

Feature Bio – “Arley”

By Char Hakes

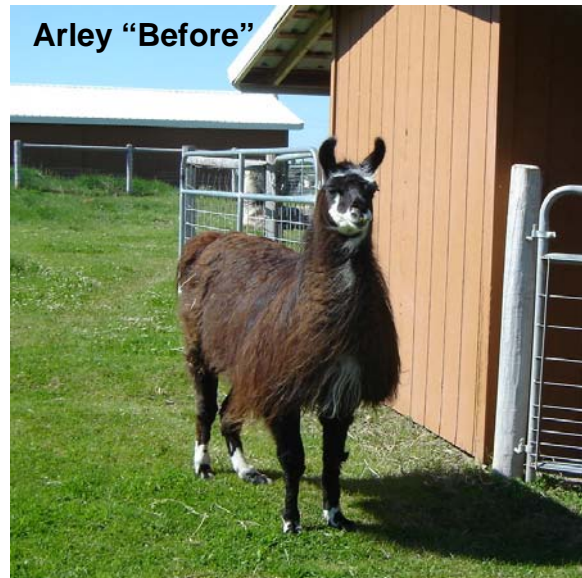
Safe Haven’s first rescue as a newly incorporated non-profit organization started with a phone call in July 2004. A gentleman from Arlee, Montana said that his family was preparing to move from their rental house where a llama with a hurt hind leg had been previously abandoned. He did not want to just leave the poor little guy there all alone.

I immediately took down directions and sent my son, Kevin, and his friend up there to bring the llama back. Of course, the llama had not been caught or handled for who knows how long. But having helped me out for many years, Kevin knew how to handle the situation in a safe and gentle way and successfully brought the little guy back to Corvallis.

The guys pulled into the driveway with trailer in tow, which caught the immediate attention of all the resident llamas. They ran over to the fence, as they always do, to check out the comings and goings of their homestead – surely this was a coming!

I stepped into the trailer and saw an almost mini-llama with a halter partially grown into his nose bone. He was full of burrs, obviously had never been shorn and I was furious! ...and also saddened.

I hooked the lead onto his halter and opened the trailer door wide. The little llama stayed kushed for a few minutes, but appeared to be amazed and developed a rather happy look as he noticed “more of his own kind” gathered by the fence. With my help he slowly



stood up and that's when I saw how bad his back legs were and how hard it was for him to walk. Well, our determined little trooper needed a name – so it became “Arley”.

I had Dr. Rollette Pruyn of Blue Mountain Veterinary Hospital come out to examine Arley and get him up to date on vaccinations and worming meds. Dr. Pruyn also castrated Arley, which was fortunate as a tumor was found on his testicle.

Now the legs – the dreaded discussion time had arrived! Both of Arley's hind pasterns were broken and I hoped there would be options besides euthanasia. Dr. Pruyn said, “I already know what you would do – have both legs broken and reset”. I got approval from the Safe Haven Board of Directors to proceed with the surgeries as long as we could raise the necessary funds.

I called a reporter, Donna Syverston, for the “Missoulian” newspaper, who instantly wanted to come right out and actually see Arley. When Donna arrived and walked into the barn stall, she was just beside herself. Her heart felt for dear little Arley. She did a fantastic article and donations started rolling in to Safe Haven and also to the vet clinic to help pay for the surgeries. All of us are still so grateful to the many donors who stepped forward to help us help Arley.

Arley's right hind leg was rebroken and reset in early fall of 2004. He was in a cast for months. Winter arrived and the weather was so cold, but I kept him bedded down and warm. I also gave him “Injury Combo”, a homeopathic remedy, to facilitate healing. As the new year rolled in he finally got his cast off. We allowed him to fully heal before tackling the left leg in August 2005.

While both surgeries were successful and Arley gets around just fine on soft, flat ground, he never will have great back legs. But, he is a feisty little guy, used to fending for himself. As a “special needs” llama, Arley is a permanent resident of Safe Haven. He enjoys his new buddies, gets the best of care and many visitors hardly notice his handicap. While he has been to a local fair, we think it's just easier to keep him on his home turf at the Sanctuary and just be “our little Arley”!

If you would like to virtually adopt Arley or help sponsor his ongoing care, please visit the adoption section of our web site or contact us directly.