

Huacaya & Suri Conformation – AAA Breed Standard

Overview

The alpaca is a tall, graceful animal with a smoothly blended body and upright stance. It carries its head high. It is strong boned and vigorous. It has good conformation with all its parts in correct proportion and when true to type has the characteristics described in this standard.

Head

The head has a strong appearance and is not coarse. It is neatly formed, of medium length and with a square muzzle. The eyes are oval in shape, alert and set well apart. They protrude slightly from their sockets, giving the appearance of being large and round. They may be blue, brown or black. The nose has two well-defined nostrils. The upper lip is divided and mobile. The ears are of medium length, covered with short soft hair, erect and bayonet-shaped, pointing forward in the alert stance. Suri ears can be up to 2cms longer than huacaya ears. The jaws fit together well, with the lower incisors meeting the upper dental pad.

FAULTS

- Muffled face (fibre or hair impeding the animal's vision - particularly after first shearing)
- Wry face
- Head very narrow
- Face hard & open
- Roman nose
- Lower jaw undershot or overshot

Neck

The neck is long and slender and continues directly from the line of the backbone, blending smoothly into the shoulder.

FAULTS

- Length of neck disproportionate to body size (too long or too short)
- Neck bent or U-neck

Forequarters

The chest is broad and deep, well sprung in the fore-rib. The wither is relatively wide where the shoulders meet, well fleshed and set well into the shoulders forming a straight line with the back.

FAULTS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| • Narrow chest | * | In or out at the elbows |
| • Loose shoulder blades | * | Prominent wither |

Note: The presence of one or more supernumerary teats is acceptable providing they do not interfere with the normal function of the normal teats.

Note: The above faults apply to both male and female alpacas.

Testicles

The scrotum is well attached, relatively small and carries two even sized testes.

FAULTS

- Testes of uneven size
- Testes too small (relative to age)

Height and Weight

A mature animal measures from approximately 90cm at the wither and weighs from approximately 60kg upwards.

FAULTS

- Oversized - particularly if llama like characteristics present

Movement

Alpacas should exhibit an even stride length with two distinct tracks, the hind feet following the front ones.

FAULTS

- Uneven stride length
- Paddling on the front feet

Disqualifying Faults

- Polydactylism (more than two toes on each foot)
- Syndactylism (fusion of the two toes of the same foot)
- Fused ears (short stubby ears or fused at the tips)
- Banana shaped ears
- Tail absent or abnormally short or bent
- Fewer than two testes
- Jaw not properly aligned
- Jaw excessively overshoot
- Jaw excessively undershot