



KARAKUL SHEPHERDS ALLIANCE ~ where the flocks gather

# Karakul Tails & Tales

Winter 2020

Volume 2, Number 1

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## Karakul Alliance Goals

Our primary goals are to:

1. find flocks
2. count sheep
3. bring together a community of Karakul shepherds

The Alliance has been working toward these objectives and the survival of Karakuls in North America since 2014.

**Membership is not required for any of our services.**

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Turn-around time for certs has been ~3-4+ weeks. Time is spent on details, and calculating pedigrees and Bloodline percentages by hand. I take my time & do it right. Let me know your deadline please. ~

*Deborah*

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Words of wisdom from the late Page Jacobs ~ Dec 8, 1988

*"Registries are only as good as we breeders make them."*

## Newsletter of the Alliance & KSAR

Welcome to the first **KT&T** of 2020! The Fall 2019 issue of **Karakul Tails & Tales** was not published. Deborah Hunter, Karakul Shepherds Alliance Founder and Registrar, presented at TLC (The Livestock Conservancy) Annual Conference in Santa Rosa, California. It was October 26, 2019 and we were all significantly impacted by the Northern California Kincaide Fires. Thankfully, we finished up the day before the city of Santa Rosa was evacuated. Presentation link is on the **front page** & our **News** page.

The Presentation & ensuing 'catch up' after returning home resulted in NO Fall Newsletter.

I hope to make up for that deficiency with this issue.

The Alliance's primary services and their online locations:

- Offer education, history & news to Karakul shepherds- [karakulshepherds.org](http://karakulshepherds.org)
- Locate Karakul flocks of any size, particularly if isolated -- **Flock Finder** tab
- Provide an easy way to communicate & share - **Karakul Shepherds Alliance Facebook**
- Offer Registrations to Karakul breeders in an Open Flock book --**Registry** page
- Bring Traditional Flocks 'into the fold' -- **Traditional Flocks** document

Thank you for using KSAR—Karakul Shepherds Alliance Registry!

**This Alliance Newsletter is written in honor of Letty Klein's love and dedication to Karakul sheep, since 1982 [Pine Lane Farm](#).**

## Letty Klein's Spinning Tips on SE2SE & Wool page

National Wool Judge, Kalamazoo, MI

The director of The Livestock Conservancy, Alison Martin thought it would be a good idea if a representative from each of the sheep rare breeds wrote a 1-page Spinning Tips for the *Shave 'Em 2 Save 'Em Facebook & Blog* (SE2SE). Letty Klein was the first asked due to her lengthy experience with Karakuls (38 years), spinning, and judging wool.



Karakul *Spinning Tips* is now on the Alliance's **Wool** page. Letty's advice:

**From Roving** - Just draft a bit, treadle slowly, don't over-spin, and practice your long-draw! So many possibilities.... work with the color variations. The yarn on the left has orange noils carded into the roving. It was used as the warp in an award-winning woven rug.



**Karakul Color Possibilities**

**In-the-grease** - Tease the raw locks apart with your fingers, just fluff it; and then let the wheel pull the fibers in. If a lamb fleece, leave the little birth-curls on the ends of the locks to stick out adding a unique texture and color variation to the yarn.

**Spinning-in-the-grease**, Letty's favorite



**Sticky grease?** If the wool seems a little tacky, a few seconds in the microwave will soften it. This tip from the late Karakul judge Glen Eidman.

**Washing a raw fleece:** Careful, no agitation and no water temperature changes!

For a small amount lay the locks in a salad spinner strainer, immerse in hot soapy water for a few minutes, then spin out. Move the basket to rinse water of the same temperature, spin again and dump onto a towel to dry.

Visit [Wool](#) to print *Spinning Tips*

Advertising your sheep, farm, and/or related products on our **For Sale** page is available for \$10 per ad, good for one year, using the fillable online form under **Advertise**.

Requests for Karakul sheep are listed under **Sheep Wanted**; check it out regularly for possible sales, although little activity lately.

## Contact

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Thanks in advance for helping the Alliance to connect with as many breeders as we can, while we build the Karakul database.

Please keep in touch. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Old forms dated 2016 to 2018 are now obsolete. Please recycle! Use 2019-2020 forms 😊

**People you sell sheep to please**

**send CONTACT info to me!**

Especially their Email address for our digital Newsletter.

Even if buyers do not want to be contacted, minimum send to me Name & City for tracking Hidden Flocks. THANKS!

## News--Database delayed & Brochure completed



Front cover of the Alliance's Brochure Email [info@karakulshepherds.org](mailto:info@karakulshepherds.org)

for a free copy! ~ Deborah

New [Work Order/Fee Schedule](#) reflects packs for sale--Pay by **Check or PayPal**

KSAR is designing a first-ever database for American Karakul sheep! However, the database has been delayed due to the Programmer's house building. I continue to work with the Programmer and The Livestock Conservancy on developing a pedigree registration service.

The new Karakul brochure is complete and printed. Visit the new **Books Plus** page to order packs of 5, 10 or 20 for your farm advertising! Or go to **Karakul Sheep** for instructions on self-printing copies.

## KSAR - New Way to Register & Correcting Certs OK

Good identifying photos include **Head, Tail and Markings**.

J Kamar white ram Shiro-Aries, owned by Antonio Woodard. Photo by breeder Leslie Johnson. Linebred on TAMU San Angelo, flock dispersed 1994. TAMU is the 10<sup>th</sup> identified US Karakul Bloodline.



**It doesn't get much easier than this!** A NEW option for registering with Photos and the SKETCH Form. **Submit GOOD identifying photos & 6 lines of info for \$10 per registration**. Follow-up questions will be asked if sheep/ lamb IDs weren't photographed in the best light.

Alliance Advisors decided to **accept Handwritten changes** on Registration Certificates. Please print neatly, initial & date to add a sheep's name, change an eartag#, write ancestors in a pedigree. Changes in the spreadsheet-database will be made when the cert comes in for a transfer. If a *corrected* Duplicate certificate is needed, include \$3 for each. **Verification of Breeding** form has been uploaded to the **Registry** page. There were a few bred Karakul ewes sold last fall.

## Education Focus - Bloodlines & SVF Foundation

The Alliance worked with **The Livestock Conservancy** and utilized their working definition of a Bloodline. After the 2017 Census we identified nine and a possible tenth US Karakul Bloodline. That outline and compilation came together on the **BLOODLINES** page, posted on our **website** July 2019; TAMU was added March 2020

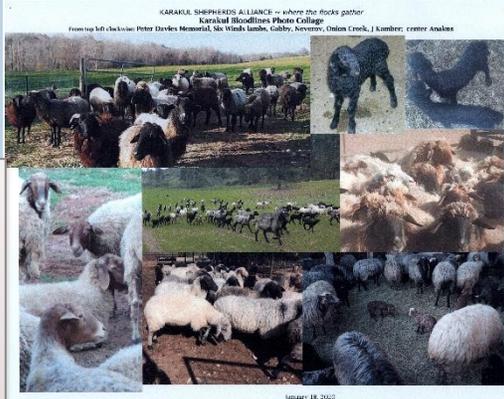


Photo collage of current Karakul Bloodlines on the Bloodlines page

At the same time the **SVF Foundation** in Newport, Rhode Island, in conjunction with Tufts University Vet School, were working on the **Smithsonian & SVF Biodiversity Preservation Project**. They were gathering Karakuls for the rare breed cryopreservation project; rams and ewes were purchased for collection of semen, eggs, and embryos.

I have been asked to pull together small Bloodline flocks that wish to participate. In order to make room for the 2020 Bloodline Karakuls, **SVF needs to sell their 2019 Karakul stock**. **Sarah, Prog Mgr complied a list**; it's now on the Alliance's **For Sale** page **Support this project and see which sheep will fit your breeding program!** ~ Deborah

Transportation possible