



Famous for fur!!!

Did you know we Shear Alpacas?

Like sheep, alpacas need to be sheared regularly.

Shearing has the following benefits:

- it improves the welfare of the Alpaca by avoiding overheating
- reduces chances of flystrike, allows better assessment of overall condition
- allows inspection of the skin condition and possible parasite e.g. mite infestation and allows more effective treatment if required.

Alpacas are shorn once a year, usually in Spring when the weather is warm. Alpacas are shorn stretched out on the floor or a shearing table, restrained by the legs. This protects both the alpaca and shearer from sudden movements causing cuts.

One side is shorn first; the alpaca is then rolled over and the other side shorn.

It takes about 20 minutes to shear one Alpaca.





Did you know?

Treasured by the ancient Inca civilisation, their fine fleeces were reserved for Incan royalty

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The fur that is sheared of is called fleece.

The fleece is cleaned with a special brush. Brushing alpaca fleece is called 'carding'

Spinners turn the brushed fur called 'fibre' into wool



Alpaca fibre (fleece) is used for making knitted and woven items, similar to sheep's wool. These items include blankets, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, a wide variety of textiles, and ponchos

Alpaca fibre is considered the second strongest natural animal fibre. The first is mohair.

Alpaca wool is considered hypoallergenic. It is also much softer than sheep's wool, Not only that, but their wool is also water and flame-resistant. How cool!

There are about 52 different colour variations for alpaca fur.

It's x5 warmer and more durable than the wool of a sheep.

