

Feature Bio – “Whitey”

By Char Hakes

Whitey - short for “White Lightning” - is a good-looking boy with beautiful white fiber that people always want to touch. When they try, however, Whitey panics and over the fence, gate or whatever obstacle stands in his way he goes! He is also not crazy about being haltered - although it can be done in a small, enclosed area with high walls or panels, where he cannot escape by jumping.



Whitey was one of the first llamas to be surrendered to **Safe Haven**, along with two others. His owners, who had acquired him for “free” from a previous owner, had intended to use him for packing. Well, that never happened and Whitey ended up just hanging out with some horses. Other than a few (aborted) attempts to brush out his fiber, which was thick and hung to the ground, Whitey was hardly ever handled. His feisty disposition made it necessary to just tie him up and shear all his fiber off in what we llama people call a “nudy” cut.

Whitey was eventually adopted out with quite a few other llamas to a wonderful family. He received great care, but again, no handling. When the owners had to move, Whitey came back to **Safe Haven**. Of course, he panicked and made it tough for them to catch him, but panels – a few tall panels – saved the day.

At **Safe Haven**, we make a point to catch Whitey once in a while. He does, after all, need his annual checkup and meds, plus periodic grooming. He hangs out with the other male llamas, but seems mostly to be a loner type. It will take someone with a lot of desire, patience and perseverance to work with Whitey and help him come around and become more comfortable around people. As of early 2009, he is only 9 years young and could be a real nice guy if given the proper attention, love and care he deserves.