



ALSA

Llama Fleece Judging Clinic Manual

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Llama Fleece Judging Clinic Manual

Part I Fleece Education and Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinics

This is a 1-day program for those interested in learning about llama fleece and the **First Day** of the Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinic.

I	Introduction.....	3
	A. History of llama fiber production	
	B. Correct terminology	
	C. Importance of hands-on evaluation and fiber education	
	D. Importance of fiber promotion	
II	Definitions.....	4
III	Llama fiber structure – illustrations.....	7
	A. Undercoat	
	B. Guard Hair	
	C. Cross Section	
IV	Factors you can control to produce a quality fleece.....	8
	A. Environment	
	B. Stress	
	C. Feed management and Nutrition	
	D. Producing Good Clean Fiber	
V	Evaluating Llama Fleece Characteristics.....	9
	A. Double coat	
	B. Single coat	
	C. Suri coat	
	D. Puffy	
	E. Drapey	
	F. Lock Structure	
	1. Blunt	
	2. Triangular	
	3. Pencil	
	4. Suri	
	G. Illustrations of lock structure types.....	11
	H. Suri lock structure.....	12
	I. Genetics and lock structure.....	13
	J. Fiber Characteristics.....	14
VI	Shearing.....	15
	A. Reasons for shearing	
	B. Pre-shearing instructions	
	C. The Shearing Process.....	16
	D. Illustration of the Parts of a Fleece.....	18
VII	Skirting a fleece for show entry.....	19
	A. Procedure	
	B. Illustrations of barrel and full blanket or prime	
VIII	Fleece Judging.....	20
	A. How to evaluate criteria on the ALSA Llama Fleece Score Card	
	B. Judging practice	

Part II Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinic

This is the **Second day** of the Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinic. It covers the Fleece section of the ALSA Handbook, ALSA forms, the Fleece Show Management Guide, Judging Criteria review, and practice fleece evaluations.

I	Entry Criteria, Llama Fleece Classes, current ALSA Handbook.....	22
	A. Shorn Llama Fleece	
	B. Walking Fleece	
	C. Optional Fleece Classes	
II	Forms.....	26
	A. Shorn Fleece Entry Tag and Instructions	
	B. Shorn Fleece Score card.....	27
	C. Walking Fleece Score card.....	28
	D. Placing card.....	29
	E. List of Optional and Specialty Classes and Forms.....	30
III	Shorn Llama Fleece Show Management Guide.....	31
	Preparation for any situation	
IV	Walking Fleece Show Management Guide.....	35
V	Practice Fleece Judging.....	36
	A. Review	
	B. Handling a Llama Fleece for Judging	
	C. Judge 3 classes	
	D. Fill out Placing Cards	
	E. Discuss results	

On the **Third day**, participants take written and fleece judging exams.....37

I Walking Fleece Class practice is usually scheduled for this day.

II Questions

III Written test

IV Practical test

V Apprentice Program

Part III Advanced Llama Fleece Judging Clinic

I	Responsibilities and Ethics of an ALSA Llama Fleece Judge.....	38
II	Review of Parts I and II of this manual	
III	Questions, resolution of any problems.....	39
IV	Practice Fleece Judging	
V	Walking Fleece Class practice with emphasis on oral reasons	
VI	Practical Test	
	Oral Reasons – Guidelines.....	40
	Bibliography.....	46
	Appendix: ALSA 15 th Edition Handbook – Llama Fleece related portions.....	47

Part I

Fleece Education and Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinics

As an ALSA Llama Fleece Judge, you will be regarded as an expert on llama fiber. This manual is intended to help you answer any question as well as train you to be the best possible judge.

I INTRODUCTION

From <http://www.llamapaedia.com>

Llama breeders are blessed with a multiple use animal. One of those uses is fiber production which provides an easily understandable answer to the question 'What do you do with a llama?'. The idea of using the renewable resource of llama fiber to create textiles of all kinds is not new. It happened thousands of years ago in South America where llama fiber was and still is used by the common man.

A. HISTORY OF LLAMA FIBER PRODUCTION

Historically, llamas who produced fine fiber did exist, and they still exist today. Spanish pre-Conquest mummies found at the El Yará settlement in Peru demonstrate this. The fleeces found here averaged 22.4 microns with a standard deviation of 2.3 microns. Deliberate selective breeding created these llamas. Selection was for a uniform, fine fleece which exhibited a reduction in the difference in the micron count between secondary undercoat fibers and primary guard hairs. Uncontrolled breeding and the crossing of the two pre-Hispanic llama breeds has resulted in the current increased hairiness in many llama fleeces. Llamas producing fine fibered fleeces exist today. They are exhibiting valued characteristics that are centuries old.

B. CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

Hair? Wool? Fiber? Fleece? Just what do we call this renewable resource? Fleece is all of the fiber sheared from a single llama. Technically speaking, the fleece from a llama is composed of natural protein animal fibers with the microscopic characteristics of hair. Wool is fiber produced by sheep. So, calling this renewable resource hair would be most correct, but not the most advantageous. The word hair has negative connotations in the fiber world and the term wool is more easily understood by those without a fiber background. Alpaca fiber is called alpaca, so llama fiber can be called llama or llama fiber. Llama fiber is classified as a specialty fiber in the textile market. This is mainly because of the small amount that is produced as compared to wool. Worldwide wool production is approximately 1.8 million tons per year compared to 4,000 tons of llama and alpaca fiber. (1996) Peru and Chile are the major llama and alpaca fiber producers.

C. IMPORTANCE OF HANDS-ON EVALUATION AND FIBER EDUCATION

Breeders interested in fiber should physically get their hands on as many llama fleeces as possible, both on and off the llama. It is the only way to become educated and experienced about evaluating fleece and seeing and experiencing the cumulative effect of all the fiber characteristics. All llamas produce some type of fiber, but not all llamas are fiber producers. Breeders need to fully understand their product if they are to legitimately promote their herds or llamas as fiber producers.

D. IMPORTANCE OF FIBER PROMOTION

Llama enthusiasts and llama breeders can promote the fiber production capabilities of their animals by shearing their llamas, wearing llama fiber and getting the fiber into the hands of spinners, knitters and weavers. Then, others can experience and know how unique, soft, warm and attractive llama fiber is. If you cannot create products from llama fiber, purchase them from someone who can. Many breeders offer a selection of quality llama fiber products. Give llama fiber as gifts. Every bit of exposure will help raise public awareness of llamas and their fiber.

II DEFINITIONS

These are terms that will be used during the clinics. Examples are provided when possible.

Architecture: the general structure and lay of fibers within the locks which make up the entire fleece. This is fairly easy to observe while the fleece is on the llama and if it hasn't been disturbed by grooming.

Blow-out factor: the rapidity with which an animal's fiber diameter thickens with age, usually reaching its peak at about 4 to 5 years of age. Genetically pre-determined.

Ca-mil'-id: correct pronunciation of family name for llamas, alpacas, guanacos and vicunas.

Cleanliness: lack of vegetation, debris, insect or parasite infestation and odor.

Condition: general fiber health - strong, lustrous, "alive", or weak, dull, "dead".

Cortex: the interior, cellular structure of a fiber. Location of pigment cells.

Cotting: first stage of matt formation. Web-like adhesions between locks of fiber.

Crimp: an organized or uniform waviness in an individual lock of fiber. It contributes to the resilience, or "memory" of a yarn. It also creates tiny air spaces between the fibers which increase the insulation value. The undercoat of a double-coated llama will have some degree of crimp and a cotton-like texture. A single-coated llama can have a crimped or a straight, silky textured coat. One is not better than the other. The difference determines the best possible end use of the fiber. There is no measurable or predictable correlation between crimp and finer fleece as a whole, or as with sheep wool grading.

Crinkle: the irregular waviness or form of each individual fiber which can be seen when it is separated from a lock. High crimp usually indicates high crinkle. Crinkle is strongest at the skin end and can diminish as it becomes weathered near the tip.

Cuticle: the scales that form the outer layer of the individual fibers in a fleece. The cuticle imparts the inherent aesthetic qualities of a fiber: softness, handle, luster. It also repels water, resists chemicals and physical damage.

Density: the number of hair follicles per square inch of skin. It can be observed by the amount of skin visible when the fleece is parted. Fine fleeces are usually not dense. The sensation of weight in a fleece indicates high density. The higher the ratio of undercoat to guard hairs, the denser the fleece.

Double coat: a fleece which contains guard hair that is visibly coarser and longer than the undercoat.

Drip line: an indentation in the skirt area of a fleece due to bending against the ground when the lama is kushed. Indicates fine fiber.

Felted: a fleece that is matted together due to the combination of body heat, perspiration, and normal llama activity such as rolling. Avoid by regular shearing.

Fineness: determined by the diameter of the individual fibers. Genetically pre-determined and affected by nutrition.

Fleece: the entire coat sheared from an animal at one time. Composed of individual fibers.

Follicle: primary or secondary skin structure from which hair or wool fiber grows.

Full barrel: fleece from the barrel area of a llama, minus coarse belly fiber and weathered strip along the backbone. See drawing, page 19.

Full blanket or Prime: fleece from the barrel area, as described above, plus hip and shoulder areas. No neck or leg fiber. See drawing, page 19.

Grading: process of evaluating and sorting a fleece according to specific guidelines.

Guard hair: the longer, stiff, hairs - 30 microns or more in diameter - that protect the undercoat or down. Produced by the primary hair follicles. Evaluated by pulling them from a lock.

Hand or Handle: the tactile feel of all the fiber characteristics combined: fineness, softness, strength, density, flexibility.

Intermediate fleece: a term used to describe a llama fleece that is in between single and suri. It has a defined lock structure, even to the skin, but the locks are wider than those of a suri fleece. There is enough loft that the llama does not have a narrow suri profile.

Lock structure: the natural and observable arrangement of guard hairs and undercoat. There are 4 specific lock structure styles - blunt, intermediate, pencil and suri. Within the suri division, there are additional lock structure styles.

Luster: ability of fiber to reflect light. The larger and flatter the cutical scales, the more luster is seen. See drawings, page 7.

Matts: irreversibly tangled and felted fibers.

Medulla: hollow cells found in the center of a fiber. May be continuous in fiber with high micron count; fragmented to non existent in low micron fibers.

Micron: a measurement of fiber diameter - 1/25,000 of an inch. Fibers less than 3 microns are not visible to the human eye. Fibers 21 microns or less are usually comfortable worn against the skin. Fibers over 30 microns are guard hairs and will feel prickly.

Nep: a small fuzzy bundle of fibers that have broken and snapped back on themselves. Carding produces many neps in weak fiber. Over carding creates neps in good fiber. Neps cause lumps in yarn when spun.

Noils: short fibers removed during the combing process of yarn making.

Overall impression: the way a fleece presents itself to the judge. Includes eye appeal, preparation, hand, and whether entry directions were followed. Can be assessed by how the initial impression carries through the judging criteria.

Preparation: careful shearing and skirting, gentle removal of debris and second cuts.

Regeneration: regrowth rate after shearing. Slowest in light wool lambs, fastest in heavy wool.

Second cuts: undesirable short pieces of fleece caused by shearing a section of fiber a second time. Diminish the value of a fleece.

Single coat: fleece in which there is minimal difference between the micron count of the guard hair and the undercoat. Single coat fiber can be found in all staple lengths, from short to long. It can be crimped or straight, all depending on the llama's genes.

Skirting: process by which leg, neck, backbone and belly fiber are pulled away and second cuts removed to leave only the prime area of a fleece.

Staple length: the length of a lock of fiber from skin to tip, or cut end to tip, measured without stretching any crimp or wave.

Style: the evenness and depth of the crimp and crinkle in a fleece. Fiber with good wool-like crimp and crinkle produces yarn with high loft and elasticity. Fiber with no crimp and crinkle produces yarn with heavy, silky texture.

Stress break: a weak point within the locks of a fleece. Caused by illness, excessive exposure to harsh weather or poor nutrition.

Suent: a combination of dust, natural body oils, and perspiration. Unwashed llama fleeces leave a black, tarry residue of suent on processing equipment.

Suri: a fleece that is identified by the following characteristics: Straight fibers with no crinkle or crimp. The locks drape next to the body. There is a natural part in them along the backbone. The locks are usually independent, well-defined from the skin to the tips, and often have a wave or spiral pattern superimposed on them. They have high luster, even on the neck and legs, and a heavy, cool, slick hand.

Tensile strength: ability of fiber to withstand tension. Affected by nutrition and stress. Stress can be due to natural conditions or poor herd management.

Undercoat: the soft fibers protected by guard hairs. Also called down. Produced by secondary hair follicles. Undercoat micron count in llamas ranges from 20 to 29.

Uniformity: consistency of staple length, crimp, fineness, luster, and lock structure throughout the prime area of the fleece.

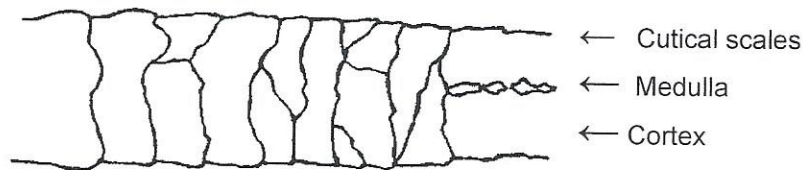
Wave: a pattern often superimposed over pencil and suri locks.

III LLAMA FIBER STRUCTURE

Llama fiber is made of protein (keratin) and contains carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and sulfur.

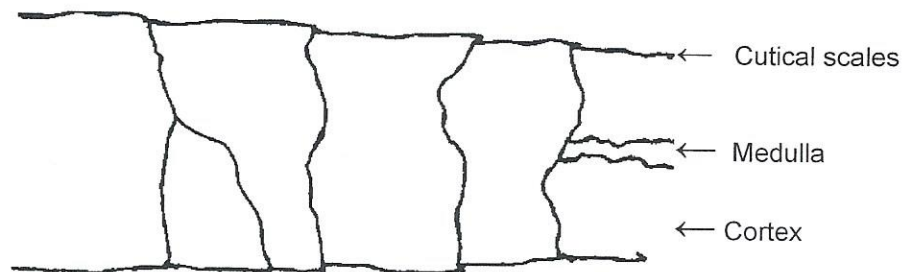
A. UNDERCOAT:

The finer undercoat fibers have smaller cutical scales than the guard hairs. The edges are serrated, overlap like roof shingles, and enclose the cortex. There are 2 types of cortex cells on either side of the fiber shaft: Ortho and Para. A crinkle is created when the 2 types exchange sides. A uniform pattern of exchange is seen as crimp. As the fibers become finer, the medulla becomes fragmented or non existent.



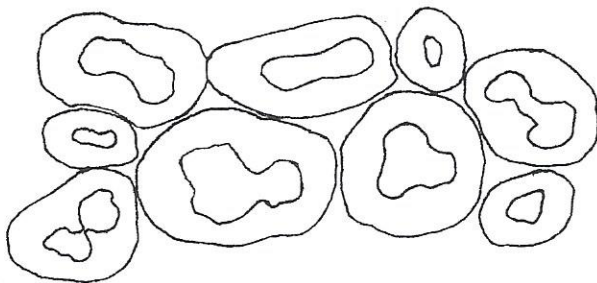
B. GUARD HAIR:

The cutical scales are larger, but also overlap and enclose the cortex. The cortex cells are uniform in type.



C. CROSS SECTION OF MEDULLATED FIBERS:

Elliptical or rounded-shape hollow cells are found in the center of a fiber. The medulla of a guard hair can comprise as much as 50% of the fiber diameter.



IV FACTORS YOU CAN CONTROL TO PRODUCE A QUALITY FLEECE

A. ENVIRONMENT

1. Remove or mow pasture plants with burrs or seed heads.
2. Fence off access to trees that drip sap or drop twigs and pine cones.
3. Provide sand for rolling.
4. Avoid bark chips or sawdust for bedding.

B. STRESS

1. Anxiety due to lack of training, barking dogs, exposure to harsh weather conditions and overcrowding all have adverse effects on fiber quality. Illness, pregnancy and lactation also cause stress.
2. Consult with your veterinarian and establish a program of internal and external parasite control.
3. Geldings often make the best fiber producers because they're not subject to the stress of breeding, pregnancy, and lactation.
4. Establish a shearing schedule for each llama in your herd.

C. FEED MANAGEMENT AND NUTRITION

1. Use feeders designed to keep hay off the ground.
2. Quantity is as important as quality.
 - a. Fat llamas produce fat fiber.
 - b. "Starvation fineness" describes a weak, brittle fiber.

D. PRODUCING GOOD CLEAN FIBER

From <http://www.llamapaedia.com>

Obtaining clean healthy fiber at shearing time is the result of effective and vigilant herd management throughout the year. Happy, healthy, serene, well-fed llamas will produce quality fiber. Simple procedures, followed consistently, can ensure harvesting gorgeous fleeces from your herd and help to eliminate situations which can instantly ruin an entire year's worth of fiber production.

Maintain pastures and eliminate possible sources of vegetative contamination. Weeds, especially burdock and thistles, leftover hay, leaves, cactus, burrs, tumbleweeds, twigs, pine cones, vines, tree sap, baling twine and wire can all manage to find their way into a fleece. Seed pods from some trees, like beech trees, can also be a problem. Keep pastures mowed, especially before seed heads form. Dig out or spray noxious weeds. If you use herbicides, check with your extension agent or veterinarian about effectiveness, toxicity to livestock, and when livestock can safely return to graze after the application of an herbicide. Most fleece contamination problems from pastures occur in mid-summer through fall when plants dry up, grass develops seed heads, and dried leaves fall from trees. A pasture vac can be useful to clean up leaves.

Eliminate as many stress factors from your herd's environment as possible. Avoid overcrowding for shelter, food or water. The security of knowing that adequate food, shelter and water are always available will create a serene llama. Be attuned to which llamas are pals and try not to separate them.

Parasites prevent optimum usage of feed. Take periodic fecal samples to your veterinarian to check for parasites. Establish and maintain a regular program of deworming that is appropriate for your herd and your area of the country.

Fiber producing animals need an adequate source of protein in order to produce quality fiber. Feed intake first goes to pregnancy and lactation, then maintaining the llama and finally fiber. Obtain a feed and forage analysis to know exactly what your llamas are or are not getting nutritionally. Use the results of the analysis to adjust your feed and forage accordingly. Provide a source of clean water at all times. Provide a free choice salt/mineral mixture. Remember, fiber production is 50% in the breeding and 50% in the feeding.

Have plenty of areas for llamas to eat their hay. Do this by allowing for adequate space between llamas at hay feeders or providing many smaller hay feeding areas which are widely spaced around the barn or paddock. This will help to eliminate llamas dropping hay onto each other as they feed. Any hay rack which is positioned up high or has the top angled out adds to the amount of hay that can drop onto the llamas and into their fleeces. Some breeders prefer hay without the seed heads that get tangled in llama wool. This type of hay is usually from a second cutting and can be more difficult to obtain. It will have a different assortment of nutrients than first cutting hay, so remember to have it analyzed.

Occasional brushing, blowing and removing of surface fleece contamination are acceptable. Grooming to the skin is not advisable or necessary and it is unpleasant and painful to the llama.

Shearing should be done whenever an adequate staple length of 3 to 5 inches is produced. Some llamas will be sheared every year and some every other year. April to June is the most common and most sensible time of year to shear because it achieves optimum fiber coverage related to the seasons, less in the summer and more in the winter.

Look at and touch the fiber on your llamas periodically throughout the year. It will tell you all you need to know about the success of your management program. Healthy, shiny fiber usually means healthy, happy, serene, well fed, well managed llamas.

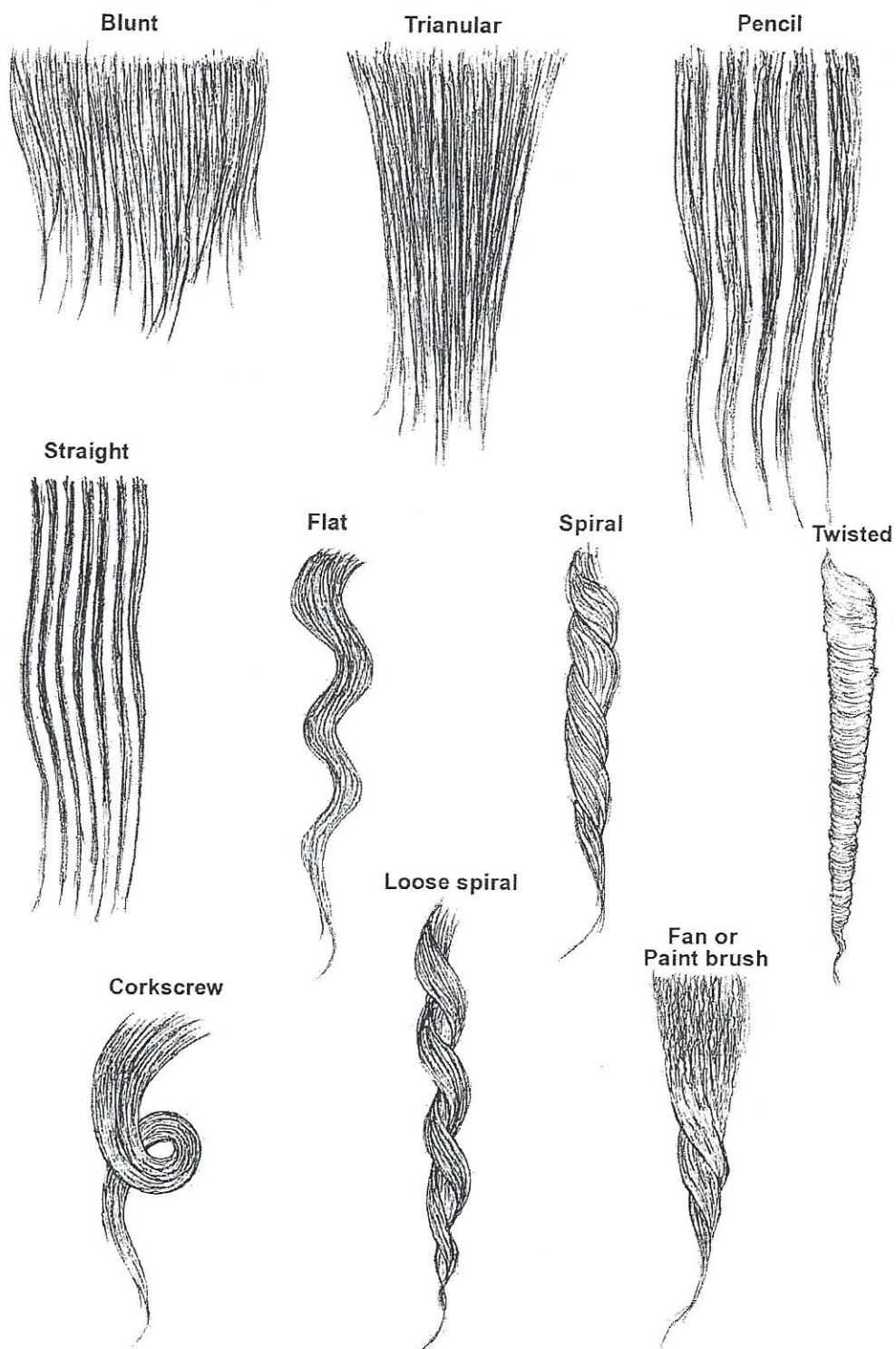
V EVALUATING FLEECE CHARACTERISTICS (pasture visit, slides, or photos)

To evaluate the characteristics of a fleece on a llama, spread it open, down to the skin, on the shoulder, mid-body and hip. Observe the lock structure, fineness, density and luster at each site. Ideally, they will be uniform.

- A. **DOUBLE COAT:** a fleece which contains guard hair that is visibly coarser and longer than the undercoat. When back lit, the longer guard hairs form a halo around the body. They can range from coarse to very fine, but are always distinguishable from the undercoat. There is an observable correlation: the higher the percentage and coarser the guard hairs, the finer and more crimped the undercoat that is being protected.
- B. **SINGLE COAT:** a fleece in which there is minimal difference between the micron count of the guard hair and the undercoat and no halo. These fibers can also exhibit crinkle and crimp.

- C. **SURI COAT:** the primary characteristics are luster, independent, narrow lock structure with no crimp, cool, slick handle and long staple length.
- D. **PUFFY:** this refers to the silhouette and can be seen on both double and single coated llamas. The fiber stands away from the body because of the way it grows out of the follicles. Crinkle and crimp also contribute to this effect.
- E. **DRAPEY:** the fleece drapes over the llama's body and produces a flat silhouette. There are variations from slightly puffy/drapey to very flat/drapey. The guard hairs are usually similar in micron count to the undercoat.
- F. **LOCK STRUCTURE:** the natural and observable arrangement of guard hairs and undercoat. The undercoat fibers cluster around a single guard hair. These clusters are genetically united to form the following types of locks:
 - 1. **Blunt:** these locks are wide with a rounded lower edge. They grow perpendicular to the body and may overlap. The structure may be visible only in the tips rather than near the skin. Guard hairs are straight and can be quite coarse. The undercoat has the shortest staple length and highest amount of crimp of the 4 lock styles. The fleece feels light and bouncy and gives the llama a puffy silhouette.
 - 2. **Triangular:** triangular locks can vary in shape from wide to narrow. As the triangle narrows, the staple length becomes longer, guard hairs finer, and crimp less visible. Individual locks become more distinct and form closer to the skin as the locks approach the pencil type. The guard hair is about the same length and diameter as the undercoat in the narrowest triangles.
 - 3. **Pencil:** these locks hang close to the body, are distinct with a long staple length and minimal loft. The structure can be visible from the skin out. Instead of crimp, a spiral or wave pattern is often seen in the locks. As guard hair micron count decreases, undercoat micron count increases until, in extreme cases, it requires magnification to tell them apart. There's higher density to the fleece due to the amount of fine guard hair-like fibers. High density and long staple length combine to give the fleece a heavy feel.
 - 4. **Suri:** suri locks are the most extreme and obvious type. The fiber is straight, with no loft, crinkle or crimp. The locks are usually independent, well-defined from the skin to the tips, and often have a wave or spiral pattern superimposed on them. There is a natural part in them along the backbone and back of the neck. They also have high luster, even on the neck and legs, and a cool, slick hand. The fleece feels heavy for its size and drapes next to the body. Micron count may range from extra fine to coarse, but should be consistent within an individual fleece. Ideally, a suri fleece contains only one type of suri lock structure; however, several types may be found.

G. ILLUSTRATIONS OF LOCK STRUCTURE TYPES



H. SURI LOCK STRUCTURE

While reading the lock structure definitions below, please keep in mind that the translation of the Aymara and Quechua word “suri” is “straight”. In addition to describing fiber, it’s also used in reference to the long, straight feathers of the South American Rea and a hard rain that falls perpendicular to the ground. When used with camelid fiber, it means there is absolutely no crimp. True suri fiber is essentially all guard hair.

Straight suri locks have no twist, although there may be a shallow wave pattern superimposed over them. They exhibit high luster and have a cool, heavy and slick hand. The weight, drape and lower volume of a straight suri fleece helps distinguish it from a silky, single coat with pencil locks. Watch for a free and independent movement of the string-like locks as the llama walks.

Flat locks also lack any twist but may have a tighter wave pattern superimposed over them. The lock width varies from narrow to wide. Narrow, flat suri locks, unlike any of the other styles, are very fine textured. Narrow or wide, they are lustrous, independent, and form at the skin.

Spiral lock structure is very common in suri llamas with single coat llama ancestry. This is not an alpaca lock structure term. It is usually found only on the surface of the fleece and may be mixed with twisted locks, the next step in this continuum.

Twisted locks range from 1/16 to ½ inch wide. This is the style most easily identified as suri, although twisted locks may not always exhibit luster. A twisted lock with luster indicates high quality.

Corkscrew locks are rare in llamas but common in suri alpacas. They are wider than twisted locks and lustrous. This structure reforms quickly after shearing and may be perpendicular to the neck and body instead of draping.

There are 2 styles of suri llama lock structure that often have a warm handle and little or no luster:

Loosely twisted locks are wider than narrow twisted ones and can be very coarse textured.

Fan-shaped, or paint-brush locks, are about an inch wide and flat at the skin. Part way down the lock, they begin to twist until they form a point at the tip.

One final type should be noted, although rare in llamas. Two or more tiny, narrow twisted locks may ply themselves into a pearl lock. The bumps formed, where the locks twist together, resemble a cascade of pearls.

If the fleece, shorn after the llama is two years old, grows back with the same micron count and lock structure as the cria fleece, this is an indication of a true suri. A 17 micron second fleece is rare, but possible in suri llamas. Subsequent shearings may produce higher

micron counts, shorter staple length and reduced lock structure definition as the llama ages.

The longer the fiber, the more apparent the suri characteristics. Higher micron fibers, such as those found on the hips, legs, and neck, tend to lock more than those on the barrel. As a shorn fleece grows back in, the lock structure reforms along the top line first. The lock structure of a suri llama is strongest on the surface. It is rare to find it in the fibers underneath. The longer the interval since the last shearing, the more cotted the underneath fibers will be.

Suri fiber follows the body contours, even on the head and tail. A youngster may have fiber that sticks straight up on its forehead, but when the fiber grows longer, it will lie flat like bangs.

The high luster of most suri fleeces is due to the length of the scales on each fiber. They also have a very low profile. This allows greater reflection of light and contributes to the cool, slick hand. In fact, luster and a cool, slick hand are correlated. However, there is no correlation between luster and lock structure. There are several styles with little or no luster.

Luster is the main reason that suri fiber is sought by the textile industry. The elegance that it imparts to a garment outweighs the difficulties in processing the fiber.

The length of the scales can also cause the fiber to feel finer than it actually is. There is no correlation between fine fiber and suri.

A single coated llama requires traditional grooming methods to prepare it for the show ring. A true suri only needs hand picking of any debris that hasn't fallen out of the slick fibers.

I. GENETICS AND LOCK STRUCTURE

The lock structure types described on the preceding pages are markers on a continuum. Every llama will have an area, rather than a specific point, somewhere on the line between blunt and suri. Fiber characteristics on an individual llama are the expression of that llama's fiber genes.

An example is the case of a short-wool female bred to a heavy-wool male in an attempt to produce more fiber. The cria starts out with good head, neck and leg fiber, but usually sheds it off by 2 years of age. There is still an abundance of fiber on the body; consequently, more triangular characteristics are found there than on the neck and upper legs which may be blunt in style.

A medium-wool female and heavy-wool male can produce offspring with wide triangular locks on the neck and legs, but narrow locks in the prime area.

The greater the difference in fiber characteristics of the parents, the wider the range of characteristics in their offspring.

It takes about 2 years from the time a cria is born for the full expression of all the genetically pre-determined fleece characteristics: length, architecture and lock structure, fineness, crinkle, crimp, and density. This first growth period produces the best quality that

any fiber-producing animal will ever have. It's the reason for placing fleeces in under 24 months and 24 months and over age divisions for judging.

The increase in micron count in an animal's fiber, due to ageing, is known as the blow-out factor. The timing and degree varies with each llama since it is genetically pre-determined and inheritable. It usually peaks at 4 - 5 years of age. Re-growth rate also slows, crimp decreases, and previously dark-colored guard hairs often turn silver.

Any llama's fleece can change from improper nutrition. Females are particularly vulnerable during pregnancy. Protein in the system is diverted to the fetus rather than replacement of the dam's fiber.

J. FIBER CHARACTERISTICS

From <http://www.llamapaedia.com>

Any type of fiber (not just llama fiber) can be evaluated for quality and usability by determining its characteristics. Various fiber end products require that the fiber have the necessary characteristics to result in a good product. Llama fiber is a medulated, natural protein animal fiber with no lanolin or grease that is classified as a specialty or luxury fiber. Positive characteristics of llama fiber are fine, strong, comfortable, warm and lightweight (good warmth to weight ratio), available in 22 natural colors. Negative characteristics of llama fiber are little elasticity, moths love it, sunlight harms it.

Characteristics of concern to the commercial fiber industries are: high length to width ratio (fine & long), adequate strength, flexibility, cohesiveness (fibers will cling together), uniformity, purchase price, abrasion resistance, absorbency (moisture relating to comfort), shrinkage, wrinkle recovery, static buildup, sunlight resistance, flammability, elasticity, physical shape.

Characteristics which have the most influence on the commercial value of a fleece are fineness and color. Fineness in any type of fiber has always been rewarded with higher prices. Commercial buyers and processors prefer and pay a premium for white because it can be dyed.

The fiber and fleece characteristics that are of primary interest to llama breeders are the objective ones of fineness, uniformity, staple length or regeneration, color, volume or weight produced, especially prime fleece weight, & tensile strength; and the subjective ones of luster, hand, softness, ease of maintenance on the llama, and ease of processing. The characteristics of density and length (regeneration) are usually not exhibited together with fineness. Fine fleeces are usually not dense and they do not regenerate rapidly. Excessive density can affect the perceived handle of a fleece, making it feel coarser than it actually is.

Hand spinners value fiber with a different set of qualities than commercial processors. Those characteristics which have the most influence on the handspinning value of a fleece are: cleanliness, luster, softness, and color. The multi-colored fleeces produced by appaloosas and paints are an asset in this market.

VI SHEARING

A. REASONS FOR SHEARING

1. To prevent heat stress
2. To harvest the fleece
3. To preserve fleece integrity
4. To thoroughly evaluate the quality of the fleece and your management program

B. PRE-SHEARING INSTRUCTIONS

By Sharon Beacham

Preparation of a show fleece begins with cleaning the fleece while it's still on the llama. This is the only time you may use a grooming spray - provided you wash it out before shearing.

Your objective is to disturb the lock structure as little as possible. Remove large pieces of debris by hand or with a wand. Use a blower to remove as much dust as possible, and then to help distribute the grooming spray throughout the fleece. During this process, keep the nozzle far enough away to avoid creating tangles.

Blunt and triangular lock structure: Brush only where debris or coting is found - not to the skin. The finer the fiber, the softer the brush should be to minimize damage to it. Use additional spray to help brush out small matts. Don't attempt to brush out ones that you can't pull apart with your fingers. Remove them while shearing and discard.

Pencil and suri lock structure: Do not brush pencil or suri fleeces. After the grooming spray is dry, you can remove more debris with the blower. Hold the fiber down with your arm on one side of the natural part along the top line. Direct the air stream downwards, with the nozzle just touching the fiber on the opposite side of the part. Skim the surface to remove debris from that area. Continue skimming the fiber down the side of the llama, always directing the nozzle the same way the fiber grows. Hand pick and wand any remaining debris.

It's important to clean the fleece early enough that any disturbed locks have time to reform before shearing. This can take a week or longer. Either keep the llama on clean grass or protect the fleece with a show sheet while the lock structure reforms.

Give the llama a bath with regular soap or shampoo that does not contain conditioners. Do not use cream rinse. Many of these products leave a residue that can be felt or smelled. If the judge detects anything unnatural, it's grounds for disqualification. Let the water flow through the fleece rather than blasting it. Mix the soap with warm water, apply the solution with a sponge, work it in gently, and then let it soak for about 10 minutes before rinsing thoroughly. Remember that the formula for making felt is heat, soapy water and agitation.

Allow the fleece to dry naturally. It's alright to use a blower on the legs, but avoid disturbing the lock structure on the rest of the body.

Wait until the llama is completely dry to begin shearing. Remove the fiber on the first pass with the shears and set it aside. Shear the entire barrel or side before going back to smooth the shorn surface. This prevents second and short cuts in the shorn fleece. These detract from the overall quality and cause problems during spinning.

The skimming or top-line method of blowing debris from a fleece is from *The Grooming Corner* of <http://www.llama-show-tack.com>

C. THE SHEARING PROCESS

By Sharon Beacham

1. The English brand "Burgon and Ball" self-opening, hand-held sheep shears is my preference. Five inch long blades work well for a person with average size hands. If your hands are small, you'll find the three inch blades more comfortable. Hand shearing can be a quiet, gentle process that produces a natural looking surface. It's the easiest way to leave an inch or two of fiber on the llama. Knowing how to sharpen the shears yourself is helpful as this may be necessary several times when removing heavily matted or dirty fiber. A glove on your shearing hand will help prevent blisters.

If you shear more than a dozen llamas each year, you might want to invest in electric shears. I have Heinigers, with a 13-tooth Ovina comb and 4-point Jet cutter. They're powerful, produce a smooth finish, and hold their sharpness well.

2. Before shearing, give the llama a thorough surface cleaning with a blower and brush. This should be all that's required. However, if the architecture of the fiber -- the natural arrangement of undercoat and guard hair -- has been destroyed by brushing to the skin, clean as deep as debris is found. Vegetable matter is easier to remove while the fiber is still on the llama. Annual shearing, with only surface grooming in between, eliminates the need for deep cleaning and minimizes matting. Keep the blower nozzle far enough away that the fiber fans out rather than cupping in and tangling.

Don't try to brush out matted fiber -- it's painful for the llama. Use the blower only to remove as much dust as possible. Dust dulls shearing blades.

3. Confine the llama according to its cooperation with the shearing process. Ideally, you've worked with it enough that it will stand quietly in a small pen, perhaps distracted by a flake of hay. If it won't settle down, put it in a chute - don't take chances hurting it or yourself. When the llama has had enough, stop and give it a break. There's no rule that shearing must be completed in one session. A llama that becomes restless may need to use the manure pile. Work on a clean surface to avoid contaminating the shorn fiber.

4. Consider the density of the fiber, your climate and the season when deciding how close to shear. A white llama with pink skin may need more than an inch of fiber to prevent sunburn. In cold climates, a llama will need to have at least 3 inches of undercoat available before winter. Leaving 2 inches over the backbone helps protect the llama's skin when it rolls. You can shear closer from the mid line of the side to under the stomach because that fiber grows back the fastest and the sun doesn't shine directly on that area. Leaving more than 2 inches of fiber defeats the purpose of shearing for heat relief.

5. Evaluate the llama's conformation and plan a cut to accentuate its best features. For example, repeat the line of the back of the neck from withers to arm pit to emphasize the neck. Trim the stomach close to show off the legs. Cut close to the base of the tail only if the tail set is high and arched.

Step back occasionally to access your work. To quote Sandy Mubarak, who shears over 100 llamas every year, "Plan your cut, then cut your plan."

6. Use a pin brush to part the fiber - down to the skin - that covers the llama's backbone. This makes it easier to see what you're doing on the first row. Make vertical parts to give you starting and stopping points when giving a barrel cut. If you're right-handed, begin at the front, on the llama's right side. Cut your first row from the left (opposite) side of the part down the llama's backbone. That first cut is the hardest; just grit your teeth (but keep your eyes open) and do it. Use the first row as a guide for cutting the second row on the right side of the part. According to your plan, continue down the llama's right side, in horizontal rows about one inch wide. This method gives you the most control over the final results. You'll work from back to front on the llama's left side.

After several rows the weight of the fleece will begin to pull on the skin resulting in a closer cut. To prevent this, have a helper support the fleece or pull it off gently. When shearing the neck, work from back to front in horizontal rows.

7. To produce a relatively smooth surface and reduce the number of second cuts, keep these things in mind:

Hold the flat side of the blades parallel to the llama's body at all times (this is also a safety measure). You'll need to change the position of the shears in your hand as you follow the contour from the backbone down under the stomach. Also watch the angle of the shear tips to avoid making "V"-shaped cuts.

With your free hand lift - don't pull - the section of fiber that you intend to cut and feel the distance from the skin. (This also helps you avoid cutting the llama.) Work the lower blade of the shears into that section about an inch down from the previous row. Position the upper blade so that it cuts at the intersection of the previous row and the new section. If the lower edge of the previous row is uneven, use the upper blade to push those edges out of the way. Don't cut them along with the new row or your fleece will contain second cuts. Resist the temptation to even out any rough places at this time. Yarn spun from fiber with second cuts will be full of noils (lumps).

If you've forgotten to measure and find that the row you just cut is too short, go back to the right length for the next row. Call the short row a "racing stripe."

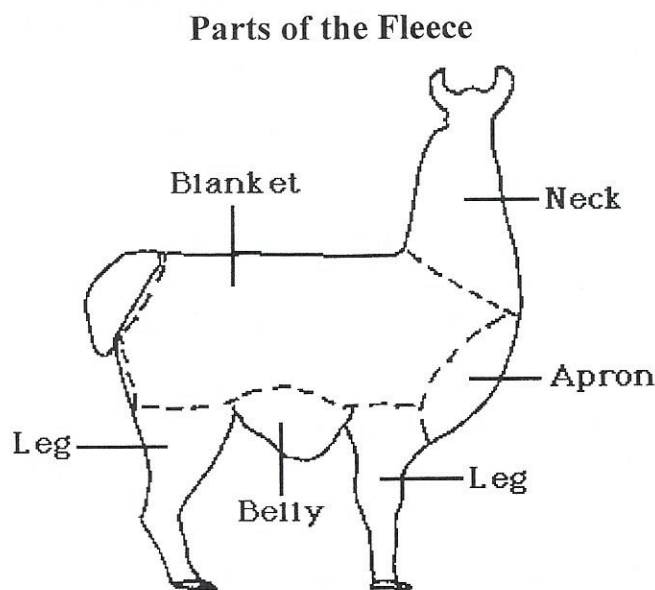
8. Blow and brush the shorn areas thoroughly, then trim up the uneven spots. Hold the shears in a vertical position - at right angles to the horizontal rows - when smoothing the surface. Keep the blades parallel to the llama's body. Save pieces over an inch long for felting.

Don't be discouraged if the results aren't as smooth as you'd like. As with a person's haircut, the difference between a bad and a good job is about 3 weeks. Tufts of guard hair, released by the shearing, may continue to appear on the surface for several days.

9. Spread the shorn fleece out, cut side down. If you do this on a frame covered with hardware cloth or chicken wire, gentle shaking will cause some dirt and debris to fall away. Separate neck and leg fiber from the prime areas on the sides. Pull off the weathered strip from along the backbone and any dirty or matted fiber from the stomach area. Discard any mats that you can't pull apart with your fingers. Pull out any guard hairs. Cut off weathered tips if they're brittle enough to break when you pull on them. Don't let cut pieces contaminate the fleece. Turn the fleece over and remove any second cuts. Keep prime and secondary value fiber separate.

10. Put the shorn fiber into old pillowcases or large paper bags. Use plastic for short-term storage only. Label and store with a natural moth repellent, such as cedar blocks or small bags of dried lavender and rosemary, until you're ready to process it. If you're shearing to remove accumulated debris and mats, it's best to discard the fiber -- give it to the birds for their nests or cut it into small pieces for garden mulch.
11. These directions also apply when using electric shears. You'll be making 3 inch wide rows, so go slowly and be sure to use your free hand to lift the fiber and measure the distance from the skin. Keep the shears the same distance from the body the entire length of the row -- angling up at any point will cause second cuts if you continue the row from that point.
Heat from the shearing head can make a llama uncomfortable or even cause burns. Cool the shears frequently.
Use a blower to fluff the shorn surface before going back to even out rough places. Skim the shears over the surface -- with the direction of the fiber's growth -- to make a smooth finish. Let the density and grain of the fiber keep the shears a consistent distance from the skin.
12. Record the date and amount of fiber removed. If done on a regular basis, this will give you a measure of the llama's fiber growth rate. Consider having a micron analysis done. These figures could become useful in your promotional efforts.

D. ILLUSTRATION OF PARTS OF THE FLEECE



Drawing from <http://www.llamapaedia.com>

When harvesting a fleece, mentally divide it into the above areas. Decide on the highest and best use for each section. Bag and label similar sections together.

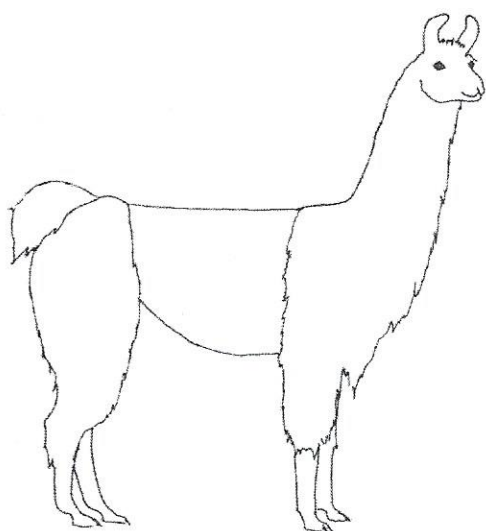
VII SKIRTING A FLEECE FOR SHOW ENTRY

A. PROCEDURE

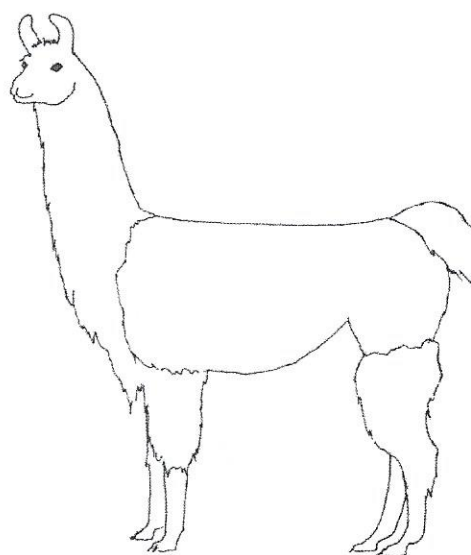
As a group, skirt one each: double, single, and suri fleece

1. Spread the shorn fleece out on a grading screen (plastic mesh or coated wire with 1" openings). If it was shorn in several large sections, place them cut side down. If the fleece came off in hands full, place them on the screen in a single layer. Remove any neck, leg, belly and weathered backbone fiber. Put these aside in a bag marked "2nd quality".
2. Discard any excessively dirty fiber or matts that cannot be pulled apart by hand. Also remove any sections with less than 3" staple length. (Save 1" - 3" lengths for felt.) What you have left on the screen is the prime fiber, either a barrel or full blanket.
3. Do not pull guard hairs or trim weathered tips.
4. Shake the fleece gently on the screen to help remove small bits of debris and dirt. Hand pick any that remain.
5. Turn the fleece over, if in sections. Pick off any second cuts. Shake again.
6. Roll the fleece loosely, cut side out, before bagging. Or, gently place hands full in the clear, unmarked plastic bag. Enclose a copy of the llama's ILR certificate and a completed entry tag.

B. ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARREL AND FULL BLANKET OR PRIME



Barrel



Full blanket or prime

VIII FLEECE JUDGING:

A. HOW TO EVALUATE THE CRITERIA ON THE ALSA LLAMA FLEECE SCORE CARD

1. Cleanliness/Preparation: This is essentially an evaluation of the exhibitor's fleece preparation and herd management skills. Examine the fleece for vegetable matter, debris, and insect infestation. Smell it for use of conditioners or other odors such as mildew. Deduct points if the architecture has been over prepared (damaged or destroyed by grooming). Look for unskirted sections, second cuts and color contamination from other fleeces.

Were all the entry criteria followed?

2. Fineness and Hand:
 - a. Carefully remove 3 or 4 locks from different areas of the fleece. Place them on a contrasting surface to visually access the fineness. Rub them gently between your fingers to feel it. Pull a lock across the space between your nose and upper lip. The finer the fiber, the smoother it will feel.
 - b. Hand is the tactile feel of all the fiber characteristics combined: fineness, softness, strength, density, flexibility. The better the hand, the more pleasant the fiber is to touch and wear. Extreme density can affect the perceived hand of a fleece making it feel coarser than it actually is.
3. Guard Hair:
 - a. Double coat: pull the guard hairs from several locks in order to access the percentage and fineness. How many pulls does it take until only undercoat fibers remain in your hand? Evaluate Single and Suri guard hair the same way.
 - b. Single coat: award points according to the degree of difficulty in seeing any variation in the fibers.
 - c. Suri coat: all the individual fibers in a suri fleece should be straight and hair-like. Some may appear coarser than others, resulting in a lower score.
4. Style/Architecture:
 - a. Style is an evaluation of the evenness and depth of the crimp and crinkle in a fleece. On double and single coated fleeces, look for consistency from the cut ends to near the tips on the locks you removed from the fleece. Suri locks should not exhibit crimp. Deduct points if it is found.
 - b. Architecture is the general structure and lay of the fibers within the locks which make up the entire fleece. How apparent is the lock structure? Is it consistent throughout the fleece?

5. Luster: this refers to the amount of light reflected by the fiber. Crimp can diminish its appearance by breaking up the reflection of light. Stretch the removed locks over your finger to evaluate them accurately. Always evaluate luster from the same end of the locks, preferably the cut end.
6. Overall Impression/Uniformity:
 - a. A fleece that has eye appeal and invites your touch has made a good overall impression on you. This is also known as the "Wow" factor. Is your initial impression the same after evaluating all the criteria?
 - b. Are all the judging criteria consistent throughout the fleece?
7. Tensile Strength and Condition:
 - a. Snap one of the removed locks between your hands to hear the almost musical "twang" sound that indicates good tensile strength. Hold another close to your ear while stretching it. Weak fibers "crackle" as they break. Any stress breaks will be revealed by these tests and should result in disqualification.
 - b. Condition is an assessment of the general health and age of the fleece. Is it strong, lustrous and "alive", or weak, dull, and "dead".
 - c. Check staple length for conformity with 3" – 8" entry criteria. An overgrown fleece is often in compromised condition.
8. Each fleece is evaluated on its own merits. Comparisons are made to break tied scores.

B. JUDGING PRACTICE

1. The Instructor will show how to remove locks from a fleece
2. As a group, evaluate 3 classes of 4 fleeces each while using Shorn Fleece Score Cards
 - a. Double coat, either age division
 - b. Single coat, either age division
 - c. Suri coat, either age division
3. Discuss your placings
4. With time and experience, you will develop your own standards for awarding points. Practice on your own herd, or those of friends, until you can do this with confidence and *consistency*.

Part II
Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinic
Second day

I ENTRY CRITERIA, LLAMA FLEECE CLASSES

- A. THIS PORTION OF THE CLINIC CONSISTS OF A REVIEW OF THE LLAMA FLEECE SECTION OF THE CURRENT EDITION OF THE ALSA HANDBOOK.

Part O. Fleece (14th Edition, updated 2007)

Section I. Llama Fleece

Llama fiber shows may offer full blanket / barrel fleece classes and/or the Optional Fiber classes. Required paperwork for fleece classes and optional fiber classes can be found on the ALSA website, under Llama Fleece Show Packet.

A. Shorn Llama Fleece Class

1. Fleece Divisions

- a. Double Coat – 2 discernable fiber types and textures
- b. Single Coat – indiscernible fiber types and textures
- c. Suri Coat – no crimp, distinct locks, cool, slick handle

2. Age Divisions for Llama at time of shearing

- a. Under 24 months, full blanket / barrel fleece
- b. 24 months and older, full blanket / barrel fleece

3. Rules

- a. Each fleece entry shall be accompanied by the following:

- (1) Copy of ILR registration certificate – place in bag with fleece
- (2) Completed Entry Tag, provided by the show, with the following information:

- (i) Age Division
- (ii) Fleece Division
- (iii) Birth date of llama
- (iv) Gender
- (v) Date of shearing (Mo/Yr)
- (vi) Date of previous shearing (Mo/Yr)
- (vii) Growth time (Months)
- (viii) Llama's ALSA number
- (ix) Owner Identification

- b. Fleeces Shall:

- (1) Be sheared, not brushed, from the animal
- (2) Consist of the prime fiber from either the full blanket or barrel
- (3) Be sheared within 2 years of the date of the show
- (4) Have lock structure intact
- (5) Be skirted and handpicked
- (6) Be submitted in clear unmarked plastic bags
- (7) Be displayed in clear plastic bags. The bags may also be displayed in appropriate size white boxes.
- (8) Be judged by exhibitor number only.

- c. Fleeces May Not:
 - (1) Have guard hairs removed
 - (2) Be washed after shearing
 - (3) Have crème rinse or other fiber chemicals applied prior to or after shearing
- d. Staple Length
 - (1) Llamas under 24 months
 - (i) Minimum of 3 inch undercoat
 - (ii) No maximum length limit
 - (2) Llamas 24 months and older
 - Minimum of 3 inch undercoat
 - Maximum staple length of 8 inches, including guard hair
- e. It is the responsibility of the owner to apply the fleece division descriptions in Section I, A, 1. However, the fleece judge will also determine if the fleeces have been entered in the appropriate division and, if not, move them to the appropriate division.
- f. Disqualifications: A fleece that could be disqualified for the following reasons may not place over a fleece that does comply with all the criteria.
 - (1) Insect or parasite infestation
 - (2) Stress breaks
 - (3) Staple length too long or too short
 - (4) Excessive vegetation
 - (5) Not following entry rules
- g. Additional division of classes: At the Judge's discretion, classes may be further divided in the following prioritized order: age of the llama at shearing, color, gender. When dividing a class, the number of entries in each new class must equal or exceed 4 fleeces.
- h. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion awards and points will be given to each fleece division, double, single and suri. The champions will be decided by the highest points scored on the fleece score card. In case of a tie, the judge will determine which criteria to use for tie breaking points.
- 4. Fleece Judging Criteria: 100 points possible. The following are the judging criteria used and recorded on the ALSA Llama Fleece Score Card:
 - a. Cleanliness/Preparation: total of 20 points
 - (1) Cleanliness: 10 points
 - (2) Preparation: 10 points
 - b. Fineness and Hand: 20 points
 - c. Guard Hair – Fineness and percentage of: 10 points
 - d. Style/Architecture – crimp and lock structure: 15 points
 - e. Luster: 10 points
 - f. Overall Impression: 10 points
 - g. Tensile Strength and Condition: 15 points

5. Optional Awards: The Judge may give optional awards such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Best Hand
 - b. Best Lock Structure
 - c. Best Uniformity
 - d. Best Luster

B. Walking Fleece Class

This class provides an opportunity for llama owners to learn about fleece characteristics and management while receiving a professional evaluation. It is recommended the judging take place prior to halter classes in an attempt to limit the use of grooming aids.

1. The judge is required to be a certified ALSA Llama Fleece Judge.
2. Use the same age and fleece divisions as for shorn fleece classes.
3. Exhibitors bring their llamas to the judge during a designated time period. Judge & show superintendent should establish confinement pens in a high visibility area so audience and exhibitors can view the judging while other aspects of the show are taking place.
4. The judge evaluates each llama's fleece and discusses it with the owner while filling out a Walking Fleece Class Score Card.
5. Fleece Judging Criteria: 100 points possible. The following are the judging criteria used and recorded on the ALSA Walking Llama Fleece Score Card:
 - a. Cleanliness: 10 points
 - b. Fineness and Hand: 20 points
 - c. Guard Hair – Fineness and percentage of: 10 points
 - d. Style/Architecture – crimp and lock structure: 15 points
 - e. Luster: 10 points
 - f. Overall Impression: 10 points
 - g. Tensile Strength and Condition: 15 points
 - h. Density: 10 points
6. After judging is complete, all handlers and animals are shown in the arena.
 - a. Awards are presented at this time.
 - b. ALSA points are awarded for this class.
 - c. If the number of animals per class warrant, Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion awards and points will be awarded.

C. Optional Fiber Classes

These classes are intended to promote the use of llama and alpaca fiber by presenting educational displays of yarns and finished products made by the exhibitor.

1. Rules
 - a. Judges for Optional Classes should be experienced fiber artists and can be, but are not required to be, ALSA Fleece Judges
 - b. Rules may be adapted to the individual show and Judge
 - c. No ALSA points are awarded for Optional Classes

2. Classes

a. Hand Spinner's Choice

- (1) Submit a sample of 2 ounces prime fiber from blanket area
- (2) Fiber may be sheared or brushed
- (3) Remove guard hair and debris
- (4) Fiber must be from a lama owned by the person entering the sample
- (5) To be judged on the ALSA Fleece Criteria in A – 4 (above) and spinning properties
- (6) Samples should be identified by number only and sent to the Judge 4 to 6 weeks before the date of the show.
- (7) Suggested classes – sheared or brushed, divided by age (under 24 months; 24 months and older).

b. Garment or Finished Product

- (1) Item must be made of at least 60% llama or alpaca. The remaining 40% may be other animal or man-made fiber produced in the U.S.A.
- (2) Item must be made by the exhibitor
- (3) Items made with commercial yarns may be judged separately from items made with handspun yarns; hand knit items may be judged separately from machine knit items.
- (4) Suggested classes:
Handspun yarns: woven item, knitted/crocheted item, felted item
Commercial yarns: woven item, knitted/crocheted item, felted item
Machine knit item: handspun yarn, commercial yarn

c. Lama to Luxury – a timed team event in which lama fiber is spun and woven into a shawl of 76" – 78" x 20" - 22" in 4 hours. Measurements do **not** include fringe.

- (1) Teams consist of up to 6 members
- (2) Only manually powered equipment may be used.

II REVIEW OF FLEECE CLASS FORMS

A. SHORN LLAMA FLEECE SHOW ENTRY TAG AND INSTRUCTIONS



Entry Tag Shorn Llama Fleece Show

Entry Number _____
 Age Division _____
 Fiber Division _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Sex _____
 Date of Shearing (Mo/Yr) _____
 Date of Prior Shearing _____
 Growth Time (Months) _____

..... **Fold Back**

Llama's ALSA Number _____
 Llama's Name _____

Owner Information

Name _____
 Ranch _____
 Address _____

 City _____

..... **Fold Over**

State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Price _____
 For Sale ☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: Exhibitor information will be hidden during judging since it will be folded up by the clerk and opened only after judging is completed.



Entry Tag Llama Fleece Show Instructions

Entry Number:

Leave Blank. *(The Entry Number will be filled in at the show.)*

Age Division: *(age at time of shearing)*

Up to 24 months

24 months and over

Fiber Division:

Double Coat *(two discernable fiber types and textures)*

Single Coat *(indiscernible fiber types and textures)*

Suri Coat *(no crimp, distinct locks, slick handle, high luster)*

Date of Shearing:

Actual Date (Month/Year)

Date of Prior Shearing:

Actual Date (Month/Year)

Growth Time (Months):

Growth time from last shearing or from date of birth.

Note:

The Show Clerk will fold and tape the bottom of the card before judging. After the judging is complete, the card will be opened.

B. SHORN LLAMA FLEECE SCORE CARD



Llama Fleece Score Card

Show _____

Entry number _____ Date _____

	Max	Points
Cleanliness/Preparation		
Cleanliness <i>(Lack of vegetation debris, insect infestation and odor)</i>	10	
Preparation <i>(Proper skirting, no second cuts)</i>	10	
Fineness and Hand	20	
Very Coarse 1 - 4		
Medium Coarse 5 - 8		
Medium 9 - 12		
Medium Fine 13 - 16		
Very Fine <i>(next to skin)</i> 17 - 20		
Guard Hair <i>(fineness of & percentage of)</i>	10	
Style/Architecture	15	
Luster	10	
Overall Impression/Uniformity	10	
Tensile Strength and Condition	15	
Total	100	
Disqualified <input type="checkbox"/>		
Judge's Signature _____		

C. WALKING FLEECE SCORE CARD



Score Card Walking Llama Fleece

Class # _____ Entry # _____ Placing _____

Check appropriate Divisions:

Coat Type: ☐ Double Coat

☐ Single Coat

☐ Suri Coat

Age: ☐ Up to 24 months

☐ 24 and over

Cleanliness (10) _____

Fineness & Hand (20) _____

Density (10) _____

Guard Hair (10) _____

Style & Architecture (15) _____

Luster (10) _____

Overall Impression & Uniformity (10) _____

Tensile Strength & Condition (15) _____

Total _____

Comments:

Please see back for more comments.

Judge's signature _____

D. PLACING CARD (Walking Fleece Placing Card is identical)

Look at the number of entries in the division.

If there are 5, place to 3rd; If there are 17, place to 7th, etc.

Placing Card for Shorn Llama Fleece Class

Show _____

Number of Entries in this Division _____

Please check one fiber division:

_____ Double Coat, Under 24 Months

_____ Double Coat, 24 Months and Over

_____ Single Coat, Under 24 Months

_____ Single Coat, 24 Months and Over

_____ Suri Coat, Under 24 Months

_____ Suri Coat, 24 Months and Over

WINNERS

Placing	Entry #	ALSA #	# Entries to Place
1 st or Ch			3 – 4 in class
2 nd or Res			5 in class
3 rd			6 in class
4 th			7 in class
5 th			8 – 15 in class
6 th			16 - 23 in class
7 th			24 - 31 in class
8 th			32 – 39 in class
9 th			40 + in class

Judge's Signature _____

Alpaca and Llama Show Association, Inc.

607 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Phone: 412-761-0211 Fax: 412-761-0212

ALSA@nauticom.net

E. OPTIONAL FIBER CLASSES

1. You may be asked to judge any of the following Optional and specialty classes.
2. These forms may all be downloaded from the ALSA web site.

- a. Felting
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Entry Sheet
 - Youth Entry Sheet
- b. Hand Knit and/or Crochet
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Handspun Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Commercial Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Handspun Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Commercial Yarn Entry Sheet
- c. Hand Spinner's Choice
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Entry Sheet
- d. Home Decor
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Handspun Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Handspun Yarn Entry Sheet
- e. Lama to Luxury
 - Lama to Luxury Instructions
 - Lama to Luxury Notes
 - Lama to Luxury Scoring Sheet
 - Lama to Luxury Entry Sheet
- f. Machine Knit
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Entry Sheet
 - Youth Entry Sheet
- g. Weaving
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Handspun Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Commercial Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Handspun Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Commercial Yarn Entry Sheet
- h. Yarn
 - Scoring Sheet
 - Novice Entry Sheet
 - Experienced Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Novice Yarn Entry Sheet
 - Youth Experienced Yarn Entry Sheet

III SHORN LLAMA FLEECE SHOW MANAGEMENT GUIDE

THIS GUIDE DESCRIBES AN IDEAL SITUATION. Be prepared for anything by bringing:

1. Extra forms - entry tags, judging and placing cards.
2. Extra supplies - pencils, pens, eraser, tape, scissors, stapler, fabric softener sheets.
3. Your own supplies - calculator & batteries, sheet of black paper, lamp, full-spectrum light bulb, magnifying glass, ruler, Kleenex, clip board for Walking Fleece class.
4. This guide is also available on the ALSA web site: www.alsashow.org

Shorn Llama Fleece Show Management Guide

INTRODUCTION

It is highly recommended that Show Superintendents include a Shorn Llama Fleece Show when holding a Level III Show. Your support of this rapidly growing area of interest benefits the entire llama industry. The establishment of an award system (12th Edition, ALSA Handbook) is attracting participation from all over the United States.

It is all right to modify details - such as the use of display boxes - according to the number of entries anticipated and what is practical for your situation. Assign the actual setup and management of the show to a Fleece Show Steward. Plan ahead, allow plenty of time, and this will be an easy job.

SANCTIONING

1. Indicate that you will hold a Shorn Llama Fleece Show, along with your Halter and Performance Show, on the Sanctioning Agreement. The fee is \$25 for 30 or fewer fleeces, \$50 for more than 30 fleeces. If you are working with a fair or stock show, they may have to submit the application. Good communication is important here.
2. Include all 4 divisions of the Shorn Llama Fleece Show, plus any of the optional fiber classes, on the Premium List sent to the ALSA office for approval.

EXPENSES

Charge the same entry fee for shorn fleeces as you do for halter and performance classes and you should be able to cover the following list. If necessary, obtain sponsors for each division or award.

1. **Judge's expenses:** See the current ALSA Handbook for professional fees. There may be additional expenses to negotiate for travel and lodging.
2. **Awards or premiums:**
 - a. Plan to award ribbons through at least 6th place. This will be necessary when there are 8 - 15 entries in each division.
 - b. Grand and Reserve Champion Trophies, ribbons, or premiums will be needed for each division with over 8 entries.
 - c. You may wish to include non-ALSA awards such as Best of Show, Best Hand, Best Lock Structure, etc.
3. **Supplies:**
 - a. After your show is approved, ALSA will send forms for you to duplicate on card stock: Entry Tags, Fleece Judging Cards, and Class Placing Cards.
 - b. Clear plastic bags, at least 1.75 mil., and 40-45 gallon size. Fleeces are placed in these bags at check in for judging and display. Fleeces are returned to the exhibitors in these bags eliminating the need to retain original packaging.

- c. Fleece display boxes: These are approximately 16" x 16" white cardboard, purchased locally, that remain the property of the show. After judging, each bag is placed in a box for display.
- d. Paper to cover the tables used for judging and display, tape, signs, twist ties, pens.
- e. Other possible expenses include rental of a room, tables, chairs, and lighting.
 - 4. **Administrative costs**, such as phone calls, can be kept to a minimum with proper planning. Request that entries sent by mail include return postage.

FACILITY GUIDELINES

Please keep the following Fleece Show requirements in mind as you look for a facility for your Halter and Performance Show. Many site officials are unfamiliar with fiber shows.

Take time to explain these specific needs:

1. **All areas must be clean and protected from the weather and wind.**
2. If necessary, the area should be available for extended hours for fleece entry check-in, judging, and display.
3. Lighting must be excellent and available during evening hours as fleece shows are often judged in closed sessions (no spectators) while other events are in progress.
4. There must be enough room to set up a fleece entry area, judging area, and display area. The registration tables can be used for judging and display. Allow space to display optional class entries.

Shorn Fleece Show Entry Receiving Area

1. You'll need at least two - 8' long tables here, plus chairs for the Fleece Show Steward and Entry Clerk(s). Approximately one hour per 30 fleeces is needed to complete the registration tasks. (See Fleece Show Clerk duties.)
2. Provide extra fleece entry tags, pens, tape, plastic bags, and twist ties.

Shorn Fleece Judging Area

1. Cover at least two, and as many as six, 8' tables with clean butcher paper, firmly attached to all sides. Fleeces will be opened by the Judge and examined on these tables. Consider raising the tables to working height with concrete blocks. Provide a padded mat if the floor is concrete. Chairs for the Judge, Fleece Show Steward and any Apprentice Judges will be appreciated.
2. Provide enough tables to enable an entire fleece division to be viewed as a whole by the Judge.
3. Provide tables to stage fleeces to be judged.
4. Provide tables to hold fleeces already judged until returned to the display area.

Shorn Fleece Display Area

1. There should be at least 1 table for each of the 4 fleece divisions. Display boxes may be stacked to conserve space.
2. Attach a sign to each table to identify the division. Also provide signs requesting that the public not open the bags and touch the fleeces. The sample locks attached to each bag may be touched.
3. Consider setting up a table with demonstration fleeces that may be handled.
4. Provide an area for optional class entries.
5. Will a microphone be necessary if your Judge agrees to give reasons or talk about fiber judging?

HIRING YOUR SHORN FLEECE JUDGE

ALSA will supply a list of currently certified Llama Fleece Judges.

1. Shows with over 30 fleeces should employ a separate Llama Fleece Judge. If you expect fewer than 30 fleeces, a Halter and/or Performance Judge may also judge the fleeces, **if certified as an ALSA Llama Fleece Judge.**
2. Begin contacting judges well in advance of your show. Be prepared with the following information:
 - a. Finalized date and time for the show
 - b. Expected number of entries
 - c. Description of facility: size of space, protection from elements, lighting, etc.
 - d. Financial remuneration: professional fee, travel expenses, meals, lodging
3. Discuss whether the Judge will give oral reasons, talk about fleece judging, and/or be available for questions after judging.
4. **State all arrangements in the written contract** included with the ALSA Sanctioning packet.
5. Since fleeces are judged without owner, ranch or animal identification, conflicts of interest between show management and the Judge should not occur. It is advisable that the Fleece Show Steward not exhibit any fleeces before the Judge in that show.
6. The optional fiber classes do not require hiring an ALSA certified Llama Fleece Judge since no points are awarded for these classes. Any fiber expert in your area may be hired on mutually agreeable terms.

APPRENTICE JUDGES

1. Persons currently enrolled in the Shorn Llama Fleece Judge Apprentice Program may apply to Show Management and the Fleece Judge for permission to apprentice at any local-level ALSA certified Llama Fleece Show. Apprentices may not be accepted for Regional or National level shows.
2. If more than 2 persons request to apprentice at a show, the Fleece Judge may, but is not required to, accept up to 4 apprentices.
3. Apprentices must notify the current chairperson of the ALSA Judges Committee of their acceptance.
4. Apprentices must download a copy of the Shorn Llama Fleece Judge Apprentice Evaluation form from the ALSA web site to give to the supervising judge.

OTHER PERSONNEL

Fleece Show Steward: This person is the Judge's "right hand". They should have fiber experience and be completely familiar with ALSA rules.

1. The Steward instructs the Fleece Show Clerk(s), supervises fleece check in and sees that each fleece is placed in the correct division.
2. When judging is completed, the Steward fills out a Class Placing Card for each division, from the Fleece Judging Cards, and has the Judge sign them. These cards are given to the Show Superintendent to return to the ALSA office.
3. The Steward is also responsible for the following:
 - a. Placing the fleeces from each division on the table(s) in the judging area, opening the bags, then returning them to the display area after judging.
 - b. Cleaning the judging table(s) between divisions.
 - c. Tying a sample lock - removed by the Judge - to the outside of each bag.
 - d. Placing the opened entry tag, so it may be read, inside each bag after judging.

- e. Attaching ribbons and score cards to the display boxes. If theft is a suspected problem, place them inside the bag with the fleece.
- f. Returning fleeces, and optional class entries, to owners after the show.

4. The Steward, with assistance from the Clerk(s):

- a. Prepares the fleece check in, judging, and display areas.
- b. Sets up and covers tables.
- c. Assembles display boxes and places judged fleeces in them.
- d. Makes signs to identify each division and request that bags not be opened.
- e. Sets up a display of fleeces that can be handled, if wanted.
- f. Sets up a display of entries from the optional classes.
- g. Makes sure the display area is presentable and **secure at all times**.
- h. Disassembles display boxes and returns them to storage.
- i. Gives judging results to the show announcer along with other information, such as criteria for judging and interesting facts about llama fiber.

Fleece Show Clerk(s) You may arrange for as many as you feel necessary.

During fleece check in, the Clerk(s):

- 1. Verifies correct age of llama, at time of shearing, from ILR Registration form.
- 2. Checks entry tag and assigns entry number. Tapes flap on tag to **completely** cover exhibitor information.
- 3. Transfers fleece to clear plastic bag provided for judging. Encloses entry tag and secures bag with twist tie.
- 4. Receives payment for entries that were not pre-registered.
- 5. Checks in entries that were mailed to the show.
- 6. Prepares lists of all exhibited fleeces for the Fleece Show Steward and Judge. Fleeces are identified by entry number only on these lists.
- 7. Prepares a master list of entries, with owner identification, for Show Superintendent and ALSA office.
- 8. Judging cannot begin until registration of all fleeces is completed.

LLAMA FLEECE SHOW PLANNING

- 1. Will you award ribbons, trophies, cash premiums, or a combination?
- 2. If you offer any of the optional classes, what kind of awards will you give? Base entry fees on optional class expenses.
- 3. Do you need sponsors to help cover expenses? If your show is held in conjunction with a fair or stock show, be sure to check protocol. Any sponsors should be prominently displayed in the Premium book, program or show signs.
- 4. Decide on deadlines for entries:
 - a. Fleece Show entries should have the same deadlines as your Halter and Performance Shows. Knowing the number of entries per division will allow you to plan for an adequate number of awards and supplies.
 - b. If you decide to accept fleeces at check in that were not pre-registered, be prepared with extra awards and supplies.
 - c. The deadline for the optional Handspinners Choice class should be at least 4 weeks before the show. This will allow time to send entries to the judge, have them carded, spun, and returned.
- 5. When preparing your Premium Book, be sure to include:
 - a. The list of divisions for the Shorn Llama Fleece Show:

Double coat, Under 24 months
 Double coat, 24 months and over
 Single coat, Under 24 months
 Single coat, 24 months and over
 Suri coat, Under 24 months
 Suri coat, 24 months and over

- b. Any of the optional classes. It may be helpful to note that ALSA points are not awarded for these classes: Handspinner's Choice; Garment and Finished Product; Llama to Luxury.
- c. How to enter: Provide criteria for fleece entry from the current ALSA Handbook. Give deadlines and procedures for entering by mail or in person.
- d. It is **very important** that you put this in the Premium Book, "Copies of registration papers must be sent to the show with entries."
 6. Include mention of the Shorn Llama Fleece Show in all advertising, notices to industry publications and association newsletters. Give a contact person with email address and phone. Accumulate publicity photographs.
 7. Duplicate Fleece Show entry tags (both sides), Fleece Judging cards, and Class Placing cards on card stock.
 8. Determine local sources and costs of white cardboard display boxes, clear plastic bags, table coverings, other supplies, and any items that must be rented.
 9. Plan display area decorations, if needed. Flags, bunting, table coverings, greenery or flowers, etc., all make colorful additions.
 10. Mail Shorn Fleece entry tags, to all exhibitors, to be completed in advance of the show. They should be returned with the entry, if mailed, or brought to fleece check in.
 11. Organize a system for entries. Develop a list that allows fleeces to be identified by number, not by animal name, ranch, or owner. Provide these lists for use by the Judge, Fleece Show Steward, and Clerk(s).
 12. Arrange for a pre-show meeting of the Shorn Llama Fleece Judge, Fleece Show Steward, and Clerk(s).

IV Walking Fleece Show Management Guide

Walking Llama Fleece Show Management Guide

INTRODUCTION

All the information contained in the sanctioning, expense, hiring your fleece judge, apprentice judges, show personnel and show planning sections of the Shorn Llama Fleece Management Guide will be useful to you in planning your Walking Fleece classes. Please read it for those important details.

FACILITY GUIDELINES

A Walking Fleece Show only has a few requirements in addition to those already available at llama halter and performance shows. You will still have to request what you need from the site officials as most are unfamiliar with fiber shows. Take time to explain these specific needs:

1. **All areas must be clean and protected from the weather and wind.**
2. **Llamas must be dry and if possible free of grooming aids.** It is strongly suggested that Walking Fleece classes be completed, or at least be well under way, before halter classes begin.

3. If necessary, the area should be available for extended hours for fleece entry check-in and judging.
4. Lighting must be excellent and available during evening hours as fleece shows are often judged while other events are in progress or before the rest of the show begins.
5. There must be enough room to set up a fleece entry receiving area and judging area.

Walking Fleece Show Entry Receiving Area

1. You'll need at least one - 8' long table, plus chairs for the Fleece Show Steward and Entry Clerk(s).
2. Provide extra fleece entry tags, pens, calculator and tape.

Walking Fleece Judging Area

1. Provide 2 to 4 pens, at least 9' x 9'. These can be stalls used for animals while they are not showing, stalls in a separate area, or pens made of panels outside if the weather is dry and calm.
2. Chairs for the Judge, Fleece Show Steward and any Apprentice Judges will be appreciated.
3. Provide excellent lighting in the judging area. Sunlight is best, but if unavailable, full-spectrum floor lamps stationed just outside the pens will work well. Make sure lamps and cords do not become a safety issue by placing them far enough from the llamas and taping down the cords.
4. Provide a staging area where entrants can wait safely protected from inclement weather.
5. Provide a person who can act as llama handler in case someone brings more than one llama or has to leave to enter a halter or performance class with another animal.

Walking Fleece Placing Announcements & Ribbon & Optional Awards

1. Arrange for a time between other classes for Walking Fleece entrants (llamas and handlers/owners) to circle in the show ring. All entrants should participate.
2. The halter/performance show announcer should announce the placings. Encourage your judge to give oral reasons and talk about fiber judging. Ribbons and other optional awards should be given out before the entrants leave the show ring.

V. PRACTICE FLEECE JUDGING

- A. REVIEW PAGES 20 AND 21
- B. HANDLING A LLAMA FLEECE FOR JUDGING
By Karen Kinyon

Llama fleeces are entered for show after much care and preparation. It is the judge's responsibility to respect that and to disturb the fleece as little as possible. Fleeces are sent from one show to the next and it is important that it look as presentable at the 4th or 5th show as it did at the 1st. Here are some tips on how to carefully handle a llama fleece.

Llama fleeces are presented to the judge in clear plastic bags. They will be tagged with anonymous information regarding shearing, etc. There should be no identifying information inside the bag. Carefully remove the fleece from the plastic bag. Gently spread it out (cut side down) on the judging table so that the entire fleece can be viewed. This is the best way to evaluate style, architecture and uniformity. Gently pull a lock from 3 or 4 different places in the fleece. This should be done with minimal disturbance of the locks surrounding the lock selected. Look at each lock individually, evaluating for fineness,

crimp, luster, length, tensile strength, and amount of guard hair present. Set these locks aside. Gently turn over portions of the fleece to view the cut side, looking for insect infestation, etc. Judges should smell the fleece by moving their nose close to the fleece on the table, not by picking up large portions of the fleece and moving it to the nose.

When the evaluation is complete, move the plastic bag close to the fleece and gently pick it up, folding or rolling it so the outside of the fleece is inside. Then pull the bag close and slide the fleece inside. The Steward will close the bag and attach the pulled locks to the outside so that they can be touched by the public.

- C. INDIVIDUALS WILL JUDGE 3 CLASSES OF 4 FLEECES EACH AND RECORD SCORES ON FLEECE SCORE CARDS (include disqualifications).
 - 1. Double coat, either age division
 - 2. Single coat, either age division
 - 3. Suri coat, either age division
- D. FILL OUT A PLACING CARD FOR EACH CLASS.
- E. COMPARE SCORES WITH THOSE RECORDED BY THE INSTRUCTOR AND DISCUSS THEM.

Part II

Beginning Level Llama Fleece Judging Clinic

Third Day

- I WALKING FLEECE CLASS DEMONSTRATION AND PRACTICE IS USUALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS DAY.
- II ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS
- III WRITTEN TEST - 1 hour time limit.
- IV PRACTICAL TEST - 3 hour time limit.
 - A. SAMPLES (Rate fineness of 3 sample locks)
 - B. 6 CLASSES WITH 4 FLEECES EACH: (Include at least 2 disqualifications)
 - 1. Double coat, Under 24 months
 - 2. Double coat, 24 months and over
 - 3. Single coat, Under 24 months
 - 4. Single coat, 24 months and over
 - 5. Suri coat, Under 24 months
 - 6. Suri coat, 24 months and over
 - C. INSTRUCTOR WILL GIVE CORRECT ANSWERS AND PLACINGS FOR EACH CLASS AND DISCUSS THEM.
 - D. WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL TEST SCORES MUST TOTAL AT LEAST 80% TO PASS. One must pass before applying to the Apprentice Program.
- V APPRENTICE PROGRAM
 - A. AFTER THE CLINIC, DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION TO APPRENTICE AS A LLAMA FLEECE JUDGE FROM THE ALSA WEB SITE: <http://www.alsashow.org>
 - B. PAY ANNUAL APPRENTICE PROGRAM DUES TO ALSA.
 - C. APPRENTICE AT A MINIMUM OF 3 SHOWS, WITH A MINIMUM TOTAL OF 40

FLEECE EVALUATIONS. Obtain an Evaluation Form for each show from the ALSA web site.

- D. ATTEND AN ADVANCED LLAMA FLEECE JUDGING CLINIC AND PASS THE PRACTICAL TEST WITH A SCORE OF AT LEAST 90%.

Part III Advanced Llama Fleece Judging Clinic First Day

I RESPONSIBILITIES AND ETHICS OF AN ALSA LLAMA FLEECE JUDGE

Review relevant sections of the current edition of the ALSA Handbook

- Page 9, Part A, Section 2, B - Dues
- Page 11, Part B, Section 1, A, B - Committees
- Page 13, Part B, Section 2, G - Fleece Committee
- Page 17, Part C, Section 1, I - Eligibility to show
- Page 21, Part D, Section 1, A, 3 - Fleece Show application fee
 - 5, e - Fleece Show summary
 - 6 - ALSA fee
- Page 24, Part D, Section 1, B, 7, e - Separate Fleece Judge
 - D, 1, c - Fleece Judge fees
- Page 27, Part D, Section 1, J, 5, I - Level III Show classes
 - 8 - Fleece Show classes
- Page 28, Part D, Section 2, A - Judge Certifications
- Page 38, Part G, Section 3, B, 9 - ROM point requirements
 - D, 3, 4 - Fleece Show points
- Page 39, Part G, Section 4, A, 5, 6 - Fleece Champion
 - B, 7 - Fleece Champion
- Page 44, Part H, Section 3, A - Approved Fleece Classes
- Page 97, Part O, Section I - Llama Fleece
- Page 123, Part S, Section 1, D - Judge classifications
 - Section 2, A - Certification requirements
- Page 126, Part S, Section 2, E - Llama Fleece Judge requirements
- Page 127, Part S, Section 2, I - Llama and Alpaca Fleece judges
- Page 128, Part S, Section 3 - Judges' Committee Recommendations
 - Section 4 - Standing Rules for Judges
- Page 129, Part S, Section 4 - Standing Rules for Apprentice Judges
- Page 130, Part S, Section 5 - Judging Clinics
- Page 131, Part S, Section 6 - Complaints
- Page 135, Part U, Section 1, H - Payment
- Page 136, Part U, Section 4 - Judges
 - Section 5 - Conflict of Interest
- Page 161, ALSA Point Chart

II REVIEW PARTS I AND II OF THIS MANUAL

III ASK QUESTIONS, resolve any problems

IV PRACTICE FLEECE JUDGING

- A. INDIVIDUALS WILL JUDGE 3 CLASSES OF 4 FLEECES EACH AND RECORD

SCORES ON SHORN FLEECE SCORE CARDS (include disqualifications).

1. Double coat, either age division
 2. Single coat, either age division
 3. Suri coat, either age division
- B. COMPARE SCORES WITH THOSE RECORDED BY THE INSTRUCTOR AND DISCUSS THEM.

Part III
Advanced Llama Fleece Judging Clinic
Second Day

V WALKING FLEECE CLASS PRACTICE WITH EMPHASIS ON GIVING ORAL REASONS FOR PLACINGS.

VI PRACTICAL TEST - 3 hour time limit

- A. SIX CLASSES OF AT LEAST 4 FLEECES EACH (include disqualifications)
1. Double coat, Under 24 Months
 2. Double Coat, 24 Months and Over
 3. Single Coat, Under 24 Months
 4. Single Coat, 24 Months and Over
 5. Suri Coat, Under 24 Months
 6. Suri Coat, 24 Months and Over
- B. DURING THE TEST, INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS WILL GIVE ORAL REASONS TO THE INSTRUCTOR FOR THEIR PLACEMENT OF ONE OF THE DIVISIONS. THIS SHOULD BE DONE OUT OF HEARING OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

Oral reasons will be evaluated on

1. Knowledge of correct terminology
 2. Ability to make comparisons between pairs rather than giving descriptions
 3. Confidence in delivery
- C. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL PROVIDE CORRECT PLACINGS AND DISCUSS THEM.
- D. A SCORE OF AT LEAST 90%, RECOMMENDATION OF THE INSTRUCTOR, THE APPROVAL OF THE JUDGES' COMMITTEE AND THE ALSA BOARD ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BECOME AN ALSA CERTIFIED LLAMA FLEECE JUDGE.

Thank you for your participation in the ALSA Llama Fleece Judging Clinics.

The ALSA Llama Fiber Committee welcomes your comments and suggestions for improving this program. Please send them to the Committee Chairperson.

PURPOSE AND ELEMENTS OF ORAL REASONS

The purpose of giving reasons is to explain to the exhibitors and or spectators why you placed the class as you did. They have seen each class and know the lamas you are talking about. They, too, are probably picturing each lama in their mind's eye as you discuss it.

Presenting oral reasons will help you in several ways. It should help you develop a more organized system of analyzing classes, and help develop your ability to think and express yourself. The ability to deliver good oral reasons depends upon the talent developed in the eye of the speaker and the confidence he presents in his explanation of his decisions. The confidence increases with the level of experience and the numbers of animals viewed and analyzed over an extended period of time. Advanced understanding of anatomy, physiology, function and form leads to the selection of the animal which has the overall eye appeal and general appearance so highly desired. This understanding together with mastery of terminology and delivery produces strong oral reasons that are readily accepted. When judging a class of lamas you are comparing the animals in the class to each other. When you give your reasons you are simply telling the audience the results of your comparisons. If you are unable to give a good set of reasons, it is either because you have not practiced the format or because you don't know why you placed the class the way you did. The ability to place the class requires a thorough understanding of the traits to be analyzed and the ability to recognize important differences and place these differences in a priority order.

REMEMBER:

First impressions are important to you and the audience.
View the entire class, the entire animal, not just a group of faults and characteristics.
First general statements should emphasize most important points to be made.
You are comparing pairs of animals (top 4). Develop your own style and be definitive.
Keep the animals in the ring while you give oral reasons.

There are several points to remember when giving reasons

- Accuracy is by far the most important point in giving reasons. You need to see the obvious and important points in the class and discuss them accurately and completely.
- Delivery style is also important. Reasons must be presented in a confident manner that is pleasant to hear and easy to follow. Consider the audience level of understanding.
- Good organization makes your reasons sound complete and accurate. Bring out the important and general points first, on each pair, followed by the more specific and detailed points later. Be sure to emphasize the major differences in your reasons, omitting small points which may leave room for doubt. A well-organized, properly delivered set of reasons should not be over 30 seconds per animal in length.
- Emphasize the Positive Points.
- Avoid common, indefinite terms which do not describe.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ORAL PRESENTATION

1. Spend the last 3 minutes of the class remembering why you placed each animal over the one behind it.. This doesn't come naturally.
2. Practice your oral reasons by talking from the visual image. Do not use a word pattern over and over or you will find yourself memorizing words and not talking from the visual image. It is really much easier to remember the animals than the exact words you want to use.
3. Use identifying terms when giving reasons, such as paint, all brown, appaloosa, etc.
4. The most important reasons for the pair being placed should be in the first general statement.
5. Be organized using the same pattern...i.e., general statement about pair, then front to rear, feet and legs and only talk about the parts that are different.
6. In grants, you put most important things first.
7. Stay away from terms like... "little, trifle, better, probably and maybe." The topline is either stronger or it isn't.
8. Emphasize the adjectives straighter, freer, longer, truer, deeper, wider.
9. Vary your terms from pair to pair. "1 is a larger framed male," "1 is a stronger, stouter male."
10. Watch the "he's and she's." Make sure you use the right pronoun.
11. Get a tape recorder and place animals at home, give oral reasons on tape and play it back. Repeat this process until you are satisfied.

WORDS OR PHRASES TO AVOID:

Good or Better... Indefinite terms

It... Always use "he" or "she."

Lacks or Lacked... Use sparingly. Rather than, "4 lacked depth of rib," say, "4 was shallow about the heart and barrel."

STEPS FOR PRESENTING ORAL REASONS

The steps for presenting a good set of oral reasons are very easy to learn and with practice the format should become quite comfortable.

In all lama shows the judge must give reasons on the first four placings in the class. Giving reasons on less than this is pretty much meaningless and giving reasons on more is not necessary. The following format breaks the first four animals into three pairs for comparison; A top pair, a middle pair, and a bottom pair. For each pair there is a comparison of the two animals, a grant to the second animal in the pair and, optionally, a criticism of the second animal. Descriptive terms are reserved mostly for the first place animal in the class.

1. Give the name or description of the class and if appropriate a statement about the class in general.
2. Explain briefly why your top place animal wins the class.
3. Tell why your first place animal beats your second place animal. Usually 1 or 2 major reasons are enough.
4. Grant or tell what you liked better about your second place animal than you did your first place animal only if necessary.
5. *(Optional)* Criticize your second place animal or tell why it is second.
6. Compare your second and third place animals and tell why your second place animal beats your third place animal.
7. Grant or tell what you liked better about your third place animal over your second place animal.
8. *(Optional)* Criticize your third place animal or tell why it is third.
9. Compare your third place and fourth place animal and tell why your third place animal places over your fourth place animal.
10. Tell what you liked better about your fourth place animal or point out his or her major strengths.
11. *(Optional)* Criticize your fourth place animal.

There are several types of terminology that may be used in your statements. In step 2 about the first place animal, you may use either descriptive or class comparisons. When comparing pairs of animals you may use either class comparisons (*..est*) or simple comparative (*..er*) terms. Grants or major strengths of an animal are either simple comparative terms or class comparisons. Transitions are simply a way of moving smoothly from one section of the reasons to another.

Simple words to use when moving into a grant:

Recognize Realize Grant Concede However Admit

GENERAL ORAL REASON FORMATS

The following terms, phrases and comments are for use in presenting oral reasons in more general explanations.

1. Entire Class Opening Statements

<u>Positive</u>	or	<u>Negative</u>	
It is		- is not	apparent
		obvious	
There is		- is not	easy to see/find
		difficult to separate	
This class exhibits		- does not	offer easily recognized differences
This class divides itself			provide examples of
This group does		- does not	exemplify

2. Small Group

As a group of	- top/bottom	the evidence of
with	- stronger positive characteristics	
This group of 3	- stands together	- with similar strengths
		- lacking similar strength
	- does not show	- adequate - to place above

3. When excusing half a class - Thank Exhibitors

- a. The animals not selected to remain - as a group - have not exhibited the strength and correct development of conformation to compete TODAY with the balance of the class.
- b. These animals will stay for further evaluation due to the strength of more correct movement and conformation over the balance of the class.

4. As a pair

- a. In a close pair -- they stand above/below for
- b. In a difficult decision between 2 close placings
- c. My 1st pair over my 2nd pair for

5. Psychology of Grouping for Oral Reasons

- a. Faster - say more about the group
- b. Not repeating same phrases so often
- c. Less negative and specific to individual animals
- d. Allows leeway to be more positive

6. Format and Physical Line-up for Oral Reasons - Positive over Negative

- a. Line up animals where you can view them, and the audience also, from profile as you talk.
- b. Be all positive about 1st place unless you grant a less prominent factor to 2nd place.
- c. Look at 2nd place when telling why 1st placed over 2nd. Look at weakness and describe that as the strength of 1st.
- d. Look at 3 - 4th for weakness and describe the strength of #2 over them,
- e. Continue in that mode to pair 5 & 6 - not showing adequate strength of- to move above others,
- f. Commend any animal for outstanding positive trait
- g. Style - Presence - Fiber quality excellence - Behavior and Presentation - these are not so measurable as conformation - but are important to whole picture.

7. General Comments to Use at Opening - During - Closing of the Show

- a. Commend exhibitors for TIME, EFFORT, SUPPORT to prepare and present animals,
- b. Recognize breeders for years involved in making a breeding program work.
- c. Remind exhibitors and audience that TODAY is YOUR OPINION ONLY and should not be used to determine anyone's breeding program as each owner has different needs within his herd.
- d. Thank Show Management and Exhibitors for the opportunity to view their production, commend presentations and promptness (if applicable) to move show along.
- e. Review breeding techniques of selection to improve and emphasize positive traits without allowing expression of other negatives.
- f. Good to use these comments to remind owners that the younger animals should be an improvement over the parents (older age classes). Especially important when using Juveniles as Champions.
- g. Remind owners and audience that breeding selections take many years and choices from many animals to show winners and Champions. This helps when obvious long-time breeders win often during a show and encourage new owners.
- h. Repeat "from my perspective today" and many times,
- i. Follow the PASS method:
POSITIVE - ACCURATE - SHORT - STATEMENT!

ORAL REASONS TERMINOLOGY

Fleece

General Descriptions:

- Indication of a higher-yielding fleece
- Evidence of density as expressed by weight of locks
- Appears more voluminous by its airy, loft, softness - yet may be lower yielding
- Fleece which exhibits waviness in comparison to defined zig-zag in crimp
- Extension of crimp throughout the length of lock structure
- Stronger (or weaker) in expression of fleece character
- More prominent in the expression of lock(s) or definition
- Loss of lock definition at the skin due to fineness of fiber
- Exhibits more (or less) uniformity from front to rear in ____ (characteristics such as density, crimp, fineness)
- Shows more (or less) integrity of fiber (which means soundness)
- Lack of consistency
- Less prominent emphasis of negative traits
- Stronger (or less dominant) in expression of... crimp or lock or character

Desirable

- Pleasing Hand
- Apparent fineness
- More fine
- Finest
- More dense
- Excellent density
- Good uniformity of density
- Uniform crimp throughout blanket
- Excellent fiber coverage
- High sheen
- Healthy condition

Undesirable

- Less desirable hand
- Not fine
- Coarse
- Strong
- Loose
- Open
- Lacks uniform density
- Loses crimp in the shoulder/rump
- Lacks fiber coverage on the lower legs
- Poor condition
- Excessive vegetable matter or tender staple

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Appendix

ALSA 15th Edition Handbook – Llama Fleece related portions

The ALSA Board of Directors approved these revisions to the 15th Edition of the Handbook in their meeting July, 2007. It will be published in early 2008. New items are in *italics*.

Notes regarding stricken rules are in boxes and Times New Roman font.
Where stricken text was minor, no Note is provided.

You may want to make note of these changes in your current (14th Edition) Handbook.

Part B. Committees

Section 2.G. *Llama Fiber Committee*

1. Members
 - C. Members should be thoroughly familiar with the current edition of the ALSA Handbook and with Llama fleece.
 - D. One member must be a certified ALSA *Llama Fleece Judge*.
2. Purpose
 - E. Responsible for writing and format for Llama Fleece Judging, writing and updating the ALSA *Llama Fleece Judging Clinic Manual and Clinic Instructor Materials* and setting the criteria for ALSA *Llama Fleece Clinics*.

Part C. Eligibility for Llama and Alpaca Shows

Section 1.C.

Exhibitors must be the registered owners and make entry in the exact names (owner and animal) as shown on the registration certificate. Exceptions: Exhibitors may use the "Permission to Show" form provided by ALSA, which grants permission from the owner on the Registration Certificate to a person who is using an animal to show that animal under their own name. *A "Permission to Show" form is required to exhibit a fleece from an animal not owned by the exhibitor.*

Part D. Sanctioned Shows

Section 1.A.6.

Within 30 days a check for ALSA fees must be sent to the ALSA Office: \$5.00 per animal, for any llama attending the show including Get-of-sire, Produce of Dam and animals used in youth classes. A Non-member fees of \$30.00 per farm and \$15.00 for youth showing in youth classes. A \$3.00 fee per Llama or Alpaca fleece exhibited, *if and only if the animal is not concurrently entered in a non-fleece class at the same show. If the animal which grew the fleece is also entered in a non-fleece class in the same show, the \$5.00 per animal fee will cover the fleece entry point recording as well as the non-fleece class point recording.*

Section 1.B.7.e.

A Halter and/or Performance Judge may also judge Llama or Alpaca *Fleece Classes*, if certified as an *ALSA Fleece Judge*. Otherwise, ...

NOTE:

Part D. Section 1.D.1.c. and Section 1.D.2.c. have been removed and replace by Section 1.D.3.

Section 1.D.3. Fleece Shows

- a. Shows should pay the minimum professional fees listed below. This professional fee is in addition to travel, lodging and other expenses negotiated by show management and the Judge. Each individual Judge is ultimately responsible for negotiating his own contract.
- b. Fleece Judges should be paid the following minimum fees:

Up to 30 entries	\$75
31 – 50 entries	\$150
51 – 100 entries	\$250
over 100 entries	\$300
- c. Judges fee for Optional Fiber Classes should be negotiated between the Judge and Show Management.

NOTE:

Part D. Section 1.J.8. has been removed and replace by Section 3.

Section 3. Fleece Shows**A. Llama Fleece Shows**

Any show offering a minimum of six (6) divisions with a minimum of four (4) fleeces in each class:

1. Fleece Divisions

These fleece divisions may not be combined.

- a. Double Coat
- b. Single Coat
- c. Suri Coat

2. Age Divisions

- a. Juvenile through Yearling – Under 24 months
- b. Two Year-Old through Mature Adult – 24 months and older

These two age divisions may not be combined. ALSA Fleece Shows with llama fleece classes must have at least these two.

Age at date of shearing. On a llama's date of birth, the llama moves up to the next older class. E.g., if an animal is born 5/6/03, and first sheared on 5/5/04, then the first fleece must be shown in the juvenile class. If the second shearing of this animal is on 5/6/05, the second fleece must be shown in the two year-old class. If the number of entries warrant (at least 4 entries per class), Age

Divisions may be further divided up to the following:

- a. Juvenile – 5 to 12 months
- b. Yearling – 12 to 24 months
- c. Two Year-Old – 24 to 36 months
- d. Adult – 36 to 60 months
- e. Mature Adult – 60 months and older

C. Combined Llama and Alpaca Fleece Shows must include the required divisions and classes as described in Part D above.

NOTE:

Part D. Section 2.B.2. the words 'Fleece only' have been stricken.

Part E. Regional Championship Shows

Section 3. Approved Llama and Alpaca Classes

...

M. Youth Alpaca Obstacle, Pack and Public Relations

The following classes are strongly suggested and encouraged, but not required:

A. Shorn Llama Fleece

B. Walking Llama Fleece

Section 6.A. Judges

A. The Judges' Committee will provide a list of eligible Llama, Alpaca, *and Fleece* Judges for the Regional Championship Shows. ...

Part F. Grand National

Section 3.

...

M. Youth Alpaca Obstacle, Pack and Public Relations

N. Shorn Llama Fleece

The following classes are strongly suggested and encouraged, but not required:

A. Walking Llama Fleece

Section 7.

A. The Judges' Committee will provide a list of eligible Llama, Alpaca, *Llama Fleece and Alpaca Fleece* Judges for the Grand National. ...

Part G. ALSA Llama & Alpaca Award System

Section 3.C.7.

7. Fleece 20

Section 4.A.

A. Approved ALSA Champion Awards

1. ALSA Halter Champion
2. ALSA Get of Sire/Produce of Dam Champion
3. ALSA Non-Breeder Halter Champion
4. ALSA Performance Champion
5. ALSA Llama Fleece Champion
6. ALSA Showmanship Champion
7. ALSA Grand Champion
8. ALSA Huacaya Alpaca

9. ALSA Suri Alpaca
10. ALSA Performance Champion
11. ALSA Alpaca Get of Sire / Produce of Dam Champion

NOTE:

Part G. Section 4.B.7. has been removed and replaced by **Section 4.D.** The following sections following have been renumbered consecutively (4.B.8 is now 4.B.7, 4.B.9 is now 4.B.8, etc.).

Section 4.D.*D. Requirements**Llama Fleece*

1. *Placements before at least three different ALSA Llama Fleece Judges in ALSA sanctioned shows with a minimum of 8 in the division to qualify for Llama Fleece Champion status.*
2. *There is no time limit for earning this award.*
3. *To qualify for the title of Llama Fleece Champion, the llama must win four Grand Championships or three Grand Championships and two Reserve Grand Championships within one overall coat division (Double, Single or Suri).*

Section 8.B.

B. Awards: *It is recommended, but not required, that the top five places should be awarded ribbons. Show Management may award more ribbons than the recommended number. Awarding of champion ribbons (Grand and Reserve Grand), trophies, money, etc., is optional.*

Part H. Llama Show Classes**Section 3.A. Approved Llama Fleece Classes****A. List of Fleece Classes***1. Shorn Fleece.*

a. Coat Divisions. These may not be combined.

1. *Double Coat*
2. *Single Coat*
3. *Suri Coat*

b. Age Divisions. ALSA Fleece Shows with llama fleece classes must have at least these two Age Divisions. These two age divisions may not be combined.

1. *Juvenile through Yearling – Under 24 months*
2. *Two Year-Old through Mature Adult – 24 months and older*
If the number of entries warrant (at least 4 entries per class), Age Divisions may be further divided up to the following:
 1. *Juvenile – 5 to 12 months*
 2. *Yearling – 12 to 24 months*
 3. *Two Year-Old – 24 to 36 months*
 4. *Adult – 36 to 60 months*
 5. *Mature Adult – 60 months and older*

2. *Walking Fleece.*
Same as for *Shorn Fleece* above.
3. Optional Classes
 - a. Hand Spinner's Choice
 - b. Garment and Finished Product
 - c. Llama to Luxury

Part O. Fleece

Definition: Age at date of shearing: On an animal's date of birth, the animal moves up to the next older class. E.g., if an animal is born 5/6/03, and first sheared on 5/5/04, then the first fleece must be shown in the juvenile class. If the second shearing of this animal is on 5/6/05, the second fleece must be shown in the two year-old class. This applies to *Shorn Llama Fleece*, *Walking Llama Fleece*, and *Shorn Alpaca Fleece* classes.

Section 1. Llama Fleece

Llama Fleece Shows may offer *Shorn Fleece* classes, *Walking Fleece* classes, and/or Optional Fiber classes. Required paperwork for these classes can be found on the ALSA website, under Fleece Show Packet.

A. Shorn Llama Fleece Class

1. Fleece Divisions – *these may not be combined*
 - a. Double Coat - 2 discernible fiber types and textures
 - b. Single Coat - indiscernible fiber types and textures
 - c. Suri Coat - no crimp, distinct locks, cool, slick handle
2. Age Divisions for Llama at date of shearing
 - a. Under 24 months
 - b. 24 months and older

Show Management may use the following age divisions at their discretion, if theres a sufficient number of entries (at least 4 entries per class):

 - a. Juvenile – 5 to 12 months
 - b. Yearling – 12 to 24 months
 - c. Two Year-Old – 24 to 36 months
 - d. Adult – 36 to 60 months
 - e. Mature Adult – 60 months and older
3. Rules
 - a. Each fleece entry shall be accompanied by the following:
 - (1) Copy of Registration Certificate - place in bag with fleece
 - (2) Completed Entry Tag provided by the show with the following information:
 - i. Age division
 - ii. Fleece division
 - iii. Birth date of llama
 - iv. Gender
 - v. Date of shearing (Mo/Yr)
 - vi. Date of previous shearing (Mo/Yr)
 - vii. Growth time (Months)

viii. Llama's ALSA number

ix. Owner Identification

b. Fleeces shall:

- (1) Be sheared, not brushed from the animal.
- (2) *Be a minimum of the full barrel and a maximum of a full prime fleece.*
- (3) Be sheared within *two (2)* years of the date of the show
- (4) Have lock structure intact.
- (5) Be skirted and handpicked.
- (6) Be submitted in clear unmarked plastic bags.
- (7) Be displayed in clear plastic bags. *The bags may also be displayed in appropriate size white boxes.*
- (8) Be judged by exhibitor number only.

c. Fleeces may not:

- (1) Have guard hairs removed.
- (2) Be washed after shearing.
- (3) Have crème rinse or other chemicals applied prior to or after shearing.

d. Staple Length

- (1) *Juvenile and Yearling Llamas – under 24 months*
 - i. Minimum of 3 inch undercoat
 - ii. No maximum length *limit*
- (2) *Two Year-Old, Adult and Mature Adult Llamas – 24 months and older*
 - i. Minimum of 3 inch undercoat
 - ii. Maximum staple length of 8 inches, including guard hair

e. It is the responsibility of the owner to apply the fleece division descriptions in Section I.A.1. However, the fleece judge will also determine if the fleeces have been entered in the appropriate division and, if not, move them to the appropriate division.

f. Disqualifications: The Judge has the right to disqualify any fleece. *A fleece that could be disqualified for the reasons below may not place over a fleece that does comply with all the criteria. The reason for disqualification must be recorded on the score card.* Reasons for disqualification include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Insect or parasite infestation
- (2) *Weak tensile strength*
- (3) Staple length too long or too short
- (4) Excessive vegetation
- (5) Not following entry rules

g. Additional division of classes: At the Judge's discretion, classes may be further divided in the following prioritized order:

- (1) Age of the llama at shearing
- (2) Color
- (3) Gender

When dividing a class, the number of entries in each new class must equal or exceed 4 fleeces.

h. *Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion points will be given in*

each fleece division, Double, Single, and Suri. The champions will be decided by the highest points scored on the fleece score card. In case of a tie, the judge will determine which criteria to use to break the tie.

- i. Shows should allow a minimum of one hour of judging per 15 fleeces and one hour of setup per 20 fleeces entered in the show.*
4. Fleece Judging Criteria: 100 points possible. The following are the judging criteria used and recorded on the ALSA *Shorn Llama Fleece Score Card*:
 - a. Cleanliness/Preparation: total of 20 points
 - (1) Cleanliness: 10 points
 - (2) Preparation: 10 points
 - b. Fineness and Hand: 20 points
 - c. Guard Hair - Fineness and percentage of: 10 points
 - d. Style/Architecture - crimp and lock structure: 15 points
 - e. Luster: 10 points
 - f. Overall Impression/Uniformity: 10 points
 - g. Tensile Strength and Condition: 15 points
5. Optional Awards: The Judge may give optional awards such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Best Hand
 - b. Best Lock Structure
 - c. Best Uniformity
 - d. Best Luster

B. Walking Llama Fleece Class

This class provides an opportunity for llama owners to learn about fleece characteristics and management while receiving a professional evaluation. It is recommended the judging take place prior to halter classes in an attempt to limit the use of grooming aids.

1. The judge is required to be a certified ALSA Llama Fleece Judge.
2. Use the same age and fleece divisions as for *Shorn Llama Fleece Classes*.
3. Exhibitors bring their llamas to the judge during a designated time period.
4. The judge evaluates each llama's fleece and discusses it with the owner while filling out a *Walking Llama Fleece Class Score Card*.
5. Fleece Judging Criteria: 100 points possible. The following are the judging criteria used and recorded on the ALSA *Walking Fleece Score Card*:
 - a. Cleanliness: 10 points
 - b. Fineness and Hand: 20 points
 - c. Guard Hair - Fineness and percentage of: 10 points
 - d. Style/Architecture - crimp and lock structure: 15 points
 - e. Luster: 10 points
 - f. Overall Impression: 10 points
 - g. Tensile Strength and Condition: 15 points
 - h. Density: 10 points
6. After judging is complete, *all handlers and llamas are presented in the arena. Results are announced and awards (optional) presented at this time. If the number of animals per class warrants, Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion points will be awarded.*

Section 3. Optional Fiber Classes

These classes are intended to promote the use of llama and alpaca fiber by presenting educational displays of yarns and finished products made by the exhibitor. *More information and suggested forms are available on the ALSA web site under Fleece Show Packet.*

A. Rules

1. Judges for Optional Classes should be experienced fiber artists and can be, but are not required to be, ALSA Fleece Judges.
2. Rules may be adapted to the individual show and Judge
3. No ALSA points are awarded for Optional Classes

B. Classes

1. Hand Spinner's Choice

- a. Submit a sample of 2 ounces prime fiber from blanket area
- b. Fiber may be sheared or brushed
- c. Remove guard hair and debris
- d. Fiber must be from a llama *or alpaca* owned by the person entering the sample
- e. To be judged on the ALSA Llama Fleece Criteria in Section A.4. (above) and spinning properties
- f. Samples should be identified by *exhibitor* number only and sent to the Judge 4 to 6 weeks before the date of the show.
- g. Suggested classes - sheared or brushed, divided by age (under 24 months; 24 months and older).

2. Garment or Finished Product

- a. Item must be made of at least 60% llama or alpaca. The remaining 40% may be any other natural *or man-made* fiber produced in the USA.
- b. Item must be made by the exhibitor
- c. Items made with commercial yarns may be judged separately from items made with handspun yarns; hand knit items may be judged separately from machine knit items.
- d. Suggested classes:
 - (1) Handspun yarns: woven items, knitted/crocheted items, felted items
 - (2) Commercial yarns: woven items, knitted/crocheted items, felted items
 - (3) Machine knit items: handspun yarn, commercial yarn

3. Llama to Luxury

- a. A timed event in which llama *and/or alpaca* fiber is spun and woven into a shawl of 76" - 78" x 20" - 22" in 4 hours. Measurements do not include fringe.
- b. Team consists of up to 6 members.
- c. Only manually powered equipment may be used.

Part S: Section 1.D.

D. Llama Fleece. Judges are certified to judge any ALSA sanctioned llama fleece *classes*.

Part S: Section 2.E.

E. Llama Fleece

1. Must meet the requirements listed for all Apprentice Judges, as listed in Section 2.A.
2. Must attend and successfully complete an ALSA approved Beginning *Llama Fleece Judging Clinic before beginning apprenticeship.*
3. Must satisfactorily apprentice at a minimum of *three (3) ALSA approved Llama Fleece Shows. This will be done under the supervision of an ALSA certified Llama Fleece Judge. It is recommended that there be a different supervising judge at each show so that the apprentice has the opportunity to learn under several ALSA Llama Fleece Judges. An "ALSA Apprentice Judging Evaluation Report" must be completed.*
4. Must complete a minimum of 40 *shorn llama* fleece evaluations. This will be done under the supervision of an ALSA certified Llama Fleece Judge *either at an approved ALSA Llama Fleece Show(s) or non-competitive situation. Must include Double, Single and Suri Coat types. An "ALSA Apprentice Judging Evaluation Report" must be completed.*
5. Must complete a minimum of 10 *Walking Llama Fleece evaluations at an approved ALSA Fleece Show with the exhibitors present and under the supervision of an ALSA Fleece Judge. Must include Double, Single and Suri Coat types. An "ALSA Apprentice Judging Evaluation Report" must be completed.*
6. Must attend *three (3) fleece shows and complete a written report of your observations. One of these may be an ALSA llama fleece show, but it is suggested that one be an AOBA alpaca fleece show, and one be a fleece show of another type of animal or a combined fiber animal species show.*
7. Must attend an ALSA approved Advanced Fleece Judging Clinic and pass the practical test (fleece judging) with a score of at least 90%.
8. *After completing the above requirements, an Apprentice may apply to the Judges' Committee for a recommendation of approval as a Llama Fleece Judge.*
9. *Must be approved as a Llama Fleece Judge by the ALSA Board of Directors.*
10. *All Judges' licenses will be reviewed annually by the Judges' Committee and recommendations will be made as described in Part S, Section 3.*
11. *All ALSA Fleece Judges, having completed the above requirements, may judge ALSA llama fleece classes.*

Section 5.E.

E. Each Judges' Clinic will be taught according to guidelines as approved and developed by the Judges' Committee, *except Llama Fleece Judges' Clinics. Llama Fleece Judges' Clinic materials will be taught according to guidelines approved by the Judges' Committee and developed by the Llama Fiber Committee. Advanced Llama Fleece Judging Clinic participants will be given a numerical score based on the practical exam. All other Participants at an Advanced Judging Clinic will be given a numerical score on the following clinic activities:*

...

