



## BAS Weekly Newsletter Timely Advice & Current News



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## CEO NOTES

### **National Alpaca farm Day**

Good luck to all participants. Thanks to everyone who is taking part.

### **Contacting BAS and the Board**

It has become clear this week that it would be handy for everyone to know what the BAS Board contact emails are:

If you want to contact BAS you have a number of options.

Duncan Pullar, CEO - [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

Sue Loach, Chair - [welfare@bas-uk.com](mailto:welfare@bas-uk.com)

Ron Mackintosh - [chair@bas-uk.com](mailto:chair@bas-uk.com)

Emma Taylor - [fibre@bas-uk.com](mailto:fibre@bas-uk.com)

Kate Brookes - [education@bas-uk.com](mailto:education@bas-uk.com)

Paul Hetherington - [ebvs@bas-uk.com](mailto:ebvs@bas-uk.com)

Judith Newman - [showrules@bas-uk.com](mailto:showrules@bas-uk.com)

Elaine Clarke - [marketing@bas-uk.com](mailto:marketing@bas-uk.com)

Clara Boulton - [youngmembers@bas-uk.com](mailto:youngmembers@bas-uk.com)

Ian Mitchell - [Treasurer@bas-uk.com](mailto:Treasurer@bas-uk.com)

Ken Freivokh - [alpacas@freivokh.com](mailto:alpacas@freivokh.com)

### **BAS Board Blog**

This week Clara Bolton talks about a positive cria fostering experience. You can find the blog [here](#)

You can email about this or anything else using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

## BAS letter to Government re Geronimo

Below is the letter and response from APHA.

BAS is not happy with the response and will be taking the matter further

1st September 2021

Dear Mr Cane, Mr De la Rua-Domenech and Ms Middlemiss

### **Official Complaint**

The British Alpaca Society is the main body representing alpaca owners in the UK and is responsible for maintaining the records of all registered alpacas (40,000) & providing welfare & education to our 2,000 members.

We write to complain about the disgraceful & abhorrent conduct of APHA officers and vets who attended Helen McDonald's premises to seize her alpaca Geronimo yesterday (31/8/21).

As those responsible for animal welfare APHA had a duty of care to Geronimo to ensure he was handled and euthanised with a minimum of distress, neither of which they achieved.

The lack of knowledge as to the correct way to handle alpacas was startling and totally inexcusable, dragging him kicking and screaming on to a trailer then tying him up with a poorly fitted cattle halter; he was screaming his distress call as he was brutally loaded which is evidence of how terrified he was – in front of the world's media.

Alpacas are semi obligate nasal breathers and as such should have headcollars correctly sized & fitted so as not to obstruct their breathing, it is very evident from the footage that this didn't happen. – Geronimo was seen gasping for air.

It is also well documented that alpacas sit down when being transported, yet Geronimo was tied up like a horse.

There is no excuse for these actions, the correct information is in the public domain, yet whoever led this repulsive exercise yesterday simply hadn't bothered to find out the proper techniques. Whoever led yesterday's operation must be formally suspended immediately for such gross misconduct and animal abuse.

If Geronimo arrived at his final destination still alive and not strangled or suffocated, how can we be sure he was humanely euthanised? If basic handling was so appalling how can anyone be sure he was euthanised correctly & in a calm & dignified matter?

Given APHA officers knew that they were going to be filmed and images shared globally, we beg the question how much worse would the handling have been had they not been filmed?

Their behaviour was disgusting, repulsive and cruel & in total disregard for Geronimo's welfare and we would demand a full and formal public investigation to be initiated immediately.

The actions of DEFRA representatives seizing Geronimo was unacceptable for officers who are charged with animal welfare.

If this is the level of 'professionalism' shown by government officials in difficult circumstances, then something is very very wrong. The handling of Geronimo yesterday was abhorrent, brutal & is not deemed acceptable behaviour by such officers.

We await your urgent response by return.

Yours sincerely

Sue Loach

BAS Chair on Behalf of the BAS Board



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Woodham Lane  
New Haw  
Addlestone  
Surrey  
KT15 3NB

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

The British Alpaca Society  
2 Barnfield Crescent  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX1 1QT

(sent via email: [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com))

03 September 2021

Dear Ms Loach

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State and Defra officials dated 1 September 2021 in relation to the handling of Geronimo on 31 August 2021. APHA has been asked to respond.

On Tuesday, 31 August APHA Officials accompanied by police officers entered Ms Macdonald's property to safely remove Geronimo. Removal operations were carefully planned, conducted and included consideration of Geronimo's welfare.

Geronimo was transported from the farm to a nearby location and it was assessed that the manner in which he was transported was the least likely to cause any further stress and undue suffering. Geronimo was transported under veterinary supervision. Veterinary surgeons were present at the loading and the unloading as well as travelling behind the trailer during its journey.

We can assure you that Geronimo arrived at the destination in the same condition as when he left the farm, was unloaded and then euthanized in accordance with our welfare procedures.

This was a difficult and high-pressure situation for all involved. We can assure you that our staff did all in their power to protect Geronimo's welfare and treat him with dignity.

We are sympathetic to the situation of Geronimo's owner, just as we are to everyone with animals affected by this terrible disease. Bovine TB causes devastation and distress for farmers and rural communities as well as being a risk to human health.

That is why we need to do everything we can to reduce the risk of the disease spreading.

Yours sincerely

APHA Corporate Correspondence

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Email: [APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gov.uk](mailto:APHA.CorporateCorrespondence@apha.gov.uk)

Enc. Annex.

## News Coverage of Geronimo

**Southwest Farmer - Complaints about Defra's handling of Geronimo the alpaca**

<https://www.southwestfarmer.co.uk/news/19553394.complaints-defras-handling-geronimo-alpaca/>

**Bristol Live - Geronimo's final moments blasted as 'disgraceful and abhorrent' as experts call for suspensions**

<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/local-news/geronimos-final-moments-blasted-disgraceful-5860252>

**Jersey Evening Post - Final moments of Geronimo's life condemned as 'disgraceful and abhorrent'**

[article here](#)

**The Press and Journal - Gemma Mackie: Why Geronimo the alpaca had to die**

[Article here](#)

**Plant Based news - Chris Packham Is 'Very Depressed And Very Angry' At Slaughter Of Geronimo The Alpaca**

[Article and video here](#)

**Guardian - Geronimo the alpaca is killed after four-year battle to save him fails**

[Article here](#)



The **HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show 2021**, comprising Junior, Intermediate, Adult and Senior Classes for both Huacaya and Suri fleeces, will be judged on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October.**

It is planned for **Mr. Tim Hey** to judge the whites and lights and **Mr. Jay Holland** to judge the other colours.

*This may change subject to the number of entries in each category.*

*The prizewinning fleeces will be eligible to enter the **Champion of Champions – National Fleece Show 2022***

*Art of Fibre have kindly agreed to perform the mid-side micron sample testing for the judging*

Entries will open on **Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021** and will close on **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> September** or when the entry limit is reached. Entries can be found on the BAS website, via 'Manage Your Herd' at a cost of £17+VAT per entry (to include the £2 levy).

The deadline for fleeces to be delivered to Julia Corrigan-Stuart, CS Alpacas, Wotton Underwood, Buckinghamshire HP18 0RL, is **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. However, if you have entered other Shows around this date, we will liaise for your fleeces to be forwarded but please tell the Show and us that this is required.

Please pack individual fleeces in unmarked clear plastic bags (i.e., no writing/numbers etc), with the entry form that is produced when you make your on-line entry.

Please specify what you would like done with your fleeces after the Show:

1. Collect fleeces from CS Alpacas after the Show, by prior arrangement
2. Have your fleeces sent back or onto another Show– please enclose a return address label. You will be invoiced after your fleeces have been sent – please do not send cheques beforehand
3. Donated to the BAS for training courses (if you do not specify one of the above options at entry, we will assume this is the option you have chosen).
4. Any queries, please contact Julia on mobile: 07803726464 or email: [julia@csalpacas.co.uk](mailto:julia@csalpacas.co.uk).

**We will not be holding the Open Day in person again this year but will organise a Zoom session to announce the winning fleeces, on **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021**. Further details will be available nearer to the date.**



## Trialling a new fleece scoring system at fleece shows

The current points allocation and assessment used in BAS Fleece Shows was written many years ago and has served BAS well but significant advancements in alpaca breeding together with greater knowledge and experience gathered over the years means a review would be sensible.

If the system is going to change it needs to be an improvement so the first step will be for the Judges to research and test alternative approaches to judging fleeces.

In support of this research some fleece show organisers have agreed that fleeces entered in their shows in 2021/2022 will be judged on the existing BAS methodology (and awards made on those results), but at the same time will also be judged on a trial methodology to enable the judges to evaluate the impact on points allocation and the performance of that methodology. Research of this kind is necessary before any changes are implemented (or not). BAS is certain that fleece judging must reflect current thinking and values.

Once the Judges have collected enough data and carried out an evaluation of that data, they will share their findings to a joint meeting of the Show Rules and Show Organisers Committee's. The outcome of this will then be reported to the Board for consideration and, if deemed appropriate, further action. The main findings will be

shared with BAS members through the usual channels.

Important points for exhibitors:

1. Fleeces will be judged, and points awarded in accordance with the current guidelines and point distribution, and this will be the basis of awards to fleeces. There will be no change to how your fleeces are judged and placed in the fleece show you have entered.
2. The application of a revised judging method and points allocation will be for research purposes only, fully anonymised and for summary review by the Judges Committee. No individual results will be shared or published as they will be from research and as such are not valid for general distribution or sharing with exhibitors.
3. There will be no additional handling of fleeces involved.

It is hoped that exhibitors will welcome this initiative and support it.



**NORTHERN ALPACA SHOW**  
North West & Scottish Alpaca Groups

**Date: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**Venue: Penrith & District Farmers Mart, Penrith CA11 0DN**

**Judge: Mr Tim Hey**

**Show Organiser: Ian Mitchell [0781314513](tel:0781314513)/[ianmit@aol.com](mailto:ianmit@aol.com)**

**Arrivals and Departures**

Arrivals on Friday afternoon/evening.  
Departures Sunday evening or **Monday morning**

**Colour Championship Halter Show**

**Entries open: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September @ 9am**

**Entry fee: £22 + VAT Electric point: £25 + VAT**

**Saturday Night Entertainment**

The Hired Lad (attached to auction mart) will be hosting a hog roast (vegetarian option available) for exhibitors and friends on the Saturday evening. **Cost £10 per head.** Booked 6.30 for 7.00pm. The premises is licensed for alcohol. **Limited spaces available.**

Please email: [barbara@beckbrowalpacas.co.uk](mailto:barbara@beckbrowalpacas.co.uk) to book.

**Halloween Fancy Dress for Children and their alpacas**

**Newly Commissioned Trophies (some yours to keep) watch out for images soon**

**Most Successful New Breeder Award (details to follow)**

## 2021 Event Diary



If you need information about any of the events listed below then please email Duncan using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

Saturday	04-Sep	National Alpaca Farm Day
Sunday	05-Sep	National Alpaca Farm Day
Thursday	09-Sep	Affiliate Course- Staffordshire
Saturday	11-Sep	Affiliate Course - Moray, Scotland
Thursday	16-Sep	Affiliate Course- Suffolk
Friday	17-Sep	Affiliate Course- Suffolk
Tuesday	21-Sep	Affiliate Course - Moray, Scotland
Thursday	23-Sep	Webinar Emma Taylor
Thursday	14-Oct	Affiliate Course- Staffordshire
Friday	22-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Saturday	23-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Sunday	24-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Wednesday	03-Nov	BAS AGM
Saturday	04-Dec	Advanced Alpaca Assessment
Sunday	05-Dec	Advanced Alpaca Assessment

If you would like your BAS, Educational or Regional group **event** included in this section (not shows) please send details to Duncan.

## 2021 Show Diary



### Make a note in your diary!

(New information in red)

Breeders considering entering more than one fleece show may need the organisers of one show to forward the fleece(s) to the next show the fleeces are entered for. Please could entries to multiple fleece shows advise the organisers of the plan to ensure they know those entries need to be despatched asap to the next show. Please ensure that all the necessary entry forms are included in the box separately to the forms for the first shows.

#### **HoEAG Autumn Fleece Show 2021**

Judges: Tim Hey (lights and whites) & Jay Holland (other colours)

Judging days: Thursday 30th September and Friday 1st October

Entries open: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Entries close: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Entry fee: £17 + vat

Fleece Delivery (deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021): Julia Corrigan-Stuart, Yeat Wood Farm, Wotton Underwood, Bucks HP18 0RL

Show Organiser: Julia Corrigan-Stuart; [julia@csalpacas.co.uk](mailto:julia@csalpacas.co.uk); 07803726464

#### **East of England Alpaca Show 2021 organised by EAG - CLOSED NOW FULL**

Dates: 10th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Mary-Jo Smith

Venue: Beechwood Equestrian Centre, Rettendon Common, Chelmsford CM3 8DY,

Arrivals: pm of 9th or early am of 10th. Judging on 10th

Show Organiser: Harley Laver- 07934463342, [harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk](mailto:harley@churchfieldalpacas.co.uk)

### **Yorkshire Alpaca Group Halter Show**

Dates; 16th and 17th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Barbara Hetherington

Venue: York Auction Mart, Murton, York YO19 5GF

Entries open: 2nd August at 8.30 am

Entries Close: 31st August

Entry fee: £22.50 +VAT

Organiser James Stanger, Email: [jameslstanger11@gmail.com](mailto:jameslstanger11@gmail.com) Tel: 07757687378

### **Northern Fleece Show**

Date: 23rd October 2021

Judge: Roger Clarke

Entries open: 1st Sept

Entries Close: 1st Oct

Entry fee: £24 in VAT

Max entries 80

Organiser: Stuart Ramsey Email: [stuart@velvethall-alpacas.co.uk](mailto:stuart@velvethall-alpacas.co.uk) Telephone  
07787508448

Fleeces delivered to **WESTYETT FARM, LANARK, ML11 8NT**

### **Northern Halter Show**

Dates; 30th and 31st October 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Penrith Auction Mart

Entries open: 1st Sept at 9 am

Entries Close: 17th Sept

Entry fee: £22 +VAT

Organiser: Ian Mitchell, [treasurer@bas-uk.com](mailto:treasurer@bas-uk.com), 07813 145013

### **Midlands Championship Halter Show**

Date: 6th November 2021

Judge: Tim Hey

Venue: Three Counties Show Ground

Entries open: 11th Sept

Entries Close: 17th Oct

Entry fee: £32.40 +VAT

Organisers:

**ROGER MOUNT** [roger.mount@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.mount@btinternet.com) 07711044106/01386853841

**IAIN SHARP** [iain.c.sharp@gmail.com](mailto:iain.c.sharp@gmail.com) 07722953635

**JAY HOLLAND** [jay@purealpacas.co.uk](mailto:jay@purealpacas.co.uk) 07789257222

### **NWAG Halter Show**

Date: Saturday 2nd April 2022

Judge: Mary-Jo Smith

Venue: Borderway Mart, Carlisle.

### **HoEAG Spring Alpaca Fiesta 2022**

Show Dates: Friday 8th, Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

To be held at Bury Farm Equestrian Centre

### **Scottish Alpaca Championship**

Dates; 23rd and 24th April 2022

Judge: Barbara Hetherington

Venue: Lanark Auction Market

Entries open: 18th February 2022

Entries Close: 24th March 2022t

Entry fee: £22 inc VAT

Organiser Stuart Ramsay