

## Feature Bio – “Solaray” By Char Hakes

Solaray is sweet as can be – but sometimes he is a little too sweet! His pet-like behavior is the result of imprinting on his human caretakers after he was born. Handling crias and weanlings is important, but overhandling and cuddling young llamas deflects their attention away from naturally learning how to “be a llama” from other llamas. Solaray gets along with his herd mates, but ditches them the instant people show up.



Solaray was raised on a small ranch that bred beautiful, top of the line llamas that sold well at sales, at least when llamas were in vogue. When their appeal dropped off, the rancher downsized her herd, left the business and kept only a couple llamas. Solaray came to us, mostly because of his special needs personality. He is a handsome llama with gorgeous fawn fiber that a spinner would love.

At three years old (spring 2009), Solaray is a character who will just charm you out of your socks. He can be so rambunctious that he sometimes forgets himself and doesn't watch where he is going. He runs, bucks, kicks and jumps up a storm, always happy no matter what. Solaray is fun to be around, despite his persistent pestering! At *Safe Haven*, we have had to draw a line, letting him know it's not always okay to get in our face or crowd out the other llamas.

We think Solaray could be adopted by someone who understands imprinting issues and knows how to deal with them. He would make an unpredictable “pet” – a scenario we would discourage, especially if children were his intended caretakers and/or adults who

expect a dog- or cat-like relationship. Meanwhile, we totally adore Solaray and welcome him to remain a permanent resident of *Safe Haven* and to do a little “PR” for us on the side. He does strut his handsome stuff real good! Since he is a treat-lover and a voracious appetite for attention, a virtual adoption would be ideal for this spirited little guy.