

PRESS RELEASE 01-2021

At 12 months of a malicious and biased campaign organized by an NGO, questioning alpacas shearing practices, with a clear objective of crimping an exemplary livestock and textile industry on which more than half a million people depend, mostly small breeders, craftsmen, and workers from manufacturing companies.

We consider that it is not enough to tell the world how this graceful animal has evolved into a delicate and sensitive ecosystem, achieving at the hand of the Andean man, maintaining a bio-economic balance that allows the sustainable production of a noble fiber that dress the world, feed a competitive industry, and gives sustinment to thousands of families.

The International Alpaca Association and its members have renewed our commitment for a sustainable breeding of alpaca, which includes Animal Welfare and traceability throughout the value chain. In this regard, we indicate below the progress made in recent months:

Regarding the Textile Exchange (TE) Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS):

1. Prior to the NGO's complaint, the IAA and its members contacted TE to get involved in the work of developing RAS.
2. We have been part of the IWG (International Working Group) of RAS of TE since its formation, actively participating in all calls and work boards convened by TE.
3. We have channeled the contribution of leading breeders and expert Peruvian professionals to the TE Technical Team of RAS.
4. On December 2020, the first version of the RAS was approved by IWG members of TE. Subsequently between January and February 2021 this document was submitted to the public and contributions and observations were received, channeled through the TE Hub.
5. On April 20, 2021; 1.0 version of the RAS and User Manual has been published. (<https://textileexchange.org/standards/responsible-alpaca/>)
6. At the express request of TE, the IAA and its technical partner, ASCALPE (Alpaca Civil Association of Peru), have developed a Proposal for the gradual implementation of RAS in the next 05 years, which guarantees the certification and traceability of at least 15% of the alpaca fiber produced in Peru.
7. This proposal was presented at the last IWG meeting on March 25, 2021 and the Project Profile is being developed to provide access to funds for funding.

Regarding Peruvian Animal Welfare Standards and Standards:

1. In August 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR) in close coordination with the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI) and the International Alpaca Association, hired the Arce Prize Foundation of Spain, which has the technical and scientific support of the Complutense University of Madrid and the Polytechnic University of Madrid; to commission the development of the Animal Welfare Protocol in Shearing of Alpacas.
2. In December of the same year, after a 04-month work that included the registration and validation of instruments in 56 shearing processes in the highlands of Perú and the training of 15 shearers and professionals, the Protocol/Standard of Animal Welfare in Alpacas Shear was completed, based on the Technical Standard of Good Practices of Shearing NTP 231.370.2019.
3. This Standard was applied in April 2021, through a Pilot conducted by MIDAGRI in Cojata, Puno, with trained and accredited shearers; the first two batches of fiber certified with this standard were sold. This will allow make the necessary adjustments for a successful implementation in the next shearing campaign that begins in October 2021.

In addition, we should also point out that the IAA has participated as organizer and/or sponsor of the most important events and work platforms linked to the alpaca value chain in which exhibitions and panels related to Animal Welfare, Good Livestock Practices and Sustainable Breeding have been held. Among the most important ones:

1. International Webinar "Technological and Business Innovations in Peruvian and Australian Alpaca Production", held on December 07, 2020.
2. Virtual Forum "Challenges and Opportunities for the Sustainable Development of the Alpaca Fiber Exporting Production Chain - Co-Responsibility of the State and the Private Sector" held on 11, 12 and 13 May 2021.
3. Fair Trade and Sustainability – Clothing Forum, held on May 20 and 21, 2021.
4. Various presentations and talks related to Animal Welfare and Good Livestock Practices in the Breeding of Alpacas, required by the National Table of Alpaca, National Agricultural Innovation Program, Livestock Directorate of MIDAGRI, Exporting Highlands and Jungle, among others.

We reaffirm our rejection of any form of animal abuse and are confident that the work we have been doing in an articulated way with breeders, the academy, companies, and government, will allow us to demonstrate the responsible and sustainable management of alpaca and high Andean ecosystems.

Arequipa May 24, 2021

**BOARD DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL ALPACA ASSOCIATION**

