

5 Pro Tips to Gain Trust From Alpacas



I hope these tips will help you develop an amazing trust-filled relationship with your alpacas or any alpaca you may encounter.

PRO TIP #1: Recognize Prey Mentality of Alpacas

Recognize alpacas are prey animals with a very different mentality than dogs or cats (who have a predator mentality.) Your simple act of trying to pet an alpaca can be perceived as threatening to an alpaca. Alpacas will perceive grabbing, cornering, chasing, and restraining as a threat to their survival. To gain trust, it's important to become aware of this fact and be mindful of your actions and how they are perceived. With time and consistency, your alpacas will allow you to touch them once trust has been established.

PRO TIP #2: Give Alpacas Time to Process

Give your alpacas time to process any and all situations. It is very important not to rush them but instead to take things slowly. This is not only to help establish trust, but also to keep them safe and prevent panic. They need to observe the situation and be given time to think things through -- not forced to react quickly to verbal or physical cues. They are highly intelligent and generally more cautious. If you give them time, you will see how brilliant they are. Never be in a rush when interacting with your alpacas especially if you are doing any herd management tasks.

PRO TIP #3: Don't Be Quick to Restrain

Don't be tempted to immediately restrain them for simple herd management procedures. The act of being restrained is usually more frightening for the alpaca than the procedure itself. Learn gentle and respectful handling methods which will allow you to do most procedures without restraint.

PRO TIP #4: Talk to Your Alpacas

Speak kindly to your alpacas at all times! They may not understand or care about everything you're saying but they will sense your intentions. Daily interactions like this help develop trust. If you do any herd management tasks, just tell them exactly what you are doing each step of the way.

PRO TIP #5: Tune in to the Herd, Trust Your Intuition

A big part of gaining trust from the herd is your ability to tune in to their needs. This may sound difficult at first, but it is not hard if you keep trying. If you spend time with your alpacas every day, it will become second nature. As you tune in to the herd, you also need to trust your intuition on what you are sensing. This may be the harder part. By tuning in to your herd and trusting your intuition, you will develop a stronger relationship with your animals.

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