

## Chapter 11: I Had a Little Shadow

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Shadow was growing up quickly. We sometimes took him out for a walk with Posey: She would be on lead, nibbling here and there, and he would be loose. He didn't let her out of sight for long, but he was quite adventurous, going off on little sorties, eating and looking.



*Bobra*

Bobra Goldsmith, who had been training llamas for years, had taught us some training techniques, and we were preparing for a program we would soon be making about her methods, based on attentive observations of llamas. She had a lot of respect for what the llama was experiencing.

"Let him think about this before asking more of him," Bobra would say as a llama was, for example, putting his front legs tentatively into a trailer. She used a lot of encouraging words, and was quick to praise the animals. Much of this made sense to me from having trained

Cider and our young Australian Shepherd, Teddy Bear.

I hadn't done a great deal with Dancing Cloud the year before. We sold him soon after weaning. The snow had been several feet deep that winter; we'd simply taught him to accept the halter, to lead a little, and to load into a van.

I had bigger plans for Shadow. I wanted to train him to be comfortable around people, so we could use him in the hikes. I had visions of taking him to schools, nursing homes, parades. Because of the early bottle-feeding, I was a little nervous about any potential problems he might develop. That became a good excuse to keep — rather than sell — him. Since he turned out to be a little too knock-kneed to be a good stud, we had the vet geld him. That further reduced our concerns about the bottle-feeding.

When he was about five months old, we began training him. He didn't seem to mind being haltered, but he objected to being confined in the barn with us and away from Posey. Once we began taking him for walks, he enjoyed himself a lot. Shadow trusted us more than Dancing Cloud had the year before.

When I compared these training sessions with dog training, the difference was striking. He learned so much more quickly than they. I was still working on "come," "sit," and "stay" with Teddy Bear, over and over again, as I'd been doing off and on for months.

Kelly had some deadlines on the film animation he was doing, so I took over most the training. While Kelly sat drawing, Shadow and I went for walks. As we went past the house one day, he discovered the llama who lives in windows. Shadow stood perfectly still, about four feet away