



In This Issue

- Alliance Services & KSAR
- American & New Zealand Karakuls
- Karakul News 2020
- Registry Policy – Important Basics
- Education Focus – Birth Coat Evaluations

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.

The **BLOODLINES** page is full of information for breeders, but the recent NZ news has not yet been updated on karakulshepherds.org
Coming soon. Keep checking.

Photo left: Black Pines Karakul ram – Owned & photographed by the late Myrtle Dow

Photo right: Willowbank Marco – Owned and photographed by Michael Willis
Both Images courtesy of Sheep101.info

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

Registries are only as good as we breeders make them.

Alliance Services & KSAR (The Registry)

It's time to RECYCLE all your old KSAR Registry forms! Now some may think 'forms' are all our Registry does since they change every year; but I promise you, *this time is different*. First, please allow me to apologize for the very late arrival of your certificates this year. My desire is to get them out to breeders with a complete packet of registry documents. Alliance Advisors started our re-design project in mid-May, and five of us continued to modify and improve documents all summer and fall; which was just completed late October. Most important was the Registry Policy, converted from our earlier Traditional Flocks paper. A full one-third is dedicated to rare Unknown Flocks, currently less than 1% of our registrations. But now there is a system outlined to guide breeders bringing their No History sheep into KSAR, plus we have a process for the NZ bloodline and tracking percentages; all designed to work with our planned database. Advisors and the database programmer discussed assignment of registration numbers. Suffixes added, or not, onto the numbers now sort sheep into 3 sections of the *KSAR Open Registry Flock Book*— American, International NZ, and No History. Our Registry page has 9 new documents— including Application, Lamb Assessment, Barn Worksheet, and the 7-page Important Relevant Documents for extra information. Thank you for supporting KSAR!

American & New Zealand Karakuls

Willowbank Marco - Owned & photo by Michael Willis, Image courtesy of <http://www.willowbankfarm.co.nz/>



Late last year Michael Willis of Willowbank Farms in New Zealand answered my request for some information about the 2005 genetic import. When asked for a photo of

Marco, I was pointed to the Willowbank Farm website and this stunning head profile of a dark brown Karakul ram. Marco was a favorite, born Aug 2002. Serendipitously, I later located a second photo on Susan Schoenian's website sheep101.info underneath a photo of a Black Pines ram (below). It is easy to see the difference in frame size. Marco also sires progeny with great dispositions; he and his ancestors were raised in a NZ wildlife sanctuary.

This September while working with The Livestock Conservancy (TLC), I asked about the NZ bloodline and how it fits with American Karakuls. I got this response from Dr. Phil Sponenberg,

"TLC focuses on the conservation of unique and rare genetic resources. The American Karakul fits into the framework in a very specific and unusual spot. The Karakul is internationally a common breed, but the American Karakul has been separated from it genetically as well as by selection goals for [over] a century. In that regard, TLC can only consider as "American Karakuls" those sheep that are completely free of other influences, at least to the extent that can be easily documented. While Karakuls are indeed an interesting and important breed, those that are outside of this very narrow definition of American Karakul fall outside of TLC's core mission and therefore cannot be the target of TLC's programs."



In our new Policy, Advisors designed an easy way to track the NZ bloodline in our population, and when NZ influence is below 3%, sheep will then be counted



as American Karakuls. Additionally, KSAR will internally track the 100% Americans for TLC.

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**.

Registry page & paper Packets 8 core docs all work together; they're linked. Then check out the 7-page **Important Relevant Documents** for extra information

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People you sell sheep to please send CONTACT info to me

To receive our digital Newsletter e-mail addresses are needed

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

KSAR Forms Modernizers

May-Oct 2020

Deborah Hunter, Letty Klein, Babette Turk & two Advisors who wish to remain Anonymous.

We did the best possible job working at the speed of volunteers. Thanks for waiting. ~ Deborah

NEWS about American Karakul Sheep 2020

The **SVF Foundation** in Newport, Rhode Island, cancelled their collection of Karakul semen, eggs, and embryos for 2020. It impacted a couple of Bloodline breeders who were planning to participate. Most of the 2019 SVF Karakuls were placed into a breeder's flock in the Michigan Thumb region.

Babette Turk, California & Letty Klein, Michigan shared their experiences with Karakul sheep on *Deerly Woven*, a podcast about fiber sheep, during **Episode 17** on June 10th.



Ewe lamb & 2 yearlings at J Kamar – Leslie's non-fading dark red Karakuls show their true colors after Oklahoma rain storms.

Leslie Johnson, J Kamar Karakuls, Oklahoma gave a slideshow presentation for ASI (American Sheep Industry) *Let's Grow* program. In conjunction with The Livestock Conservancy, Leslie was part of the Webinar entitled **Conservation and Comeback of Heritage Sheep** on September 8th. She talked about the breed's history and her development of non-fading dark red Karakuls. Check out her talk between 29:15 and 41:00 minutes.

KSAR - Registry Policy - Quick Overview of Important Basics

The basic four criteria for No History ewes to determine Karakul Breed Character: 1) lamb birth coat 2) broadtail 3) 'desert spirit' head 4) unique sloping topline

The suffixes -Z and -NH followed by a number tracks generations based on the bloodline percentages of either New Zealand or No History sheep:

Generation	Percent	SUFFIXES:	
Z1	50% +	-AM	American, 100% (internal tracking for TLC)
Z2, NH2	25% +	(no suffix)	American Karakul
Z3, NH3	12% +	-NH	No History
Z4, NH4	6% (3.1 - 11.9%)	-Z	New Zealand
5 (no suffix)	3% or less	-CA	Canada (future)

These suffixes added, or not, onto registration numbers sort Karakuls into 3 sections of the KSAR Open Registry Flock Book—**American, International NZ**, and **No History**.

The *Registry Policy* has the details. I'm happy to answer questions. Email, text or call.

Education Focus - Birth Coat Evaluations

The shortened, focused Karakul Lamb Barn Worksheet with an abbreviated Birth Coat Assessment on the flip side is even better! It is much easier to track the five most important criteria for Persian lamb. **CURLS, LUSTER, TEXTURE, PATTERN, DEVELOPMENT.** **CLTPD** notes from Worksheets can be transferred to Registration Certificates, and entered into KSAR tracking to find the best birth coat sheep to recommend for future breedings. Shepherds are encouraged to submit lamb photos to info@karakulshepherds.org SUBJ: Birth Coat Evaluation, for rating by 3 Advisors.



Both photos from Anakus Karakuls, Julia DeVlieg collection

EVALUATION HINT:

Hagerman's *The Karakul Handbook* pg 46 states "The **left side** usually shows full development first & is most often a better indicator of the lamb's true quality."

Books are available on the Books Plus page

