



Karen Ball Owner Heart & Soul Alpacas and Spinnery

In 2004 I became enthralled with the alpaca industry as a means to teach my children the core values I felt I learned through my years in the equestrian jumping field. I was raised on a horse ranch and I feel that the education I received from learning to care for and train horses was invaluable. At 16 years old I had my own successful business training and selling show horses. This business took me to competitions across the country and internationally where both my horses and me achieved many awards. One of the horses I trained went on to win the World Cup Equestrian Jumping event.

In 2005 I purchased my first alpacas, 5 pregnant females. My passion for the animal, the industry and the people involved was quickly ignited. In 2007 I took my first string of alpacas on a mini show circuit and did quite well. I also attended my first AOBA National Alpaca Show and Conference where I was soaking up every tidbit of information I could on how to make my alpaca business successful. Since that time my small family business has launched to a full time venture of raising both Suri and Huacaya alpacas for show and breeding stock sales, as well as running our own professional fiber mill.

Over the years I have volunteered as much as I have been able. I have worked in the fleece room, helped with vet check and coordinated the volunteers for shows. Prior to being involved in alpacas I was elected as a board member for the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce. While serving on this board I learned the importance of teamwork and volunteer effort to make any organization successful. For this reason I have accepted the invitation to run for a position on the CALPACA board. I am a committed alpaca breeder as a way of life. I want to see the alpaca industry remain successful as we navigate through challenging financial climates and the directions of change that come with them.

This industry has been wonderful to me. I want the opportunity to give back and help CALPACA remain being a wonderful organization of support for the cause of raising alpacas successfully, whether as a backyard breeder or as a professional breeder.

I am a current member of AOBA, ARI, AFCNA, ABR, SOJAA

I have not been involved in any manner as the plaintiff or defendant in a lawsuit involving alpacas.

Sincerely,

Karen Ball