# Supplemental Text 1

*Huanchaquito-Las Llamas*

Prieto and colleagues (2014) discovered the remains of 43 human children and 74 camelids at Huanchaquito-Las Llamas (Moche Valley). All the camelids were less than a year old based on their dentition. These articulated remains were extremely well preserved; some of the camelids still had fur, and several had ropes tied around their necks and extremities. The only cut marks identified were on the ribs and sternum. The authors did not observe any thermal modification or gnawing. The investigators concluded that these children and camelids were sacrificial victims in a massive Chimú-sponsored ritual.

*Lo Demás*

The case from Huanchaquito-Las Llamas was selected in part because it is exemplary of large-scale state-sponsored sacrifice. The case from Lo Demás was chosen to serve as a foil to that case and establish whether the model can identify events at the opposite end of the spectrum: small-scale rituals performed by non-elite individuals. This collection consists of five sub-adult guinea pigs from a Late Horizon fishing village. They were articulated, with fur still present, allowing the researchers to see that at least one specimen had been cut open ventrally. There was no evidence of gnawing or thermal modification. Sandweiss and Wing (1997) interpret these guinea pigs as divinatory sacrifices, likely in a ritual similar to the contemporary *soba de cuy*.

### *Cotocotuyoc*

### This assemblage consisted of disarticulated camelid remains found immediately above human burials in the Wari cemetery at Cotocotuyoc in Cuzco (Rosenfeld 2011, 2012). The deposit was difficult to categorize because it did not match archaeological expectations for sacrificial offerings or mortuary feasting. Rosenfeld described this collection as a food offering for the dead, though she noted that the deposit was unusual when compared to other mortuary food deposits in that there was an almost complete lack of cut marks, bone fractures, and signs of cooking.

### *Conchopata*

 This collection was excavated from unit EA-23W (Patio Group 1) at Conchopata, an urban center close to the imperial capital of Huari in the Ayacucho Valley (Rosenfeld 2011, 2012). This deposit was buried in a room associated with the patio, in a pit intruding into the floor and bedrock. Disarticulated remains from both camelids and guinea pigs were identified, with both species being represented by very young individuals. Cut marks were consistent with butchering and burning (n = 30) was observed on the camelid bones. Based on the absence of gnaw marks and weathering, Rosenfeld suggests that the assemblage was quickly buried, as would be expected with special refuse, rather than everyday garbage (Rosenfeld 2011:179). She concludes that the remains are the result of a “patron-role feast” (Dietler 2001:82).

*Huatacoa*

This Formative site in the Pukara Valley contains both ritual and domestic zones. Limited excavations in the domestic sector uncovered remains from camelids, guinea pigs, canids, and cervids, among other species (Warwick 2012). Carnivore and rodent gnaw marks were observed, and many of the bones were charred or calcined. The remains were extensively disarticulated, and Warwick also notes that some of the bones were worked. Warwick classifies the Area B fauna as a domestic midden assemblage.

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