

# Proposal for Discussion

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## **European Register and Studbook for Alpacas and Llamas (ERSAL e.V.)**

### A) STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

1. Tasks:
  - Organisation of the registration of alpacas and llamas in a register or a studbook, respectively.
  - Centre of information and contacts about matters of animal care and animal health for the European community
2. Members

Alpaca- and llama breeders from countries within the European Union, guest members from other countries.
3. Seat of the Association

Possibly in a country of the EU with central location, e.g. Germany
4. Language

English. Information for members translated into several other languages.
5. Location of the Register and Herdbook

Professional office for registration, e.g. TASSO e.V. (presently the biggest centre for animal registration in Europe, especially for dogs. Seat: Germany).
6. Screeners: Education and regular examination of the official screeners will be organized by a competent working group of the association.

### B) CONSTRUCTION OF THE REGISTER AND STUDBOOK

1. Register:

All alpacas and llamas (females, males and geldings) can be accepted into the register. The animals must be chipped (transponder) or be identifiable by an ear clip. The information about ancestors is entered into the register according to the data provided by the owner.
2. Studbook:

Studbooks are foreseen for alpacas and llamas separately. They contain three levels for a starting period:

  - **STUDBOOK-I or PRE-BOOK**

Conditions for acceptance: Minimum age 2 years, identification via chip or ear clip, DNA-registration. The animals must be acquainted to the halter. The result of the screening must not contain “strong aberrations” or malformations.

The quality of fibre has to be included into the Alpaca Studbook, taking into consideration the age of the animal.

- **STUDBOOK-II or MAIN-BOOK**  
Conditions for acceptance: Minimum age 2 years. Off-springs of animals registered in the pre-book. Identification via chip or ear clip, DNA-registration. The animals must be acquainted to the halter. The result of the screening may contain only one aberration of medium severity in areas relevant to further breeding, e.g. in the regions of the hind or front legs. In the other regions (for alpacas also for the fleece) the conditions of acceptance will be tightened. Details of the tightening will be worked out by a knowledgeable working group.
- **STUDBOOK-III or ELITE-BOOK**  
Conditions of acceptance: Minimum age 2 years. Off-springs of animals already registered in the main-book or in the elite-book. Identification and DNA-registration see Main-Book. Animals must be acquainted to the halter, further criteria concerning the level of education of the animals to be worked out. The result of a screening may contain only minor aberrations concerning the conformation. Teeth must be correct. For alpacas, higher quality standards for the fleece are required. The fleece quality will be checked every two years, details to be worked out by a knowledgeable working group.
- Further possible extensions of the register may be studbooks for sires and dames separately, including evaluations of the off-springs.