

## Feature Bio – “Chewie” By Char Hakes

Chewie – short for “Chewbacka” – was born on a big ranch as part of a huge herd of over 200 llamas.

The llama ranchers moved into the Bitterroot Valley in the early 1990’s and soon after sold young Chewie to a couple in the Corvallis foothills that wanted a guard llama for their Barbados Sheep to safeguard them from coyotes.

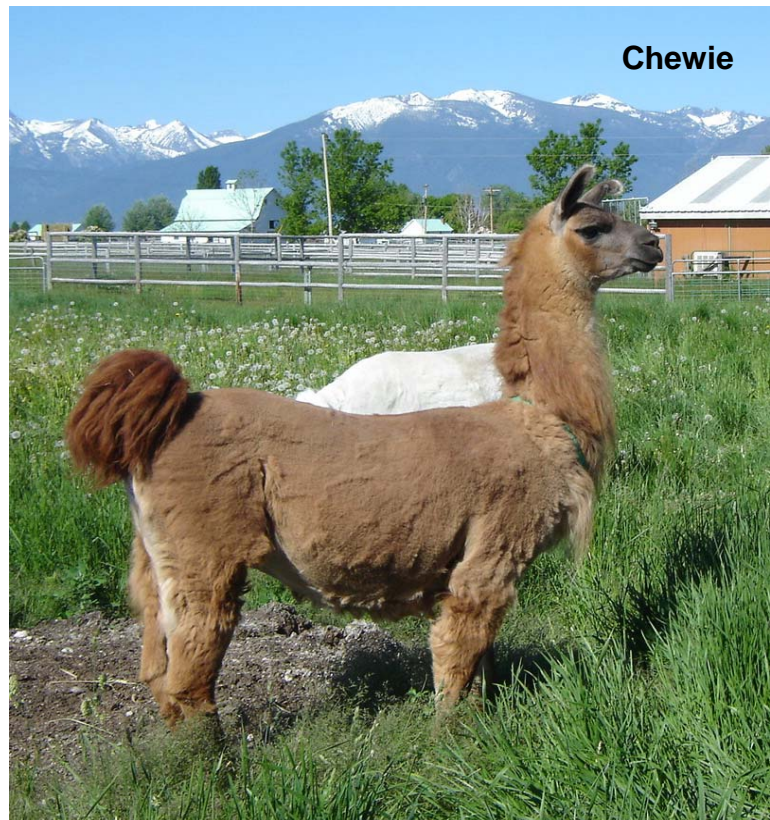
In the mid-90’s I began

vaccinating, worming and shearing

Chewie and generally getting to know his human family. When the family decided to move to the south end of Hamilton, they took their horses and Chewie, but not the sheep. By the early 2000’s, I needed a foster home for a few llamas and this family graciously took in Jack (see Jack’s bio). Chewie and Jack didn’t really get along very well, but thankfully, they tolerated each other.

After a couple years, Chewie’s family had to move once again and could not take their horses and llamas. They sold the horses and asked *Safe Haven* to take Chewie and Jack. By this time, these two llamas were pretty spoiled and quite popular among the family’s friends and relatives – but they just couldn’t take the boys with them.

Today (2009), Chewie is about 14 or 15 years young. He has taken on the role of being the boss and protector of the whole *Safe Haven* herd - and he knows his job very well. While he generally keeps the peace, at times he can also cause a little stress among his rivals. His curiosity and leadership make it easy for us to call in the herd, as Chewie usually takes the lead and the others follow him in.



Chewie really misses being away from horses, as he would after living among them for so long. He always shows an interest in the horses that live and romp in adjacent pastures. He is quite a smart llama, very proud and handsome, too – but don't tell him that or it may go to his head!