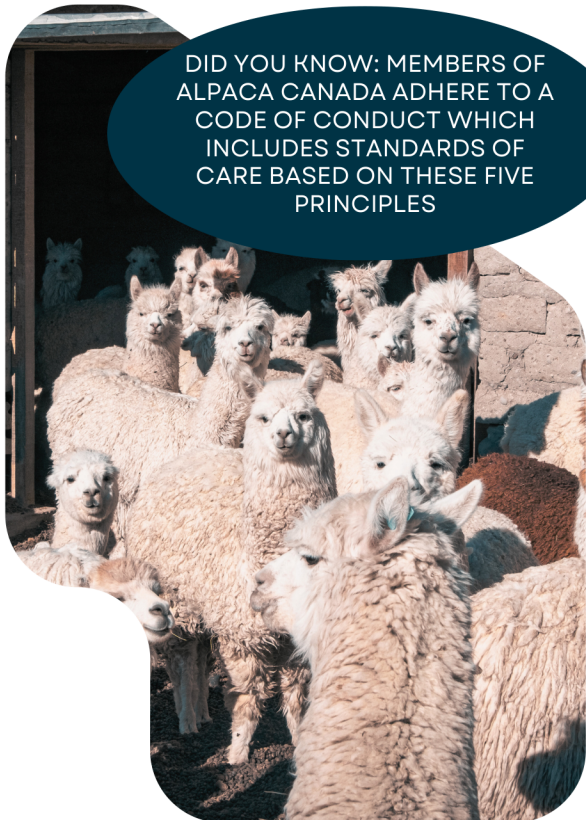


The 5 F's of Animal Welfare

The Five Freedoms represent the gold standard for animal welfare across the world, and can help guide decision making for any livestock, including alpacas:

- Freedom from Hunger & Thirst
- Freedom from Discomfort
- Freedom from Pain, Injury & Disease
- Freedom to Express Normal & Natural Behaviour
- Freedom from Fear & Distress

DID YOU KNOW: MEMBERS OF ALPACA CANADA ADHERE TO A CODE OF CONDUCT WHICH INCLUDES STANDARDS OF CARE BASED ON THESE FIVE PRINCIPLES



If you're familiar with other livestock, you'll find alpacas to be fairly low maintenance and easy to work with. Like any other animal though, the time and work you invest in your herd will be reflected in your outcomes: Health, behaviours, and of course, end-products.

While not every alpaca owner raises them for their fibre, this pamphlet is aimed towards providing general information that is applicable to every alpaca owner, outlining the most basic considerations for meeting Alpacas specific needs, and helping support the success of your investment.

Depending on your unique situation you may find you want to provide care over and above what is suggested here, more specific to your goals. Reaching out to mentors and other farmers may provide additional insight into region specific needs.

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Alpaca Husbandry

GUIDELINES & CONSIDERATIONS FOR RAISING HEALTHY, HAPPY ALPACAS





Housing

Alpacas are hardy and adaptable, and can be raised anywhere in the country. Some general considerations for housing include:

- Space: 2-5 alpacas/acre if housed on moderate pasture, more if on dry lot
- Sex specific pastures: Males and Females should be housed separate
- Predator proof fencing to keep dogs & wildlife out
- Shelter from wind, rain, and snow, with enough room for animals to lay in comfortably
- Access to fresh, clean, unfrozen water 24/7
- 24/7 Access to good leafy forage & Alpaca specific mineral

Health

Generally healthy, alpacas are usually considered to be more disease resistant than other traditional livestock. Health management usually includes:

- Vaccination with a standard 8-way, as recommended by your vet
- Supplemental Vitamin A,D & E throughout the year
- Monthly Ivermectin Injections if located in meningeal worm regions
- Annual spring shearing to prevent heat stroke & infertility
- Routine monitoring of fecal samples for evidence of parasites, and deworming as appropriate
- Trimming of toenails as needed
- Fighting teeth blunting (usually once)

Supporting Healthy Behaviours

Alpacas are highly social animals with a strong reliance on the herd. Alpacas not raised with other alpacas are prone to stress related illnesses, including ulcers and may not thrive. They can similarly become dangerous if raised away from other alpacas, and may develop unhealthy, obsessive behaviours when raised in isolation. In particular, cria should not be raised apart from the herd.

Alpacas are best raised in same-sex groups/herds of at least 3 individuals, to reduce stress, and promote healthy, natural behaviours.



Did you know: Male alpacas will overbreed females if housed with them full time, which can cause injury or death