Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES February 10, 2025

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Dr. Signe Balch
Derrick Letsinger
Chris Sturgeon

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EST.

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: AOA has a problem with the color lab that is going to quit testing at the end of May and this service is important to breeders. In discussion with international alpaca organizations and DDC. National show is in March and they are looking for auction donors. Membership renewals down so they are calling non-renewals. GirCom was recognized by board for the work we do. Working on technology transfer to save money. Have not heard much about discontinuing the printed Alpacas Magazine.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is still a concern, with an increase being seen due to migratory patterns. A new strain has been detected. There is some concern about raw food being fed to pets with detection of disease in cats.
  - Screw Worm regulations have changed as they are still trying to prevent it, and Foot and Mouth Disease has been seen in Germany so it is still in circulation.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Avian influenza: Draft eBlast on biosecurity was circulated by email. Derrick made a motion to recommend it be sent to members; second by Signe. Motion carried.
- 3.2 BVD information. Bonnie sent a recommendation to DDC via Dan to write an article about testing methods. Signe found an article on the Kansas State website and recommends a link to the article be put on the AOA website.
- **3.3** Traceability Regulations/Premises and Location Identification eBlast: Was sent to members mid-January. Signe has gotten a few questions and believes that a federal requirement will be established in the future. Many alpacas are microchipped, but few have the 840 chip. Need to educate owners so that they understand the options that are available and can consider 840 chips or tags for alpacas that have not been chipped in the past.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1: Signe has drafted some guidelines for show veterinarians that she will send to Robin for distribution as needed. Many of her suggestions are in the show rules.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

- 5.1 Minutes of 1/13/2025: Chris made a motion to approve the minutes as written; second by Signe. Derrick carried.

6.0 Meeting Wrap

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- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be held on 3/10/2025.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Potter