



# Bar C Ranch



540-539-7689

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[www.barc ranch.org](http://www.barc ranch.org)

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[info@barcranch.org](mailto:info@barcranch.org)

Dear Fair Planner,

Thank you for your interest in Bar C Ranch. We are a family owned and operated business, based in Berryville, Virginia. We have been offering animal attractions since 2000 and are **committed to educating while we entertain**. Through our educational signs, shows, and friendly staff we teach people about a wide variety of species and their environments. By giving people an opportunity to meet our animals up close, we hope they will gain an increased respect for all animals and for the world that we share with them.

Our rides and zoos are designed to provide a safe environment for visitors of all ages to have a hands on experience with a variety of animals from around the world. In the zoo, informative signs are presented on all of the enclosures so that visitors can learn about the animals while they interact with them. We also bring some “educational animals” which are just to look at, such as tarantulas and scorpions. These animals are mostly hands off, for obvious reasons, but can be handled by our staff. We are happy to educate our visitors and give them a better understanding of these often feared creatures. We hope that every person who enters the zoo, regardless of age, will leave it having learned at least one thing that they did not know before.

All of our “hands on” animals are friendly and many have been hand raised by our family. They enjoy interacting with people as much as the people enjoy petting and feeding them. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is always on hand to answer questions and to help our visitors enjoy our zoo to the fullest.

Our dromedary camel rides are hand led by our experienced staff. We charge \$5/ride to fair patrons and give a 20% commission to the event. When you book a camel ride along with our petting zoo, we will increase that amount to 25%. Photos may also be available for a small fee. These digital pictures are printed on site and are a perfect souvenir of your event. **This is a great opportunity to provide a unique experience for your guests, while generating income for your event.**

We pride ourselves in keeping our animals happy and healthy, and our exhibits safe and clean. We are licensed by the USDA and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, as well as the Pennsylvania Game Commission. We provide hand sanitizer in the zoo and display signs educating people about the importance of washing their hands after handling the animals.

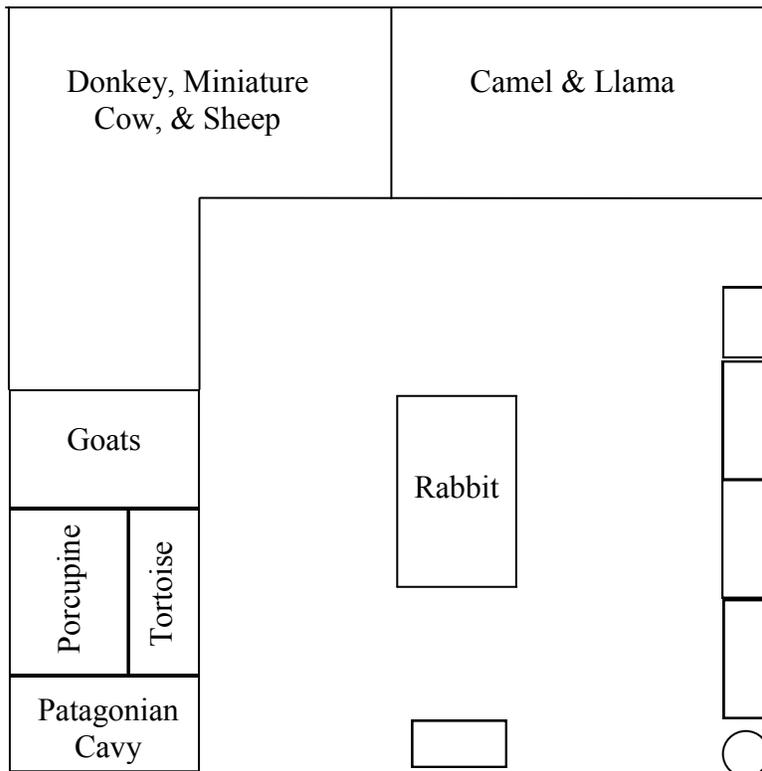
Please feel free to contact us with any questions that you have. Additional information is also available on our website at [www.barc ranch.org](http://www.barc ranch.org). We look forward to working with you to plan the perfect educational and enjoyable animal experience for your event.

Sincerely,

*Wil and Jennifer Caton and the Bar C Ranch Family*

# SAMPLE ZOO SETUP

This setup offers a large tented area, providing plenty of shade for the animals and the zoo visitors. We provide the tent, gates, animals and educational signs to create a safe, educational and fun attraction for your event. The animals shown are an example of the animals we may bring to your event. Actual animals vary according to availability.





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## What We Provide:

### Petting Zoo

- An educational and enjoyable attraction for all ages open for up to 8 hours each day (additional hours are negotiable).
- Our own tents, panels, signs perimeter flags, animals, feed, etc. (a free standing zoo)
- The necessary USDA and state licensing and insurance for a hands on animal display.
- Knowledgeable and friendly staff members to keep the zoo clean and safe and to show visitors the animals and answer their questions.

### Camel Ride

- An exciting and unique animal attraction that **earns you money**.
- The perimeter barrier, ride stand, signs, animas, etc. (a free standing animal attraction/ride)
- All necessary federal and state licensing and insurance.
- Knowledgeable and friendly staff members to make sure that every rider has a safe, enjoyable and educational experience.

## What We Require:

- A level space on grass approximately equal to 50' x 60' for the zoo and 50' x 60' for the camel ride (size and shape of area may be flexible but must be agreed upon in advance if different from above).
- Access to water within 100' of the zoo/ride.
- One 30 amp RV power hook-up and one 20 amp power hook up within 100' of the zoo/ride.
- Restroom and shower facilities on the event grounds that can be accessed at any time during the fair dates.
- Hand washing/sanitizing facilities in close proximity to the zoo in accordance with any state or local ordinances.
- Straw and hay (usually ~15 - 20 bales of each depending on the length of the event).
- A place to dump manure and soiled bedding in close proximity to the zoo and ride area.



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## Zoo and Camel Ride Pricing:

### Petting Zoo:

Single Day:

- \$1000

2-4 days:

- \$750/weekend day
- \$500/additional day

5 or more days:

- \$500/day



### Camel Rides:

- \$5/rider (charged to fair patrons)
- 20% commission paid to fair.
- 25% commission paid to fair when booked along with the zoo.

We are happy to work with you to tailor our zoo to your needs. We can offer educational animal talks at specific times throughout the day and will also be on hand at all times to assist visitors and answer questions.

Additional charges may apply such as a mileage fee, hotel fee, etc. depending on the event location.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you have. We look forward to working with you to bring education to life for your visitors!





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## What People Are Saying about Bar C Ranch

*We had Samson & Eli at the Anne Arundel County Fair that just ended yesterday - Thank you Will & Jen for being at our fair. I already miss the Camel's and both of you. Can't wait for next year now. If any of you out there are thinking about hiring these people - It was Awesome working with them, they are the BEST, and the animals are even better. – Sharon Gertz, Anne Arundel County Fair*



*Jennifer and Will are such a warm, friendly couple and were a great asset to the fair. Samson and Eli are so relaxing to be around...there is a wise and knowing serenity about them. Everyone should meet a camel at least once. Way cool.... – Judy Harris*

*Just saw your animals at the Madison County Fair. I was very impressed. Your animals were so clean, friendly, and very well cared for. As an animal lover that means a lot. – Tina Auth, fair patron*



*The Bar C Ranch did an Excellent job at the Venango County fair hope to see you again next year – Dan Whetzel, fair patron*

*great people a must for your event*

*– Rick Hilton, owner, Hilton Family Entertainment*

**Like Bar C Ranch on Facebook to see more comments as well as pictures of our events and animals.**



# Good times at the fair



Samson, a dromedary camel (meaning a camel with one hump) is very affectionate to his owner, Wil Caton of the Bar C Ranch. Wil raised him from a bottle since he was 17 days old. He now stands 7 feet tall and weighs 1,400 pounds. You can see Samson at the Westmoreland Fair or even take a ride on his back all this week. The lower photo shows the sun setting at the fair as riders spin on the Yo-Yo and get a spectacular view of the grounds at the same time. The annual event continues through Saturday at the fairgrounds near Mutual.

PHOTOS BY  
ERNIE SISTEK

## Bar C Ranch In The News

Few things draw attention like interesting, friendly animals. Bar C Ranch is often featured in photos and articles about the fair. Want to draw attention to your fair? Invite your local news anchor to come out and broadcast from the back of a camel!

*Clockwise from Left:*

*Latrobe Bulletin, August 22, 2012*

*Loudoun Times Mirror, July 28, 2004*

*Blue Ridge Leader & Loudoun Today, July 28, 2006*

*The Winchester Star, August 12, 2004*

*Next 3 are from one article in the Loudoun Times Mirror, July 28, 2004*



Times-Mirror Staff Photo/Abigail Pfeiffer

**UP CLOSE:** Brody Caton, 11 months, and Jennifer Caton, get a visit from Eli, a 5-month-old dromedary camel, at the fair Monday. The Catons brought animals from the Bar C Ranch in Berryville for a petting zoo at the fair on Dry Mill Road west of Leesburg.

Another camel, Samson, is at left.

## Nice stable endeavor

Petting zoo offers fair-goers a look at the wild side of life

By VAL VAN METER  
The Winchester Star

FAIR SCHEDULE | B3

**BERRYVILLE** — Not every petting zoo has a Rose Hair Taran-tula.

Or a pair of camels.

But that's what Clarke County's Bar C Ranch is offering at the county fair this week.

Wil and Jennifer Caton have a lot of experience entertaining and educating with their unusual animal friends.

They moved their operation from Loudoun County to Clarke nine years ago for another reason — schools.

"We were getting ready to start our family," Wil Caton said. And because their focus is education with animals, they wanted to be in a county where the schools had a reputation for education of young people.

Animals are great educators. A tarantula or a scorpion or even a big turtle is "irresistible, if you're an 8-year-old boy," Caton said with a smile.

And that doesn't even count the allure of a hissing cockroach.

On Monday, two young men in that age group arrived to point out the hairy spider and a scorpion in another glass cage.

From another case, Caton unearthed a handful of hedgehog for everyone to pet. "We have over 40 different species."

The Bar C Ranch offers a variety of programs, he said, suited for different venues. He can do birthday parties, at-school field trips, even library events.

See Fair, Page B3



Harry, an African pygmy hedgehog featured in the petting zoo at the fair, gets a lift from Wil Caton, who owns the Bar C Ranch with his wife Jennifer.

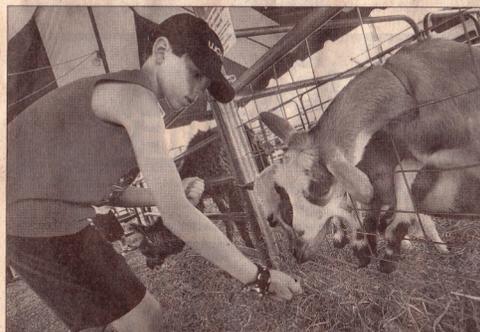


Eli, a two year old Dromedary camel, inspects the Browning Equipment exhibit at the county fair with the help of Susan Moore, and Morgan and Jennifer Caton from the petting zoo of the Bar-C ranch, Shepherdsmill Road, Clarke County.

## Two More Fair Days on Dry Mill Road

## Fair

from Page B1



GINGER PERRY/The Winchester Star

Mark Ulbrich, 11, of Berryville feeds goats at the Bar C Ranch petting zoo at the fair.

"There are all kinds of fun books about animals," Caton said, and he can match the animal to the book.

He enjoys imparting information about the animal's habitat, diet and behavior.

Bar C Ranch even helps to enliven "living nativity" scenes with donkeys, sheep, goats and, yes, even camels.

Camels are a sort of specialty at the Bar C.

In the mid-1990s, Caton was training an Australian cattle dog in Great Falls when someone saw his work and offered him the chance to work with a young camel.

"He was just a baby," Caton said. He taught the young dromedary to follow him around, wear a funny hat, and walk backward.

Later, he and his wife Jennifer, who spent her high school years working with the Reston Animal Park, went to Tennessee, where they

worked with the Knoxville Zoo.

"We would give rides to tourists," he said.

"They do him two animals — and a 2-year-old — have been raised by the Catons since they were just a few days old.

"We raised them on a bottle," he noted, feeding them every four hours at first.

Camels can live to be 50 years old, Caton said, but they are slow growers, so only the oldest of his pair is ready to be trained for riding, which he's doing now.

Maybe next year, he added, he will be able to offer camel rides at the Clarke County Fair.

The trick is getting the camel's trust, he said. "He knows I wouldn't put him in harm's way."

Camels, Caton also noted, are "so intelligent. They have great memory retention," so once they learn a trick, they remember it forever.

Another training technique is a treat. His camels get animal crackers after a training session.

An additional treat: cold

water.

"I don't know where he got that," she said of his love of animals.

Caton's children Brody, 6, and Morgan, 8, are already working with the various critters at the Bar C Ranch.

While young Brody, "copies everything he sees his daddy do," Morrison said, her son makes it interesting for them by teaching them so much about all the animals.

That's part of the petting zoo experience, Caton said.

From emus to donkeys to hissing cockroaches, visitors may not be able to talk to them, but they'll know a lot more about them.

For more information about Bar C Ranch, call 540-955-1997 or contact [www.barc-ranch.com](http://www.barc-ranch.com).

Contact Val Van Meter at [vanmeter@winchesterstar.com](mailto:vanmeter@winchesterstar.com)

### 2009 Clarke County Fair



Berryville resident Willie Hardesty, 8, enjoys a nuzzle from Eli, a dromedary camel, at the Clarke County fair's Bar C Ranch Petting Zoo. Another camel, Samson, is at left.

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