

Alpaca Fun Facts



- Alpacas are a member of the camelid family and originated from South America.
- Alpacas were first imported to the United States in 1984.
- Alpacas live to be 15 – 20 years old. The oldest was 27 years old.
- Alpacas weigh between 100 – 200 pounds and are about 36” high at the withers (where the neck and spine come together).
- Alpacas produce 5 – 10 pounds of fleece per year when sheared.
- Alpaca fleece is as soft as cashmere and warmer, lighter, and stronger than wool. It comes in 16 natural shades which can be dyed in bright colors.
- Alpacas eat about 2 pounds of grass and hay per day and chew a cud.
- Alpacas are safe and pleasant to be around. They do not bite or butt and do not have sharp teeth, horns, hooves, or claws.
- Alpacas are very quiet. They may make a humming noise to communicate or an occasional shrill sound to send an alarm.
- Alpacas are smart animals and are fairly easy to train. They can learn to compete in obstacle courses and jump small hurdles.
- Alpacas come in two breeds, as shown below.

Huacaya (wah-KI-ah)

Fleece is fluffy, crimpy,
and teddy bear-like

Suri (SOO-ree)

Fleece is silky
and lustrous
with pencil-locks