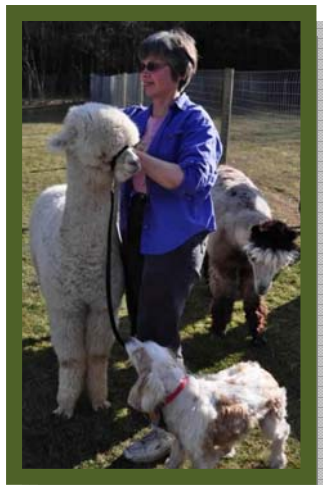




Alpaca Facts

1. *Alpacas* are members of the Camelid family which includes both Bactrian and Dromedary camels as well as Lama members: Vicuna, Guanaco, and Llamas.
2. *Alpacas* and llamas are domesticated South American camelids. Llamas are used primarily as beasts of burden while Alpacas have been bred for over 6000 years for their luxurious warm fiber.
3. *Alpacas* originated in the South America high altiplano and were imported to the U. S. from Chile, Bolivia and Peru.
4. *Alpacas* come in two types Huacaya (pronounced *wa-ki-ya*) (fuzzy) and Suri (silky dreadlocks).
5. Alpacas come in 22 different colors and can be solid or broken.
6. *Alpacas* are about 36" tall at the withers.
7. *Alpaca* adults weigh between 125 and 180 pounds.
8. *Alpacas* are induced ovulators which means they can be bred at any time of the year.
9. *Alpacas* have a gestation period of about 11 months and 2 weeks resulting in one baby.
10. *Alpaca* babies are called crias and usually weigh between 12 and 25 pounds at birth.
11. *Alpaca* crias are usually born in the morning, allowing them time to dry off and warm up before nighttime.
12. *Alpacas* use communal dung pile-often lining up to take their turn at the "potty pile" where they deposit their "beans".
13. *Alpacas* are gentle, inquisitive animals generally safe around children.
14. *Alpacas* make a noise called humming.
15. *Alpacas* "prunk" when they are happy. This looks



- like the action of cartoon "Peppy Le Pew" when he was in love, bouncing about on all four legs at the same time.
16. *Alpacas* have two defense mechanisms – kicking and spitting. They will not kick, bite or spit at people unless provoked.
17. *Alpaca* feet are padded and with two toes. Their nails need to be trimmed periodically.
18. *Alpacas* need woven wire fencing to keep predators such as coyotes and dogs from sneaking into their pastures. Five foot high with no space at the bottom is recommended.
19. *Alpacas* are efficient animals, thriving on good pasture such as timothy or orchard grass and hay.
20. 4 to 6 *Alpacas* per acre helps avoid overgrazing and keeps pasture at maximum productivity.
21. *Alpacas* eat a small amount of grain mix and free choice minerals to supplement their forage nutrients.
22. *Alpacas* are modified ruminants – their stomach has 3 compartments.
23. *Alpaca* fiber is comparable to cashmere – luxurious feeling.
24. *Alpacas* are sheared each year and their fiber is one of the most luxurious in the world.
25. *Alpaca* fiber is used alone or blended with other fibers to create unique textile characteristics valued for clothing in the U.S. and around the world.
26. *Alpaca* fiber has no lanolin which reduces the amount of chemicals needed in processing the fibers into an end product.
27. *Alpaca* fiber is stronger and lighter than sheep wool of the same fineness.

