

Alpaca Glossary

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Words you will become accustomed to in the world of Alpaca.

Bugling - The warning sound made by alpacas when they see trouble.

Carding - The process of combing and cleaning the alpaca fiber before spinning.

Clucking - The sound alpaca females make when they talk to their babies (cria).

Cria - A baby alpaca

Dam - An alpaca mother. The Spanish word for female alpacas is Hembra.

Drop spinning - Another process used to spin alpaca fiber into yarn

Fiber - Alpaca hair

Fleece - All the alpaca fiber from one alpaca after it is sheared.

Grazing - alpacas in a pasture eating

Grooming - Cleaning the alpaca with a brush. (many breeders do not recommend this)

Humming - The sound alpacas make when they talk to one another.

Herd - A group of alpacas

Herdsire - The alpaca father who is in charge of the herd. The Spanish word for a male alpaca is Macho.

Huacaya Alpaca - A breed of alpaca with fuzzy fiber that grows straight out from the body.

Orgle - A noise made by the male when alpacas breed

Pronking - An alpaca will suddenly spring vertically into the air, demonstrating the astounding four-legged alpaca hop known as "pronking." Pronking is how a happy, healthy cria expresses itself.

Suri Alpaca - a breed of alpaca with long straight fiber that hangs in ringlets down at its sides.

Shearing - Giving an alpaca a haircut (cutting of the fiber)

Shearer - A person who cuts the fiber off the alpaca

Spinner - A person who makes alpaca fiber into yarn.

Spinning Wheel - A machine used by the spinner to make yarn.

Pasture - Where alpacas live and eat

Veterinarian - animal doctor