

Judge Along



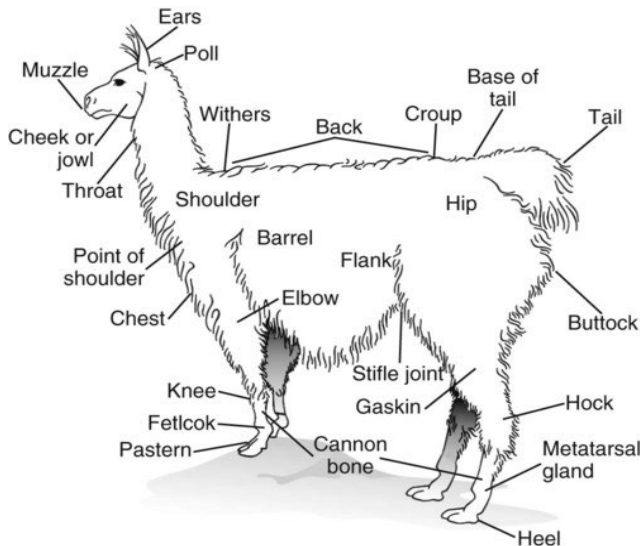
◆ LLAMAS & ALPACAS

What a Judge might look for in Llamas and Alpacas:

- All body parts that are symmetrical and proportionate to one another (neck, length of body, length of legs).
- Straight legs & top line and a high tail set. Good bone density and minimal to no body fat.
- Correct way of traveling. (walking and running).
- Clean, soft wool on body. Textures vary from fine to coarse, and from very short to very long in length.
- Trusting spirit and gentle disposition.

What a Judge might look for in the show ring:

- **Costume Class:** The exhibitor's attire is judged on beauty and/or originality, coordination with the animal's equipment and spectator appeal. The class also examines the llama's/alpaca's ability to endure its costume on its head, back & legs.
- **Pack/Obstacle Course:** The animals are kept on a loose lead through obstacles, to display the llamas' ability to adjust to varying obstacles in nature. This competition also examines the llama's/alpaca's trust in its handler, while using its own intelligence to evaluate each obstacle.
- **Showmanship Class:** This class demonstrates the handler's ability to show the animal to its best advantage at halter. Judging is based on the exhibitor's basic skills in fitting, grooming, following directions and style of presenting the animal to the judge. The animal's conformation is not considered. The handler's attire should be neat, clean and appropriate for the class.
- **Public Relations Class:** This class shows the llama's/alpaca's willingness to negotiate obstacle's and handle unexpected situations as the animal participates in visitation between the handler and the general public.



<u>Your Choice:</u>	<u>Judge's Decision:</u>
1 st _____	1 st _____
2 nd _____	2 nd _____
3 rd _____	3 rd _____
4 th _____	4 th _____
5 th _____	5 th _____

Llama and Alpaca Terminology...

- **Stud (Macho):** an intact male, any age
- **Gelding:** a castrated male
- **Female (Hembra):** a female
- **Cria:** baby llama/alpaca, male or female

Facts about Llamas and Alpacas (similarities and differences)...

- Llamas and Alpacas are native to South America and have been domesticated for over 5,000 years.
- Camelids are the larger family which includes Camels, Alpaca, Llama, Guanacos, and Vicunas.
- Llamas and Alpacas come in 22 different shades of color starting with white and ending with black with every other natural shade in between.
- Alpacas and Llamas often interbreed, and the result is called a Huarizo.
- Alpacas can produce up to 10 lbs. of fleece a year.
- Llamas cannot bite and don't kick. They have very gentle, trusting dispositions.
- Llamas are about 42 to 48 inches at the shoulder, while Alpacas are only 32 to 36 inches at the shoulder.
- Alpacas are usually less than 200 pounds, while Llamas may be as much as 450 pounds.
- Llama's ears have an inward curve to them and are referred to as "banana-shaped", while Alpaca ears are straight and a little blunter.
- Alpaca fiber is softer than cashmere.
- There are two types of Alpaca, Huacaya and Suri. The Huacaya fleece type is commonly described as looking like a "teddy bear" and the Suri fleece type as looking like "dreadlocks".
- Llamas are very brave, typically gentle and serve as a guard animal, whereas Alpacas are timid and gentle and require protection.
- Llamas and Alpacas are known to spit when they are feeling threatened, uncomfortable, or unhappy and as defensive or warning mechanism.

Test Your Knowledge

True or False

1. Llamas/Alpacas have only a three chambered stomach. True or False
2. Llamas/Alpacas have third eyelids called a nictating membrane. True or False
3. Llamas' upper teeth are very sharp. True or False
4. Alpacas have 4 toes on each foot. True or False
5. Llamas and Alpacas can be ridden on by children and adults . True or False

1.T 2.T 3.F 4.F 5.F

Camelid Family (Genus Lama and Genus Vicugna)



Llama



Alpaca



Guanaco



Vicuña