Government & Industry Relations Committee (GIRCom) MINUTES June 12, 2023

Committee Members: Bonnie Potter, Chair
Derrick Letsinger
Dr. Pat Long (excused)
Tom Petersen
Chris Sturgeon

Board Liaison: Mike Livingston

Staff Representative: Dan Huntley

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

1.0 Meeting Opening

- 1.1 AOA News of Importance: Decided to wait and see what happens in Michigan and elsewhere regarding 840 chips. Getting ready for fiber conference which will include many educational sessions. Sending in first batch of fiber tests using vacuum sealing. AOA election results have been published.

2.0 Health / Government Related

- 2.1 USAHA Alerts
  - Nothing specific to alpacas. Vesicular Stomatitis has been reported in 5 counties in California. Quarantines are required and it can affect the transport of alpacas. Equine herpes continues to be reported in multiple states. The new antibiotic rule went into effect yesterday. Our eBlast went out to AOA members on 5/22 so our members should be aware of the changes.

3.0 Unfinished Business

- 3.1 Website education review: AOA Board approved an Education Committee so we will not continue to review the website.
- 3.2 How to Increase Alpaca Registrations: will plan to continue the discussion next month.
- 3.3 840 Microchip issue: as noted above, AOA will wait and see and GirCom will continue to monitor the requirement.

4.0 New Business

- 4.1 eBlast on antibiotics: as noted above, it was sent to members on 5/22
- 4.2 OK/TX CVI issue: A member reported that their veterinarian is in TX and they live just across the border in OK. A client has reported the requirement for a CVI to cross the border, but with no vet that treats alpacas within 3 hours in OK, they have to go to TX to see their vet, and meeting this requirement is impossible, especially in an emergency. They have asked for assistance from AOA. Bonnie called to speak with the member. Their vet is licensed in both TX and OK, so it's not a problem when their vet is available to come to their ranch. However, not all vets in the practice are licensed in OK, and at times there is no vet available to make a ranch call. The vet has written to the Texas Animal Health Commission requesting an exception to the requirement as is allowed for horses. Bonnie called the vet clinic and left a message asking if we can assist them in any way, but has not heard back yet. We should be able to at least provide a letter from AOA in support of the exception being requested. Chris made a motion to draft a letter; second by Tom. Motion carried. Bonnie will draft a letter for review.

5.0 Approval of Minutes: There was no meeting in May due to lack of quorum. Derrick made a motion to approve the minutes from 4/10/23; second by Bonnie. Motion carried (Tom abstained).

6.0 Meeting Wrap

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- 6.1 Bonnie reviewed the action items.
- 6.2 The next meeting date will be on 7/10/2023.
- **6.3** Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm EDT.