

# Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

## Animal Facts

Breed: LLAMA

Names / Sex / Age:

Anson            Male            (large all brown, very friendly and curious) Approx. 10  
Rocket           Male            (large, brown & white, brown face/neck) Approx. 12

Previous Homes: Private homes, kept as “pets”.

Native to: Southern Peru, western Bolivia, northwestern Argentina, northeastern Chile. Llamas originated in North America over 9 million years ago.

Weight: 150-350 pounds

Life Expectancy: 15-20 years in wild; 20 years in captivity.

Diet: Grasses, herbs, shrubs, fruit, vegetables, hay, grain. At Black Pine, a commercially prepared alfalfa pellet feed, grass hay, small amount of horse feed.

Status: Stable in the wild and raised by the thousands in captivity.

Facts:

- Llamas are herbivores that have 3 stomachs
- They are sociable and friendly animals, rarely challenging or confronting people unless agitated
- Llamas can be very stubborn
- They can spit accurately up to 8 feet away. They usually only spit at each other, but will spit at anything that makes them mad enough
- Used as pack animals since the 16th century, the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service use them for a variety of tasks, including rescue
- Two-toed feet make them very sure-footed
- Llamas can carry 25%-30% of their own body weight for up to 8 miles
- Their wool is used, and is very warm
- Llamas are also raised for meat, fatty tissue (candle wax), dung (fuel), and hair (rope)
- In America they are most commonly kept as pets
- Llamas have a very unusual way of managing their waste. They use what is called the “communal dung pile”. They find a place indoors and several places outdoors and all of the llamas will go there. If you put droppings down llamas will go there.

Personal History:

Llamas have resided at Black Pine for many years - well before the park opened to the public. The first llamas were adopted from the founder’s sister when she was in a horrible car accident and needed help for the animals. Rocket is the offspring of the first llamas to reside at the park.

Anson is a former 4-H animal adopted in 2001 after his handler went off to college and their parents didn't want to have the responsibility of caring for the animal any longer.