

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 the respect by reading this document and making sure we are on the same page. I know it's a lot of words. My intent is help you be fully prepared, so that shearing day is more fun than frustrating, an enjoyable social event that brings us together while caring for your 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 \$150 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 2 hours 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 shearing, please ask. **PLAN TO BE PRESENT** and available for 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.

PREPARATION INFORMATION BY ANIMAL
Please read!

ALPACAS

Things You Will Need for Alpaca Shearing

- ~ A heavy duty tarp to lay your alpacas down. 12 x12 best size
- ~ Large plastic bags to hold the shorn fiber. If saving for use, one bag for each blanket and a bag for the thirds
- ~ A way to mark and label fiber bags if important
- ~ Broom or blower to clean tarp after each shearing.
- ~ Towels for alpacas that pee, poo or spit during shearing
- ~ Power cord run to the shearing area.
- ~ 5 or more animals please provide a table for my gear
- ~ Helpers, read on

ALPACAS Continued

1. **Helpers.** I work alone and ask owners to help or provide helpers to get the job done. If you cannot help or find help, I can usually locate a helper for hire. You will receive training on proper handling of your animals! For 1-2 animals 1 helper is fine. For herds 3-10 we need at least 2 people on hand to help, although 3 is 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.
2. **Shearing Area.** A dry, flat, **shady** 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 6" of the ground). A fence post, barn beam or trees work and if nothing else is available be prepared to pound stakes or posts.
3. **Electricity** run to the shearing area. If your outlet is more than 5 feet from shearing station, please provide a power cord with 3 prong plug.
4. 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
5. **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.
6. **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.
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.

LLAMAS

1. Llamas are shorn standing. They should be caught in a small pen or paddock, 10 x 10, or less haltered with a lead before my arrival and 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 at my discretion, based on their ability to be handled. I generally do not do tooth trims on llamas unless very gentle or sedated.

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 for less pee and poo on the shearing board.
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: A **shady, flat** area close to where the sheep are penned. A clean 4 x 8 plywood board or stall matt 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 for 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.
8. It is essential I know the **gender** of your sheep. The male bit is often small and hidden and thus easily cut by the shears if I am not made aware—this is especially important if you have wethers.

PRICES 2026

- Prices reflect industry wide standards for small flock shearing.
- Prices can vary from these standards. Variances and the reasons for them will be clearly stated.
- If you are on a fixed income or cash flow is an issue, please let me know and we'll work it out.
- Payment is due at time of service via cash, venmo or check made to **K.Ruby Blume**
- Tipping is not required, but is always appreciated

Farm Call/Set Up: \$100 (OR) \$110 (CA)

This is the base fee for all appointments and covers scheduling, driving, fuel and everything else it takes to get to you.

- *Alpacas* \$40 Standard shearing, clean legs and topknot trimmed or removed.
- 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* \$50
- Toe trims for llamas at my discretion, \$10 each

- *Sheep* \$30 first sheep, \$15-20 head after that. Maximum 5 sheep. Toe trims included
- *Babydoll & BNV Sheep* (they're wooly everywhere!) \$25-35 each. Maximum 5 sheep. Toe trims included.

- *LGDs* I am not a dog groomer and I am not going to make your dog look pretty, this is a comfort cut. I 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

- I am glad to help with shots & worming at no extra charge, you provide the meds.
- Driving surcharge \$75 per hour if you are more than 45 minutes from another job or off my route
- 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/death \$50
- Rescheduling with more than 48 hrs notice, first time free, multiple reschedules \$25 each
- Hired Help. If I bring an assistant their fee is \$50 first hour, \$25/hr. after that

