

Chapter 3. Rules Relating to all Show Participants

The adherence to the following rules is the responsibility of show participants.

- A. Participants should be courteous and gracious to other show participants regardless of class placements.
- B. By participating in AOA Certified Shows, show participants act as representatives of AOA. Shows are public events; therefore, all show participants should at all times conduct themselves in a positive, professional and courteous manner. For those entering the show ring, attire should be neat and professional.
- C. Show participants are expected to know all AOA Show System rules and standards of proper conduct as presented in this Handbook. Such individuals who voluntarily elect to participate in AOA Certified Shows do so with the understanding that they agree to abide by the rules and procedures set forth in this Handbook.
- D. In voluntarily electing to participate in AOA Certified Shows and AOA Show System Related Activities, show participants agree to hold harmless AOA, its employees and representatives, from any liabilities, losses or damages, perceived or real, directly or indirectly, for any reason, in the course of these events.
- E. Participants shall not engage in the following activities or behaviors while attending AOA Certified Shows or in connection with Show System Related Activities including, but not limited to, providing information required by the show or the AOA Show System:
 - 1. Negative, obstructive or disruptive behavior at an AOA Certified Show.
 - 2. Abusive or foul language in public at an AOA Certified Show.
 - 3. Cruelty and mistreatment of alpacas at an AOA Certified Show.
 - 4. Lack of compliance with Show System rules including attempts to circumvent rules or procedures.
 - 5. Falsification of information required by the Show System or any AOA Certified Show, including but not limited to, disclosure statements, shearing dates, birth dates, AOA Registration Certificates, or ownership of alpacas.
- F. AOA registered alpacas are the only animals permitted at AOA Certified Shows, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Service animals, as defined under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), are allowed at shows under the conditions as specified under the ADA. The presence of emotional support or therapy animals is at the discretion of the show and requires notification to show management prior to the show.
 - 2. **Alpacas entered into Youth Performance classes are not required to be AOA registered.**
- G. Ribbons/banners/awards shall not be misrepresented in any format: **Appropriate language is the name of the show and the award. Titles such as National, Supreme and Grand cannot be used except for the AOA National Show.**
- H. The Judge's final decision shall not be challenged except on the grounds that the Judge has committed a breach of the AOA Show System rules. Any complaint must follow proper procedures as set forth and must include reference to the specific Show System rule(s) allegedly violated.
- I. The Judge may, at his/her absolute discretion, direct the removal of a person from the Judge's ring or from the fleece room on the basis of bad conduct.
- J. Violation of any of the rules and standards of proper conduct as set forth in this Handbook may result immediate expulsion from the show venue by Show Management and/or a complaint or potential grievance being filed by Show Management to the Show System office with possible disciplinary action enforced.

PART II. IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITORS

Chapter 4. Helpful Tips—Before, At, and After the Show

Section 1. Before the Show

A. Is your alpaca show ready?

Definition of Show Ready: An alpaca or its fleece that is presented for show in optimal condition.

1. The show readiness of any alpaca being considered for show entry should be assessed before EACH show rather than limited to a single assessment made at the beginning of the show season. Determination of show ready condition should include evaluating the current health status of the alpaca, including body condition (score) and recovery from any health issues on the farm or subsequent to previous show(s) or transport. Do not take any alpaca to a show if it exhibits evidence of illness, contagious disease such as diarrhea or respiratory illness. Do not transport or show any juvenile alpaca that has just been weaned. Consult your veterinarian if you have any concerns as to the health status of your alpacas considered for show.
2. Selection of your alpacas for show purposes requires attention to all of the following. Show entries should:
 - a. Be trained to halter, including walking on a loose lead.
 - b. Stand easily for hands-on inspection.
 - c. Have a history of good health.
 - d. If juveniles, be weaned appropriately well in advance of the show using proper weaning procedures. The recommended time is three to four weeks prior to the first show. (NOTE: While the minimum age for showing juveniles is six months, each juvenile should be individually assessed as to being mature enough and ready to show.)
 - e. Exhibit a good body condition appropriate to size and weight for its age. Assess prior to each show.
 - f. Be free from evidence of disease or injury.
 - g. Exhibit natural pasture condition which may include evidence of a natural dust line throughout the fleece.

B. Exhibitors: Are you show ready?

1. Several months prior to your first show:
 - a. Ensure ample time to AOA register your alpacas by submitting a blood sample for DNA testing.
 - b. Ensure ample time to test for BVDV using the PCR test. Only one test in an alpaca's lifetime is required for show entry. BVDV testing is required on all alpacas that enter any AOA Certified Show venue.
2. Within 30 days prior to the last day of the show:
 - a. Schedule a vet visit. Your veterinarian must complete the CVI form for all of your alpacas going to the show. The CVI must be dated within 30 days prior to the last day of the show. Be sure that any tests that are required by the state in which the show is held have been performed and noted on the CVI along with a permit number if required by the host state of entry. Your veterinarian must also note on the CVI that each alpaca has been tested BVDV "negative" or BVDV "not detected" using the PCR test. The BVDV test results must be written on the CVI with the date of the test, the initials of the lab that performed the test, and the testing method (PCR).
 - b. Insert or recheck microchip for each alpaca. The microchip number along with the location of that microchip must be written on the CVI for each alpaca. This includes any companion alpaca.
 - c. Re-verify gender, and that each show entry is anatomically correct in its reproductive parts.
 - d. Check the general health of each alpaca, weigh or assess body score.
 - e. Re-verify AOA registration of each alpaca.
 - f. Check under the tail area for evidence of any abnormal discharges; clean/trim if needed.
 - g. Trim toenails, if needed.
3. Leaving for the show:
 - a. Recheck presence of microchip for each alpaca.
 - b. Re-verify gender, and that each show entry is anatomically correct in its reproductive parts.
 - c. Recheck the general health of each alpaca.
 - d. Recheck and clean/trim under tail area if needed.
 - e. Ensure that you take the necessary paperwork with you to the show:

- 1) Copies of AOA Registry Certificates for all alpacas taken to the show. Some shows require an additional copy for Show Superintendent records at check-in, and it is always a good idea to retain one copy in your own show folder.
 - 2) Original CVI and one photocopy for Show Superintendent's permanent records.
 - 3) Copies of all of your show registration entry forms in your show folder (for your records only).
- f. Pack appropriate attire and shoes for show ring presentation.
- C. Are your fleeces show ready? Selection of fleeces for show purposes requires attention to all of the following. Fleeces should:
1. **NEW for 2023: The required plastic bag SKU #S-10920 must be used to hold the fleece. Information regarding the source of this mandated plastic bag can be found at www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook.**
 2. Be appropriately skirted. Fleeces shall not be washed, artificially enhanced, trimmed, blocked, or plucked (removal of guard hairs throughout the blanket).
 3. Be free of parasites.
 4. Show good health, soundness, and is free of tender breaks.
 5. Be presented in natural pasture condition which may include evidence of a natural dust line throughout the fleece.
 6. Still exhibit good organization and overall structure, even if shown multiple times.

Section 2. At the Show

- A. Veterinary check-in:
1. Be prepared to provide a copy of the CVI (and AOA Registry Certificate, if required by the show).
 2. Assist with microchip verification on all alpacas.
- B. Show registration:
1. Be prepared to provide any missing documentation.
 2. Hand over paperwork from veterinary check, if needed.
 3. Compliance checking:
 - a. Ensure that all entries go through compliance checking.
 - b. Verify age, gender, and number of months of fleece growth for each show entry with compliance checker and on the exhibitor placard/armband.
 - c. Verify correct color class.
 4. Turn in your previously prepared fleeces along with the completed Fleece Entry Tag to the Fleece Show area before the deadline.
- C. Morning of the show: Verify that each show entry is listed correctly in the proper class in the show book.
- D. At ringside: Have your show entry at the gate area prior to the last call for your class.

Section 3. After the Show

It is strongly recommended that a quarantine area on the farm be prepared prior to leaving for the show so that all alpacas arriving home from the show can be put directly into the quarantine area.

1. Ideally, the quarantine area should be completely separate from any alpacas that did not attend the show. The minimum distance should be 30 feet.
2. Separate cleaning tools should be used for the quarantine area, or tools should be disinfected prior to using on any non-quarantine area that houses alpacas.
3. Disinfecting hands and footwear after leaving the quarantine area and prior to entering any non-quarantine area is strongly recommended.
4. It is strongly recommended that non-quarantine areas be tended to first before tending to the quarantined alpacas.
5. It is strongly recommended that the quarantine period be a minimum of two weeks, and preferably three weeks.