

NEWS RELEASE

February 2, 2007
For immediate release
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Mid America Alpaca Foundation commits \$50,000 to establish herd at K-State

MANHATTAN, KAN. — The Mid America Alpaca Foundation, Hiawatha, Kan., has made a commitment of \$50,000 to the Kansas State University Changing Lives Campaign to establish the **Camelid Teaching and Education Fund**.

This fund will establish and maintain a camelid teaching herd at the Kansas State University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. This program will allow students and practitioners to work together in all aspects of training, education and investigative work relative to camelids.

The Mid American Alpaca Foundation is actively pursuing training opportunities for future and practicing veterinarians because of growth in their industry.

“Our goals are to support educational and research programs that encourage the addition of alpacas to existing veterinary practices,” said Bob Sines, president of the Mid America Alpaca Foundation. “We also want to enhance the knowledge of veterinarians who are currently treating alpacas while introducing students to alpaca treatment, care and study.”

“The support from the Mid America Alpaca Foundation is deeply appreciated. These marvelous animals provide a wonderful teaching and learning opportunity for our veterinary students,” said Ralph Richardson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. “As their popularity has grown, they have become a larger and larger part of veterinary practice. This teaching herd will benefit our students as well as become a learning resource for the continuing education of practicing veterinarians. Ultimately, the animals themselves and their owners will benefit from the enhanced education that we will be able to provide.”

Alpacas are one of four species of South American camelids, which include llamas, guanacos and vicunas. Alpacas are smaller than llamas, the other species commonly raised in the United States. The South American camelids come from a similar ancestry as the two species of camels, and thus are classified as camelids.

The Changing Lives Campaign for Kansas State University is a comprehensive \$500 million campaign that will infuse new funds into virtually every dimension of the university. The KSU Foundation coordinates fundraising efforts with alumni, friends, corporations and foundations to secure private support for Kansas State University.

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