

## Rob & Joanna Stephens

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**From:** Marty McGee Bennett <marty@camelidynamics.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 03, 2011 10:30 AM  
**To:** rob@robasia-alcacas.com  
**Subject:** Marty's - News, Digest and Tip



Weekly Digest of Posts

July 1, 2011

### Marty's News...

Hello All,

I have just returned from Wisconsin and a two-day clinic hosted by Camelidynamics Handler Rob Stephens, and his wife Joanna. Rob and Joanna attended their first clinic in 2008. They listened to the ideas I presented, went home and tried the techniques AND were immediately impressed. They made the decision to make Camelidynamics a part of the way they would manage their animals. As of this writing Rob and Joanna have over 70 animals and despite the larger numbers their animals are all quiet and trusting.

I am frustrated when people who are not familiar with Camelidynamics characterize the work we do as useful only for small breeders with a few animals--nothing could be further from the truth--the more animals you have the more important it is to manage them in a way that is efficient as well as safe for handlers and animals. It is really nice to see up close a larger breeder fully embracing the ideas.

### Digest of Posts

#### [Taking Crias to another farm without Moms to be shorn?](#)

Today, July 02, 2011, 7 hours ago | tookoi  
Hi Julie, I'm with Rose on this one. If you really want them done, take momma along. If not, then skip it completely. Have fun, be safe. Tandy [Read more...](#)



#### [Death of a Cria](#)

Yesterday, July 01, 2011, 6:43:56 PM | millerEC

I very much appreciate your reply and thoughts. I somehow posted my question in the wrong category on the forum...all it takes is a novice to a blog to mess something up! The cria's was in the proper position with toes and nose first. We'll carefully weigh the value of breeding Crystal... [Read more...](#)

#### [ttouch to the baby-belly](#)

Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 12:23:34 PM | Junglandwirtin05

Just want to share my newest experience. One of my girls is

I have been singing the praises of the Camelidynamics Handling Facility and have seen many versions in my travels each one works, is clever and is unique to its creators. I had not seen a purpose built barn with a Camelidynamics handling facility as it centerpiece--until now.

As it turned out when we scheduled a clinic at RobAsia Alpacas, Rob and Joanna were planning a new barn and the plan was to have the barn finished in time for the clinic. Despite a horrendous winter and weeks of rain that seriously delayed construction-- the barn was ready with the finishing touches added days if not hours before I arrived!

The new barn is built around a Camelidynamics handling facility. Everything in the barn works with and around the facility and it amazing to watch. Rob tweaked my two-person design after seeing my facility here in Bend and made a really cool single-person weighing facility in his old barn-- you can watch him using that version on youtube here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_56i0F1DQY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_56i0F1DQY)

If you have an opportunity to visit RobAsia Alpacas in Manitowoc WI and see this wonderful barn it is well worth the trip.

Happy Handling!  
Marty

### Marty's 2011 Clinic Schedule

#### 4-Day Advanced\*

**Oregon (July 10-13)**

**(+1 Day Behavior Trng on the 9th - with Dr. Susan Brown)**

#### 2-Day Basics

**Vermont (July 30-31)**

**Switzerland (Sept 3-4)**

**Germany (Sept 10-11)**

**Ohio (Oct 8-9)**

**New Mexico (Oct 22-23)**

**California (Nov 5-6)**

#### 4-Day Advanced\*

**Vermont (August 5-8)**

**England (Sept 16-19)**

**Happenings in the Guild this Week:**

### New Members:

**Teresa Diamond**

giving birth the first time this year. She started to get confused and nervous by the baby kicking her belly. Since she is not the most balanced character I started to do Ttouch to her. She didn't start to relax but I got the idea to... [Read more...](#)

### Tip of the Week:

## **The Magic of a Wand & Rope!**

I worry that after someone (me included) learns the midline catch that they forget about how wonderful the wand catching method is and how many really good things the method teaches your camelid.

The other day I was working with Silhouette who is very pregnant. She was raised with only the midline catch but now that it is late in her first pregnancy she is jumpy as all get out. Using the midline catch with her was getting more and more in-elegant and I think detrimental to our relationship. I brought out the wand and rope (she had never seen it before) and used it to catch her a few times. Voila! She is almost back to her old quiet self. Even if you began with the wand catch method and traded it in favor of the midline catch the wand is not necessarily something that you stop using. In fact I am working on the prototype of a new shorter wand to facilitate using the catch rope when working animals in a group.



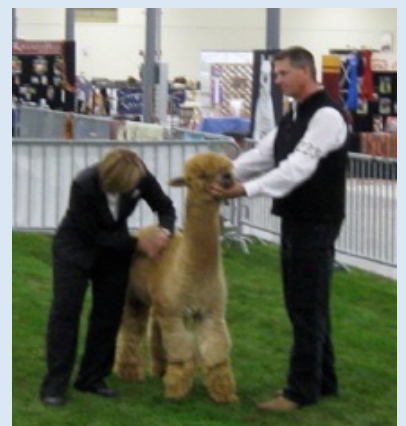
Here are just a few observations about the wand catch method.

1. Unlike other methods-- catching with the wand offers you, a way to teach your animal to stay put as you approach. There is simply no other way to do it without trapping the animal in a corner! By getting a rope around the neck you have a way of adjusting the animal's balance from a distance and teaching the animal to override the flight

response as you make an approach.

Without it you must either hold the animal still or allow them to move away. I suggest that even after you begin using the midline catch that you bring the wand out periodically to remind your animal that he can stand in balance as you approach... especially as you prepare for the show ring.

2. The wand is a real "knee" and "thigh" saver if you are dealing with an animal that has learned to defend itself by kicking. You can use the catch rope to keep the head pointed in your direction and the "business" end pointed the other way!



**Rob & Superstar**

**Congratulations to:**

**Alicia Anderson from Apprentice to Practitioner**

**Angie Buchanan - Associate Member to Handler**

**Departing from the Guild:**

**(and we wish them well)**

3. Catching with the wand and rope is THE best way that I know of to preempt kushing. For many animals proximity to a human IS the kush button. Once your approach causes the animal to go down you have, like it or not, reinforced the behavior. Using a wand and rope along with the Ultimate lead in a long laneway can really change this dynamic quickly and easily.

4. If you have a big male alpaca or a llama that has learned to manipulate you with his/her superior size and strength you can level the playing field with the wand and rope. Preempting movement with the catch rope from a distance can help you convince these animals that despite what they have experienced in the past, you have power that doesn't come from muscle AND you can arrange a safe approach that makes it unnecessary to use muscle to fight.

5. I do not recommend keeping animals around that have become dangerous for humans, however the wand and rope can be a way to deal with an animal and remain safe.

Using the wand and rope well requires practice but it is surely worth the effort this is a tool that I would NOT be without!

**RobAsia One Person Weighing Station**



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