



**BAS Weekly Newsletter**  
**Timely Advice & Current News**



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## CEO NOTES

### **BAS Board elections**

We are approaching the deadline for nominations. If you would like to stand for the Board then you need to send your completed nomination form to Duncan by October 5th. Nominations forms can be obtained from Duncan by email using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com).

### **BAS Board Blog**

A new Blog from Paul Hetherington talks about a recent trip to Germany. Click [here](#) for Blogs.

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

*Duncan Pullar*

BAS CEO

## Launch of the new Grassroots Online Registry

Announcing the launch of the new look Grassroots Online Registry which replaces the old Pedeweb.

The registry can be accessed via the Society website or direct at [www.grassroots.co.uk/bas.html](http://www.grassroots.co.uk/bas.html) using your normal Breed Society herd letters (or member number) and password. It gives access to the whole Society database and allows you to 'Manage Your Animal Records'.

The system opens with a list of all the animals in your registered ownership

Click on an animal to view its details, pedigree and progeny list

Click on the magnifying glass (top left) to search the whole database

Click on this magnifying glass (top left) to search for people

Click on the menu (top right) to make changes and report :

- **Births** - and apply to Notify or Register
- **Notify previously Notified Males**
- **Apply for DNA tests**
- **Log Matings**
- **Report Sales** - and transfer animals out of your herd
- **Report Deaths** - which is important to keep the registry up to date
- **Flag animals 'For Sale'** - to appear in the Online Registry

If you want to **add images**, please download the Mobile App and upload images from your phone.

The Registry is very straight forward to use but a '**step by step**' guide is available on the Grassroots website [home.grassroots.co.uk](http://home.grassroots.co.uk)

**There are currently no shows open for entries. [This option will appear in the menu in the new Online Registry when there are shows open for entries, exactly as it did in the old system.](#)**

**The next show to open will be the National Show for pre booking places on 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

**The new Grassroots Mobile App**

**All your own animal details, in your pocket, even when you have no internet or mobile access.** *Free for the first month, and then a small charge of £1.99 per month (less than the cost of an ear tag) or £14.99 for the year.*

Download the **Grassroots Systems Mobile App from the Appstore or Google Playstore.** Create an App User Name (must be at least 8 characters) and your own password. Then sync the details of all the animals you own using your normal BAS Herd Letters and password. If you keep other Grassroots breeds, they can be added to the same copy of the App.

It is very straightforward to use but a 'step by step' guide is available on the Grassroots website <https://home.grassroots.co.uk/>

From within the App you can:

- Add images - for your own use or to appear in the Online Registry
- Add notes - for individual animals or groups, including mating records, shearing dates, veterinary records or reminders
  
- Report changes directly to the registry 'on the go'
  - **Sales** - and keep a list of all your buyers
  - **Births** - and apply to Notify or Register
  - **Deaths** - important to keep the registry up to date
  - **Flag animals 'For Sale'** - to appear in the Online Registry
  - **Link photos** – for your own use or to appear in the Online Registry



## Proposed Change to Register Regulations on Ear Tags

**Consultation with members has shown that purchase and use of BAS Ear Tags is not widely practised. To reflect this position the Board suggest the regulations should be changed.**

The aim is to change the regulation that requires an ear tag to be purchased (whether it is used or not). An Ear Tag number will be allocated to each alpaca on the registry but its purchase and use are optional. Use of microchips remains unchanged.

The proposed 2021 revisions are highlighted in the document accessed through this link [Draft Registry Regulations 2021](#). It is in the member's area of the Website so you will need to log in.

Following the procedures set out in the [Registry Administration Rules](#) this proposal constitutes a change of a "normal issue" rather than a "fundamental issue" as defined in the document.

This proposal to amend registry regulations is designated 'Normal' and will be notified to all voting members from 1st October 2021.

If **objection** to the proposed regulation change is received by the Society (**email objections to Duncan using [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)**) from fewer than 5% of the valid

voting membership within 21 days of the notification to members then the proposed changes shall come into effect.

If objection is received by 5% or more of the voting membership within 21 days of notification of the proposal then the BAS Board shall either withdraw the proposal or arrange for an EGM to be convened to discuss and approve the proposal. If the proposal is passed by Ordinary Resolution by a straight majority of those voting at a BAS EGM or BAS AGM the proposal shall be passed.

## **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR OBJECTIONS is 9 am 22nd October 2021**

### **APHA complaint regarding Geronimo**

BAS received the reply below from APHA and has sent a response

#### **From APHA**

Thank you for your correspondence requesting that your complaint about the handling of Geronimo be escalated. This was forwarded to the APHA Service Standards Adjudicator Team to respond.

The two main issues you raised in your complaint were: -

1. The halter used was not suitable for an alpaca nor was it placed correctly on Geronimo's head and will have restricted breathing - causing distress.

2. The tying of any alpaca during transport is a threat to welfare because they lie down during transport and asphyxiation is a real possibility, in trying to lie down he also risked breaking his neck. The APHA operatives did not transport Geronimo safely.

I can confirm that the APHA officers who handled Geronimo are highly experienced with camelids and have dealt with them for a significant number of years, having a detailed working knowledge of gathering, handling, TB testing and assessing TB clinical cases in camelids.

The team had three different halters available for use on the farm. The decision to go with the halter used was because it had the quickest fitting system and Geronimo responded favourably to it. The fit of the halter was assessed several times to ensure there was no restriction to Geronimo's breathing and therefore it was decided that it was the most appropriate for the situation. APHA can confirm that the halter was not putting any pressure on the cartilage. Geronimo showed no signs of distress whilst being handled

Sufficient length of rope was provided to allow Geronimo to lie down during transport but without a risk of the rope being too long to cause it to tangle around his neck or body. The journey time was as short as possible and welfare in transport requirements were complied with. Geronimo arrived at his destination in the same physical condition as he left the farm with no injuries and he exhibited no signs of distress

These were highly experienced staff whose intention was to remove Geronimo, under a legal warrant, in the most difficult of circumstances, with as little stress to him as possible. His welfare was given the utmost consideration before and during his removal. Therefore, I hope that you understand APHA cannot agree with your assertions that APHA staff failed in their duty of care.

Yours sincerely

APHA Service Standards Adjudicator Team

## BAS response

Dear APHA Senior Adjudicator

### Geronimo – Complaint from BAS Stage 3

Further to our letter of complaint dated 8th September 2021 and your response dated 27th September 2021; BAS wish to escalate the complaint to the third stage as detailed on your website and request a review by APHA Service Standards Adjudicator.

BAS do not believe you have considered the evidence available because the conclusions you make are not supported by the available evidence.

You state

*“The fit of the halter was assessed several times to ensure there was no restriction to Geronimo’s breathing and therefore it was decided that it was the most appropriate for the situation. APHA can confirm that the halter was not putting any pressure on the cartilage”*

Correct



Incorrect



Clearly being pulled towards and on to the trailer - incorrect



You stated of the halter:

*“it had the quickest fitting system and Geronimo responded favourably to it”.*

[Geronimo the alpaca has been killed after lengthy court battle - YouTube](#)

Link to video demonstrating halter not fitted properly and the poor reaction to it.

You state

*“Sufficient length of rope was provided to allow Geronimo to lie down during transport but without a risk of the rope being too long to cause it to tangle around his neck or body.”*

This rope is far too short to allow Geronimo to sit.



Three issues remain:

1. The halter used was not suitable for an alpaca nor was it placed correctly on Geronimo's head and will have restricted his breathing - causing distress.
2. The tying of any alpaca during transport is a threat to welfare because they lie down during transport and asphyxiation is a real possibility, in trying to lie down he also risked breaking his neck. The APHA operatives did not transport Geronimo safely nor appropriately.
3. The manner in which Geronimo was handled instigated his initial & continuing distress. All three points contravene the Animal Welfare Act of 2006 (below)

BAS expect APHA to acknowledge that they failed in their duty of care and take appropriate action to discipline and educate their staff regarding acceptable procedures.

A review of the video and pictures taken at the time will confirm the above points and we would formally request you view the videos before responding to the issues. Acknowledgement of these failings and appropriate training may go some way to improve alpaca owners' views regarding the honesty and competence of APHA.

Regards

Ms Sue Loach, BAS Chair

## **Animal welfare during transport**

The welfare of animals during transport is protected by retained EU legislation. You must transport animals in a way that is not likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them.

When you transport animals you must:

- plan the journey properly and keep it as short as possible
- check the animals during the journey to make sure you meet their needs for water, feed and rest
- make sure the animals are fit to travel
- design, construct and maintain the vehicle and loading and unloading facilities to avoid injury and suffering
- **make sure anyone handling the animals are trained or competent in the task and do not use violence or any methods likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury or suffering**
- give the animals sufficient floor space and height

Copied from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare#legislation>



## BAS Education 2021-2022 Webinars

Please find below the confirmed webinars for the Autumn/ Winter series for 21/22. Other titles will follow as they are confirmed.

In a change from last year the links are made available here to members so you don't need to register your interest and a link will not be emailed to you personally.

7.00pm - Thursday 7th October 2021

**Tim Hey - Preparing for Show success -27 years of experience**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81700315294>

7.00pm - Thursday 21st October 2021

**Paul Vallely - Fleece analysis explained**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504038960>

7.00pm - Thursday 11th November 2021

**Neil Payne - Business Diversification (with alpacas)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83273737876>

7.00pm - Thursday 9th December 2021

**Victoria Barrett - Camelidynamics**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84267771106>

## 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)

Thursday	07-Oct	Webinar - Tim Hey - Show preparation
Thursday	14-Oct	Affiliate Course- Staffordshire
Saturday	16-Oct	Affiliate Course- Devon
Sunday	17-Oct	Affiliate Course- Devon
Thursday	21-Oct	Webinar - Paul Vallely, Fleece Analysis
Friday	22-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Saturday	23-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Sunday	24-Oct	Intermediate Alpaca Assessment
Wednesday	03-Nov	BAS AGM
Wednesday	10-Nov	Affiliate Course- Staffordshire
Thursday	11-Nov	Webinar-Neil Payne, Diversification
Saturday	04-Dec	Advanced Alpaca Assessment
Sunday	05-Dec	Advanced Alpaca Assessment
Thursday	09-Dec	Webinar-Victoria Barrett, Camelid dynamics

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.

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

Dates; 16th and 17th October 2021

Judge: Mrs Barbara Hetherington

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

Organiser James Stanger, Email: [jamesstanger11@gmail.com](mailto:jamesstanger11@gmail.com) Tel: 07757687378

### **Northern Fleece Show**

Date: 23rd October 2021

Judge: Roger Clarke

Max entries 80

Organiser: Stuart Ramsey Email: [stuart@velvethall-alcacas.co.uk](mailto:stuart@velvethall-alcacas.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

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: Monday 13th Sept 9 am

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

### **NEBAG Halter Show**

Date: 20th November 2021

Venue: Hexham Mart, Northumberland

Judge: Roger Clarke

Further details to follow.

### **National Show**

Date: 25th, 26th and 27th March 2022

Judges: Mrs Mary-Jo Smith and Mr Tim Hey

Venue: Telford International Centre

Entries open for pre booking: 1st December 2021

Organiser: Duncan Pullar 07496 578781, [ceo@bas-uk.com](mailto:ceo@bas-uk.com)

### **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



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