

Putting Together a “Natural Barn Kit”

By

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All barns need to have Emergency Kits, fire extinguishers, etc. A “Natural Barn Kit” is another important thing to have on hand. There are many remedies and natural products that can help in situations when you can’t get in touch with your veterinarian. And many times natural remedies and products are all you need to help with non-emergencies especially when you need something right then. Putting together a “Natural Barn Kit” is a good thing that will help you, help your animals in many situations.

Most of my clients and fellow alpaca owners know when they call me for advice or with questions, I usually ask if they have certain things they could use right then. Several have some things but most do not. The next question I get is, “What do I need to have on hand so I’ll be prepared next time?” I usually give them a list of things they need to have on hand. These could make things easier when situations come up with their animals. That’s how the “Natural Barn Kit” came together.

Before we go any further – the products that I am going to list are not intended to replace your veterinarian’s care, diagnosis or experience. These products are NOT to be considered prescriptions or specific veterinary or medical products. They are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease.

The safe and proper use of natural and holistic products is the sole responsibility of the user. Please read all labels carefully before use. The products that I mention in this article are products that we have found works for our herd and the rehab animals that we work with in conjunction with their veterinarians. The body has the ability to heal itself given the right assistance and help.

Here's what I like to have on hand in our **“Natural Barn Kit”–**

1. Lets start with Distress Remedy – one of my favorite remedies.

Many people know about Bach Flower Rescue Remedy but I like Distress Remedy better. Bach Flower Rescue Remedy is a flower essence combo & a great product but I like Distress Remedy for the Natural Barn Kit.

Why do I like Distress Remedy better? Because Distress Remedy is part homeopathic and part flower essence; it's a homeopathic flower medicine. It's a combo remedy that provides relief for minor accidents, injuries and bruises; pain and inflammation; and emotional upset due to physical trauma. It helps bring the mind back into balance. It's in a base of purified water & glycerin – no alcohol.

Distress Remedy is good for you and your animal. It can help within minutes and can be given every 10 to 15 minutes for acute conditions & is safe for crias and pregnant animals. I tell people if they have a stressful situation happening with their animal ---- please give yourself a dropper full of Distress Remedy first and then give some to the animal. It can help you calm down and think clearer which will help your animal & the situation. Distress Remedy is great to use at: herd health, shearing time, teeth trimming, transporting, birthing, breeding, rehab from illness, injuries and more.

There are several ways to give this remedy to your animal:

(Keep the dropper clean and wipe off with alcohol if you contaminate the dropper.)

- Put a dropper full in the mouth by pulling out the lower lip to drop in the liquid. (it has a glass dropper – be careful around the mouth so the animal doesn't break the glass dropper in their mouth.) Only give directly in the mouth if you can easily work with your animal.
- Put a dropper full in the palm of your hand and rub on the skin of the nose or mouth, ears, feet, tummy – the remedy is absorbed by the skin.
- Add a dropper full to a bucket of water. The whole bucket becomes the remedy. (change daily)
- Add a dropper full to feed.
- Add several drops to a spritzer bottle containing water and spray on the skin. (Don't spray toward or in the eyes, please.)

**2. A good natural antibiotic is silver (colloidal & ionic).
I like the one called Silver Shield. It comes in liquid & in gel form.**

Silver is known as a natural antibiotic and immune support product. Not all silver is alike, so it's important to know what to look for in a nano silver. I've used several different silvers & really like the results I've seen with Silver Shield. It is safe & effective.

Silver Shield comes in liquid & in a gel. It's manufactured using a patented process (U.S. Patent No. 7,135,195) with strict quality control to verify atomic adsorption. The result is fine, particle-sized colloids with 99% bio-availability. Other products tested ranged between 15–65% bio-availability. The company holds exclusive rights on this patented Aqua Sol technology for silver solutions ranging from 16 - 19.9 ppm.

Silver Shield ions resonate at a frequency selectively destructive to pathogens. In fact, it has been measured to resonate at 890 to 910 terahertz. This is the same frequency at which germicidal ultraviolet light resonates. The tiny silver particles are absorbed into the red blood cells at the perfect frequency to destroy bacteria, virus, fungus & yeast.

Silver products have been used safely as anti-microbial agents for many years. Silver is mentioned in the Egyptian writings. Greek and Romans used silver vessels for water purification. In the early plagues, the wealthy used silverware to protect themselves. Doctors have used silver sutures in surgical wounds and to combat wound infections during WWI. Silver is used widely in hospitals and even commercial airlines use silver water filters. So, this isn't something new.

Benefits of using Silver Shield Liquid:

- Inhibits the reproduction of bacteria in your body.
- Provides powerful support to the immune system.
- Uses only the finest particle-size colloids to ensure maximum efficiency.
- Helps build up your immune system.
- Is completely non-toxic, no heavy metal contamination.

Benefits of using Silver Shield Gel:

- Acts as an EPA-approved surface disinfectant.
- Silver Shield Gel has been FDA approved for treatment of wounds & burns.
- Is gentle enough for application to the eyes, ears and nasal passages.

Silver Shield liquid & gel have a long shelf life and are great items to include in your emergency preparedness supplies for yourself and your animals. Just one teaspoon of the liquid provides a full 70 mcg of pure silver without heavy metal contamination. Research indicates that colloidal silver is an effective microbial, inactivating the enzymes responsible for the metabolism and multiplication of bacteria, fungi and viruses. I always make sure we have plenty of Silver Shield liquid and gel in the barn and in the house.

3. Soothe-My-Tummy is a new product that we just tested on our herd and really like the results we see. Our Vet likes it too.

Soothe-My-Tummy is a gastric aid that is easy to use and works great for bouts of diarrhea or stressful situations that may cause ulcers. It's safe for the smallest member of the herd to pregnant moms. Made with a proprietary blend of powdered herbs & pro-biotics that you can top dress on feed, mix in water to give orally or mix in moistened beet pulp. Easy to carry to shows and has a long shelf life.

Soothe-My-Tummy contains all natural ingredients that promote digestive health in alpacas and llamas. Ingredients include:

- Marshmallow – good for treatment of any digestive disorder or gastric ulceration, inflammation and colitis.
- Slippery Elm – soothes and heals, forming a coating in the digestive tract. Traditionally used to treat diarrhea, enteritis, colitis, irritation of the stomach, as it soothes, protects and lubricates the mucous membranes. Used for prevention of diarrhea and treatment of gut ulceration in horses, llamas and alpacas.
- Fenugreek – will stimulate appetite and soothe most gastric disorders.
- Queen of the Meadow – used for gastric ulcers especially those that may be caused by drugs. It protects the digestive tract & reduces excess acid.
- Chamomile – for soothing, calming and relaxing. Especially good for diarrhea. Improves digestion, is a natural vaso-dilator with anti-inflammatory and analgesic actions.
- Peppermint / Spearmint – is a stimulant & an anti-spasmodic. One of the best natural digestive aids and helps soothe and relax the digestive tract.
- Valerian Root – ideal for relieving nervous tension, restlessness, stress, anxiety, stomach cramps and nervous exhaustion.
- Beneficial bacteria / pro-biotics and bee pollen – ideal for digestive upset and diarrhea problems.

Some medicinal herbs are very potent, so be smart when using any product that you are adding to your alpaca or llamas diet. Give gradually to let the body's system get used to it and always follow the directions and guidance from your holistic veterinarian or holistic practitioner. It is your responsibility as the caregiver to read the label so you can help your animal's body heal itself.

Medicinal herbs work best when given for short periods of time, i.e. on for 3 to 4 weeks, then off for a few weeks. Depending on the herbal mixture and what's going on with the animal, I give the herbal mixture during the week and rest off giving on the weekends.

4. Using an Otoscope to look in the ears of your alpacas is a great tool to have in your Natural Barn Kit.

An otoscope is easy to use and can save you time and money. If you catch something early happening in the ear, you can then determine if you need to consult with your veterinarian.

We use our otoscope every herd health & anytime we see symptoms that something might be going on in the ears. The ear canal is L shaped – so when you look in the ear with the otoscope, you'll need to aim toward the nose of your alpaca to see the opening of the ear canal. You want to see a clean ear and healthy looking skin. Some ears will be pink inside and some will have color pigmentation in and around the ear.

Ticks in the ear can be a huge problem. We had one alpaca come here, from the vet clinic, for rehab with facial paralysis and ear infection caused by ticks in her ear. One side of her face was droopy & her ear wouldn't stand upright. She progressed nicely with several holistic therapies & we used the Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray to help the ear heal up. She was almost back to normal by the time she was ready to go back to her ranch.

Spit can get stuck in the ears and cause infections. I've seen two alpacas in a disagreement with their heads locked and spit flying. Sometimes the spit ends up getting in the ears. You can check with the otoscope to determine if spit is stuck in their ear and then irrigate it with a soapy water solution to clean out if necessary.

Anytime you see an alpaca shaking their head, scratching at their ears or rubbing their ear on a tree, get your otoscope out and take a look inside to see what's going on. Always clean the tips of the otoscope with alcohol so it will be clean and ready for the next time.

Having an otoscope really comes in handy when you need it. You can get a very durable, inexpensive pocket size otoscope at www.alpacasALLnature.com.

5. Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray is a natural product that helps kill mites, ticks, mange, munge & fleas and promotes healing of the skin. For topical use only. Keep out of the eyes.

Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray can help get rid of bacterial, fungal & yeast infections in the ears and on the body. Shake well and it's ready to use. It's safe to use on crias and pregnant animals. This is a must have for the natural barn kit!

At shearing time & other times we use the Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray a lot.

- Spray a light spray mist over the top of the animal's back to keep flies & mosquitoes off after the animals have been shorn.
- We even use it on ourselves to repel insects if needed.
- If lice are found at shearing time, we spray the animal liberally which helps kill the lice & eggs. With the natural ingredients of cedar oil and hydrated silica, it's completely safe for you & the alpaca – even crias and pregnant moms. Re-spray for lice the next day if needed.
- We spray a light mist across all the bags of fiber sitting out to air before we seal them up for storage to repel moths. It smells like a cedar chest.
- This is a non-toxic way to kill ants in the barn.
- We also spray a small amount at the opening of the alpaca's ears to prevent ticks from getting in their ears. This prevention will last up to three weeks for us. It also kills any ticks that might already be in their ears & helps the skin heal.
- Spray on areas of the alpaca's body that need attention for mites, fungus, munge, mites, etc. Sometimes you need to treat the area for several days to get the condition under control. If you have fungus, scrub with a soft toothbrush to make sure you get under the layer of fungus so the skin can heal.

- If the Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray is used on their face – cover the eyes.
- Dip a Q-tip in the Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray liquid & paint on the alpaca's nose or other areas for mite or fungus problems. Losing fiber on the nose can sometimes be mistaken for a zinc deficiency. Use the Alpaca & Llama Insect Spray - if it clears up in about a week, then you know it wasn't a zinc deficiency but probably mites or fungus.
- We spray our dogs and cats to kill fleas instantly. It also kills the flea eggs. It's a safer alternative to spot flea treatments.

6. Llama-Zyme is the best probiotic & enzyme combo that I've found and I've tried a lot with the rehab animals that have come here to our ranch.

Llama-Zyme is made to complement your animal's feed & to assist them in the absorption and utilization of nutrients. It was designed by a Microbiologist/Zoologist and contains a specific concentrated blend of microencapsulated beneficial bacteria, yeast cultures, and digestive enzymes, with organic minerals and anti-oxidants, formulated to maximize intestinal flora and digestive efficiency while optimizing the absorption of nutrients. Llama-Zyme contains a concentrated blend of Alpaca friendly prebiotics, 9 superior alpaca friendly probiotics and 6 digestive enzymes.

The microflora / microbial balance in alpacas and llamas can be upset faster than we think. The effects may not show up immediately but an alpaca's beneficial intestinal bacteria can be destroyed or depleted and the PH of this environment can be altered during times of stress. As we all know, many things cause stress to alpacas that can cause imbalance in the gastro-intestinal tract, i.e. shows, breeding, birthing, weaning, going to a new home, new animals coming in, weather extremes, etc.

There are three kinds of "bacteria" - *good, neutral and bad*.

The alpaca needs a balance of the "*bad*" bacteria to keep the "*good*" in check. As long as the balance of "*good & bad*" bacteria remains constant and the gastro-intestinal tract is stable, the alpaca remains healthy.

When the balance is upset, the alpaca may eat but may not be able to digest properly or assimilate the nutrients he needs from his food.

When this occurs it may begin to show up as:

- skin conditions
- dull fiber
- inability to maintain weight
- slow to grow to their normal size –“Failure to Thrive”
- parasite infestations
- diarrhea
- other medical conditions

Llama-Zyme can be used daily to top dress the feed, mixed in water to give orally or mixed in a moistened beet pulp. It benefits the smallest member of the herd to the eldest member and is safe for pregnant moms.

7. Mama Llama Herbal Formula is a proprietary blend of two immune boost ingredients plus 3 herbs from the regions of Peru. Made for pregnant & nursing livestock including alpacas and llamas. It also works great for your breeding males!

The herbs in the Mama Llama Herbal Formula are known to help both males & females in supporting stamina, endurance and promoting hormonal balance. These herbs are combined with two great immune boosters – beta glucan and colostrum.

Mama Llama Herbal Formula includes:

- Maca
- Muira Puama
- Suma
- Beta Glucan
- Colostrum.

We are successfully using the Mama Llama Herbal Formula together with the Llama-Zyme in the rehab of a variety of underweight alpacas & other animals across the USA. This is one of our favorite immune boost formulas that we use.

Always remember when adding something new to the diet, gradually introduce the herbal mixtures over a period of a week & check the animal to see how their digestive system is handling it. If needed cut the amount in half until you gradually get the system adjusted to full dosage or consult with your holistic practitioner or veterinarian.

8. Animal Restore Essence is another great remedy to have on hand. It's used when an animal's spirit needs to be restored.

Many animals will give up when they are ill or down. Animal Restore Essence helps heal and restore the animal's spirit, bringing out their full radiance.

This essence has many uses:

- During periods of recovery from traumas.
- To restore vitality after operations or illness.
- For timid, cowering animals.
- For weak spirited and easily frightened animals.
- For those that have been badly treated, abused or neglected.

Give 5-7 drops of Animal Restore Essence directly in the mouth, in food or add to the water bucket. Several essences can be added together depending on each situation.

A “**Natural Barn Kit**” is something you'll be glad you have on hand and can be very helpful in lots of situations. I hope these suggestions have helped you with some basic products to start with. As you learn more, you can add other remedies and natural products to your kit. If you have questions or need a consultation you can contact me at candace@holistic-critters.com.

Putting Together A “Natural Barn Kit”

The products mentioned in this article are not intended to diagnose, treat or cure any animal and are not intended to replace the advice of your veterinarian.

We have found that these products work for our herd and are good to have on hand to compliment the veterinarian's care when needed.

Always consult with your veterinarian when your animal is ill. Please read all labels carefully before using any products. The safe and proper use of natural and holistic products is the sole responsibility of the user.

All of these products mentioned in this article came be purchased at
www.alpacasALLnaturale.com