

“Failure To Thrive”

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What does it mean when you are told your little alpaca is a “Failure To Thrive”.

All the lab work & tests from the veterinarian came back normal but your alpaca is small for their age and just not growing. Then you're told they don't expect them to thrive and may not live past 2 or 3 years of age. Sometimes the little “Failure To Thrive” alpacas have some of the best fiber in the herd and you want them to grow up to be productive members of your breeding program.

Is there hope? Yes, there is always hope. This article is about one of many “Failure To Thrive” alpacas that have been helped with natural / holistic protocols. This is not saying that veterinarians don't know what they are doing and just give up on these little guys. We love our veterinarians and depend on their diagnosis, care and skills. The protocols I talk about in this article complement the veterinarian's care.

Many “Failure To Thrive” alpacas & llamas have responded successfully to holistic protocols and have grown into normal healthy animals. Sometimes there are health problems when nothing seems to help and the animals don't make it but they are still worth trying some alternative things.

Always check with your veterinarian when your alpaca is not thriving or growing. All the rehab animals that we have worked with have seen their veterinarian for a diagnosis first & have had the proper lab work completed. This article is not meant to replace

your veterinarian's advice or diagnosis but to tell you about, one of many, successful rehab "Failure To Thrive" animals.

Her name is Bacall. The picture below is Bacall 5 days after she arrived at our ranch. At 18 months old, Bacall was 62 lbs with a body score of 3 out of 5. So, she wasn't skin & bones – she was just small and not growing. All of Bacall's lab work, including a thyroid test, was normal.



Here is some history:

Bacall, a blue-eyed white female, came to our ranch March 3, 2007 from another ranch where she had been boarded. She was 18 months old and her weight fluctuated & stayed around 56 to 63 lbs. She had weighed under 60 lbs. for over a year. The owners were

looking for some alternative help and contacted me about boarding Bacall at our ranch to get some alternative help & rehab.

Bacall, and a friend from her herd, arrived late afternoon. They were let out of the trailer in the quarantine pasture so they could settle in for the evening. We saw them both poop, so we got samples to do our fecal check and both had an acceptable low count of parasites. The next morning we would start Bacall's evaluation & begin the appropriate holistic protocol. The owners told us Bacall hadn't been handled much or halter trained.

The next morning was very enlightening! When I approached Bacall & touched her to put a halter on, she became totally uncontrollable, spitting, screaming, trying to run in fear and acting freaked out. This was an exaggerated behavior I wasn't expecting & one I had not seen with an alpaca before or since.

Having blue eyes I suspected she was totally deaf which would explain a lot of her behavior. But after observing her and making noise in the area around her, I determined Bacall was partially deaf but not totally. I would say she was 80% deaf. Obviously, she was not touched or worked with *at all* where she was boarded before. Bless her heart!

Day One - Rehab begins:

- Since she wasn't halter trained and uncontrollable, we had to lift her on to the scale for a weight since there was no way she would walk. She weighed 62 lbs.
- I managed to get the halter on her breathing a slow & consistent breath out loud close to her ears. This helped calm her down a little but she was not happy!
- Bacall got oral Distress Remedy by putting a dropper full of the liquid in my hand and gently rubbing that on the inside skin of her ears where it absorbed quickly into the body.

- I did cranial massage work and auricular therapy work around the ears, which always helps take stress down a notch & that helped.
- I consistently told Bacall that she was safe and that we were going to help her get healthy. We told her that we liked her and thought she was pretty. (Animals read our thoughts and the words we speak can be healing and powerful.)
- She got her first oral dose of the Herbal Mixture, mixed in water and given with a dosing syringe. This was not easy but mission accomplished.
- The Herbal Mixture was made with these 3 products:
 1. Mama Llama Herbal Formula
 2. Animal Herbal Formula
 3. Llama-Zyme.

Day Two - Halter training starts after breakfast:

- Distress Remedy was given & I did cranial massage work on the head and around the ears.
- Herbal Mixture was given orally.
- After putting the halter on Bacall, I explained to her she was going with me to fill water buckets for the others. It took a long time & lots of patience to reach that first bucket, while she screamed and spit! I wore appropriate gear.

Day Three & Four – Some progress:

- Same routine including massage, Distress Remedy & the Herbal Mixture. Haltered and ready to go, we reached more buckets each day but she was still screaming and spitting some. I felt like Helen Keller's nurse at times.

Day Five – Bacall is doing good:

- Same routine but this time Bacall was halter trained & not spitting! She still screamed some especially if I moved too

fast & tugged on the lead too hard but no spitting. She actually acted like she was enjoying the routine.

- She walked on to the scale! Yeah! Weighed 62.4 lbs. – no real gain yet.

Day Seven – Increased Herbal Mixture to Twice a Day:

- No more massage techniques or Distress Remedy needed.
- Same routine going with me to fill the water buckets. No screaming!
- I was still talking to her as we walked, telling her she was safe and that she was getting healthy. I would tell her we loved her and that we thought she was pretty.
- I increased the Herbal Mixture to twice a day – she took it well.

Day Ten – Bacall gained 2 pounds:

- Moved her in with some of the others, out of quarantine.
- Bacall ate good with all the other alpacas & didn't stand back waiting to eat, so no problem with herd dynamics.
- She would still go with me to fill water buckets & she enjoyed it!
- Gave her the Herbal Mixture twice a day.

Day 15 – Weight fluctuating – up to 65 pounds:

- Gained some and would lose a little but a consistent gain up to 65 lbs. Progress!
- We weighed Bacall every day.
- She followed me when I filled water buckets without being haltered.
- Continued to give her the Herbal Mixture twice a day.

One Month & 8 days after she got here – gained 11.5 pounds:

- Bacall weighed 73.5 lbs. from 62. lbs.

- Now she watched me fill water buckets & didn't follow me or offer to help at all.... Oh well.
- We weighed her once a week.
- Continued to give the Herbal Mixture twice a day. (I reduced the Herbal Mixture to once a day but she started to lose, so back to twice a day for another month.)

Two Months into her rehab – Still gaining:

- Her veterinarian was very pleased with her progress.
- Bacall weighed 76.3 lbs. (14.3 lb. gain from day one)
- Continued to give Herbal Mixture twice a day.
- Bacall is easy to work now when doing herd health trimming toenails, etc. Her owners were happy about her progress.

Three Months into her rehab – Doing great:

- Bacall weighed 78.2 lbs. & was on her way to her ideal weight.
- Gave the Herbal Mixture twice a day still.

Month Five into her rehab – ready to go home:

- The owner's ranch was finally ready for Bacall & her friend to come home.
- Bacall weighed 85 healthy pounds!

Back home:

Bacall's owners continued to give her the Herbal Mixture twice a day. I told them once she reached 90 lbs. to slowly stop giving her the mixture over a two week period. If she continued to gain, she would be complete with her rehab program. Once she was over 100 lbs. Bacall would be ready for breeding.

Several months later at 115 pounds:

Bacall came back to our ranch for breeding with one of the herd sires. That was a very rewarding reunion. Wow, what a difference

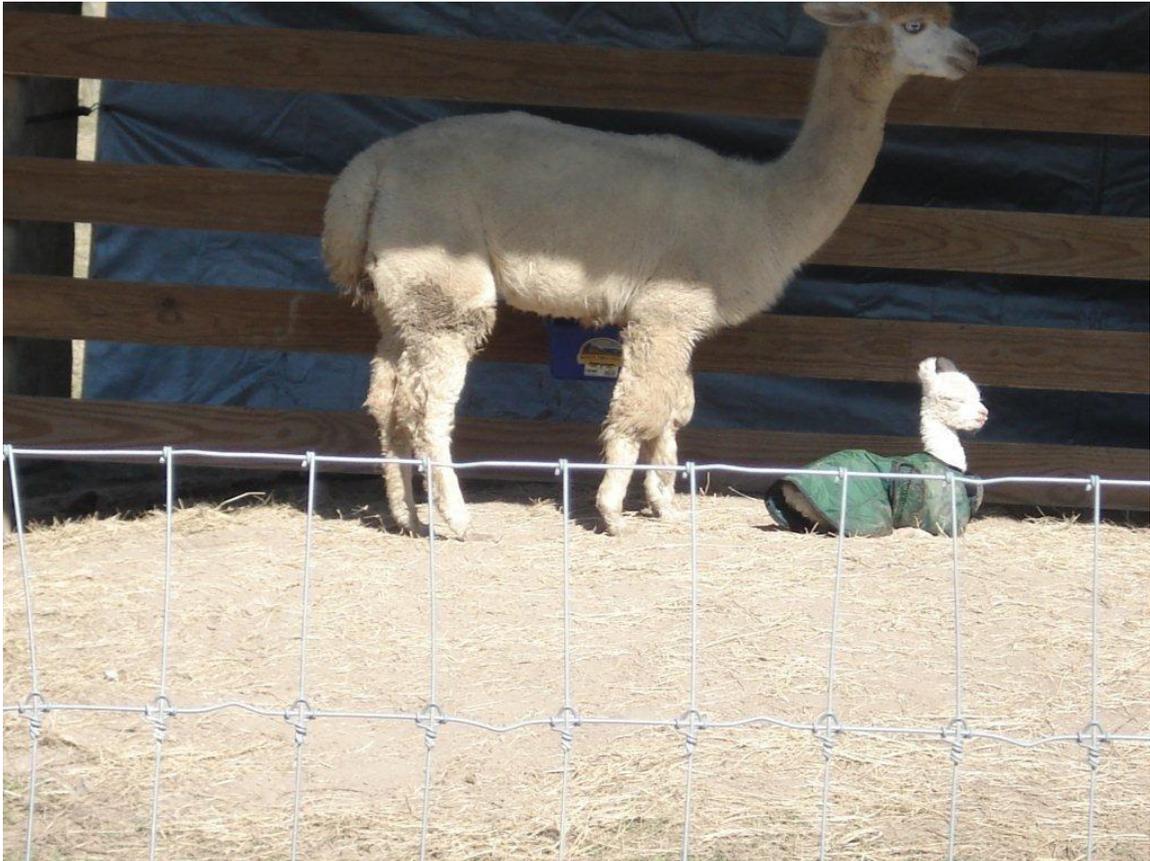
from the scared little girl that first came off the trailer! It was nice to see her again and I think she was glad to see us.



One year after rehab started:

This picture shows Bacall weighing 124 lbs.

Happy, Healthy & Pregnant!



This picture shows Bacall and her first cria. She is a good mom and her weight now averages around 156 pounds.

So what is in the Herbal Mixture?

(These are all in powder form & easy to mix with water to give orally or can be added to moistened beet pulp.)

- Animal Herbal Formula
- Mama Llama Herbal Formula
- Llama-Zyme

Most of the herbs in the Animal Herbal Formula & the Mama Llama Herbal Formula are from regions of Peru and I believe that is why this mixture has worked so well for many rehab cases.

Animal Herbal Formula:

Listed below are the herbs in the *Animal Herbal Formula* along with information about what benefits these herbs are known for:

1. Una de Gato –immune stimulation, pain & inflammation reduction, cellular protection and detoxification, anti-viral & anti-bacterial properties, free radical defense, bowel & blood cleansing.
2. Chanca Piedra – supports the kidneys, expels and dissolves stones, anti-bacterial & anti-viral, prevents cellular mutation, reduces fever, detoxifies the liver, expels worms, reduces pain & inflammation, aids digestion.
3. Jatoba – anti-yeast, fungal & bacterial, decongests bronchioles, reduces spasms, increases energy, protects the live bacteria, stimulates digestion, expels worms, fights free radicals.
4. Boldo – stimulates digestion, supports the heart, protects & detoxifies the liver, reduces gas, reduces inflammation, expels worms, kills parasites, relieves pain.
5. Chuchuhuasi – reduces inflammation, relaxes muscles, relieves pain, prevents tumors, stimulates digestion, enhances immunity, supports the adrenals.
6. Camu Camu – fights free radicals, anti-ageing, immune booster, natural antihistamine, promotes the cardiovascular health, increased collagen production, antibody production.
7. Licorice – anti-viral & anti-inflammatory, anti-parasitic, anti-tumor, mild expectorant, improves overall cardiovascular health.
8. Stevia – natural sweetener, anti-bacterial, lowers blood sugar, kills fungi & virus, lowers blood pressure, reduces inflammation.

Mama Llama Herbal Formula:

The herbs in the *Mama Llama Herbal Formula* are also from regions of Peru and have been used for many generations to help humans and animals balance & support their hormonal system, increase stamina, strength and endurance and boost their immune system.

Mama Llama Herbal Formula has been helping females that have trouble getting pregnant or holding a pregnancy full term. It's also good for moms that are nursing but tend to get thin. Plus - this formula is very supportive to breeding males to keep them in top shape during breeding season. This immune boosting formula is used for so many conditions and helps support the veterinarians care & protocol.

These are the ingredients & their benefits:

1. Maca – has a rich profile of protein, amino acids and other nutrients that support stamina, endurance, promotes hormonal balance and facilitates increased strength and muscle tone. This is an adaptogenic herb, which supports endocrine health and helps regulate metabolism and energy. It's one of the earliest known food crops of the Incas.
2. Kiwicha – a gluten free grain full of antioxidants provides an excellent source of protein with a good balance of essential amino acids. Known to promote cardiovascular health and provide strength and energy. This is another known food crop of the Incas.
3. Muir Puama – Known as “potency wood”. Is historically used to enhance physical and sexual energy. Helps combat occasional nervous exhaustion and physical fatigue.
4. Suma – is often called ‘para todo’ (for everything). Is a rich source of amino acids. It's known for its adaptogenic properties for energy & longevity.
5. Beta-Glucan & Colostrum -immune boosting ingredients.
6. Acidophilus – a great probiotic.

Llama-Zyme:

This formula plays an important part in the Herbal Mixture. I have found this probiotic/enzyme mixture works better than any other gels or powders that I have tried and I've tried a lot of brands.

I always add the *Llama-Zyme* to make sure the animals are getting good probiotics and enzymes. The *Llama-Zyme* can help optimize the absorption of nutrients the animals get from the Herbal Mixture & also from their food & grass/hay. It can also be top dressed on feed and it comes in powder form in a reusable bag.

Llama-Zyme ingredients include:

- A broad spectrum of probiotics & prebiotics which includes 9 species of live microbials.
- Llama friendly digestive enzymes.
- Kelp, rice bran, colostrum, yucca, whey protein, molasses yeast, vitamin C, vitamin B complex & Ginseng.
- Flavored with carrot powder.

How do you give the Herbal Mixture?

Depending on each animal's personality, pick the easiest way to give the mixture. Here are some suggestions:

- Mix the powdered formulas together in non-chlorinated water & give with a dosing syringe orally.
- Or sprinkle the formulas on the grain. It works well if the feed is a moist feed mix like sweet feed.
- Or mix in moistened beet pulp. (drain the excess water). Some love moistened beet pulp and others won't touch it.

When we have a rehab animal we usually give the Herbal Mixture orally, this way we know they are getting it all.

We start out giving the mixture once a day the first week to let the body's digestive system get adjusted. If we see clumpy poop, we give every other day, then we gradually start back to every day.

After 2 weeks of giving the mixture once a day, we increase to twice a day (observing the animal) making sure their digestive system is handling the increased dosage.

We weigh the animal each week in the AM or PM. Weighing each week at the same time of day gives us consistent weight information.

We use these amounts: (*Adjust dosage according to weight*).
(These amounts below are for animals 50 to 100 lbs.)

- **Mama Llama Herbal Formula:** 1 teaspoon once a day to start.
- **Animal Herbal Formula:** 1 teaspoon once a day to start.
- **Llama-Zyme:** 1 teaspoon once a day to start.



This picture shows, Annie, (a rehab client) getting her Herbal Mixture orally with a dosing syringe.

Disclaimer: The information & the products mentioned in this article are NOT to be considered prescriptions or specific veterinary products. Or intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease. *The body has the ability to heal itself.*

For rehab or sick animals, consult with your Veterinarian. Holistic care can & does complement your veterinarian's care.

The goal in Holistic Animal Care is to help the animal heal itself, working to balance the mind, body and spirit. Healing is a team effort that involves God, the animal, the veterinarian and the people that love them. If I can help in that team effort, then I've provided a gift from my heart.

Questions or for more information contact:
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