

## SHOWING ALPACAS

The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) created a show system to positively influence the growth and development of the North American alpaca industry. Showing alpacas under the AOBA Show System offers the following benefits:

- Influences the production of world class alpaca livestock
- Enhances the growth of the alpaca fiber industry
- Promotes a positive public awareness of the unique characteristics of alpacas
- Creates the opportunity to improve the alpaca breed
- Enhances the marketability of alpacas
- Promotes the health and well-being of alpacas
- Increases the educational knowledge base of alpaca owners

## Alpaca Judging

The current alpaca show system includes **halter**, **fleece** and **performance** shows. Halter shows are judged on a comparative basis (compared to each other) while fleece and performance shows are judged on an absolute point system (not compared but evaluated based on identified criteria).

### HALTER SHOWS

(Comparative Basis)

The judge will identify the **closest IDEAL alpaca** in the class and then place the remaining alpacas according to their merit relative to the winner.

You will see one of two current judging formats:

- 50% fleece and 50% conformation
- 60% fleece and 40% conformation

**Breed Type** is important here, where the focus is on the following EXTERNAL characteristics:

1. **Conformation**
  - Overall Structure, Proportion, Alignment
  - Soundness, Balance, Function
2. **Color**
  - Based on Alpaca Registry (ARI) Colors
3. **Fleece**
  - Based on specific Fleece Traits



**IDEALLY: Successful show results increase the Economic Productivity of your alpacas!**

### FLEECE SHOWS

(Absolute Point System)

The judge will place the fleece based on a **point system** and will incorporate current objectives of the textile market for alpaca fiber to decide the winners.

In theory, the same fleece entry should receive similar scores from show to show (without comparison to other entries).

**Fleece Quality** is important here, where the focus is on the following six categories:

1. **Fineness & Handle (character)**
2. **Uniformity**
3. **Style**
4. **Luster/Brightness**
5. **Lack of Guard Hair & Impurities**
6. **Fleece Weight (Density)**



**Alpacas are a FIBER animal! Their most unique qualities are COLOR and FLEECE!**

Sources: 2012 AOBA System Handbook and Jude Anderson, Cheryl Gehly, Michael Safley, Amanda VandenBosch; *The Art & Science of Alpaca Judging*, 2012