

## WALKING FLEECE COMPETITION

### A. Show Format

1. The Walking Fleece Competition is an opportunity for the exhibitor to enter a fleece competition where the prime fleece is evaluated while still on the alpaca. Each fleece is judged against the Alpaca Ontario Walking Fleece Scorecard on an absolute basis. Individuals are not scored in comparison to others present in their class.
2. Conformation is not assessed.
3. An Alpaca Ontario Walking Fleece Scorecard will be completed for each alpaca in the course of this evaluation/judging process. Placements are made on a highest point basis once all evaluations are completed and tabulated.
4. Oral comments by the judge may be given during the hands-on evaluation.
5. **Exhibitors must be aware that this is a time-consuming competition. If a simultaneous halter show is happening, then adequate handlers need to be available to meet the needs of both shows.**
6. Show ring(s) and on deck area(s) for the Walking Fleece classes need to be large enough to accommodate the largest class expected to show.
7. Lighting must be adequate to fully evaluate the fleece characteristics at all times of the day.

### B. Staffing requirements

1. The Walking Fleece Competition has staffing requirements separate from the Halter and Fleece Shows. Show Management must ensure that there is adequate staffing for this competition at their show. For simultaneous halter, fleece, and/or walking fleece shows, it is recommended that the Halter Show Superintendent, Fleece Show Superintendent, and the Walking Fleece Show Coordinator be different persons.
2. Staff specific to the Walking Fleece Show should include the following:
  - a. One Scribe per judge: Responsible to write the scores on the Walking Fleece Scorecard as the judge calls out the points.
  - b. One Calculations Clerk: Responsible for receiving the Scorecard from the Scribe and adding the scores on each Scorecard.
  - c. One Transcription Clerk: Responsible for verifying the scores on the Scorecard and transcribing them on to the class Judge's Worksheet.
  - d. One Gate Steward: Responsible for lining the classes up in the "on deck" area and for keeping the alpacas moving into the ring at the appropriate times.
  - e. One Ring Steward: Responsible for assisting the judge with the handling of the alpacas. At the request of the judge, the Ring Steward may need to assist in restraining, steadying, or calming an alpaca in the ring.
3. Judging by an AOA Certified Fleece Judge is required. Allow 8 alpacas per hour for one judge, or 64 to 70 alpacas per day per judge. If a Fleece Apprentice Judge is apprenticing, allow only 6 alpacas per hour.

## C. Rules and Procedures

1. Rules shall follow the rules for Fleece Shows according to breed, age divisions, colour groups, and class sizes. (Refer to Alpaca Ontario Rules, Chapter 8, A, Sec. 1- 4)
2. Rules for show entry must be met regarding:
  - a. Exhibitors rules (Refer to Alpaca Ontario Rules, Chapter 2, D, Sec.1 – 15).
  - b. Fleece Show rules (Refer to Alpaca Ontario Rules, Chapter 8, B, a, e, g – k, n-o)
  - c. Length of fibre, measured at mid-side without pulling or stretching, will follow the fleece show rules with the noted exceptions for fall shows:
    - 1) Huacaya: Minimum length of fleece presented to be 7.6 cm (three inches) with no maximum for juveniles under one year old, with a maximum of 20.3 cm (eight inches) for one year old and older.
    - 2) Suri: Minimum length of fleece presented to be 7.6 cm (three inches) with no maximum for juveniles and yearlings under two years old, with a maximum of 22.8 cm (nine inches) for those two years old and older.
    - 3) EXCEPTIONS: for Fall (July 1 – December 31) shows: Fleece length minimums will follow the fleece length rules for Halter Shows. The Judge (Halter or Walking Fleece) has the authority to disqualify any alpaca that does not meet the minimum fleece length.
      - i. Huacayas: Minimum of 5.0 cm (2 inches)
      - ii. Suris: Minimum of 7.6 cm (3 inches).
3. Colour Championships may be offered if minimum points are met (Refer to Alpaca Ontario Rules, Chapter 8, D).
4. At shows that offers both Walking Fleece and Halter Shows, simultaneously, the following colour order of show must be used:
  - a. For one Walking Fleece Judge: Fawn, Light, White, Multi, Gray, Black, Brown
  - b. For two Walking Fleece Judges:
    - 1) Judge 1 - Fawn, White, Gray
    - 2) Judge 2 - Light, Multi, Black, Brown
5. All the alpacas that constitute a class shall be judged consecutively. If circumstances cause an alpaca to miss its class, it may still be judged, providing that the Walking Fleece Competition for that class is still occurring.
6. Each alpaca in the Walking Fleece Show is evaluated in the ring separately. For efficiency, a table may be placed in the centre of the judging ring to create two judging stations. The judge will evaluate the first alpaca on one side of the tables and when finished, turn to the other side of the table to evaluate the second alpaca waiting there. The first alpaca will move away from the judging area so the third alpaca may take its place for judging. All alpacas in a class should remain in the ring area until all the scores for that class have been tallied. While waiting, the exhibitor may transfer control to another handler if needed.
7. After all alpacas in the class have been evaluated, the Judge will verify the accuracy of the Judging worksheet, identify any ties for placement and implement the tie breaker evaluation, assign places, and sign the official Judge's Worksheet.

8. The alpacas will be presented according to their scores and given the appropriate ribbons.
9. Colour Championships can be announced at any time the show management desires.

#### **D. Walking Fleece Judging Criteria:**

1. The following are the judging criteria and maximum point that may be awarded. The points are recorded in ink on a Walking Fleece Show Scorecard and in pencil on the Judge's Worksheet for both Huacaya and Suri.
  - a. Huacaya points:
    - Fineness and Handle (20)
    - Uniformity of: Micron (10), Length (5), and Colour (5)
    - Style: Character (crimp) (10) and Staple Type/ Density (5)
    - Brightness (10)
    - Absence of guard hair (10)
    - Absence of impurities/stains/fleece damage (5)
    - Maximum Point Total For Huacayas: 80**
  - b. Suri Points
    - Fineness and Handle (20)
    - Uniformity of: Micron (10), Length (5), and Colour (5)
    - Style: Lock Structure (10) and Density (5)
    - Luster (20)
    - Absence of guard hair (5)
    - Absence of impurities/stains/fleece damage (5)
    - Maximum Point Total For Suris : 85**
2. Criteria for assessing Uniformity of Length
  - a. A ruler is used to check the unstretched prime blanket fibre in the following four locations:
    - i. Shoulder
    - ii. Mid-side
    - iii. Rump
    - iv. Lower mid-side
  - b. These four measurements are compared to evaluate the uniformity of length score
    - i. 5- all measurements are extremely even in length
    - ii. 4- Some variation (approximately 1.3 cm (0.5") for Huacayas, 1.9 cm (0.75") for Suris) between shortest and longest measurements.
    - iii. 3- Greater variation, tip damage
    - iv. 2- Extreme range in lengths, part tender fleece
    - v. 0-1 – Score when deductions are made for lack of soundness in a very tender fleece the breaks easily throughout.
  - c. If the fleece does not meet the minimum or exceeds the maximum length (see C.1.c.1) to 3)) the alpaca shall be disqualified by the Judge from the

Walking Fleece Competition and so noted by the Judge on the Judge's Worksheet. The Walking Fleece Show Coordinator and alpaca handler will be notified of the disqualification and reason for it.

3. For Huacayas, the minimum Walking Fleece score to award a 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon is 48 (60%). For Suris, the minimum Waking Fleece score to award a 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon is 51 (60%). If none of the total points in a class achieve the 60% level or higher, then the judge shall start the placements with 2<sup>nd</sup> place in that class.
4. Gray fleeces are eligible to receive full points out of 5 for uniformity of colour. Multicolour designations and indefinite colour fleeces receive 0 points for uniformity of colour and have a total possible point value of 75 for Huacayas and 80 for Suris. In these classes, the minimum fleece score to award a 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbon is 45 (60%) for Huacayas and 48 (60%) for Suris.
5. Tiebreakers are the same as in the Fleece Show Rules:
  - a. In the event that any two Huacaya alpacas which have identical fleece scores, the tie will be broken based on the Fleece Scorecard in the following order:
    - Fineness and handle
    - Uniformity of micron
    - Absence of guard hair
    - Brightness
  - b. In the event that any two Suri alpacas which are tied have identical fleece scores, the tie will be broken based on the Fleece Scorecard in the following order:
    - Luster
    - Fineness and handle
    - Uniformity of micron
    - Absence of guard hair