OUR JUNE CAMELID PRACTICE COURSE

Our annual 6 Day Camelid Practice Course for vets and vet students was held June 3-8. Seven students participated including 1 vet from southern California and 6 vet students (Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, and Colorado State). The goal of the course taught by NACSP director Steve Purdy DVM is to get the students familiar with the practical aspects of working on camels as a veterinarian. Topics covered included: basic handling and husbandry, physical examinations, blood draws, foot and dental work, basic reproduction, breeding, semen collection and evaluation, reproductive ultrasound, hands on problem solving, pregnancy considerations, birthing, neonatology, and castration. The course is very hands on and practical in nature. Teaching combines interactive lectures and hands on learning with the Nunoa Project North American Camelid Studies Farm teaching herd in Belchertown MA. Thank you to the following farms for providing hands on work, presentations of their farm management, and instruction to the students: Great Rock Alpacas in Barre MA (www.greatrockalpacas.com), Plain View Farm (www.plainviewfarrmalpacas.com) in Hubbardston MA, and Morning Beckons Farm (www.morningbeckons.com) in Thompson CT.