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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.

KSAR Certificates focus on identification of the Karakul & Bloodlines (History). 1st, I need identifying photos if you do not want to fill out applications. 2nd, to generate pedigrees, please write it out OR scan or send copies of AKSR certificates, front (& back if there's a photo) info@karakulshepherds.org [Registry Page](#)

Photo left: Taxidermy lamb, built-in carrying case, Karakul Fur Farm eartag# 18801. Two cabinet lights added.

Photo right: Karakul Ram oil painting by Srcele (or Jrcele). The ram's vivid yellow eyes always seem to follow me.

Alliance Services-New Karakul Archives

Hello! This is the 2nd Newsletter of 2021, six weeks after the first. I am bound & determined to send two Newsletters a year, even if the second is on New Year's Eve. Please bear with me during the Alliance's growth phase. There's been LOTS happening, and I would like to catch you up.

I mentioned last issue that the Alliance is in the business of historical preservation, both blood-line Karakuls and their records. I stated that *farm sheep records have value*, are important purebred history, and to please make allowances to have yours passed on to someone who will maintain their value with future historical research.

The Alliance Archives have opened!

In addition to sheep and records we can now include Karakul art in our collection. I have drafted a Deed of Gift so the Alliance Archives maintains legal possession of the donations, and use for promotions and fundraisers. I have assigned accession numbers, following an archive cataloging system. Please consider donating Karakul items that are in good condition, but no longer useful; including and especially Persian lamb coats in decent shape. Thank you for supporting KSAR!

This issue dedicated to Harold Hemingway & a decade of commitment to Karakul sheep

Karakul ARCHIVES - Hemingway ART collection



Ramblers by Malcolm Fraser 1868-1949, Canadian-American painter
Re-matted by local framer

In November 2016 Jim Hemingway first contacted me through our website [History](#) page. He wanted to donate some artifacts of his father's 1940s Karakul business. We stayed in touch and Jim slowly over the years sent me the smaller items—tanned Persian lamb skins and dozens of professionally-done black & white photos. His father Harold had a massive California Karakul operation in Upland, including a fur salon in Ontario (both 35 miles east of LA). This September Jim donated his father's sheep art collection. He would like the items passed on to a museum, which I am working on. Meantime, many newspaper articles were included in a donated scrapbook. I have been reading & turning them into Harold's story. From 1938 to 1948 Harold Hemingway had the most complete

Karakul ranching operation in the country with upwards of 4,000 ewes. He sold Persian lamb fur coats, blankets made from adult fleeces, and milked ewes for a specialty cheese-maker. Harold imported over 200 head of Karakuls from Ontario, Canada in 1942, during WWII, from an estate sale after a Canadian shepherd's death. Unfortunately, just a couple years later, his uber-wealthy business partner, the sponsor of the importation backed out of the deal, at the same time the fur market was collapsing. Harold was forced out of the Karakul business, the reason he is not well known. His business just evaporated, which makes this donation even more special. This history would have been lost had it not been for son Jim's dedication to his father's memory.

Bit more in Email version, ask for FWD

Two not shown: 1) oil painting 'Sheep in a Shed' signed by Nisapi, Polish Artist, circa early 20th Cent

2) framed photograph *The Protector*, dog & lamb (frame currently being painted)

Lots of photos to be included with story!

Hemingway Art images by Deborah Hunter



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

Registries are only as good as we breeders make them.

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**.

Photo right: Fine-boned gray roan Svetlana from No History Southern Oregon flock, just after shearing by the Nelson-Turner team. All lambs will be evaluated for birthcoats before No History ewes can be KSAR registered.

Contact

Deborah Hunter
Librarian, Historian,
Registrar & Web
Shepherd

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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!

ICYMI—For most Karakul
shepherds 2021 was a 2:1
ratio, ram:ewe lamb year.

It never seems fair to me that
ram years occur much more
frequently than ewe years!

~ Deborah

NEWS - Karakul Sheep in more states in 2021

The Alliance has grown! I have been notified of shepherds with new Karakul flocks in Florida and Arkansas, which previously had none. Arizona, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, West Virginia all added 1 flock, Virginia added 2, and Oregon went from 0 to 3 flocks, with more on the way.

Evaluation of ewes' registrations will occur after the birth of lambs for coat assessment



Elegant Svetlana
Summer 2021 post
shearing, her
spotted ewe lamb
HiHo on the right.
Nelson-Turner

Several of these flocks have children involved, which is terrific; because we need more young people involved with Karakul sheep. We FINALLY have Karakul breeders in Oregon, with two starter flocks purchased from Known shepherds. I've heard of Karakuls in OR and been looking for Hidden Flocks since the Alliance came together in 2014. In April 2021, part of one No History flock went through a Lebanon, OR auction. Jane Turner and Michelle Nelson, a mother-daughter sheep team were there, scooped up 10 thin ewes with lambs at foot, went home and called the OSU Vet school. Those sheep utilized a lot of resources to get them to a 'normal' state, earning Jane and Michelle my utmost respect. On the lookout for isolated bloodlines, I tried to track the scrapie tag numbers to the breeder. I discovered from the regional USDA Vet Services office that a scrapie flock number is 'federally protected private information'. I was not able to learn who the breeder was, but was told the location, south Oregon. Location is critical for Bloodline development as it places selection pressure on the sheep, influences breeder decisions & provides some idea of the sheep's original source.

KSAR - Database currently in Discussions - More to Come!

Finally, after two years of talking and thinking about it, discussions with the database programmer and his intrepid spouse-assistant are happening. I feel confident we will come up with a workable mobile online solution for registering Karakul sheep this year.

Education Focus - Moiré Pattern & Curl Development

Moiré pattern is also called watersilk; shallow waves & pressed curls, often very silky & lustrous. Curls become tighter, more distinct, sometimes taking longer than 3+ weeks. Development is the number of days/weeks it takes curls to uncoil, defining coat maturity and fiber length. In evaluating birthcoat Development, I need to rely on the shepherd to note when curls start to unravel. Most curls will uncoil within a week. Moiré is an extreme short-fiber Pattern, shown here as examples for curl Development.



2. Willa
3 weeks

Photos
courtesy
Pine Lane
Farm, Letty
Klein

Plato's
Western on
bottom,
Plato's
Willa on
top, full
sisters 1½
years apart



3. Willa
5 weeks



1. Western
birth

Western born 2/2020, Willa 10/2021,
same sire-dam, very similar birthcoats

Clockwise
from
bottom left:
1. birth Feb
2020;
2. age 3 wks
full curls
pattern;
3. age 5 wks
curls have
uncoiled
4. Western
Supreme
Champion
Ewe at
Michigan
Fiber
Festival,
August
2021



4. Western 18 months, with a fleece that
drapes beautifully, Letty Klein shepherd

The letter-rating birthcoat assessment is a shortened, focused five-characteristic CLTPD, which seems to be working for most who have filled out the applications this year. The emphasis is on Curls, Luster, Texture, Pattern, Development. From photos I can discern Curls, Pattern & perhaps Luster. I really need shepherds' help with LTD—L - Luster, does the lamb shine without light?

T - Texture, does the lamb's coat feel like a silk shirt?

D - Development, how long before curls open & patterns are lost?

In closing, I am committed & dedicated to solving long-term problems for American Karakul sheep