

LLAMA, lä'má (the native name). A South American quadruped of the camel family. It is no longer regarded as a distinct species, but as a domesticated variety of the guanaco (q.v.). It was in general use as a beast of burden on the Peruvian Andes, and the only beast of burden used by the natives of America, before the horse and ass were introduced by Europeans. It is still much used in this capacity on the Andes, the peculiar conformation of its feet enabling it to walk securely on slopes too rough and steep for any other animal. The burden carried by the llama should not exceed 125 pounds. When too heavily loaded, the animal lies down and refuses to move, nor will either coaxing or severity overcome its resolution. It is generally very patient and docile. Indeed it has almost no means of efficient offense, although it sometimes attempts to bite. A very disagreeable manner of expressing its feelings is by spitting. Its saliva is of an unpleasant odor, and it can eject this with considerable force and accuracy. Visitors to zoölogical gardens are often witness to this habit, and a riding llama will, when aggravated, occasionally turn its head and spit at its rider. Its rate of traveling is about 12 or 15 miles a day. The llama is about 3 feet in height at the shoulder, has a long neck, and carries its head elevated. The females are smaller and less strong than the males, which alone are used for carrying burdens. The color is various, generally brown with shades of yellow or black, frequently speckled, rarely quite white or black. The flesh is spongy, coarse, and not of agreeable flavor. The hair or wool is inferior to that of the alpaca, but is used for similar purposes; that of the female is finer than that of the male. The llama has been introduced with the alpaca into Australia, but it is only adapted for steep mountain regions and has never become generally useful. See LAMA; ALPACA. See Plate of CAMELS AND LLAMAS.

CAMELS AND LLAMAS



1. VICUNA (*Lama vicugna*).
2. GUANACO (*Lama guanacus*).
3. ALPACA.

4. LLAMA.
5. ARABIAN CAMEL, Dromedary type.
6. BACTRIAN or TWO-HUMPED CAMEL.