



ALPACA MONTHLY NEWS

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EDITORIAL

CRUELTY TO ALPACAS

From time to time we have reported incidents where alpacas have been harmed - even rustled - in various parts of the world.

However, an attack that occurred in Australia in 2012 was one of a particularly senseless and barbaric nature:

In September, Crown Prosecutor, Michael Byrne, submitted to Queensland's highest court that the case of alpaca cruelty at Caboolture High School, north of Brisbane last year was "terrible conduct" which deserved actual jail time.

Wayne Charles Hartwig, 20, was originally sentenced to six months in prison for the brutal attack, captured on CCTV, which left one alpaca dead and the other so injured it had to be put down. However, following sentencing, he was immediately released on parole.

Mr Byrne sought to appeal this decision, arguing that it was manifestly inadequate and did not meet community expectations. He pointed out that the attack was carried out for 30 minutes and involved a degree of deliberation.

Mr Byrne said Hartwig and his juvenile co-offender used rocks, a hose and a metal pole to repeatedly beat the animals in the school grounds. When one of the animals tried to get to its feet, they beat it back to the ground.

He said they left at least one of the animals alive and suffering before they fled and concluded it was a feckless crime and that such meaningless conduct should result in little sympathy for their final sentencing.

Mr Byrne submitted that the magistrate who gave the original sentence was overly influenced in parity considerations with the younger co-offender who was sentenced to the maximum 12 months probation, 80 hours community service and banned from caring for animals for two years.

Barrister Craig Chowdhury, acting for Hartwig, said parity principles were not irrelevant as the pair acted as badly as each other. He said his client had been on parole ever since the sentence and court reports had indicated that rehabilitation requirements were working.



So far, the Court of Appeal has reserved judgment. For its part, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), commented that it would consider a prison sentence of at least 12 months to be the minimum in this case.

In an increasingly violent world, we sincerely hope that this is a one-off as far as the welfare of alpacas is concerned.

CAMELID CLIPS

One of the International Alpaca Association's relatively recent new members has been making impressive inroads into the luxury fashion world with her alpaca

products as outlined in an article published in Eluxe Magazine in September which we reprint below:

SNUGGLE UP WITH ARLETTE LEE

By Chere Di Boscio

Like many who work in investment in the City of London, Arlette Lee wasn't completely satisfied with her life. She felt she was just another rat in the race, and yet didn't know how to escape. She tried taking up courses in writing, cooking, but there was still something missing.

Sensing she needed a radical change, Lee decided to leave her job and travel the world. After soaking up the culture of Asia and the sights of Australia, the epiphanic moment that would change her life finally came in South America.

She had witnessed the different approaches cultures have to apparel from around the world, and became curious about fashion. In Peru, she says: "I fell in love with the locals, culture and crafts. My design visions (here) became so strong I continuously noted down every single thought, idea, inspiration that came to me."





Upon her return to the UK, she announced her decision: she would be taking Spanish classes and returning to Peru to speak to local artisans about realising her designs for what she dubbed the 'SnugaLee' and the 'Ruana,' which she would craft out of the finest baby alpaca yarn.



The SnugaLee is essentially a snood: a long, circular knit that can be worn as a scarf, either single or double wrapped, or thrown over the head and neck in cold weather to act as a hood and scarf.

The Ruana is a cape with a unique cut, which allows for slimline belting around the waist; alternatively, one end can be casually tossed over a shoulder to keep the wearer warm; it can be pinned shut, or it can be worn open. Both the Ruanas and SnugaLees are powder soft, thanks to the alpaca material, which is finer than cashmere and allows the wearer to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter.





Arlette Lee employs groups of local artisans in Peru throughout her entire production process. From alpaca rancher to weaver, all those involved are paid a fair wage, and Lee's business ensures that the Peruvian manufacturing and artisanal traditions are safeguarded.



For further information visit: <http://www.arlettelee.com/>

Lee says her designs are a big hit with international travellers, as they are lightweight and pack well, but are also a perfect 'blanket' on long haul flights.

With the success of her label growing after appearing in top UK fashion magazines like Tatler, and with ce-

lebrity fans that include Dita Von Teese, it seems Ms Lee's move from the City was the greatest investment decision she's ever made.

At a Board Meeting of the International Alpaca Association (IAA) held on 11th October, it was agreed that the next Alpaca Fiesta will take place in Arequipa during the week 10th to 15th November 2014.

Renzo Morante (Grupo Inca) was elected President of the event and its general stewardship has fallen to Cesar Lutgens (Executive Director, IAA) who was confirmed as the event's manager.

IAA ALPACA MONTHLY BULLETIN

The IAA Alpaca Monthly Bulletin is aimed at keeping members informed of news from the IAA. We encourage any member to supply articles of interest to update members about developments in the Camelid world. Articles with a human interest angle are particularly welcome.

Please submit to the Editor:
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