MAZURI Llama Diets Provide Optimum Nutrition

Articles in trendy magazines and popular song lyrics suggest llama ownership is a new phenomena. In fact llamas are intelligent, alert companions that have been keeping owners amused since they were first brought to North America in the 1800's from their native South America.

Nutritional requirements of the llama are unique and can directly affect the health and appearance of your beautiful animals.

In the past, Peruvian farmers simply allowed their llamas to graze in the natural forages alongside sheep. The nutrient composition of the plants varied greatly by season, altitude and even by soil type.

Ever the survivor, llamas adapted to their harsh environment and developed the ability to cope with native soil types, climates and forage quality. Ironically, when moved out of their native habitat, today's llamas may not be able to cope.

While the National Research Council (NRC) rarely defines special nutrient requirements for llamas--such as those for domestic animals--feed trials at universities have been run to help establish acceptable nutrient ranges that help llamas survive and thrive in domestic situations.

A Breed Apart

Although they might have grazed together in South America, the llama is not related to sheep or cattle on the evolutionary chart. While the llama's protein leveling ability to convert forage to bacterial protein--and energy--is very useful, forage typically lacks other minerals and vitamins that are vital to the growth and health of your pet.

Minerals Vital to Good Health

Calcium and phosphorus--the two most important minerals in all vertebrates and essential for skeletal maintenance--should be adequate to prevent metabolic bone disease. Llamas are usually exposed to sunlight which provides the necessary vitamin D, however calcium and particularly phosphorus levels can decline, particularly in warm climates.

Vitamin D levels during the wither in Northern states may be low in llamas due to their reduced exposure to sunlight and the lower angle of the sun. Breeders need to take special precautions to be sure both mothers and young receive proper levels of vitamin D for growth and health.

Zinc is an essential component of enzymes involved with nucleic acid and protein metabolism. Characteristics of zinc deficiency in llamas include reduced food intake, poor growth rate, skin lesions and even joint stiffness and reproductive disorders.

Selenium also affects the reproductive process in llamas. The selenium content of forage varies by its site of origin, which is why it is important to provide a diet fortified with the correct level of selenium to prevent harmful and potentially deadly deficiencies.
An Added Measure of Control

Specially formulated MAZURI Llama Diets provide the nutrients your animal needs in the precise proportions. Llamas are notoriously aggressive feeders who prevent other animals from coming to the feeder--so be sure to give them plenty of space.

Obviously a diet is only effective when it is consumed...which is why it's important to be sure your llama's diet is highly palatable. MAZURI llama diets have demonstrated their appeal to many llamas.

Selecting a quality for your llama can add years to your animal's life...and life to its years. Make it MAZURI...for life.