

A Llama By Any Other Name.....by Sue Wilde

A common question for llama owners is, does it have a name? Do they all have names? How do you remember all their names? Naming llamas is all a part of our fun and sometimes it's even a bit of a science!

The first 2 females I purchased almost 20 years ago were not registered as there was no registry in Canada and the ILR was still wide open so their names were up to me to choose. My partner in this unusual venture and I decided on Cleopatra for the pregnant female and Isis for her daughter. We were very pleased with ourselves. When "Cleo's" baby boy arrived we consulted with the chef in my sister's tea shop who was from Chile. Juan,(an alias of a name as it turned out!) suggested Pablo and that was the name for my first baby llama!

As more llamas were purchased and born on the farm the name game became more intense. The "name list" was developed and whenever a great name came to mind or was discovered it was jotted down on the guarded list. My first herdsire was a stunning black and white Errol Flynn son from Meadow Woods Farm, named Raider. I ran with the "R": Rapture, Roxy, Rope the Wind, Riviera, Reckless.

In 1996 I bought a phenomenal young male at the Celebrity Futurity, Lumino. I put him on a trailer to Sandstone Llama Ranch in Montana where there were about 300 llamas , and yes they all had a name and it wasn't long before, after a few visits to see Lumino, that I had a pretty good handle on

the bulk of them! I purchased Sensation, a full South American Much Gusto daughter, and was holding out for a super name for the daughter I was sure she was going to have. I was listening to a radio advertisement for cars one day. Three customers came to buy a car- one wanted a sporty car, one was looking for a family car and the last, a sultry female wanted a car that was “simply stylicious”! It took four boys before I got to use the name, Simply Stylicious but I hung onto it.

The great Catman provided the opportunity for some name creativity. I bought a son of Honky Cat and called him Go Cat Go and a Honky Cat daughter that I named Catriona, after a beautiful girl from England whose mother raised swift foxes to return to the prairies. Catrion’s family has been: Cattitude, Cattillion, Catique, Cattillac, Catamarca, Catwalk and Cataverra.

Some names come from songs, movies, books, famous people, and cartoon characters. (I’m holding onto Napster- he’ll steal your heart! It’s on my list!) I needed a good “Chiri” name for my Chiri Chico boy. I was reading an article in the CQ magazine about an ancient Peruvian town called Chiribaya and voila! My Coldwater Creek catalog had a very cute blouse with frills, the annotation said for “for the frill of it”. My Fire Frost daughter is Fire Frills, for the frill of it! OnStar had to be the name for my gorgeous suri male, always there, always ready!

Some people say that naming llamas is just so hard. Jerry Allen, a long time Canadian llama breeder, used to get out

the map of Saskatchewan for his inspiration! One night after a show, a group of us stayed up late around Jerry's table and came up with "Juan" names. A really super herdsire, Magic Juan, had had ALOT of offspring so we created the future Juan list: Another Juan, Juan after another, I have Juan, Saskatchejuan , I could go Juan!

As we peruse sale catalogs sometimes it's a name that attracts us first to a particular llama. This year lot 22 at Celebrity, the classy sound of Maserati caught my eye and as fate would have it, I now own him! To put together an ad on Maserati for the Llama Link, I went to the website for this incredible car and the model of choice for the ad was the Spyder. There is a race on now with my partners on Maserati ,Tara and Darren Vanzeggelaar and Tammie Efraimson, to see who gets the first hot baby and they get the name Spyder!

As my friend Bev Popowich and I were flying to Celebrity in Oklahoma a few years ago she picked MW Zelda out of the catalog. She bought her and now has quite the "Z" line going: Zoe, Ziplock, GraZie, Zabrina. And what about that famous "E" line? It's always prestigious to own one of those!

Oh, what's in a name! A rose is a rose is a rose but a llama IS its name and would not be the same by any other!!