

RELEASE

The International Alpaca Association has more than 65 associates from the five continents, aimed at generating shared value, sustainability and growth of a wonderful and unique species: the alpaca.

Over the last few days there has been public questioning about the shearing practices of one of our members. As a result, our entire industry is being equally questioned and it behooves us to say something about it.

The Peruvian Andes concentrate 85% of the world population of alpacas, in an ecosystem of extreme climates and natural pastures above 4,000 meters of altitude, where more than 90,000 rural families with low incomes subsist, challenging these natural conditions and giving value to its precious fiber.

The shearing of fur animals is an almost identical procedure in all species: the animal is taken from the pen, it is held, its hair is cut, and it is returned to the pen. The shearing of the alpaca is practically the same as that of the sheep, with the only difference that, being a larger animal, with longer legs and a little rougher and less docile than the sheep, it is held with a few ropes. However, the process is short and avoids hurting the animal.

Shearing is also healthy for the animal. An alpaca overloaded with its own hair makes this an environment full of parasites, dirt and even weight that gets to press and deform its own back and, eventually, suffocate it. Even though a little less than the sheep, the alpacas are calm animals and generally allow us to shear them with some patience. There are, as in all species, individuals that react with greater stress to the shearing operation than others. That is why the AIA and all its members work hard, hand in hand with the Government of Peru, to promote technical standards of good animal treatment among the largest possible number of producers.

Those of us who raise, care for, and develop an alpaca-based industry have a responsibility and know that we are subject to rigorous public scrutiny, which is good and it's the way it should be. Our farms and operation centers have their doors open to clients, visitors, authorities and certifiers. That transparency is what ensures the welfare of the animal and the reliability of the products.

Our task is to contribute to a better understanding of the context of this imputation, which affects not only a company or a union, but also the sustainability of the alpacas and the subsistence of countless artisan and alpaca raising families.

We firmly believe that our responsibility goes beyond how we treat alpacas in our operations. Above all, we protect the healthy fate of the alpaca, so that it is not replaced by unsustainable management that makes it a source of meat and not fiber. We reject any form of animal abuse and we trust that the work we have been carrying out with the participation of all members of the production chain and government entities, will ensure a universal and responsible treatment of alpacas that guarantees their sustainability over time.

Arequipa, June 9, 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - INTERNATIONAL ALPACA ASSOCIATION