

2020 CABA Classic COVID-19 update

Dear members and exhibitors of CABA, AAWW, PNAA and the CABA Classic show.

First and foremost, I would like to express to you that the CABA board is taking the COVID-19 issue seriously and appreciate those of you that are as well. The CABA board and Classic Crew have been meeting and communicating regularly over the past 30 days regarding the upcoming show and auction scheduled for May 9/10 at the Portland Expo. While the CABA Classic is still over 6 weeks away I want to assure you that we have been discussing this issue almost every day by either email, text messenger or telephone.

Here is where we stand today:

1. CABA Fleece Show – If you are not aware, CABA *is not* having a fleece show this year. We had decided earlier in the year not to have a fleece show this year. PNAA is having a fleece show the week following the CABA Classic this year in May. You can find out more information [on their website](#).
2. CABA Classic Auction - The board, auction crew and auction services provider Celebrity Sales all agreed earlier this week that before we invest a lot of money to produce, print/mail an auction catalog and with the knowledge that the Futurity show has been cancelled that we were in 100% agreement to postpone the CABA Classic Auction for this spring until further notice. Putting a hold on producing the catalog saved CABA approximately \$8,000 from an expense that we would not be able to recoup our expense if the show and auction are cancelled. We apologize to all our consignors and hope that when we reschedule our auction you will consign with us again.
3. 2020 CABA Classic Show – The show has not been cancelled at this time. The board unanimously agreed to wait until the Governor of Oregon and Multnomah County (Portland) make another determination regarding social distancing and quarantine. You may say “Don’t you know it is inevitable that the show will be cancelled” or “Don’t you care about the health of your alpaca family”. I want to tell you we have discussed this at great length and this is our current position. We are all conscious of the current unprecedented situation and thinking of our family and yours and I want to guarantee you that family is first.
4. Why not just cancel the show now – The Portland Expo is a very expensive venue, one of the most expensive in the country for an alpaca show. We have put down a large non-refundable deposit for the venue which was required back in January. The Portland Expo is operated by the Port of Portland and the City of Portland. We have contacted the venue and they are only cancelling events per the State and County recommendation which was to limit events to less than 25 for the next 4 weeks effective March 17. The board would like to wait till the mandate date changes to include May 9/10 so that we can ask for a full refund of the deposit. If we volunteer to cancel now, our two options are either postpone for a future date or forfeit our deposit. We would like to have a third option which is to cancel with a full refund.

5. What if the quarantine is lifted and we can have the show – We have a skeleton of a show in place and we have a plan. There are contracts in place that can be enacted. We do have contracts with judges Ken Hibbits and Artero Pena. We have contacted both and neither have book flights to Portland as of March 16. We asked that to suspend their contracts at this time until further notice. Both judges were completely in agreement. If the show moves forward, we will contact the judges and make all arrangements to get them to Portland. Our super Show Superintendent Judy Schroeder has been and is scheduled to be the show superintendent for several shows around the country and has suspended her contracts with shows. She did have a plane ticket purchased for our show in May and has been able to cancel with the airlines and hold as a credit. She will be able to use those credits for future shows this fall and will refund our payment when the credit is used.

Our 2nd Annual Auction was an integral part of the 2020 show budget. Not having the auction will have a negative impact on the affiliate show budget especially with the cost of the venue. We want to keep the show stall, entry and sponsorship fee as they are published but we know we cannot do this without having a loss now that we will not have the auction income. The board agreed to add walking fleece to the Classic show to augment the show now that the auction is cancelled.

Ribbons/Banners – We have not ordered the ribbons and banners yet. Our local ribbon source here in the Portland area that we have worked with for 12 years closed its door the first of the year. We have an order ready to send to a new vendor. We discussed sending the order and having ribbons produced without year tabs which we can use for a future show. However, when discussing the walking fleece show option in the recent board call and we aren't sure this will take place, a recommendation by one of our board members and knowing how walking fleece ribbons are distributed was to go ahead and order the banners for the walking fleece show and to order the walking fleece ribbons post show when the exact requirement is known. We will provide all exhibitors with a form either online or in paper form that they can fill out post show identifying that class and ribbons that they would like to receive. We will order on demand, reducing excess expense and we will distribute to the winners post show. We will order all banners pre-show without the year for both the halter and walking fleece show so that judges can present the champions with their respective banners.

6. AlpacaPalooza – The CABA board reached out to the AAWW president for a possible dual show in May 2020. With the uncertainty if the CABA show will actually happen or not the AAWW board discussed the dual show and replied “that there are just too many unknowns ahead to have a show this year. So we respectfully decline your generous offer of a dual show in May”. We appreciate their discussion on this matter.
7. What about postponing for a fall show – Again, the board and auction crew have been discussing a fall alternative for several weeks now. We have contacted local and state venues for possible dates including the new Washington County Event Center. The Portland Expo did reply to us that they want to wait till April to discuss postponing. They are busy with their current cancellations and postponements. We have also reached out the AAWW President regarding including AAWW in this discussion of a fall 2020 dual show in the NW. This has been tabled till more is determined what will happen in May and beyond. We will keep you posted on a fall show.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

As we are in an unprecedented time, never before experienced in our lifetime, it is in our hearts and minds that families and financial resources are being impacted greater than ever before and we are all in this fight. If we are able to have our show in May and it is safe, we will need the support of all alpaca breeders and enthusiasts and even friends and family as both exhibitors and volunteers. If something miraculous happens and there is no expanded quarantine and if the show is to continue as planned, we cannot do this without you. If the venue is still allowing shows, we will not open the event to the public. We are notifying vendors who have already signed up for the 2020 Classic and are giving them refunds at this time. We will reach out to Quality Llama to see if they are interested in participating with the knowledge that there will be not public to support breeders or at an option allow breeders to order online and to make a run up to Portland with the orders for the farms in attendance.

Also, there are moving parts for staff, judges, workers, shearers, etc. and if we cannot secure these key positions, we will not be able to have the show. For instance, we may not be able to offer shearing. So alternate options may need to be made to have your animals shorn post show. We have thoughts and recommendations that we will provide when we get to that point.

Lastly, if we do not have exhibitors and entries, we cannot have a show. We cannot pull in all the people that provide for the show, make the financial commitments with contracts and the facility only to have a hand full of exhibitors. Right now, CABA is ahead in this fight having not put all their eggs into a May 2020 show yet as other affiliates are having to deal with. If we sense that we are not going to have enough support from exhibitors at the levels at or more than in previous years then we will have no choice but to cancel the show rather than risk unrecoverable financial losses for the affiliate.

I hope this letter answers most of your questions. I personally, along with members of the CABA board, have been working on this since the first of March and need to take some time to focus on my family and financial wellbeing.

The board is putting this out to you so that we can have a few weeks break from all the questions for which we do not have a clear answer to at this time. You all know what we know. We will post updates on the website www.cabaclassic.com and on our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/CABA.Alpacas/>. Here is the link to the venue page <https://www.expocenter.org/about-expo/news-and-updates/portland-expo-center-2020-coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked>. Please take care of yourselves and pray for one another.

CABA Board

Steve Johnson – President

Eric Stoneberg – Vice President

Eldonna Graber – Secretary

Andy Rogers – Treasurer

Classic Auction Team

Richard Cruanas and Tim Graber