

Alpaca Association of Ireland

Code of Conduct for the sale of Alpacas

Members of the Alpaca Association of Ireland agree to undertake and abide by the following code of conduct when offering Alpacas for sale.

Seller and Buyer Responsibilities

Members of the Alpaca Association of Ireland and other Signatories to this code are duty bound to sell Alpacas:-

- only after ensuring that purchasers understand the long-term commitment
- after making every effort to ensure that the new home offers adequate grazing, shelter, fencing, and fresh water, etc.
- by not indicating Alpacas as being "easy-to-keep" without making it clear that all livestock needs daily observation, care and attention, and can be subject to health and other problems

Sellers commit to be honest and truthful in all matters relating to the Alpaca(s) being offered for sale.

The Seller shall ensure when selling an Alpaca to another person that all documents as required by the Alpaca Association of Ireland or a national Alpaca Association / Society of another country will be supplied to the purchaser, e.g. Registration Certificate

Sellers will ensure that their Alpacas for sale are properly ear-tagged and micro-chipped

Sellers will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the animal nor falsely advertise Alpacas nor mislead any person regarding the health, quality or age of an Alpaca.

The Seller will declare any known faults in breeding ability, conformation, temperament and ancestry, where this relates to the intended purpose of the purchaser.

The Seller will ensure animals offered for sale are behaviorally sound, living or capable of living within a herd.

The Seller will state if an animal is presented for sale on behalf of a dealer or another owner.

Sellers only sell Alpacas where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of Alpacas if the initial circumstances change.

The Seller and Buyer will abide by all aspects of current Animal Welfare regulations.

Sellers and Buyers shall plan each mating with the paramount intention of maintaining the standard of the Alpaca and shall breed only when the Buyer is in a position to give proper care to both the mother and cria.

The Seller and Buyer will ensure Animal Welfare During Transportation and follow the Dept. Of Agriculture Guidelines for the welfare of non-farming ("other") species during commercial transport as applicable.

The Buyer agrees that no healthy Alpaca or Cria will be culled. Alpacas which may no longer be required should be placed in suitable homes.

The Buyer agrees not to allow an Alpaca to be given as a competition prize or donation.

Buyers must recognise their responsibility to protect the reputation of the Alpaca community and shall not allow their Alpacas to roam at large unsupervised, or to become a public nuisance, or to be a charge upon an Animal Rescue Societies.

Care / Husbandry and Facilities

The Seller shall inform the Buyer of the characteristics of Alpacas, and make available to the novice the benefit of his / her advice and experience.

The Seller must ensure the Buyer understands the high level requirements of caring for Alpacas in particular relating to Water, Feeding, Shelter, Space and Socialisation

- Water: Animals should have continuous access to clean drinking water.
- Feeding: Animals should have nourishment adequate to sustain life and health including grass, access to hay and supplementary concentrate feeding as required.
- Shelter: Animals should have natural or man-made shelter that enables them to find relief from extreme weather conditions. The sheltered area must be spacious enough to allow the animals to stand, lie down, rest and reasonably move about.
- Space: Animals should have a living area through which they can move freely and exercise independently and there should be adequate grazing available to accommodate the increase in herd size if breeding animals are being purchased.
- Socialisation: Alpacas are herd animals and should not live alone without a companion Alpaca. A Cria (a baby Alpaca under six months) should not be raised apart from it's mother or other Alpacas.

The Seller must stress the importance of inoculations for the main Alpaca diseases.

At the time designated for delivery of the Alpaca(s) to the buyer, the Seller will ensure that the Alpaca (s) are in good health, the Alpaca(s) will be current for vaccinations, worming, toenail and teeth trimming consistent with the husbandry practices of the selling breeder.

The Seller will provide a Veterinary Health certificate or agree to Veterinary health checks if requested by the Buyer for any animals selected for Purchase.

Breeding Status

The Seller will not knowingly sell line bred, or inbred stock, or related male/female pairs without declaring them as such.

Females sold are declared -

- Confirmed pregnant: only following a blood test or ultrasound scan and 'Spit Off' and there has been no reason to suspect a miscarriage. A live Cria must be born and survive to be one week old otherwise a free re-mating must be offered
- Proven Female:- A female Alpaca that has successfully given birth to a healthy Cria in the past
- Non-Proven Female:- A maiden female Alpaca or a female that has not successfully produced Cria before

Males may be sold as Pet Males / Geldings, potential Stud Males or as a Proven Stud Male.

- Pet Males / Geldings: males that are either unsuitable for Breeding or considered to be of a low enough quality that it is advisable not to breed from them.
- Potential Stud Males:- Males that are considered to be good enough quality to be a Stud Male.
- Proven Stud Male: Males that have been successfully mated and have healthy cria on the ground

When Stud services are supplied

- The Stud Fees covers the mating and should provide a guarantee for a live Cria surviving to 1 week of age.
- In the event of the mating being unsuccessful or the Cria not surviving a further 2 matings will be provided
- If mating is still unsuccessful following 3 matings, consideration should be given to the proven breeding history and health of the animals before further matings are tried.

Documentation

All animal sales agreements and guarantees will be in writing and signed by both seller and buyer.

The Seller must provide full disclosure of the animal's known physical condition, fiber, medical history, vaccinations, and breeding history. The husbandry records in written format will be provided to the buyer including last worming and vaccination dates.

The Seller must provide the buyer with a copy of the registration certificate containing the pedigree record of each purchased Alpaca and comply in a timely manner with current procedures for transferring ownership on the relevant register.

The Seller will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing Alpacas in a new home.

After Sales Assistance and Support

The Seller will offer after-sales help and advice within reason whenever needed by the purchaser.

The Seller will provide information, training and advice about Alpaca care, diet, pasture, shelter and other necessary information to the Buyer.

The Seller agrees to making him/herself available to aid the new owner if and when the need presents itself.

The Seller agrees to provide factual information to clients and visitors or help them find the information elsewhere.

Alpaca Associations

The Buyer is advised to ensure that the animal being bought is registered with the Alpaca Association of Ireland or a national Society / Association of another country.

The Seller and Buyer must ensure that the animals sold are transferred to the ownership of the Buyer on the relevant Association / Society registry

The Seller agrees to recommend membership of the Alpaca Association of Ireland.

