

## GAIA DAKALO

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### **Judging Qualifications (Alpaca)**

*The British Alpaca Society (BAS)*

- Certified Judge – Halter and Fleece 2006  
Level 3 completed: December 2006  
Level 2 completed: October 2005  
Level 1 completed: October 2005

*Gaia is fluent in three languages and can deliver oral reasonings in English, German and Italian.*

### **General Experience**

Gaia Dakalo has started working actively with alpacas in 2004, after her graduation with 110/110 *con lode* from the University of Siena with a degree in English and German Languages and Literatures.

She got involved in her mother's farm which, in addition to alpacas, also includes the breeding of dogs (Golden Retrievers and Australian Shepherds) and Norwegian Forest cats and spent the summer months in England, helping at two alpaca breeders (Langaton Alpacas and Carthvean Alpacas), attending courses, handling at shows and gaining experience.

The following year she handled during most of the UK show season and also spent a few months in the USA, where she attended various CAMELIDynamics courses whilst being hosted by Mulberry Alpacas in Ashland, Oregon.

From 2005 onwards, Gaia Dakalo has continued to gain experience and confidence and has started teaching what she has learned abroad in her home country.

In 2006 she has travelled back to the States and has visited various breeders and increased her knowledge of the North American alpaca market. In the Autumn she has been hosted by the Alpaca Stud for a couple of weeks and has helped with their show team during the first British Alpaca Futurity.

Gaia Dakalo is planning to further develop the Italian and European alpaca business by organising courses (from husbandry to evaluation and shearing), by translating and writing articles and manuals and by organising courses and shows. She travels often back to the UK to keep in touch with friends, shear, attend shows and seminars.

## Shows and seminars

- **2009:**
  - 4-5 August: judged the North Devon Show (fleece and halter)
  - 7-8 March: judged the AZVD Alpaka Show in Offenbach (fleece and halter).  
Delivered oral reasoning in German.
  - 14-15 March:
    - co-judged fleeces with Mike Safley at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Alpaca Show in Ulm (Germany).
    - Ring steward at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Alpaca Show in Ulm.
  - 21 March: judged the Show in Sweden.
  - 5 August: judged the North Devon show (fleece and halter).
  
- **2008:**
  - November: commissioned by the Alpaca Association eV. to conduct a herd book screening in Germany.
  - 14-15 November: judged the 1. International Alpaca Show West in Germany (fleece and halter).
  - 15 June: judged the East of England Show (halter classes).
  - 29-30 March: co-judged the BAS Spring show with Nick Harrington-Smith (halter classes).
  - 15-16 March: ring and fleece steward at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Alpaca Show in Ulm (Germany).
  
- **2007:**
  - June: fibre workshop with Cameron Holt
  - October: commissioned by the Alpaca Association eV. to conduct a herd book screening in Germany.
  
- **2006:**
  - August: 4-days advanced clinic with Marty McGee Bennett
  
- **2005:**
  - July: 2-days basic clinic with Marty McGee Bennett
  - July: 4-days advanced clinic with Marty McGee Bennett
  - July: 4-days advanced clinic with Marty McGee Bennett
  - April: presented two, one-day husbandry seminars and workshops in Italy.

- **2004:**
  - July: evaluation day with international Judge Amanda VandenBosch
  - October: presented a one-day husbandry seminar and workshop in Italy.

November 2009