

Gaia Dakalo

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Judging Qualifications (Alpaca)

The British Alpaca Society (BAS)

Status: Certified Judge – Halter and Fleece: 2006

Level 3 completed: December 2006

Level 2 completed: October 2005

Level 1 completed: October 2005

General Experience

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

She became 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 has continued to gain experience and confidence and has started teaching in her home country what she had learned abroad.

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 was hosted by the Alpaca Stud for a short time and has helped with their show team during the first British Alpaca Futurity.

Gaia is planning to further develop the Italian alpaca business by organising courses (from husbandry to evaluation and shearing), by translating and writing articles and manuals and by organising courses and shows.

Seminar Attendance

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

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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.