

## Grooming/Shearing the fleece animal – What has worked for me on my double, single and silky llamas

.... By Judy Ross

- Placing in a fleece class - You are being judged against a particular group of fleeces entered that day
- Fleeces change with each show entered - Storing changes a fleece
- Shipping may change the quality of your fleece
- Showing your fleece in multiple shows will cause your fleece to deteriorate



Orvus is the ultimate in shampoo for all show animals! A little goes along ways to create a strong lather to wash all of your animals. Rinses easily, Concentrated, use a small amount.

Or I also use Lock N Luster  
<http://www.locknluster.com/>

White Rain CLEAR  
shampoo and Conditioner  
also works well

**I do not use llama groom, laser sheen** or any other spray or products as they will build up on the fiber.

Sometimes you need conditioner.



Rice Root Bristle  
Brush



About three or four days before shearing or a show my grooming process begins. I first GENTLY use my Rice Root Bristle Brush to get the large debris, if needed I will use my slicker brush to deep clean and then use the Blower in a downward motion to remove the dust. I shampoo the llama being careful not to scrub or agitate my single/silky coat llamas. (they will felt) I **rinse, rinse, rinse** and scrunch up the fleece and let it drip dry. **Brushing and blowing temporarily will destroy the lock structure.** If time permits I will ONLY wet my llama down the day before shearing or showing to help re-set the lock structure. **They MUST be totally dry before you shear.**

**I also use the hand mitt on my silkys**

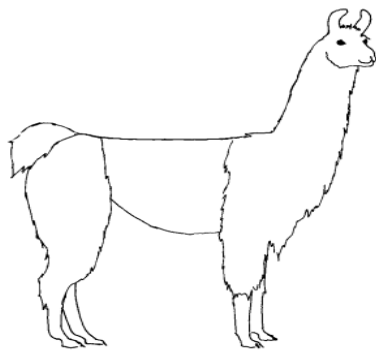


**Soft Pin Brush: finer, denser.**  
**Set bristles make this slicker soft and flexible**

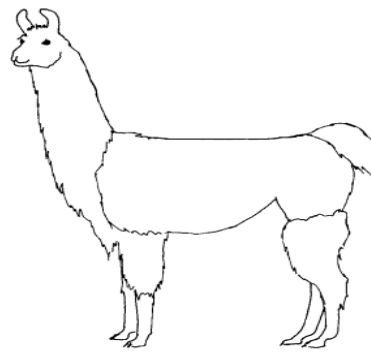
**Before shearing** I will use my wand and rice root brush or mitt to gently remove any large debris. If needed GENTLY use the blower.

**NOTE: Length of fleece should be at least three inches and no more than 6 inches to not have points deducted in your shorn fleece class**

**Shearing your shorn fleece** – We use electric shears and have a skirting table all set up. Try not to get **SECOND CUTS**. You can go back and straighten out your shear job after your prime fleece is removed. As the fleece comes off I will lay it on the table cut side down, I will gently shake the fleece and the dirt and small debris will be removed. Remove second cuts and unwanted fleece (topline, belly, stained) and debris. The longer you wait the more difficult it is to skirt. The fleece is placed in a clothes basket and later I will take one more look at my fleece and make sure it is ready for judging. **DON'T pick too much** or you will destroy your lock structure, **DO NOT** remove the guard hair if you are going to exhibit your shorn fleece.



Barrel



Full blanket or prime

I will put my skirted fleece in a laundry basket so it can breathe and put it in my spare room, where **I have not seen moths.** You can also use a plastic tub (I use the flat long tubs) that will **SEAL tightly** if you fear getting moths in your fleece. Remember moths like DARK out of the way places. I have even stored my tubs on my covered porch.



DON'T crowd your fleece as it will start to felt with just the pressure of being stored.

**I have also stored my fleece in a KING Size zipped pillow case.**

I will take the fleece out a day or two before the show, check again and let it sit in the sun for a while – be careful that it is not windy, It will then go in my clear plastic bag with the proper entry forms, business card, ILR registration and photo of the llama. If shipping I will gently squeeze the air out of the bag and pack with foam peanuts to prevent shifting around. ***Now let's see what the judge thinks!***