

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND AIMS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ITALIAN ALPACA POPULATION ENTERED IN THE R.A. OF ITALPACA.

DEFINITION OF THE POPULATION.

The population referred to in the present text regarding “TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS” and that of the “TECHNICAL REGULATIONS” comprises all animals kept and bred by the members of the association ITALPACA, who adhere to the same programme of genetic management of the animals.

ORIGIN OF THE POPULATION.

The population is of mixed origin. Individual animals can originate directly from Peru, Bolivia and Chile, or can be born in other European or Non-European countries.

BREEDING AREAS.

Stud farms can be located in any part of Italy, inc. the Islands.

DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

The following coat colours are accepted:

- all pigmentation models (phaeomelanic, wild, phaeomelanic with eumelanic extremities, black and tan, eumelanic and possibly others);
- eumelanic black, dark brown and light brown;
- uniform white;
- dilution of the pigmentation, congenital grey and greying;
- various forms of spotting.

The coat can be:

- of Suri or Huacaya type. Intermediates of the two types are also accepted; extensive or of average extent.

BIOMETRIC MEASUREMENTS.

Biometric characteristic s	1 year				2 years			
	males		females		males		females	
	x cm	CV %	x cm	CV %	x cm	CV %	x cm	CV %

Height at withers	80	4.8	83.3	4.4	82.5	3.3	81.64	2.8
Width of rump	20	12	22.44	20.3	20.57	19.3	22.14	15.6

MAIN FEATURE

The main feature of the animal must be that of the textile fibre production.

AIMS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The main aim for improvement is the selectivity for the improvement of the fibre production.

The types Suri e non Suri (“Huacaya”) will be bred independently. There will therefore be two selection programmes: The “Suri” programme, and the “non Suri” (Huacaya) programme.

Selection objectives in both programmes are:

- the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the fibre production;
- the morphological correctness of the animal.

Selection criteria are:

- the weight of the fleece, taken at the first shearing (at around one year of age);
- the fineness, measured at the first shearing (at around one year of age);
- the coefficient of variation (C.V.) of the fineness;
- the morphological-linear screening/judging of the animals, done at one year of age (8\16 months), at the time of the first shearing.

The selection method is the direct screening/judging of the candidate animal for selection (“Performance Test”). Ancestry data (“Pedigree Test”) serves merely to preselect the subjects to be screened/judged.

Both males and females will be indexed at one year of age (8\16 months) through phenotypical partial indexes (weight of fleece, fineness, C.V., and morphological-linear screening/judging), and a phenotypical total performance index (TPI).

CHOICE OF REPRODUCERS.

As improver reproducers will be chosen those males and females with the highest phenotypical total performane index (TPI).

Animals with the following congenital defects will not be admitted as improver reproducers:

- upper and lower brachignatism;
- knock knees front or back legs;

- inward or outward looking toes on any leg;
- blue eyes (in uniformly white animals);
- mono and bilateral cryptorchidism;
- extra nipples and defects of the mamella;
- any other congenital defects affecting the legs.

Eliminated from the reproduction will, due to their unsuitability, animals with:

- lacking fleece;
- heavy head;
- narrow front;
- horizontal back;
- thin legs.

Minimum characteristics required for registration in Sections II and III of the R.A. are:

- positive TPI;
- a minimum of 25 points from the morphological-linear screening/judging.

Minimum characteristics required for registration in Sections IV and V of the R.A., without entering them in the selective process, are:

- a minimum of 15 points from the morphological-linear screening/judging.

The above translation by R. Steiger is insofar unofficial as it has not been approved by Italpaca as being technically and legally correct.