

## **Governance and Revision Process for Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard**

A mechanism for governing and at times amending the breed standard is necessary. Such a process is needed because standards must be amendable in order to allow for changes deemed necessary by the industry. Knowing how this will be dealt with in the future will remove any doubts about this process.

### **Goal:**

Establish a mechanism that will provide for a stable, methodical, objective, and deliberative process for the maintenance of the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard. Further, to insure that this process is directed by and under the control of Suri breeders. A breed standard should not change too frequently, nor should it change without good reason or in response to fads and temporary market conditions. It should only change incrementally, with much deliberation and for valid, objective reasons. The process should provide adequate opportunity for input by all interested stake holders and provide checks and balances within the procedures. The following mechanism was developed to address these objectives.

### **Governance:**

The Suri Network Board of Trustees will be responsible for the oversight of the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard. A new entity, the **Suri Network Breed Standard Council**, will be formed to serve the Suri Network Board of Trustees and Suri Network Membership regarding maintenance and future revisions and updates in the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard.

### **Suri Network Suri Breed Standard Council (BSC): Overview**

1. **Purpose** – to serve the Suri Network Board of Trustees and membership in overseeing the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard. The BSC will serve to channel opinions and suggestions from breeders and other stakeholders on any recommended changes to the breed standard. The BSC will provide a forum for review, critique, and refinement of any suggested changes.
2. **Who** - membership of the **BSC** will be made up of any and all interested and eligible Suri breeders. (see eligibility requirements) The BSC will elect an administrator from the membership of the BSC by a simple majority vote of those members voting. This individual must be approved by the Suri Network Board and will serve as liaison to the Suri Network Board for a term of two years.
3. **Eligibility:**
  - Suri Network and AOBA farm members
  - 18 years and older
  - Have an ARI owner code
  - Currently own one or more ARI registered Suri alpacas
4. **When** - Formation of the Breed Standard Council (BSC) will begin following a vote of the membership on the proposed Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard.
5. **Funding** - A budget will be submitted by the Council for approval by the Suri Network Board of Trustees. Members may assess a voluntary annual fee to serve on the BSC and this fee will be used to defray expenses of the Council. This fee will be set annually by the council with approval from Suri Network Board. This fee will initially be capped at \$50.00.
6. **Meetings** - An annual face to face meeting of the BSC, the Suri Network Board of Trustees, and the membership will be conducted in conjunction with the Annual Suri Network Meeting. In the event there are proposed amendments or modifications to the breed standard under active consideration, an additional face to face meeting of the BSC and Suri Network Board of Trustees will be held in conjunction with the AOBA National Alpaca Conference. Additional regional or national meetings could be held at the joint discretion of the BSC and Suri Network Board.

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## 7. Procedure for Initiating Modification/Amendment Process:

- Proposals to amend or modify the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard may be initiated by any interested party by completing the appropriate form and submitting it to the BSC Administrator.
- Any such proposals will be distributed to all members of the BSC and the Suri Network Board of Trustees for review.
- It will be the responsibility of the BSC to inform and educate the membership about any proposed changes.
- The BSC will review each submitted proposal and prepare a summary. In preparation of this summary the BSC may bring together experts such as veterinarians, geneticists, fiber processors and other consumers of Suri fiber. Membership surveys may be used as part of this process. Face to face meetings may also play a role in developing this summary and provide a forum for members to participate.
- Following this review process a summary, including findings and recommendations, will be presented to the Suri Network Board of Trustees and all Suri Network members.

## 8. Procedure for Amending the Suri Network Suri Breed Standard:

- Having investigated each proposal and developed a Summary of the issues involved, the BSC will vote on the merits of each proposal for possible inclusion in the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard.
- A proposal will pass if approved by a majority of BSC members voting and will then move on to a vote by the full membership.
- Any proposal approved by the BSC will go to the Suri Network Board of Trustees for final review prior to submission to the membership for a vote.
- Both the BSC and the Suri Network Board of Trustees will jointly agree on the final language of any proposed changes to the existing Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard before presentation to the membership for a vote.  
*This 'check and balance' function fulfills the Suri Network Board's responsibility of oversight. The board, as your elected representatives, has the final responsibility to insure fairness and objectivity' regarding all Suri Network activities.*
- Final proposals for amendments and changes to the existing Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard will be submitted to the Suri Network Membership for a vote by all eligible Suri Network members. It will become part of the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard if voted upon by at least 30% of the membership and passed by a majority of those members voting.

The Suri Network Suri Breed Standard Council will be responsible for writing detailed policies and procedures for fulfilling their mission. These will stipulate in somewhat more detail how the above process will work. The Suri Network Board of Trustees will, through their oversight, insure that the final details will comply with the above overview of the 'Governance and Revision Process for the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard.

This overall process was approved by our membership in a survey completed on 10-15-06 in which 86 % of responders approved of this format. The same survey sent to nonmember Suri breeders was approved by an even higher percentage.

Should events unfold such that the Suri Network Suri Alpaca Breed Standard is accepted by AOBA as the AOBA Suri Alpaca Breed Standard then certain allowances may be necessary regarding the format for this procedure. It is important to take note that AOBA has utilized this same procedure in designing their proposed Governance and Revision Process.