



Karakul Tails & Tales

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Karakul Alliance Goals

Our primary goals are to:

1. find flocks
2. count Karakuls
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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I participated in The [Livestock Conservancy Breed Assn Training](#) on 5/26/2021 I learned:

1. Registration presents an accurate picture of Purebred Breeding
2. Focus on Education & Karakul's special traits
3. Be Neutral & Maintain Group Peace
4. Make it FUN to own Karakuls!

~ Deborah

Words of wisdom from the late [Page Jacobs](#) ~ Dec 8, 1988

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

## The Alliance & KSAR - What's been happening

Welcome! This is the 1st Newsletter of 2021. To catch up on the News there'll be a 2<sup>nd</sup> next month. I am committed & dedicated to solving long-term problems for North American Karakuls. I participated in my first Flock Dispersal of an isolated Bloodline. I had a box of 3x5 cards & assorted calendars to figure out who the sheep are; a simple system that worked. We are in the business of historical preservation, sheep and records. **Please consider sending your Karakul records to me** if you have no need for them. Shepherd passing -- please make sure records are given to the new Karakul owners, or the Alliance. I am assigning accession numbers, following an archive cataloging system-**Farm sheep records have value & are important purebred history.**

The Alliance's primary services and their online locations:

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

Thank you for using KSAR—Karakul Shepherds Alliance Registry!

**This Newsletter is dedicated to Joe's love & dedication to Karakul sheep, since 1989**

## Joe Billman's Six Winds Sheep Dispersal & Wool Sale Shepherd who loves his Resilient Karakuls, Arco, ID

Six Winds was named after the southcentral Idaho climate. Geographical features forcing winds into canyons, hot air rising, cold air falling, few trees, and wide-open spaces can make winds change directions frequently. In Nov 2020 I was asked to do my first Karakul Bloodline flock dispersal, after 87-year-old Joe collapsed with Covid. He pulled through, hospitalized for weeks, thankfully without needing a ventilator. His Karakuls had been isolated, no additional genetics added since 2005. Founding genetics were concentrated through line-breeding and some unique traits expressed—a rare color **Black with pink skin**, several yellow eyes, large working supernumerary teats on udders that appeared dairy-like, beautiful teeth in 15-year-old ewes who were lambing regularly, sometimes spring & fall, on a minimal hay-only diet. And this flock had not been wormed in 6 years. I almost couldn't believe it myself and these ewes were in front of me. A linebred flock such as this provides unique genetic resources for outcrossing to unrelated Karakul sheep. This flock dispersal was some of the hardest work I have ever done as a shepherd, emotionally and physically; but in the end, it was also the most rewarding in terms of what I found and learned from the experience. (Photos on reverse of Idaho Black, new color name)



[Read the Six Winds story on the website](#)

**New homes were found for almost 40 Karakuls and 70 bags of processed wool were sold with 20% of sales donated to the Database fund– totaled \$1,326! ~ Deborah**

Advertise your sheep, Feature Your Farm, and/or related products on our **For Sale** page. Ads are available for \$10 with 5 photos, good for one year, using the fillable online form under **Advertise**.

Free listing on the **Breeders Website Page for New (previously unknown) shepherds filling out Flock Finder**

**Breeders have been asking & it is here! ~ 4 stories now posted on the BLOODLINES page** (scroll down 2/3rds to Bold font links)

**Contact**

Deborah Hunter  
 Librarian, Historian,  
 Registrar & Web  
 Shepherd

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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.*

**Benefits of Registration Papers:**

- 1) **Breed History**
- 2) **Sheep Pedigrees**
- 3) **Insurance**

*Karakuls have longer gestation—152 - 155 days  
 Most sheep breeds are 147, + 1 week = 154 days  
 Or count 150 days plus 2 to 5 extras 😊*

**NEWS - California Spring Break**



March 28, 2021 HexenWald Ranch, Aptos, Calif (south of San Francisco) L to R, Brian, Nina & Babette Turk, Deborah Hunter, Penny Gelhaus

Penny Gelhaus invited me down to California the week before Easter for a three-farm tour.

She lives outside Fresno and graciously drove us northwest to the Turks, then 2 days later, south to Janet Tulloch's (northeast of San Diego)

In-between we drove around Tulare, (by Fresno) to scope out some 1940's Harold Hemingway Karakul history. More on that in the next Newsletter.

**KSAR - Database, Association Forming & Phishing**



Karakul ewes 6, 10 & 13 months old Brown left; Idaho black on right Both born appearing black with pink nose & eyerims, usually indicating color Brown Photos by Penny Gelhaus

↑ →

Plans for a Gathering are postponed. During 2021, I started writing By-Laws & a Business Plan as precursors to forming an association. I also connected with the database programmer. We are moving forward!

In the past year I was notified 3 times by vigilant breeders when they received unusual emails claiming to be from the Alliance. The Gmail address I use for the Alliance was NOT hacked. They came from other email addresses sent to selective people, PHISHING for money. All 3 were sent immediately to the Gmail Phishing Team. I have heard nothing further.



**Education Focus**

Several Six Winds Karakuls, born. Honoring Joe's home, birth they are indistinguishable from 'regular' brown Karakuls, appearing black with pink nose and eye rims. Browns fade to cream. Idaho Blacks fade to gray.

**- Idaho Black**

black with pink skin, have been we've named it Idaho Black. At



Six Winds Zorba as a lamb and age 10 1/2 years. Lamb photo by Joe Billman



Aged ram photo by Penny Gelhaus

The Idaho black ewe lamb, above right, is a Zorba daughter At 10 months still solidly black with silver wool coming in along her neck and withers. At 13 months her silver mane is the highlight of her appearance. She also has yellow eyes adding to her exotic look. Has anyone seen this color, black with pink skin, before? I have, once, maybe. Email me with details -- [info@karakulshepherds.org](mailto:info@karakulshepherds.org)