

## LAREU

### Information about DNA Identification and the Studbook

Several laboratories now offer DNA tests for identification or proof of blood relationship for llamas and alpacas. However, so far there is no agreement on a common set of microsatellites (“markers”) to be investigated. Because of this, a statement concerning blood relationship between parents and cria can, at the moment, be made only, if the respective DNA tests have been carried out in the same laboratory (or partner laboratory). Since most associations of South American camelids in Europe are working with different laboratories, a statement concerning the paternity of a male (registered in a different country or association than the dam) can only be made with additional DNA tests. This problem does not exist any longer for several other species, where the same set of microsatellites is used by all laboratories, and the proof of blood relationship can be carried out with the test results from different laboratories.

LAREU is very much interested in a European (worldwide) standard for the DNA tests of the camelids registered with LAREU. Fortunately, the “International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG)”, an independent, international scientific association of researchers in genetics, has agreed to get involved in the procedure of DNA tests for llamas and alpacas, and to develop a recommendation for the microsatellites to be used. Scientists are working towards this goal at the moment, and the results may be expected ready for publication during the forthcoming world conference in the summer of 2008.

As soon as these results become available, LAREU will adopt the DNA tests recommended by ISAG as proof of ancestry of all animals to be entered into the planned LAREU studbook. In addition, any further genetic investigation, such as inheritance of colour lines etc., which is being studied presently, can be incorporated into the studbook.