

B.A.S.



ALPACA FLEECE



JUDGING MANUAL

2011

Author Cameron Holt

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Fleece judging must be carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations contained within the B.A.S. show rules manual.

DISQUALIFYING TRAITS FOR FLEECE

1. Any fleece with **parasitic or insect infestation.**
2. **Length –**

Huacaya

Minimum length 50 mm (2 inches)

Maximum length 150 mm (6 inches)

Fleece below the minimum and above the maximum shall be disqualified.

In the case of juvenile 6 – 12 months there is no maximum length for disqualification.

Suri

Minimum length 75 mm (3 inches)

Maximum length 450 mm (18 inches)

Fleece below the minimum and above the maximum shall be disqualified.

In the case of juvenile 6 – 12 months there is no maximum length for disqualification.

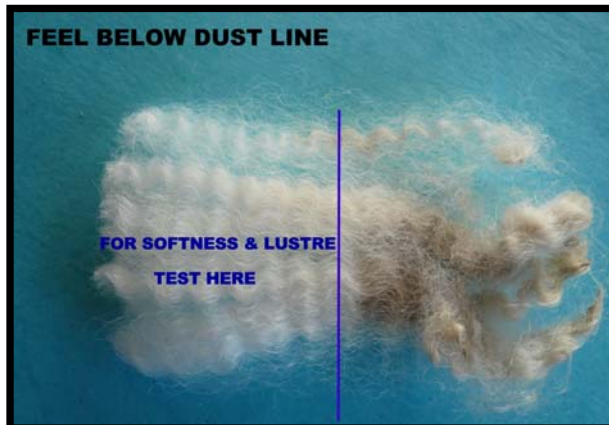
PLEASE REFER TO THESE RULES FOR FLEECE CLASSES AND AWARDS

NOTE

THE FLEECE JUDGING MANUAL IS STRUCTURED FOR HUACAYA AND SURI AS INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTS FOR EASE OF USE

INSPECT FOR SOFTNESS & LUSTRE BELOW DUST LINE

OPEN SHORN END AND SPREAD TO ASSESS WHEN DUSTY OR TIGHT

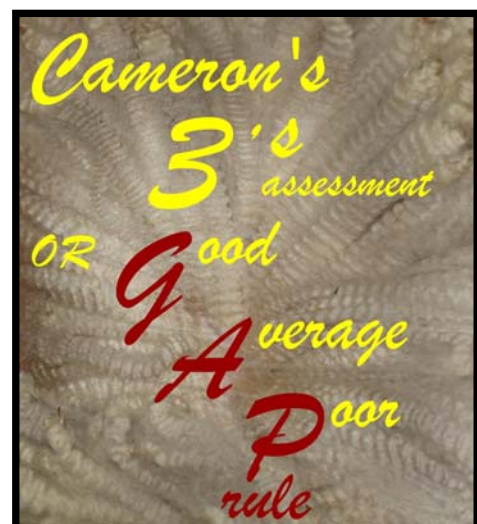


It is now time to look at the various characteristics that we assess whilst judging.

CAMERONS "GAP" RULE

A rule of thumb for any assessment is to think of what you think the average of the characteristic would be like. Think half points. In other words divide the point allocation into 3 (GAP RULE).

Good will receive points in the top third of points and the poor will receive points in the bottom third of points. With practice you will become more absolute in your judging. Be careful giving full points, be very sure it is the best possible, as there may be one better for that characteristic later in the show.



HUACAYA

ASSESSMENT

ALPACA FLEECE JUDGING

SHOW _____

ENTRY NO _____

EXHIBITERS NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HUACAYA (2011)	MAX	POINTS
FINENESS and HANDLE	20	
UNIFORMITY OF : micron	10	
length	10	
colour	5	
CHARACTER: (definition of crimp)	10	
STAPLE TYPE / DENSITY	5	
BRIGHTNESS	10	
LACK OF GUARD HAIR	10	
LACK OF IMPURITIES	5	
CLEAN FLEECE WEIGHT	15	
TOTAL	100	

ALPACA HUACAYA FLEECE JUDGING

In developing this judging schedule, fleece quantity and quality have been given equal status. It is important that fleeces which are either "very pretty and no weight" or "very heavy and no style" do not gain advantage because of their style or weight alone, but have a good combination of both.

AIMS

The aims of Alpaca Fleece Judging are to provide a competition, which recognises those characteristics of Alpaca which are desired by manufacturers / processors, producers and enlightens those persons interested in the Alpaca industry.

The purpose of these explanatory notes is to enable all judges of Alpaca to approach the assessment task using the same common information and standards. This should enable uniformity of judging.

FLEECE PREPARATION

The fleeces entered in shows should be the skirted portion. They should be skirted of all short, stained and any extremely coarse fibre. Heavy vegetable matter should also be removed. Those poorly prepared fleeces will receive penalties throughout the fleece judging.

The classes should be as follows:

GROUP 1	JUNIOR	6 Months to 12months
2	INTERMEDIATE	>12 months to 24 months
3	ADULT	>24 to 48 months
4	SENIOR	>48to 72months
5	MATURE	Above 72 months

FINENESS (Micron)

15 points

This reflects the degrees of actual fineness of the fibre displayed and therefore this assessment must encompass the entire fleece when judging.



Using the estimated/tested micron, points are awarded (Refer Chart) for the fineness of the fibre, taking into account the age of the animal from which the fleece has been shorn.

You should open the staple into a spider web like appearance. Then look at the individual fibres for thickness. What you are doing is estimating micron. This is quite hard to do at the beginning but after practice you will find it quite achievable.

You may consider dark backgrounds for assessing light coloured fibre and white backgrounds for dark coloured fibre.

When assessing fineness and handle consideration should be given to the various levels of softness, as well as taking into consideration the age of the animal or class in which the fleece is entered.

HUACAYA MICRONS

POINTS	JUNIOR 6 - 12 months	INTER >12 - 24 months	ADULT >24 – 48 months	SENIOR 48 - 72 months	MATURE 72 > months
	HUA	HUA	HUA	HUA	HUA
15	16	18	20	21	22
14	17	19	21	22	23
13	18	20	22	23	24
12	19	21	23	24	25
11	20	22	24	25	26
10	21	23	25	26	27
9	22	24	26	27	28
8	23	25	27	28	29
7	24	26	28	29	30
6	25	27	29	30	31
5	26	28	30	31	32
4	27	29	31	32	33
3	28	30	32	33	34
2	29	31	33	34	35
1	30>	32>	34>	35>	36>

(HOLT Jan 2011 BAS)

HANDLE (Softness)**5 points**

This assessment reflects the relative degree of softness displayed by individual fleeces taking into consideration the age of the animal and micron of the fleece. Handle is influenced by micron, evenness of micron in the staple through out the fleece (C of V).

When comparing alpaca handle to merino sheep's' handle, the lower scale protrusion of the Alpaca, gives an illusion of being 2/3 microns finer.

NOTE: Appraisal of handle is directly related to the specific micron being assessed.

Very soft	5 points
Soft	4 /3
Normal	2.5
Hard	2
Harsh	0/1

NOTE: HANDLE score is added to MICRON score for combined total of 20 points.

UNIFORMITY OF MICRON**10 points**

This relates to the evenness of fineness/softness throughout the entire fleece

The judge will examine the fleece for variance of micron and softness throughout the entire fleece, deducting points for levels of variation.

A very even fleece would score around 10/9 points whereas one with excessive variation in particular coarse britch ends would score approximately 1/2 points.

**Points**

- 10/9 Very even:** Very uniform for micron through entire fleece, even to the extremities.
- 8/7 Even:** Slightly uneven through fleece, or at edges.
- 6/5 Some Irregularity:** Slightly uneven through fleece and slightly uneven at edges.
- 4/3 Irregular:** Variable across the fleece. Some obvious coarse fibre evident
- 2/1 Very Irregular :** Variable across the fleece. Coarse fibre present.
- 0 Unskirted:** Unskirted, Very uneven for micron, course and hairy present

UNIFORMITY OF LENGTH**10 points**

Uniformity of length throughout the entire fleece taking into consideration commercial lengths for processing and using a 12 month growing period as a yardstick.

NOTE:

Judge for uniformity of length first, to reward for even skirting and then penalize for short fibre (includes pieces), shorter neck fibre and 2nd cuts.

Then reduce the uniformity score by the appropriate penalty for other faults as listed.

Expected Huacaya minimum lengths for various microns over a 12 months growth period, according to the judging schedule are -

<20 microns	75mm (3")
21/25 "	75 (3")
26/30 "	85 (3.5")
30>	95 (3.75")
 OVERLONG	 150mm (6") <u>(see rules on disqualification)</u>

Over long for commercial production and short fleeces if excessively short for their growth period, may have points deducted (judge's discretion). If the fleece is very even for length it receives around 10/9 points. Some variation in the length, around 8/5 points out of 10, **but where large amounts of neck wool have been left in, it may only receive 0/2 points.** With other variations such as second cuts, could place the points at 2/5 points, subject to severity of the length variation.



Very tender fleeces that break with great ease should have 5 points deducted here from you estimated length score, (as well as a "0" score in the impurities category).

**(TOP very poor preparation with second cuts and neck fibre --
-----BOTTOM Quite even for length)**

With the other deductions it is possible to have a zero score for length appraisal.

UNIFORMITY OF COLOUR

5 points

The evenness and regularity of colour throughout the entire fleece.

Take into consideration the attributes of light fawns and greys when judging this area. Those that have prepared their fleeces will receive for evenness around 5points; those who have not are marked downwards to around 2/1 points.

Good Uniformity	5/4 points
Some Irregularity	3/2
Very Irregular	1/0

EXAMPLE

Where a fleece is relatively even throughout for colour, but the shading varies slightly from light to medium or medium to dark, a 1 point penalty might be given. If the fleece varies over those three categories an approximate 2.5 point penalty should be given.

Grey, rose grey fleece are accepted colours in their own right. If there are spots of the same “non – grey” colour, say 1, or 2 small spots they would incur a 1 point penalty with 3 spots a possible 2 point penalty. If there are spots of other “non – grey” colours then a total, 2 / 0 score should be given. This approach is taken as the breeder could have removed these spots in their preparation.

Fading fawns;

Small difference, total 4 points given through to 2 for large differences.

White fleeces with the odd black or brown fibre throughout the staple will be penalised. This also applies for black and brown with white contamination. This does not apply to grey or rose grey fleeces.

ODD SCATTERED COLOURED FIBRES. Where few staples have odd foreign different coloured fibres within the staple a maximum of 2 / 2.5 points should be allocated. Where a large number of staples have this foreign different coloured fibre within the staple, then a zero score should be given for this category. Note – grey or rose grey fleeces are not included in this assessment.

CHARACTER (definition of crimp) 10 points

Character is the term used to express the regularity/evenness of the crimp throughout the staple and entire fleece. The character is an indicator of how well the fibres are aligned in the staple (definition of character).



<u>10/9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7/6</u>	<u>5/4</u>	<u>3/1</u>	<u>0</u>
excel-sup	good	g/ave	average	poor	inferior

FLEECE JUDGES RATING FOR CRIMP

Points

10 Elite/Superior Character: Showing very high crimp definition with highly aligned fibres exhibiting very deep and regular crimp amplitude. The individual staples will show regularity of crimp not only through the staple but also through the entire fleece. The individual staples are pencil like and are often comprised of smaller tightly organized groups of micro staples or bundles that are evident from the skin to the tip. This style of fleece will always exhibit extreme solidity of staple.

9 Excellent: is a deep crimp (amplitude) in relation to crimp frequency (crimps per inch), with a very well defined and regular crimp formation throughout the staple and entire fleece.

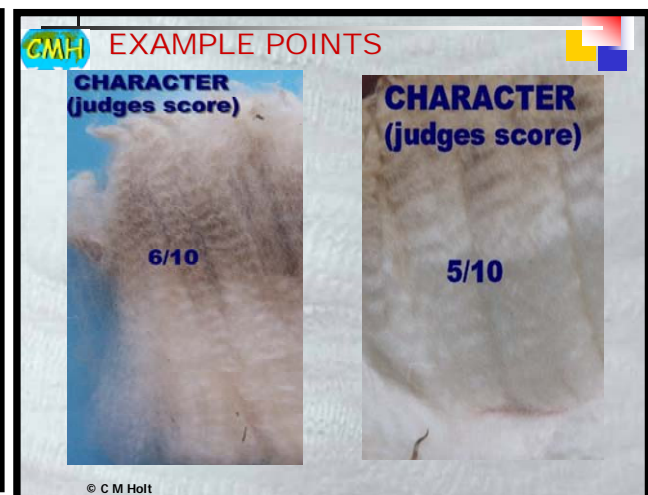
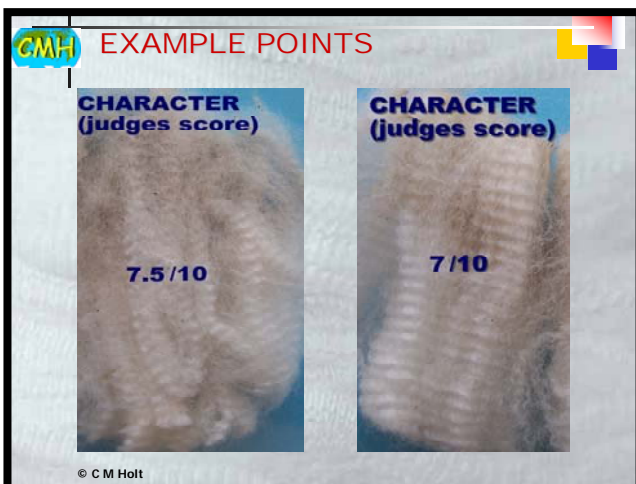
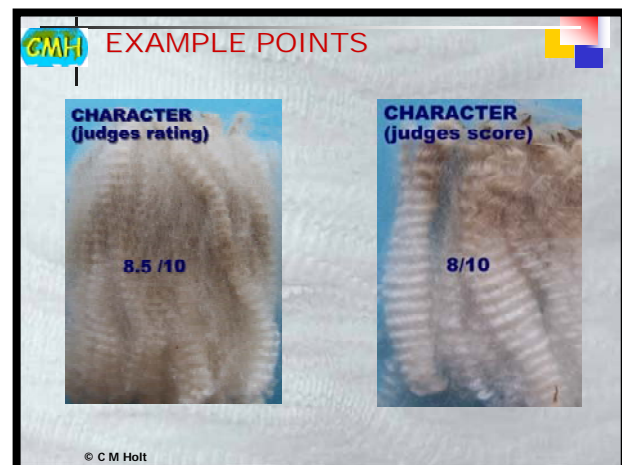
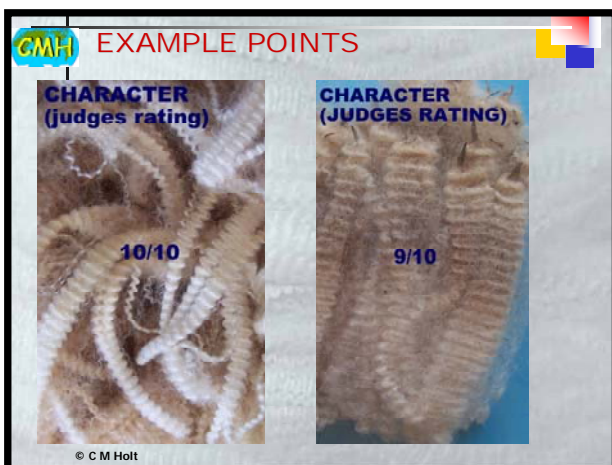
8 Good: usually has a high/good crimp (amplitude) in relation to crimp frequency, with a good/well defined and mostly regular crimp formation in staple and majority of fleece

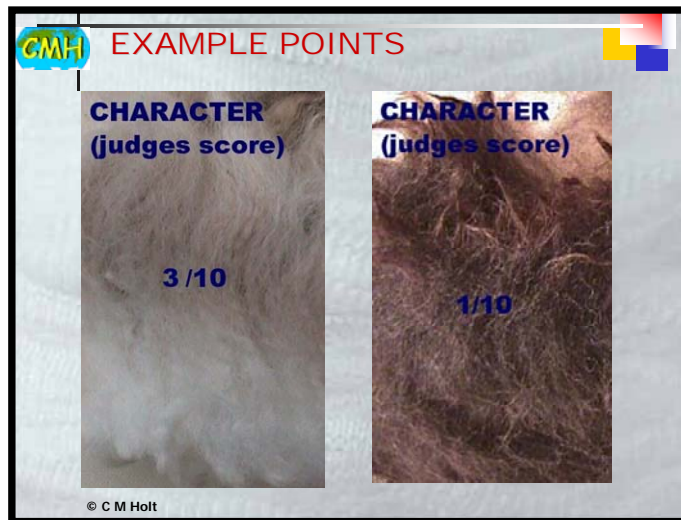
7/6 Good/average: good/average crimp (amplitude) in relation to crimp frequency, with a good/ave defined and reasonably regular crimp formation in staple and majority of fleece

5/4 Average: Has an average crimp depth in relation to crimp frequency, showing some crimp regularity and definition. Not as even over fleece.

3/1 Poor: is a shallow crimp in relation to crimp frequency. Little crimp definition or regulation visible

0 Inferior: Straightish, no crimp structure or regulation visible in staple or across the fleece





STAPLE TYPE / DENSITY

5 Points

This relates to the formation of the staple (lock). The formation will also include density.

POINTS	TYPE (HUA)	DESCRIPTION
5	ELITE/ADVANCED	Bundling /large very dense pen to finger shape/flattish tip Your hands are full when you squeeze the fleece.
4 / 4.5	GOOD/SUPERIOR	Large dense finger / shape / flat tip to some pointedness This type should also show good density.
2/3	AVERAGE	Various thickness/may be-- spiky tip/ spongy. Lacking the thickness of staple
2	AVE-POOR	May be-- thinner/ possible spiky tip, little staple definition. Lacking density of density. Hybrid (suri) type
1	POOR	May be-- thin/very spiky tip (llama) no staple definition. Can be void of density.

Staple type is a good guide to density.

Density is affected by the alignment of the fibres in the skin. Inspect the “staple” type then “grab a handful and squeeze.” If hands close up there is little density within the staple – if you have resistance then the staple is usually dense.

Ease of assessment will come with judging.

BRIGHTNESS

10 points

This relates to the light refraction of the Alpaca fibre taking into account breed type.

In Huacaya a "brightness" or sheen is desirable by the processor again for the finished garment. It is therefore important to be able to identify chalky type fleeces. In Huacaya a brightness or bloom is desired.

We do not want "Suri lustre" in a huacaya fibre.



Points

9/10	High Sheen/brightness-brilliant
7/8	Good Sheen/brightness
4/6	Average, Limited Sheen/brightness
0/3	Dull/Poor/ flat looking, no Sheen or brightness

LACK OF GUARDHAIR

10 points

The fleece should be as free as possible from guard hair fibres. That is the (broad continuous medullated Guard hair).

Guard hairs are stiff and hollow with pointed tips. They reflect light differently to solid fibres. They can be dull or lustrous.

Most alpaca fibre (>18/20 microns) has some medullation in the internal structure of the fibre (Fractional /interrupted /narrow continuous). These are accepted characteristics of Alpaca fibre, and can not be seen by the naked eye. Medullation is not an issue as such in normal alpaca fibre, but Guard hair is not like normal alpaca fibre and therefore is a big processing problem.

Note: Age and class should be considered.

Free or nearly free	9/10 points
Light content	7/8
Medium content	3/6
Heavy content	0/2



LACK OF IMPURITIES (VM / stain / flc damage / soundness)

5 points

Penalties are applied for **EXCESSIVE** vegetable matter, staining within the fleece, excessive tip damage, cottedness and any mud throughout the fleece. Tender (weak) fleeces are also discounted.

NOTE TENDER fleece

Rotten	-5
Pt tender	-3
Stretchy	-1

When fleece is very weak (rotten), an additional penalty is added to the uniformity of length. You should assess the normal evenness and uniformity of length and give a score out of 10 points and then deduct 5 points being half that of the 10 points, because of the variation of length caused by the rotten fleece. There is no need to do that for the other two levels of tenderness.



To assess soundness of the fibre place a pencil like staple between the thumb and first finger of the right hand, and the thumb and first finger of the left hand. Exert a pressure of approximately 7 lbs (3kg) and flick with the middle or ring finger. The staple will either stay in tact (sound), have a slight tearing but stay in tact (stretchy) or will partly break (part tender) or break with great ease (rotten).

COTTED (Matted). Cotted fleeces are those that you cannot pull apart. These fleeces should receive zero points for impurities. If the fleece is partly cotted but can be pulled apart, it is your discretion whether to apply a 2 or 3 point penalty. This depends entirely on the severity of the problem.

VEGETABLE MATTER. All fleeces will contain some vegetable matter. A hand spinner would deduct points for any vegetable matter. As this is not a hand spinning evaluation, but a commercial approach, very light VM throughout the fleece may be accepted.

When an increased amount of vegetable matter is found in the backline



and also possible around the edges of the fleece, penalties can range from a deduction of 1 to 5 points.

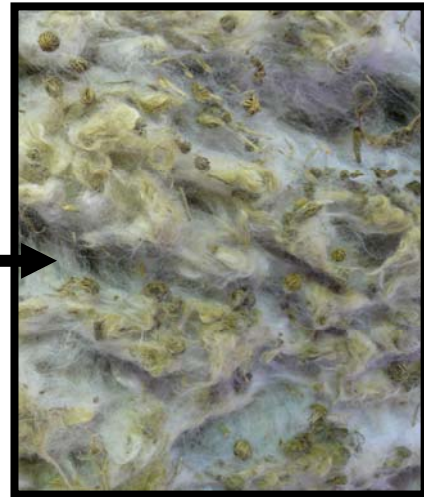
This is an assessment you need to create for yourself.





This is excessive VM in the back and should be removed.

Very heavy vegetable matter (5 % or higher) through out or in part, could mean an extra deduction in the points for weight.



MINERAL MATTER. Where very heavy amounts of dirt or sand are found throughout the fleece deductions should be made similar to your approach to vegetable matter.

Again you may need to deduct from the fleece weight points if the impurity is more than 5 % (this would be very heavy looking dust/sand).

It should be noted that sand weighs quite heavily when compared to normal loam.

CLEAN FLEECE WEIGHT (ANNUALIZED)

15 points

This relates to the percentage of clean fleece (fibre) after removing all extraneous matter (dirt, grease, burrs, seeds etc)

Alpaca is high yielding and I work on around 90% yield and will vary around that figure subject to the condition of the fleece (grease, dirt etc).

The points are awarded for SKIRTED fleece weight.

e.g. Class 1yr and younger. A fleece with 12 months growth weighing approximately 1.60 kgs would receive 10 points, whereas a fleece weighing .0.8 kilo would only receive 2points.

HUACAYA

WEIGHTS

POINTS	JUNIOR 6 - 12 months	INTER >12 - 24 months	ADULT >24 - 48 months	SENIOR 48 - 72 months	MATURE 72> months
	HUA	HUA	HUA	HUA	HUA
15	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.5
14	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.4	2.3
13	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
12	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9
11	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7
10	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6
9	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5
8	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4
7	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3
6	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
5	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
4	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
3	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
2	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8
1	0.7>	0.8>	0.9>	0.8>	0.7>

(HOLT Jan 2011 BAS)

SURI

ASSESSMENT

ALPACA SURI FLEECE JUDGING

In developing this judging schedule, fleece quantity and quality have been given equal status. It is important that fleeces which are either "very pretty and no weight" or "very heavy and no style" do not gain advantage because of their style or weight alone, but have a good combination of both.

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The classes should be as follows:

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2	INTERMEDIATE	>12 months to 24 months
3	ADULT	>24 to 48 months
4	SENIOR	>48to 72months
5	MATURE	Above 72 months

FINENESS (Micron)

15 points

This reflects the degrees of actual fineness of the fibre displayed and therefore this assessment must encompass the entire fleece when judging.

Using the estimated/tested micron, points are awarded (Refer Chart) for the fineness of the fibre, taking into account the age of the animal from which the fleece has been shorn.



You should open the staple into a spider web like appearance. Then look at the individual fibres for thickness. What you are doing is estimating micron. This is quite hard to do at the beginning but after practice you will find it quite achievable.

You may consider dark backgrounds for assessing light coloured fibre and white backgrounds for dark coloured fibre.

When assessing fineness and handle consideration should be given to the various levels of softness / silkiness, as well as taking into consideration the age of the animal or class in which the fleece is entered.

SURI

MICRONS

POINTS	JUNIOR 6 - 12 months	INTER >12 - 24 months	ADULT >24 - 48 months	SENIOR 48 - 72 months	MATURE 72 > months
	SURI	SURI	SURI	SURI	SURI
15	18	20	22	23	24
14	19	21	23	24	25
13	20	22	24	25	26
12	21	23	25	26	27
11	22	24	26	27	28
10	23	25	27	28	29
9	24	26	28	29	30
8	25	27	29	30	31
7	26	28	30	31	32
6	27	29	31	32	33
5	28	30	32	33	34
4	29	31	33	34	35
3	31	32	34	35	36
2	32	33	35	36	37
1	33>	34>	36>	37>	38>

(HOLT Jan 2011 BAS)

HANDLE

5 POINTS

This assessment reflects the relative degree of softness and silkiness displayed by individual fleeces taking into consideration the age of the animal and micron of the fleece.

NOTE: HANDLE score is added to MICRON score for combined total of 20 points.

Unlike huacaya, suri fibre will have a more slippery feel because of its cuticle scale structure being slightly lower and also has longer scales than the huacaya.

Handle is directly related to micron, evenness of micron in the staple through out the fleece (C of V) and feel/silkiness of the fibre. Suri, due to its fibre structure has a similar handle like mohair fibre, for an equivalent micron. As mentioned, suri fibre has a more slippery feel than does Huacaya fibre; hence the "Chili types"(Huasu) have a handle somewhere in between

NOTE: Appraisal of handle is directly related to the specific micron being assessed.

Very soft	5 points
Soft	4
Normal	3
Hard	2
Harsh	0/1

UNIFORMITY OF MICRON

10 points

This relates to the evenness of fineness throughout the entire fleece

The judge will examine the fleece for variance of micron throughout the entire fleece, deducting points for levels of variation.

A very even fleece would score around 10/9 points whereas one with excessive variation in particular coarse britch ends would score approximately 1/2 points.



Points

- 10/9 Very even:** Very uniform for micron through entire fleece, even to the extremities.
- 8/7 Even:** Slightly uneven through fleece, or at edges.
- 6/5 Some Irregularity:** Slightly uneven through fleece and slightly uneven at edges.
- 4/3 Irregular:** Variable across the fleece. Some obvious coarse evident
- 2/1 Very Irregular :** Variable across the fleece. Coarse fibre present.
- 0 Unskirted:** Unskirted, Very uneven for micron, course, hairy,

UNIFORMITY OF LENGTH 10 points

Uniformity of length throughout the entire fleece taking into consideration commercial lengths for processing and using a 12 month growing period as the yardstick.

Expected Suri minimum lengths for various microns over a 12 months growth period, according to the judging schedule are –

<20 microns	80mm	(3.25")
21/25 "	85	(3.5")
26/30 "	100	(4")
30>	110	(4.25")
OVERLONG	175	(8")

(See rules on disqualification)



Over long for commercial production and short fleeces if excessively short for their growth period, may have points deducted (judge's discretion).

If the fleece is very even for length it receives around 10/9 points. Some variation in the length, around 8/5 points out of 10, **but where large amounts of neck wool have been left in, it may only receive 0/2 points.** With other variations such as second cuts, could place the points at 2/5 points, subject to severity of the length variation.

Very tender fleeces that break with great ease should have 5 points deducted here from you estimated length score, (as well as a "0" score in the impurities category).

With other deductions this could result in a zero score for length.

UNIFORMITY OF COLOUR 5 points

The evenness and regularity of colour throughout the entire fleece.

Take into consideration the attributes of light fawns and greys when judging this area. Those that have prepared their fleeces will receive for evenness around 5points; those who have not are marked downwards to around 2/1 points.

Good Uniformity	5/4 points
Some Irregularity	3/2
Very Irregular	1/0

EXAMPLE

Where a fleece is relatively even throughout for colour, but the shading varies slightly from light to medium or medium to dark, a 1 point penalty might be given. If the fleece varies over those three categories an approximate 2.5 point penalty should be given.

Grey, rose grey fleece are accepted colours in their own right. If there are spots of the same “non – grey” colour, say 1, or 2 small spots they would incur a 1 point penalty with 3 spots a possible 2 point penalty. If there are spots of other “non – grey” colours then a total, 2 / 0 score should be given. This approach is taken as the breeder could have removed these spots in their preparation.

Fading fawns;

Small difference, total 4 points given through to 2 for large differences.

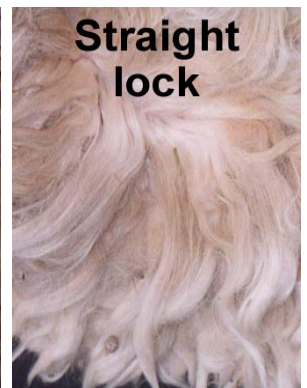
White fleeces with the odd black or brown fibre throughout the staple will be penalised. This also applies for black and brown with white contamination. This does not apply to grey or rose grey fleeces.

ODD SCATTERED COLOURED FIBRES. Where few staples have odd foreign different coloured fibres within the staple a maximum of 2 / 2.5 points should be allocated. Where a large number of staples have this foreign different coloured fibre within the staple, then a zero score should be given for this category. Note – grey or rose grey fleeces are not included in this assessment.

STYLE (lock style / architecture)

10 points

Many variations of suri lock type exist. However, in Britain five types are identified. These range from a tight ringlet, wave and twist ringlet, corkscrew ringlet and large wave with broad lock. These four would be the most common of the five types with the other one being a straight fibred lock.



1. The lock twists into tight ringlets almost to the skin.
2. The lock grows showing a small wave with twist. It also grows in a ringlet formation. The best locks will almost twist and wave to the skin.
3. The lock grows in a corkscrew like curl. It also grows in a ringlet formation. The lock can be small or large.
4. The large wave with the flattish broad lock is a much thicker looking lock than the above three. The thickness does not necessarily mean density.
5. The fibre grows straight showing no signs of ringlet, wave or curl.

Within the above four main types many variations can be seen. These variations can be affected by the trueness to type of the fibre and can be changed, e.g. fanned ringlet, when the fibre becomes excessively over long.

Another type of lock sometimes found when breeding Suris is that with a crimp like wave along the length of the staple. This is a much bolder and wider crimp/wave than found in the Huacaya fibre. This type is not desirable.

ALLOCATION OF POINTS

Ringlet type which starts twisting close to the skin.	10 / 9 Points
Slight wave with twist starting close to the skin.	10 / 9
Corkscrew like curl with twist starting close to the skin.	10 / 9
Large wave, flattish broad lock, showing style from butt to tip.	10 / 9
Either of the above that do not start its style close to the skin. but still exhibit good style	8/7
Either of the above four types, Showing average style	6/3
Straight fibered lock with good lustre	4 / 6
Bold large crimp like wave. (Huasu)	2 / 3
Straight/chalky.	0 / 1

Lock types which are not true to type will be scaled down from the above examples. Use the "GAP RULE" (good, average and poor) as your basis for this assessment.

10/9 POINTS



9/8 POINTS



8 POINTS



7 POINTS



6 POINTS



2/3 POINTS



1/0POINTS



DENSITY

5 points

This relates to the density of the individual staple formation throughout the entire fleece. Density is affected by the alignment of the fibres in the skin. **True suri fibre will feel cold to touch and heavy to lift. Crossbred and open fluffy types will be warm to touch and have less resistance to your squeeze.**



DENSE



AVERAGE



THIN / POOR

POINTS	TYPE (SURI)	DESCRIPTION
5	ELITE/ADVANCED	Cold to feel, highly aligned, usually good style BEST Your hands are full when you squeeze the fleece.
4 / 4.5	GOOD/SUPERIOR	Below above This type should also shows good density.
2/3	AVERAGE	Various thickness/may be-- spongy. Lacking the thickness of staple , not as cold to feel
2	AVE-POOR	May be-- thinner/ little staple style definition. warm to touch Lacking density
1	POOR	May be—thin no staple style, puffy/open, void of density.

Style of lock is a good guide to density.

Density is affected by the alignment of the fibres in the skin. Inspect the lock type then “grab a handful and squeeze.” If hands close up there is little density within the staple – if you have resistance then the staple is usually dense.

LUSTRE

15 points

This relates to the light reflection of the Alpaca fibre.

Good lustre is an important characteristic for Suri fibre. It is one of the main attributes, as this is what is required in a finished garment of Suri or Suri blend yarn. Suri fleece generally is a lot more lustrous than Huacaya fibre. The in between fleece type "Chili" has lustre somewhere between the two main breeds.



A suri fleece with a very high lustre would receive 14/15 points.

Fleeces that show signs of lustre, but do not have that inner brightness would receive a mark in the middle range.

Dull, flat fleeces would receive around 3/1 points.

A good way to assess lustre is to place a staple/lock over your finger.



Points

15/14	High lustre/brilliant, the best
13/11	Good Lustre, less than best
10/9	Good/Average, showing lustre
8/7	Average, showing some lustre
6/4	Average to Poor, limited lustre
3/0	Inferior, Dull/Poor, no lustre, flat, chalky

LACK OF GUARDHAIR**5 points**

The fleece should be as free as possible from those broad continuous GUARD HAIR fibres (very straight, "hair – like" fibres). Guard hairs are stiff and hollow with pointed tips. They reflect light differently to solid fibres. They can be dull or lustrous.

Most alpaca fibre (>18/20 microns) has some medullation in the internal structure of the fibre (Fractional /interrupted /narrow continuous). These are accepted characteristics of Alpaca fibre, and can not be seen by the naked eye. Medullation is not an issue as such in normal alpaca fibre, but Guard hair is not like normal alpaca fibre and therefore is a big processing problem.



As the micron gets broader, e.g. over 30 microns the britch fibre and Apron areas may contain more "guard hair" fibres. Some fleeces do contain these all through the fleece. Llama cross fleeces are a good example of this.

Points are proportional to guard hair fibre present.

Note: Age and class should be considered when looking for guard hairs.

Free or nearly free	5 points
Light content	4
Medium content	4/3
Heavy content	0/2

**LACK OF IMPURITIES
(VM / stain / flc damage / soundness)****5 points**

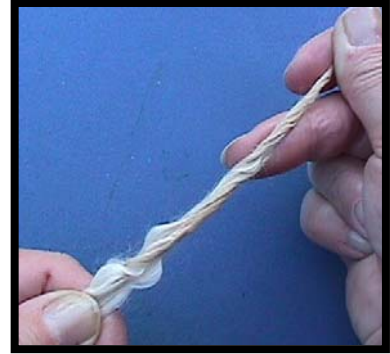
Penalties are applied for EXCESSIVE vegetable matter, staining within the fleece, excessive tip damage, cottedness and any mud throughout the fleece. Tender (weak) fleeces are also discounted.

NOTE TENDER fleece

Rotten	-5
Pt tender	-3
Stretchy	-1

When fleece is very weak (rotten), an additional penalty is added to the uniformity of length. You should assess the normal evenness and uniformity of length and give a score out of 10 points and then deduct 5 points being half that of the 10 points, because of the variation of length caused by the rotten fleece. There is no need to do that for the other two levels of tenderness.

To assess soundness of the fibre place a pencil like staple between the thumb and first finger of the right hand, and the thumb and first finger of the left hand. Exert a pressure of approximately 7 lbs (3kg) and flick with the middle or ring finger. The staple will either stay in tact (sound), have a slight tearing but stay in tact (stretchy) or will partly break (part tender) or break with great ease (rotten).



COTTED (Matted). Cotted fleeces are those that you cannot pull apart. These fleeces should receive zero points for impurities. If the fleece is partly cotted but can be pulled apart, it is your discretion whether to apply a 2 or 3 point penalty. This depends entirely on the severity of the problem.

VEGETABLE MATTER. All fleeces will contain some vegetable matter. A hand spinner would deduct points for any vegetable matter. As this is not a hand spinning evaluation, but a commercial approach, very light VM throughout the fleece may be accepted.

Very heavy vegetable matter (5 % or higher) could mean a deduction in the points for weight.

When an increased amount of vegetable matter is found in the backline and also possible around the edges of the fleece, penalties can range from a deduction of 1 to 5 points. This is an assessment you need to create for yourself.

MINERAL MATTER. Where very heavy amounts of dirt or sand are found throughout the fleece deductions should be made similar to your approach to vegetable matter. **Again you may need to deduct from the fleece weight points if the impurity is more than 5 % (this would be very heavy looking dust/sand).** It should be noted that sand weighs quite heavily when compared to normal loam.

(REFER Huacaya comments)

CLEAN FLEECE WEIGHT (ANNUALIZED)

15 points

This relates to the percentage of clean fleece (fibre) after removing all extraneous matter (dirt, grease, burrs, seeds etc)

Alpaca is high yielding and I work on around 90% yield and will vary around that figure subject to the condition of the fleece (grease, dirt etc). The points are awarded for total fleece weight.

e.g. Class 1yr and younger. A fleece with 12 months growth weighing approximately 1.85 kilo would receive 11 points, whereas a fleece weighing 1.2 kilo would only receive 5 points.

SURI

WEIGHTS

POINTS	JUNIOR 6 - 12 months	INTER >12 - 24 months	ADULT >24 - 48 months	SENIOR 48 - 72 months	MATURE 72> months
	SURI	SURI	SURI	SURI	SURI
15	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5
14	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3
13	2.15	2.25	2.35	2.25	2.15
12	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0
11	1.85	1.95	2.05	1.95	1.85
10	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7
9	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6
8	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5
7	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4
6	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3
5	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.2
4	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
3	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
2	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
1	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.8

(HOLT Jan 2011 BAS)

GENERAL COMMENTS

When fleece has a growth time of over 12 months or under 12 months, the stewards will adjust the weights back to the equivalent of a 12 months growing time (annualised fleece weight).

The object is to make sure ALL fleeces compete on an EQUAL basis.

The total of all the characteristics are tallied and that fleece with the highest score wins. This means that the pretty fleece with great character and very little fleece weight may not win, and the very heavy fleece which has no style, would also struggle to win. It is about a good commercial fleece, which has most of its attributes scoring well that will bring in the Top ribbon.

If a fleece is very dusty or carrying heavy sand, or has very heavy “VM” you are entitled to subtract points from the fleece weight scale of points.

(Refer to the scale on yields in most valuable fleece for further understanding).

e.g.

A 2yr old Huacaya fleece has an annualised weight of 1.70 kgs with 10 points.

If you drop the yield by 5% then deduct 5% off the annualised fleece weight, which is 1.70 kgs minus 5% would equal 1.615 kgs. This is closer to 9 points than 9.5 points when looking on the charts.

Be consistent in your approach.

When allocating points for annualised fleece weight, use half points when required. Eg:

1yr old Suri has 1.80 kgs (AFW).

This is just below 11 points. 10 points is 1.70 kgs Half way is 1.775.

GO TO THE NEAREST WEIGHT FOR POINTS

So score is 10.5 points.

You should check all the ribbon winners and if the next place is within 2 points, cast an eye over the fleeces to confirm your assessment. If it is within 1 or ½ point, be more thorough in your inspection. Don't be afraid to alter your score although you will probably find that your first thoughts are correct. As you gain experience you will become more consistent and less likely to make changes.

When you come to the Championships you certainly need to check the winners against each other. You may have judged some early in the morning and some late in the day. The light may have varied and you may be more tired. If you have to alter a score, **mark it up, not down**. If you mark it down you run the risk of conflicting with other fleeces in the class from whence it came.

DO NOT FORGET “CAMERONS GAP RULE”

SHOW											
CLASS		HUACAYA									
JUDGE											
DATE											
ENTRY NUMBER	Max points										
Fineness & handle	20										
Uniformity of micron	10										
Uniformity of length	10										
Uniformity of colour	5										
Character (crimp)	10										
Staple Type/ Density	5										
Brightness	10										
Lack of Guard Hair	10										
Lack of Impurities	5										
Clean fleece weight	15										
TOTAL	100										
Placement											
Fleece Weight											
Days/Months Fleece Growth											
Annualised Fleece weight											

SHOW											
CLASS		SURI									
JUDGE											
DATE											
ENTRY NUMBER	Max points										
Fineness & handle	20										
Uniformity of micron	10										
Uniformity of length	10										
Uniformity of colour	5										
Style & Character	10										
Density	5										
Lustre	15										
Lack of Guard Hair	5										
Lack of Impurities	5										
Clean fleece weight	15										
TOTAL	100										
Placement											
Fleece Weight											
Days/Months Fleece Growth											
Annualised Fleece weight											