

# Alpacas

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while much of the money will be used for security and safety improvements, the alpacas were purchased from individual sponsorship.

Calvin, born almost exactly a year ago, was sponsored by Vanessa and Ben Hobbs. And yes, it's because their two daughters like the cartoon, "Calvin and Hobbes."

JoJo, the oldest alpaca at 2 years old, was funded by JoAnne van der Bruggen.

Jenny Klimisch sponsored JellyBean.

Calvin and JellyBean are stepbrothers — they share the same father — and JoJo is unrelated.

The eldest alpaca and the two young ones were introduced several weeks ago and Rosenfeld reported to Wing that "there is love and peace between them; the older alpaca and the little boys are getting along very well."

Rosenfeld could see a few minutes into surveying Loma Vista Farm that her "babies" would be just fine.

"I think it's absolutely magical. I want to live here," Rosenfeld said grinning. "This is like a dream come true."

Rosenfeld started Renaissance Ridge with her husband, Ken, and three alpacas 14 years ago. It's grown to a record 80 of the amiable critters.

"They're the most spiritual animals. They 'center' you and are just really amazing, peaceful and tranquil," Rosenfeld said, adding that the animal's fleece "is finer than cashmere, so it makes high-end yarn."

Rosenfeld said that en route to an alpaca delivery "I always imagine what I'd like their new home to be and it never is what I imagine. But this one is. I'm really happy this is going to be their home. I couldn't ask for anything better; to be part of a the program where kids get to see all these different

animals."

When she first heard of the Feb. 8 attacks, Rosenfeld thought "what a horrible thing."

"The No. 1 threat to alpacas are domestic dogs," she said. "We have mountain lions (in the Sierra foothills) and we're more fearful of someone's dog running around."

Rosenfeld was comforted that the Loma Vista alpaca area has been reinforced with better fencing and "hogwire" preventing animals from entering.

Hopefully living to their 25-year life expectancy, the alpacas are in a place "that's ideal," Rosenfeld said. "I'm thrilled."

"I'm very excited about the new alpacas," LeRoy said, acknowledging "the sadness of what happened and the concern of making sure it never happens again."

LeRoy called alpacas "gentle, beautiful creatures. I think everyone sees the alpacas and it makes them feel

more peaceful. I think that's why there are one of the favorite animals on the farm."

Loma Vista includes two sheep, two goats, four bunnies, two cows, two pigs, a peacock, two horses, and numerous chickens.

The sheep "are very excited they're going to have new neighbors and the pigs are planning a welcoming party," LeRoy smiled.

Loma Vista Farm executive director Julia Allen called the new alpacas' arrival "wonderful."

"I wouldn't say it completes our ensemble of animals, but it replaces one of the favorites," Allen said.

The new alpacas — and the rest of the creatures — will be showcased at the farm's Spring Festival on Sat., May 18.

Though it was difficult to lose alpacas Pacheco, Racer and Sky, the arrival of the three replacements offers "a new era" at the farm.

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