help to bring sheep to the board.
5. Shearing Area: Close to the sheep. In the shade. A 4 x 8 board to shear on. Electricity at the board or run to the board with a power cord.
6. Please have this all ready and in place before my arrival.
7. Wool. You are responsible to deal with your wool. If you are saving fleeces for use, we recommend the large paper lawn and leaf bags, available at any hardware store. Plastic bags will work as well. Whether keeping wool or not please be ready to pull fleeces off the shearing board once they are free from the sheep and have a rake and or broom available for sweeping the shearing board.

GOATS

I usually shear goats laying down, sometimes hobbled, sometimes not, with 1-2 helpers. The animals must be caught and haltered before I arrive. We need a clean surface in the shade (plywood, tarp or stall mat) to shear on and electricity run to the shearing area via three prong plug. If your fiber is important to you, have bags on hand and be prepared to collect it.

PRICES 2024

- Prices reflect industry wide standard for small flock shearing.
- If you are on a fixed income or cash flow is an issue, please let me know and we'll work it out.
- Tipping is not required, but is always appreciated
- Payment is due at time of service rendered via cash, venmo or check made to **K.Ruby Blume**

Minimum charge: \$130 (\$160 in CA)

Alpacas \$100 farm visit plus \$30 per head (\$40 per head in CA) standard shearing, clean legs and topknot trimmed or removed. Price break for 10 or more.

Stovepipe legs, boots or special haircuts \$5 extra per animal

Toe trims \$5 per animal

Teeth \$10 per animal, front teeth only. For fighting teeth, call your vet

Dirty fiber, extra years fiber, fighty animals, catching escapees. \$5-10 per animal. I will be fair.

Llamas \$100 farm visit plus \$45 per head (\$55 per head in CA).

Toe trims and teeth for llamas at my discretion, \$10 each

Sheep Minimum charge covers the first sheep. \$20 per head, after that. Babydoll sheep are charged like alpacas. Maximum 5 sheep. Toe trims included

Fiber Goats \$100 farm visit, \$30 per head, maximum 5 goats Toe trims \$5, Maximum 5 goats

Sheep or Goats as part of an alpaca/llama shearing day \$30 each Toe trims included

LGDs Yes, I shear the occasional dog. I am not a dog groomer and I am not going to make the dog look pretty, this is a comfort cut. I have to use a special blades for dogs to prevent cuts and the owners must help restrain and in some cases muzzle. Price range from \$75 -125 depending how long it takes

Extras

Driving surcharge \$75 per hour if you are not close to another job

Catching your animals for you, or waiting while you catch them \$75 per hour

First time training charge if you are not ready or prepared and I have to wait or help you set up \$25-50

Demonstration Shearing \$250-400

Rescheduling or cancellation, less than 48 hours notice for any other reason except rain \$50

