



Dr Belinda Appleton (supervisor)

Department of Genetics
ph: 0418573458, b.appleton@unimelb.edu.au

Ms Felicity Jackling (PhD student)

Department of Genetics

Project: "Undesirable traits in alpaca"

Introduction

We are investigating the genetic basis for a variety of undesirable traits in alpaca. We aim to create genetic tests that would allow careful selection of breeding stock and avoid creating affected offspring. However, the nature of scientific research means there is no guarantee that such tests will result. We are funded by a government grant and a contribution from a group of concerned alpaca breeders. The project has The University of Melbourne Animal Ethics Committee approval.

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, we would pay for a registered veterinarian to take a blood or tissue sample from your animal(s) that are affected by an undesirable trait or are related to affected animals. Knowing the identity of the parents of affected animals would assist us in tracing pedigrees of affected animals however this information is not essential for your participation in the study

How will confidentiality be protected?

We intend to protect your anonymity and the confidentiality of donated samples to the fullest possible extent, within the limits of the law. Your details will be kept in a password—protected computer accessible only by the researchers. In published reports, you and your samples will be referred to by a pseudonym. The data will be kept securely in the Department of Genetics, The University of Melbourne for five years from the date of publication, before being destroyed.

How will I receive feedback?

Once the work arising from this research is completed, a summary of the findings will be available to you on application. We will inform you when this information becomes available.

Where can I get further information? .

Should you require any further information, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the researchers listed above. Should you have any concerns about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Animal Ethics, The University of Melbourne, on ph: 8344 2048, or animal-ethics@unimelb.edu.au.

How do I agree to participate?

Please be advised that your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you would like to participate, please contact the researchers so a mutually convenient time can be arranged for a veterinarian to collect the samples.