



AZVD Show 2006

The German national alpaca show has now become a regular feature on the calendar for so many breeders from around the world. Each year sees more and more people attending and it is now a truly international event with both stands and animals from so many different countries. This year saw animals from the Netherlands, Austria, Great Britain and Switzerland as well as an excellent turn out from breeders from all corners of Germany.

In addition the visitors included people from virtually every alpaca breeding country in Europe, from Canada and not least a good representation from Australia. For those looking for alpaca products there was a wide range of garments and rugs from both Peru and Germany and for the first time the Australian Fibre Co-operative had representatives selling their products which they had flown across for the event. There was even a fashion show that went down very well particularly attracting a large number of the men present.

The show takes place in Eastern Bavaria, not the easiest place to get to from around Europe, but the facilities are second to none. To watch the transformation from indoor school for horses to an immaculate show ring for alpacas is amazing, particularly as the work all takes place on the day prior to the show.

There were about 100 animals entered for the show and the judge, who had been flown in from Canada, was Cathy Merkley from Saskatchewan. She did extremely well with her comments which were listened to very carefully by the attentive audience despite the need for every word to be translated.

In addition to the huge turnout from the alpaca community over 3,000 members of the local public queued to come in during the day. Perhaps it was the novel idea of camel rides for children on the back of a bactrian camel, complete with cria at foot, that attracted them in the first place but that did not stop them from adding a great deal to the overall success of the day.