

Well, we went back up to the top of Pikes Peak today in search of the lost little llama. It was very cold up there today. It was extremely windy and the wind chill the rangers had posted was -2 degrees. I went with Mike Shealy and Kathy Wallace. Mike brought his llama Shasta, and I brought Autumn Dancer with me. Dancer posed for the tourists on the train.

A gazette reporter, and a news reporter from channel 11 came along for the ride. We walked along the cog rail tracks for about .5 mile, and then Mike and Shasta kept going down the hill while the rest of us turned to go back up to the summit.



We had almost given up when I spotted him about a mile off the train tracks.

Dancer and I walked down the tundra towards him until he spotted us.

And he came running!





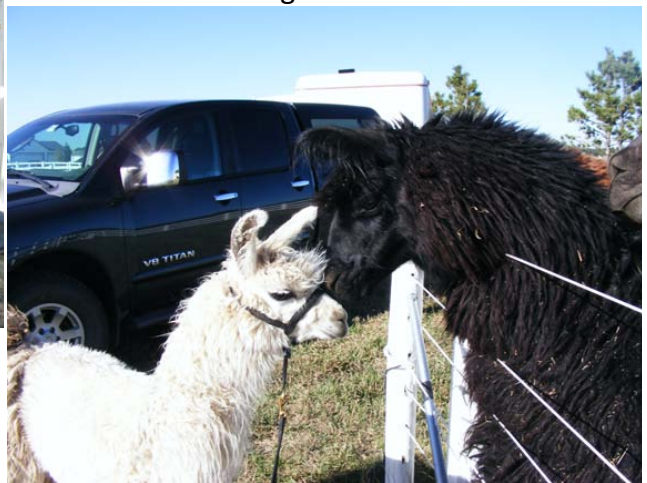
When he reached us I realized that he was just a baby. The halter I had brought along was just way too big on him, so I had to slip it down around his neck. He almost immediately tried to nurse, which Dancer (a gelding) wasn't having any part of!!!

He followed right along. The only problem was that every time I stopped to catch my breath, he would try to nurse, and Dancer was good and sick of him by the time we reached the truck.



Good boy that Dancer is, he let the baby snuggle with him for the long ride down the mountain. At least when you're kushed there is none of that nursing nonsense!

He was happy to say hello to my llamas over the fence.





The sad news is that his ears are extremely frost bitten. I think they will fall off. He is the sweetest little thing. Not afraid of us, and so happy to be around llamas again. He is a little thin, but not dangerously so. He was out there on his own for at least a month, so I doubt if he was weaned before he was separated from his dam. He has lots of nice silky white fiber. Even if he loses his beautiful ears, he is still a brave, playful little soul that will be a blessing to his herd.

Tracy duCharme & Richard Gotthoffer
Idle Hour Ranch
19045 Shiloh Ranch Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80908
(719) 494-1164