DO THEY SPIT?

It's one of the most popular questions we get asked. Llamas communicate their moods with a series of ear, body and tail postures as well as vocalizations. Learning this "Llama Language" we feel, is one of the joys of ownership. When a Llama hums it can indicate a variety of moods, some are concerned or nervous and others may just be communicating with another Llama, like a mother talking to her cria (baby).

Sometimes Llamas will make a "clucking" noise. In females, they will cluck to the males meaning they aren't interested in them, a lot of times they do it when they are pregnant. Males will cluck as a way of trying to intimidate another Llama. They can also stand on their hind legs, which make them very tall and also intimidating. Younger Llamas get around other Llamas and will sometimes lower their head/neck and flip their tail over their back showing submission to the other Llama. This usually means they are less confident. Many outgrow it.

Llamas can and do spit, but because it's their main defense. Many times, it happens during feeding time as they are all competing for the food, especially treats. Sometimes they get into an argument with another Llama and will aggressively spit on each other as they wrestle and work it out. They use spitting to establish a pecking order within the herd and can also spit out of fear, like during catching and haltering. It's important that you don't rush at them when haltering, they are very sensitive! They can also spit during toe nail trimming or shearing. We don't make a big deal about this, as many just spit in the air, as they are just expressing their dislike of what you are doing to them.

However, if a Llama comes up and spits on a person for no reason, that is a big issue, see AGGRESSIVE males(and sometimes females) below.