

# Family-Camelidae

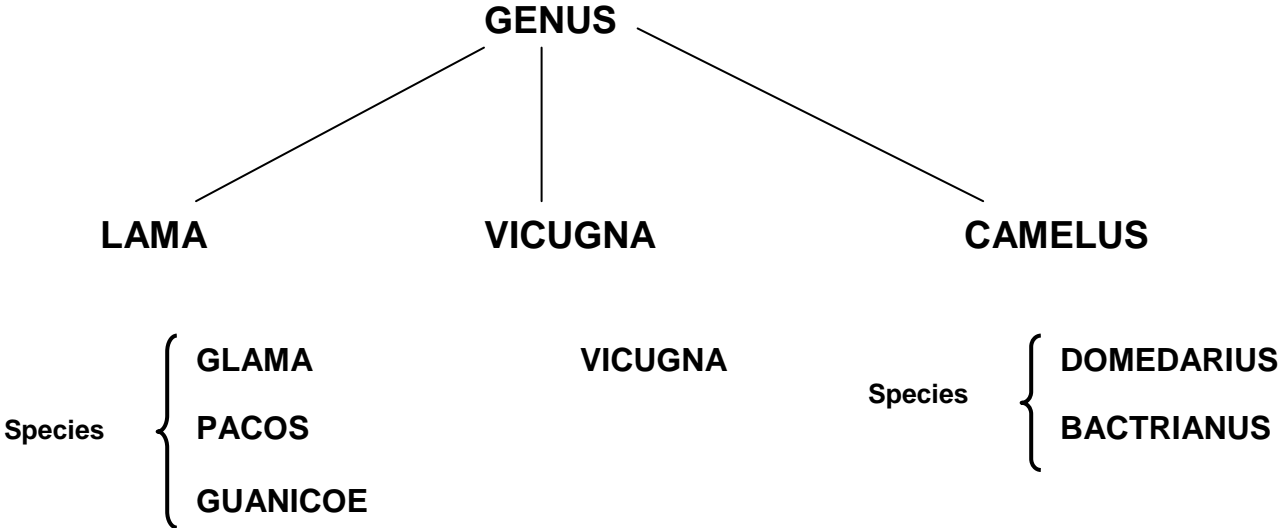
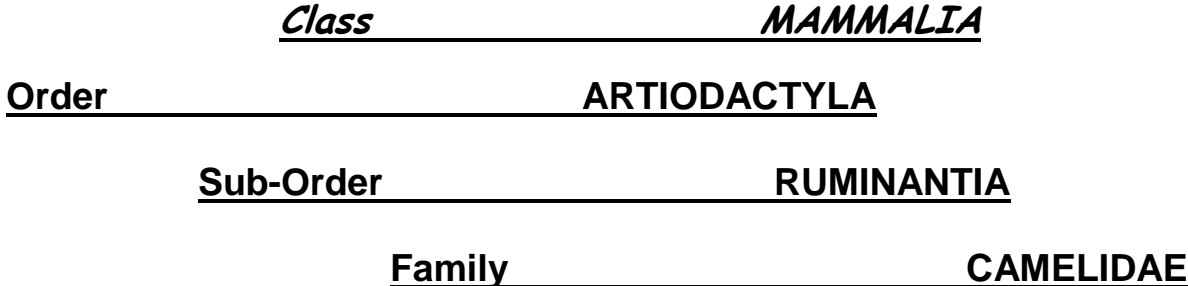
**LLAMAS** and **ALPACAS** are related. They are members of the camelid family. There are four in the species, including two wild members: the **Guanaco** and the **Vicuña**.

The camel family first originated and evolved on the central plains of North America. There are fossilized footprints in Kansas, Colorado, Nevada, and other places. Evidence goes back 40-50 million years. The ancient ancestors migrated to Asia and northern Africa three million years ago to eventually evolve into camels. Also, they went to South America to become the lama related species. At the end of the last ice age, 10,000-12,000 years ago, camelids became extinct in North America.

All four camelids are native to the Andes Mountains in South America. They are primarily found in Peru, Bolivia and Chile. Archaeological evidence shows they were domesticated about 6,000 years ago. **Llamas** have been used as the beast of burden for thousands of years. **Alpacas** have always been raised for their wool. In South America both are used for meat. It is interesting to note that the wild species have just one color scheme: *Guanacos* have cinnamon brown wool on their bodies with cream underbelly and grey faces; *Vicuñas* have golden tawny wool on their faces and bodies with an off-white bib, lower sides, and underbelly. It is with domestication that color diversity occurs.

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## Llama Classification



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