

KARAKUL SHEPHERDS ALLIANCE ~ *where the flocks gather*

Karakul fleeces - most are double-coated

From email correspondence with Letty Klein, June-July 2018

There are two types of fiber producing follicles on Karakul sheep: Primary and Secondary. The Primary follicles can produce medullated (the outer coat), kemp and wool fibers, while the secondaries only produce wool fibers (under-coat). Most primaries are producing fibers at birth, some of the secondaries may be producing wool or undercoat fibers at birth, but others may not start producing fibers until as long as three months after birth. Then about the three-month time period they may undergo a shed of some of the birth-coat fibers. I see this mostly in the non-black lambs.



Here is a photo of three Karakul lamb fleece samples I recently sheared. The two on the outside are about four months of age, while the dark brown center one is from a lamb about three months old. They all have some fuzzy secondary wool fibers evident, i.e. peach fuzz.

It has been a long time since I saw a single coated Karakul. I know I do not have any. A few breeders show yearlings where they have brushed out (yanked out) the undercoat as well as all the 'character' and lock style. They do well with their Karakuls as judges seem to like the appearance.

Letty Klein, Senior Alliance Advisor
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Karakul Shepherd since 1982, National Wool Judge, Author of [*The Shepherds Rug*](#)

Attached: Micron scan of Klein yearling black Karakul ewe. Notice double-coat.

Email correspondence compiled by Deborah Y. Hunter, Librarian, Historian & Registrar
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OFDA 2000 REPORT : SORTED BY TAG
 Breed Fleeces (76Records)

EarTag : 177
 Micron : 38.4 mic
 SD : 14.5 mic
 CV : 37.9 %
 CF : 39.9 %

Staple Len : 155.0 mm
 Min Mic : 32.8 mic
 Max Mic : 50.2 mic
 Finest Point From Tip : 130.0 mm
 SD Along : 5.01 mic

