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How we started Mukuti Stud Alpacas



Our Alpaca journey started, like most things in life, with a ... 'by the way' conversation with a good friend and fellow spinner. She had attended "field day" for spinners and raved about these beautiful, gentle, fluffy creatures - and their wool was out of this world!!

I went off to see these much hailed animals. It was love at first sight!! I could already see myself on my own farm, tending to my own herd of Alpacas, reaping the harvest of my own Alpaca fleece; spinning away, weaving and knitting – the possibilities were endless. But – just a moment – we did not have a farm or own any Alpacas. What to do? One look into my face, my pleading eyes ... and my very generous husband placed an order for 3 female Alpacas to come to the Western Cape out of Australia.

Our 2 pregnant females and one young female arrived end of 2003. 14 years down the line we've had our share of joy (and some heart ache) with our own herd. I would not want to change a thing in the world. We still don't have our own farm, however, our herd is steadily improving and growing, being cared for on a farm close to Graaff Reinet in the Eastern Cape since 2011.

We had an agreement with farmers in Ceres and in the Karoo, where we supplied the alpaca males to guard their sheep in exchange for the farmer not having to buy his own herd guards. This project worked famously. The alpacas did their job and chase off small predators. Lamb losses were down by >60%.

Our alpacas thrived in the mountains and Karoo climate, the fleece got longer and denser and, over all the animals were living in an environment similar to the Peru, where they originate from.

Since 2011 our females have been on a farm close to Graaff Reinet in the Eastern Cape. One of our original females is still around - she cares for the weanlings coming into the veld at 8 months. Birthing season obviously is the highlight each year. The drought and the extreme weather conditions make our animals hardy and resilient.

Another part of our Alpaca business is the SA Alpaca website, where potential buyers and sellers are brought together to do business; from the beginning of an enquiry to the closing of a deal they are being looked after by our efficient team all over South Africa and Namibia.

The web address: www.saalpaca.co.za

Verena Hinsch