



9.1 Shows Policy

The BAS Show Committee has the following remit:

- 1 To establish alpaca shows and alpaca show classes at shows throughout the United Kingdom.
- 2 To encourage participation and involvement in alpaca showing amongst the BAS membership and raise awareness within the wider public of alpaca breeding and showing.
- 3 Educate and promote standards of alpaca showing

The BAS Show Committee does this through the following means:

- Drafting and maintaining a common set of BAS Show Rules.
- Compiling and maintaining a list of suitably qualified Judges and Chief Stewards available for adjudicating at BAS approved shows.
- Establishing a regional national alpaca show circuit.
- Encouraging members to organise and participate in shows and alpaca classes at established agricultural shows.
- Liaising and maintaining contacts with other national and international alpaca organisations and monitoring developments within the wider alpaca show organisations.

The Committee hopes to be able to encourage and support BAS members to involve themselves in the organisation and running of alpaca classes at existing regional and county shows, and to raise the profile of alpacas among the general public and within the general agricultural landscape of the UK.

Alpaca showing is an important aspect of alpaca ownership to many members. As well as providing an opportunity to show off your prize possessions it also affords an opportunity to learn a lot about alpacas themselves from expert show judges and to review and compare the standards that continue to increase. Such occasions also afford the opportunity to review your own breeding goals, exchange ideas and glean invaluable comments and advice from other members and experts.

Remember not to underestimate the quality of your own alpacas. We may not all have the absolute show stunner but frequently people do tend to overestimate others' quality and underestimate their own. It is all too frequent to hear at shows or fleece shows, 'If I'd have known what to expect I would have entered some of my own fibre/ alpacas'. Please take the effort to participate, you'll no doubt be surprised to learn that not everyone comes last!

Alpaca showing is also a social occasion which brings together members from across the region or country with their alpacas and affords the additional opportunity to exchange information.

Volunteers?

As always, with the major shows there is a considerable amount of work that needs to be done in the preparation, planning and organisation of a smooth running event and even more help will be required on the day. It may look like magic to have row upon row of alpacas standing patiently in line, being watched by their proud owners, but it certainly doesn't happen that way. The more people who get involved the less stress for the organisers and the more fun on the day.

If you can offer help in any capacity, either by getting involved with the show organising committee or helping on the day, all offers will be gratefully accepted!



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Regional Initiatives

In the meantime, why not consider holding your own small-scale show. BAS encourages regional groups and it may well be of interest to members in your locale to hold an on-farm show or some other local alternative.

Another suggestion is to consider contacting your local county or regional show organisers and enquire about the possibility of including alpaca classes in their programme. The worst that can happen is they say no, but the seed will be planted and they may well be open to you showing your animals in a pen and becoming a featured attraction. As we all know, we own the cutest, most interesting, photogenic animals in the country and they are always a draw. Once the organisers see that the animals are not going to run rampant and will create quite an interest in the general public, it is only a small step to get a few classes included as a possibility for next year.

Support

The BAS Show Committee, within its limited resources, will be only too willing to help support any local events you may wish to organise, if run under BAS Show Rules. The BAS Show Committee can offer advice, experience, contacts and publicity.

Aim

Our aim eventually is to establish alpaca classes throughout the UK, run and organised locally by BAS members supported by the BAS Show Committee, which will aim to co-ordinate, support and maintain the necessary expertise and infrastructure to make all events as easy to arrange and effective as possible.

The Show Committee welcomes the interest and involvement of all members of the BAS in establishing the Alpaca as a permanent feature on the show circuits of the British Isles.