



Bonnie B. Potter, M.D. with Farragut and GI Jane

I was born and raised in Northern California and I've owned horses, dogs and cats almost all of my life! After graduating from UC Davis with a BS in Animal Science, and working as a Medical Technologist in Sacramento, I decided to go to medical school. I went back to Davis as a graduate student in Animal Physiology to complete my pre-med requirements. I completed medical school on a Navy Health Professions Scholarship, and owed two years to the Navy as payback. I never dreamed I'd be in Navy medicine for a full 30-year career! I was a clinician and teacher of internal medicine for the first twenty years, and then I transitioned into executive medicine. I retired as a Rear Admiral in 2003.

My husband and I wanted to return to Northern California when I retired from the Navy, and we moved to 5 acres in Auburn so we could have horses again. I realized I'd have to trailer my horse to do any significant trail riding, so we made the decision to board my horse where there was better access to trails, and use our land to raise livestock. We decided against raising anything that would be butchered or need milking...and after looking at sheep and goats, we discovered ALPACAS! We knew the very minute we saw our first alpaca that we would be in the alpaca business! It didn't take us long to start growing our herd, and we now have 24 alpacas, with 6 crias due this fall.

Although I am a relatively new alpaca breeder, I have worked hard to educate myself about alpacas and the alpaca industry. I believe in honesty, integrity, teamwork and getting involved, and I fully support the purpose and objectives of CALPACA. I developed strong leadership and management skills during my Navy career, and I believe I can contribute to CALPACA in a meaningful way as a member of the Board of Directors.