

## Feature Bio – “Max” By Char Hakes

Yes, you read that correctly! Max is a “llapaca” that was not supposed to happen. Sometime after his llama mom was bought, Max just appeared on the scene. Obviously, no one had suspected that she had been previously bred by an opportunistic (stealthy) male huacaya alpaca.

As Max grew up, it was obvious that he looked more like a llama (head-wise). But he was definitely caught in an alpaca body, with beautiful fiber in a stunning shade of peach. At about two years old, poor Max became a *Safe Haven* critter, which is great for him because we just adore him, quirks and all!

Now at five years young (Spring 2009), Max also appears a bit confused in his brain. He does not care much about being with the alpacas, preferring instead to hang out with the llamas. Since he had no prior handling, he is extremely difficult to halter. It’s like he just doesn’t “get it” – poor guy! When shearing time comes, he has a real hard time and we have an even tougher time! But, if you want gorgeous fiber, Max has it.

Because of his temperament, Max is a permanent resident of *Safe Haven*. We enjoy watching him gallivant around the pastures and cautiously come up to check us out from a distance. I don’t think it’s my imagination, but I do believe this distance is growing shorter over time. We love Max (as much as he’ll let us) and hope we can eventually earn his trust. It’s not his fault he’s so skittish. A virtual sponsor would be ideal for this guy!

### Llapaca = llama x huacaya alpaca

