



29 June 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

WORLD CLASS WINS BY AUSTRALIAN ALPACAS

Australian alpacas have once again proved they are world class, winning 37 ribbons from 44 fleeces entered in the 2nd International Alpaca Fleece Show, held in Cleveland, Ohio this month.

Organised by the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) of the USA, as a part of the World Alpaca Conference 2009, the fleece show attracted 936 entries from the United States, Canada and Australia.

The panel of five international judges, including Cameron Holt and Lyn Dickson from Australia, took three and a half days to assess the huge array of huacaya and suri fleeces.

Judge Lyn Dickson said, "This was the first time I had been invited to judge fleeces in the USA and the quality entered was extremely impressive with some very high-scoring exhibits – the best huacaya fleeces all scored over 90%, with maximum points for fineness, handle and weight."

Lyn went on to explain, "The classes were a little different from our shows, with Championships awarded by colour and gender, rather than by age groups of mixed sex, as is the case in Australia. There is no Supreme Champion under the AOBA show rules, which I found a little disappointing, as there would have been many contenders for such a prestigious award – some of them Australian."

In addition to the many place ribbons won by our alpaca breeders, Australian alpacas were also awarded a Championship, two Reserve Championships and two special awards, in huacaya and suri categories, for the Highest Points Score achieved by a First Time Exhibitor at a National US show.

Champion White Suri Male in the yearling age group (and Highest Points Score for a first time suri exhibitor) was awarded to Kurrawa Shavari. Natasha Clark, from the family-run Kurrawa stud in Victoria, declared herself "thrilled to win again at this year's show". Kurrawa was also winner of the Supreme Suri Fleece at the inaugural International Fleece Show, held in Sydney last year.

Other major winners included Baarrooka (Victoria), Illawarra Alpacas (NSW) and Karri Heights (WA), showing that top quality huacaya and suri alpacas are being produced right across Australia.

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