Issue Two

2022

THE ICELANDIC HORSE

QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress

Member Association of FEIF (International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations)

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Judges: Silke Feuchthofen,William Flügge

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ICELANDIC HORSE
QUARTERLY

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Issue Two 2022

Official Publication of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC), a member association of FEIF (International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations).

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On the cover:
Youth riders are our breed's future! Here, Bella Covert and Emelia Stewart find friendship on the Mount Pisgah trail in Oregon. Bella is riding Kani frá Feti, and Emmy is on Safír from Five-Gait Farm. Bella traveled to Eugene, OR with her mother Ásta to visit Lucy Nold at Five-Gait Farm, where she met two of Lucy's students, the sisters Emmy and Lulu Stewart. Photo by Ásta Covert.

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THE USIHC MISSION

- To promote the knowledge of the Icelandic horse within the United States and its correct use as a competition and riding horse.
- To keep a registry of purebred Icelandic horses in the United States.
- To facilitate communication among all USIHC members.
- To represent the United States in FEIF.

The U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress is a member of FEIF (www.feif.org), the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations, representing the national Icelandic horse associations of 21 countries. FEIF governs competition activities and regulates the breeding and registration of Icelandic horses throughout the world outside of Iceland.

The USIHC was formed in 1987 by representatives of the U.S. Icelandic Horse Federation and the International Icelandic Horse Association to meet the FEIF rule that only one association from each country is allowed to represent the breed.

Taktur Icelandics

WHY JOIN THE USIHC?

As the owner or rider of an Icelandic horse, you chose a very special breed with its own culture and history. It is important to learn about the breed's unique traits, capabilities, and needs, so that you and your Icelandic horse will have a happy relationship and it will live a healthy and long life. By joining the USIHC, you connect to a worldwide network of experts to help you care for, ride, train, breed, and learn more about your horse.

The USIHC is the umbrella organization for 14 affiliated clubs: 13 regional clubs and an activity club for professional trainers. Our Registry links to WorldFengur, the worldwide database of all registered Icelandic horses (USIHC members have free access to WorldFengur), and we publish *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*, maintaining an online archive of all issues since 2008.

The USIHC sponsors scientific research on the Icelandic horse, helps promote the Icelandic horse at expos and through social media, supports educational seminars and events like the American Youth Cup, organizes leisure activities like the Sea 2 Shining Sea virtual ride, creates teaching tools like the Riding Badge Program, and offers practical and monetary support to organizers of shows and clinics.

The Icelandic horse has international competition rules: You can compete in the same classes and receive comparable scores in any FEIF member country. Likewise, the Icelandic horse is one of few breeds with international evaluation standards, so that breeding horses from all over the world are judged on the same 10 points of conformation and 10 ridden abilities. The USIHC sanctions sport and breeding shows that conform to FEIF rules.

The USIHC is responsible for the U.S. teams at the FEIF Icelandic Horse World Championships, the FEIF Youth Cup, and the FEIF Youth Camp. Through FEIF, the USIHC votes on rules and policies that affect the welfare of the Icelandic horse worldwide.

As a member of the USIHC, your dues and registration fees make all this possible. Our board members and committee chairs are all volunteers. As a member-driven organization, the USIHC grows stronger the more active and involved our members become. Please join us so that the USIHC can, as FEIF's mission states, "bring people together in their passion for the Icelandic horse."

USIHC NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual USIHC Members Meeting took place on February 26 via Zoom; it was also streamed live on Facebook, where a recording of the event is posted for members who missed the meeting. The featured speaker was Virginia Lauridsen, discussing "How to Get Started with a Breeding Program." Highlights from the committee reports are included below.

REGISTRY

In 2021, a total of 128 horses were newly registered with the USIHC, and the registrations of 111 horses were transferred to new owners. Of those 128 new horses, 37 were domestic bred foals under a year old (down 6 from 2020), 9 were domestic bred horses older than a year (down 13 from last year), 69 were imported from Iceland (up 11), 10 were imported from Canada (up 1), and 3 were imported from other countries (same as in 2020). These new registrations bring the total number of US horses registered in WorldFengur, as of December 31, 2021 to 6,647. Of those, 3,516 are domestic bred.

FEIF CENSUS

The number of members the USIHC has determines the strength of our voice in FEIF, the international federation that represents Icelandic horse associations in 21 countries: It determines the number of votes we get, as well as the number of riders we can send to international competitions and events.

In 2017, FEIF revised its definition of "member." The current definition allows the USIHC to count anyone who can be identified as part of the U.S. Icelandic horse community, including members of our affiliated clubs who choose not to pay USIHC dues.

However, FEIF also uses its annual census to calculate how much the USIHC should be billed for the international WorldFengur database—access to which is offered free to all dues-paying USIHC members. "Counting affiliated club members, as we did from 2017 to 2020, allowed us to increase our voting power in FEIF," explained Leslie Chambers, "but it created a problem with how the USIHC was billed for WorldFengur—basically, we were being billed for the additional members who, because they were not dues-paying USIHC members, actually had no access to WorldFengur. Therefore, in 2019, the USIHC Board decided to report the number of USIHC members only to FEIF."

According to the 2021 census report submitted to FEIF, therefore, the USIHC officially has 778 members. The 13 Regional Clubs and one Activity Club affiliated with the USIHC have 623 members, only 58% of whom are dues-paying members of the USIHC.

CLINIC FUNDING

Two of the 13 Regional Clubs were able to hold clinics supported by USIHC funding in 2021. The St Skutla Club held a clinic in Mendon, NY and the NEIHC held one in Claverack, NY; each club received a $250 grant. The USIHC had budgeted $3500 for clinic funding in 2021, with grant size dependent on the number of USIHC members participating. This Policy #31 funding was renewed for 2022. For information, contact Leslie Chambers at affiliated_clubs@icelandics.org.

CLUB BANNERS

To help USIHC-affiliated clubs make standardized, professional-looking banners for use at expos and other events, the Promotion and Affiliated Clubs committees together budgeted $1960 (or $140 per club). Since the program started in 2020, five clubs have received new banners—Sirius, Hestafolk, Klettafjalla, NEIHC, and Toppur—and banners for CIA, Cascade, and Frida are in progress. Funding is being continued into 2022 for the clubs who have not yet received or requested their banners.

Lauren Murphy and Andi from Evans Farm show off the Hestafolk Club banner (at right) at the Washington State Fair.

BREEDING

To raise the visibility of domestic breeding, and to help US breeders have their horses assessed, the USIHC Breeding Committee has set a goal of having a breeding assessment in each of the four areas of the country (East, Central, West, and Alaska) each year.

Plans for 2022 show clear progress toward that goal. Two official FEIF Breeding Assessments are scheduled, at Montaire Icelandics in Virginia (May 21-22) and at Harmony Icelandics in Iowa (August 30-31). The year will also include two live breeding clinics, with plans for a virtual one as well. The USIHC supports each official assessment with a grant of $1000 and the virtual seminar with $500.

The first breeding clinic was held at Léttleiki Icelandics in Shelbyville, KY in March. Clinician Elsa Albertsdóttir started with a discussion of BLUP and how to use the international WorldFenger database, then moved on to a discussion of conformation, using live examples to explain how the conformation of an Icelandic horse is assessed. To finish out the day there was a lecture on the FEIF breeding assessment process, with demonstrations of two horses being ridden for mock assessments. On the second day of the clinic, participants looked at family groups, talking about lineage, genes, and traits passed along. The clinic ended with a Young Horse Linear Assessment of eight promising youngsters.

The second breeding clinic was held May 20, in conjunction with the official breeding assessment at Montaire.

STALLIONS

Breeding stallions throughout the US are now featured on the USIHC website at https://icelandics.org/stallions. One stallion listing is included for free with

each Farm List membership. Additional stallions, or those of USIHC members not on the Farm List, can be listed for an additional $50 fee. For people without a Farm Listing, the cost of a profile is $110 per stallion per year. Stallion owners can include scores, photos, videos, and written descriptions of their stallions. Please email info@icelandics.org for more information or to list your stallion for 2022.

BREEDING RULES

The USIHC Breeding Committee has been discussing breeding by embryo transfer and artificial insemination with frozen semen. Andrea Barber has volunteered to draft a set of rules and regulations for the USIHC. "It turns out that some rules currently exist," notes committee chair Virginia Lauridsen, "but this is an opportunity to review and possibly revise them.

TRAINER CERTIFICATION

A subcommittee led by Virginia Lauridsen has been hard at work creating a new trainer certification system for the USIHC, based on the FEIF Trainer matrix. Members of the subcommittee are Laura Benson, Carrie Lyons Brandt, Caeli Cavanagh, Jana Meyer, and Alex Pregitzer. As of February, they had completed the exam and the study guide, along with a Fast Track option to give experienced horse people who are actively working with Icelandic horses a chance to be certified first. The first exam using the US Trainer Certification Program is scheduled for Iowa in September.

SEA-2-SHINING SEA

The 2021 S2SS ride was a 5,000-mile virtual ride, crossing four regions of the US and having 20 checkpoints. 118 riders logged their hours, and eight teams completed the 5,000-mile challenge. The first team to finish was the Ice Trekkers. Other finishing teams were: Solheimar Dream Team, Merrimack Valley Icelandics, Hestafolk, Frozen Tundra Tolters, Hestafolk II, Merrimack Valley Icelandics II, and Solfaxi. The 2022 S2SS ride had 90 riders logging hours and 19 teams, as of February. This year's ride follows the route ridden by Annie Wilkens, as chronicled in the book The Ride of Her Life, from Minot, ME to Hollywood, CA in 1954. The 2022 ride is 4,000 miles, covering 20 checkpoints.

RIDERS OF THE MONTH

Each month the USIHC Leisure Committee randomly chooses a rider in the Sea 2 Shining Sea Virtual Ride (S2SS) to be the Rider of the Month. This quarter's riders are Martina Gates of Lloyd Harbor, NY; Evelyn Kaufman of Eugene, OR; and Michael Salmon of Owls Head, ME.

Martina has been involved with Icelandics for over 25 years and currently owns four horses, including the well-known stallion Stigandi frá Leysingjastöðum II and Zophonias from Vinland, winner of the most recent Anne Elwell Breeding Award. S2SS is "a great opportunity to ride with friends, although we all live quite a way apart," she says. "We get to do something as a team with our horses and encourage each other to ride toward a goal." Her own goals include spending as much quality time as possible with her horses. "I train them myself, and do a lot of varied disciplines with them, from ground work to liberty, dressage, trick training, and, of course, lots of time outside on the trails."

Evelyn doesn't own her own horse, but rides many different horses at trainer Lucy Nold's Five-Gait Farm; her favorite is Kani frá Feti. Her goals include riding bareback, while "staying relaxed and calm to keep my horse calm too." When outside on the trail, she likes "having long straight stretches to go fast on." She is currently training for her first show and looking forward to learning to jump with Icelandics, something she has enjoyed with other breeds.

Evelyn Kaufman is the February Leisure Rider of the Month. Photo by Erin Royce.

Michael and his wife, Mary Jo Brink, own eight Icelandic horses at their Pepper Hill Farm. He learned about S2SS

The January Leisure Rider of the Month is Martina Gates (left), here riding her stallion Stígandi frá Leysingjastöðum II. Michael Salmon is the March Rider of the Month. Photo by Mary Jo Brink.

while on a weeklong trek in Iceland with Guðmar Pétursson of Hestaland. "When I got back home, I read the book The Ride of Her Life and became inspired by Annie's journey." He enjoys riding his horse Pilatus out from his farm through the rural neighborhood 8-10 miles to the beach. "Pilatus and I both love to walk along the beach, and he really seems to enjoy the salt water—after he remembers that the surf is not a monster. You would think that after over 50 beach walks he would be used to it."

EXPO FUNDING

Three USIHC-affiliated clubs received funding in 2021 to attend expos and give riding demonstrations to promote the breed. Toppur attended the Iowa Horse Fair in Des Moines, IA; Flugnir attended the Minnesota Horse Expo in St Paul, MN; and the NEIHC attended Equine Affaire in Springfield, MA.

USIHC WEBSITE

Icelandics.org logged 16K visitors in 28K sessions for a total of 91K pageviews. 50% of the traffic was direct, 34% was organic search, 10% was from social media, and 7% was referral. The top five pages visited were: Sea 2 Shining Sea, Farm List, Registered Horse Search, Virtual Show, and Registry.

Upgrades to the Farm List now allow viewers to filter farms based on state and services. Each farm will also have its own farm profile, including a short description, logo, location map, and contact information. Farm listings can now also include stallion profiles (see above).

THE QUARTERLY

In 2021 the 20 Quarterly Committee members produced four 52-page full-color issues. As many as 40 contributors per issue provided the exceptional content and editorial oversight that makes the magazine an effective "face" of the USIHC.

Our committee membership itself is widely representative of Icelandic horse owners in the U.S. We have members from Maine to Alaska. We are professional writers and editors, photographers, illustrators, and graphic designers, but also horse trainers, a veterinarian, college professors, and business people. We are trail riders, competition riders, and breeders. Some of us have many horses, and some only one. Some are new to the breed, and some have over 25 years of experience with Icelandics. The only thing we don't have on the Quarterly committee are any men! We'd love to have you join us (male, female, or nonbinary).

Please also continue to send us your stories and photos. You don't need to be a committee member to contribute to the *Quarterly*. And remember that we are always looking for "Wow!" photos for the cover. Contact us at quarterly@icelandics.org.

VIRTUAL SHOWS

Given the success of the 2020 Virtual Shows, the USIHC Sport Committee decided to organize two virtual shows every year going forward. "We find that these shows are a great supplement to the traditional in-person shows," Martin Nielsen reported at the Annual Meeting. "They provide an opportunity for riders to gain more experience with the sport, get more constructive feedback from the judges, and score points for the national ranking." Each show will have five judges, two of whom will be national US judges. "This allows our judges to gain valuable experience and become better judges," Martin noted.

Some glitches remain. "We have found that despite thorough instructions, a proportion of riders do not follow the guidelines when recording their videos," Martin said. "Horses were not always zoomed in, vegetation was sometimes blocking the view, the video did not zoom in on the equipment upon completion of the test etc. Having to disqualify a rider because of a procedural mistake is never fun, so our judges' taskforce will now work on developing one or two instructional videos with good and bad examples of how a virtual show video should be made." Jana Meyer and Alex Pregitzer are leading that effort.

Another improvement for 2022 will be to hold a virtual riders' meeting at the launch of each virtual show, where some of these items could be covered as well. Leslie Chambers is organizing the 2022 virtual shows. Thanks also go to Em Potts, who has worked hard getting the video infrastructure to work, and to Will Covert, our valuable liaison with the international judges.

Heidi Benson and Strokkur frá Syðri-Gegnishólum in Pace P2 at last year's Montaire show. Photo by Valerie Durbon.

PACE SCORES

Late in 2021, the Sport Committee started working on adding PP2 (100 m pace) to the National Ranking. A separate application form asks show organizers to specify the officials and the time-keeping arrangements. The show reports generated from IceTest will now include the pace times, and these will be imported into the National Ranking database. We hope that this will encourage more US riders to participate in pace riding.

SPORT JUDGES SEMINAR

Tamangur Icelandic Horses in Larkspur, CO hosted the 2022 USIHC Sport Judges Seminar with Þorgeir Guðlaugsson on June 2-5. Coralie Denmeade was the organizer, and Jeff Rose served as proctor and USIHC board representative. Through readings, lectures, video presentations, and practical training, the seminar let participants further develop their knowledge of the gaits of the Icelandic horse, understand the details of the international system used to judge sport competitons, and practice judging under the guidance of a FEIF International Sport Judge. Topics included the education of a sport judge, the mental aspects of judging, competition rules, ethics and etiquette, the judging guidelines, and gait analysis. Practical training included video assessments, shadow judging a schooling show, and learning how to perform equipment and health checks. While the seminar was designed for anyone interested in under-

standing the scoring of Icelandic horse shows in depth, the participants had the opportunity to take a test to become USIHC-certified sport judges themselves.

NATIONAL RANKING

The high-scorers in the US National Ranking were announced at the Annual Meeting. In the Tölt classes, the winners are: T1-Ásta Covert (7.90); T2-Terral Hill (6.99); T3-Jeff Rose (5.79); T4-Lucy Nold (5.95); T5-Lori Cretney (6.15); T6-Eden Hendricks (6.40); T7-Julian Feldner (5.15); T8-Jackie Harris (6.50). In the Fivegait classes, they are: F1-Ayla Green (6.65); F2-Heidi Benson (6.00); F3-Nadia Rusterholz (3.87). In the Fourgait classes, they are: V1-Ásta Covert (6.95); V2-Laura Benson (6.55); V3-Kydee Sheetz (5.88); V5-Amelie Maranda (5.55); V6-Jackie Harris (5.80).

DRESSAGE AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2021 United States Dressage Federation All-Breeds Icelandic Horse participants and winners! This was the first year the USIHC was a participating organization in the USDF All-Breeds Awards. Our winners were: Terri Mielke and Dynur from Creekside (Adult Amateur and Open Champion, Training Level), Paetra Henniger and Ísak from Four Winds Farm (Reserve Champion, First Level), and Virginia Lauridsen and Herkules from Dalalif (Champion, First Level). Designed to recognize the accomplishments of specific breeds in dressage, these awards are presented to horses declared for a participating registry/organization with USDF. For a horse to be eligible for the USIHC All-Breeds award, the horse must be USIHC registered, and the participant must be a current USIHC member. The horse must also be declared with USDF by August 1 of the award year in order to participate in the awards program.

Paetra Hennigar and Ísak from Four Winds Farm were the First Level Reserve Champions in the 2021 USDF All-Breed Awards.

YOUTH SHOWS

Given that the FEIF Youth Cup was canceled again, the USIHC try-outs have been converted to a youth virtual show. In February, the USIHC board discussed the best timing for this year's show and how to best set these up in coming years. For this year's show it was decided to extend the deadline for show registration until July 29 and the deadline for submission of videos until August 5. The show will offer T1, T2, V1, T8, and V6 classes. Will Covert will be judging the show and has offered to donate his time, which allows for free registration for all riders. The plan is to make a virtual youth show an annual event. To be consistent with the FEIF Youth Cup tryouts, the event deadlines for future years will be in February. Videos up to six months old will be allowed, so long as they have not been previously judged. Contact Lucy Nold at youth@icelandics.org for more information.

PENPAL PROGRAM

The USIHC launched a new program this spring to connect youth across the country. Youth members can sign up by filling out a form on the website and writing their first letter to their penpal. They will then be connected with another youth member to exchange letters with for the year. A list of topics and ideas for these letters will be provided. Each year youth participants will receive a new penpal, but can decide to also continue writing with their previous penpals. We hope this will forge new friendships for youth who love Icelandic horses!

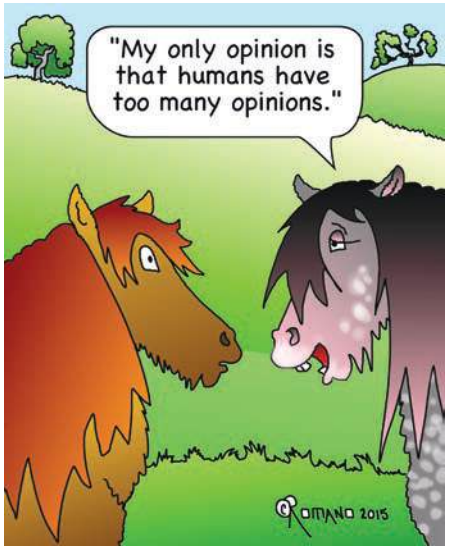
Virginia Lauridsen and Herkules from Dalalif were the First Level Champions in the 2021 USDF All-Breed Awards.

DIVERSITY

At the January Board Meeting, Jeff Rose noted that he follows a podcast called "Young Black Equestrians" and suggested sponsoring a few episodes. The board was very supportive of the idea. Jeff will reach out to the podcast hosts and initiate a conversation with them. Upon further discussion of how to nurture and facilitate more diversity and inclusivity within the USIHC, Virginia Lauridsen made the motion to form an educational outreach fund in support of initiatives reaching out to groups that are not normally given the opportunity to be exposed to and involved with horses. The fund would hold up to $1000 in each budget year with funds available in $100 increments. 2022 would be a pilot year for the fund. Jeff Rose seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously in favor.

BOARD MEETINGS

The USIHC Board of Directors met by Zoom call on January 18, February 15, and March 15. Complete minutes, including the monthly Treasurer's and Secretary's reports, committee reports, and the annual budget, can be found online at https://icelandics.org/minutes. USIHC members are encouraged to listen in on board meetings. The agenda and information on how to connect are posted on the USIHC website the weekend before.



DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

The 2022 Delegates Assembly took place virtually, with 16 out of 21 FEIF member countries present. The Board provided an update on the activities planned for 2022 and a long list of candidates and issues were up for voting. Jean-Paul Balz (Director of Sport), Silke Feuchthofen (Director of Education), and Inge Kringeland (Director of Breeding) were re-elected for a two-year period. Even Hedland and Will Covert were elected as additional board members. Jens Iversen was re-elected to the Arbitration Council and Caroline van de Bunt to the disciplinary board, each for three years. The delegates also confirmed the state authorized accountant for the current year. The minutes can be downloaded at https://www.feif.org/feif/documents/

YOUNG MEMBERS

Two new young members will start two-year positions on FEIF committees: Dóróthea Sigríður Unnsteinsdóttir (IS) will serve on the FEIF Breeding committee, and Steinar Clausen Kolnes (NO) on the FEIF Sport Committee. Other young committee members are Lena-Marie Baltes (LU), Katharina Haider (AT), and Maja Borg (SE). Lisa Kroon (NL), who was the young member of the Sport Committee for the past two years, was elected as a full member of the Sport Committee. Available committee positions for young members (ages 20-26) are published on the FEIF website. The reason for inviting young people to join the work of FEIF is to introduce a wider range of different people and promote the voices of young people. Are you interested? See https://www.feif.org/feif/documents/ under "Procedures."

EQUIPMENT MANUAL

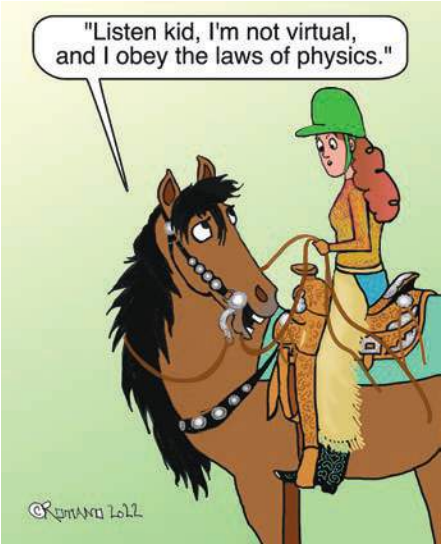
The 2022 FEIF Equipment Manual has been updated with the assistance of a number of experts from the Icelandic horse world. The manual is a guide to the equipment most commonly used with Icelandic horses. It was developed to provide a basis for common understanding and for educational purposes. Its contents are not "rules." Should any information in it conflict with the published FEIF Rules and Regulations, the FEIF Rules and Regulations will prevail. Download it at https://www.feif.org/feif/documents/ under "Manuals."

JUDGING GUIDELINES

The 2022 version of the FEIF Sport Judges Guidelines was released on April 1; see https://www.feif.org/sport-dept/documents/. Along with several small changes, the main change is the clear description of the maximum allowable tightness of the noseband and how to measure it. The tightness of the noseband is measured in the equipment check using a Noseband Taper Gauge or similar tool. A space of at least 1.5 cm for Hanoverian/drop or Lever nosebands and at least 1 cm for English/combined nosebands must be kept between the noseband and the front of the horse's nose (nasal midline). A noseband found to be too tight will result in elimination from the test, if this happens in the preliminaries, and from the finals, if this happens in the finals. In pace events the combination will be eliminated from the round.

FEIF SEMINAR

In March, our first big face-to-face event after Covid restrictions were lifted took place, with the combined FEIF Sport Judge and Trainer/Instructor Seminar. At Vicky and Beggi Eggertson's Lotushof near Berlin, 70 international participants met in bright sunshine for a well-prepared seminar with a lot of practical relevance. One focus was on pace training for Fivegait tests, and several rider-horse combinations were partly judged. The topics of start box training, procedures at the start box, and the judging, riding, and training of pace tests met with great approval. Demonstrations of test procedures in the easy tests and the practical application of the adapted guiding principles were discussed from the trainer's and judge's points of view. Overall, it was a very constructive seminar with many good discussions between trainers and judges. Thank you to all the motivated riders,



helpers, and judges who provided the presentations, including Sophie Kovac, Martín Heller, Rune Svendsen, Fi Pugh, and Marlise Grimm.

RINGMASTERS

The ringmaster at a breeding assessment inspects and measures all horses prior to the conformation assessment. After each ridden assessment, the ringmaster inspects the shoes, protective equipment, and other equipment of both horse and rider. These checks of the horse's equipment are mandatory for all horses in the show. On behalf of the judges, the chief judge can also ask the ringmaster for an extra check of the equipment. Due to the importance of this job for the welfare of the horse, ringmasters at breeding shows need to be certified by FEIF. Certification can be attained by attending a seminar for ringmasters, which is organized by the FEIF Breeding Committee. Learn more by watching this video: https://www.feif.org/breeding-dept/

TRAINER OF THE YEAR

The FEIF Trainer/Instructor of the Year award was established in 2016, and all FEIF members are invited to vote for the nominees. This time FEIF received nominations from nine FEIF member countries, and 411 unique responders voted in January 2022. Congratulations to Camilla Hed, nominated by the Swedish Icelandic Horse Association (SIF), who is the Trainer/Instructor of the Year 2021!

Camilla is a Swedish Icelandic Horse Instructor level 3. Since 2014, she has been working at Wången in the Equine Science Program for Icelandic horses, a three-year bachelor's degree education which gives the students deep knowledge in equine science, sport, and management. Camilla also works as a teacher at Wången High School. She has been a successful national team rider and a national team leader for Finland for some years.

Camilla is involved in training at all rider and horse levels, from recreational to competition riders. She has shown a great interest in and a genuine knowledge of horse and rider biomechanics, based on the latest research, as well as horse welfare and sustainable horse training. In her teaching she combines proven experience and knowledge with new research to educate her students. Many riders have developed their skills and their way of reflecting, analyzing, and handling horses under Camilla's guidance and leadership. Finally, for many years she has been involved in and committed to the area of education within the Swedish Icelandic Association.

2022 LANDSMOT

The national Icelandic Horse Festival, Landsmót, will take place July 3-10 in Hella, with Magnús Benediktsson as manager. "Gæðinga competition is the queen of Landsmót," says Magnús, "and that will not change, nor will the breeding shows." But some Sport classes will be added to the competition program. Other changes will make the event more family friendly, including more live music and family activities. "We want to try to decrease the gap between the general visitor and the breeder. Saturday will be the final day, ending with the A-finals in A-class gæðinga. In the evening there will be entertainment and live music, where some of Iceland's best performers will shine. On Sunday, farmers and breeders will open their doors and invite everyone home. People can visit their favorite farm, meet famous horses, and simply enjoy a fun day out in the countryside." Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.landsmot.is.

THE EXPORT JOURNEY

Horses of Iceland has released a magnificent short documentary called "The Export Journey of the Icelandic Horse." Wildhorse Films shot the film last fall, and in it the whole export process is documented, from the horse's breeding, training, teaching, selling, traveling on, and finally arriving at its new home hundreds of miles away. In 2021, a new record was set when a total of 3,341 horses were exported from Iceland. The documentary airs on all platforms of Horses of Iceland (social media, web, and YouTube channel), and on the website Horse & Country, which reaches over 40 million households all over the world. Additionally, it can be streamed from Amazon.com.

MOVE YOUR FEET!

"Waking up / See the light / Move your feet / Saddle up / Come with me /Feel the beat…" The official 2023 World Championship song is now available via Spotify and Apple Music. Produced by Gijs Coolen, it features Jula Aimée Kalshofen and Naomi Bakels, with the help of singers from Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Great Britain, New Zealand, the US, and the Netherlands. Listen and learn the rest of the lyrics at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=427620042465788

CLUB UPDATES

There are 13 Regional Clubs and one Activity Club affiliated with the U.S. Icelandic Horse Congress. To find the Regional Club nearest you, see the USIHC website at www.icelandics.org. The following clubs filed updates on their activities this quarter.

ALASKA

by Ellen Halverson

As I write this in March, members of the Alaska Icelandic Horse Association are looking forward to spring and summer for easier riding and being out in nature. Winter riding can be a challenge here in Alaska. While this winter we didn't have some of the extended periods of cold we sometimes experience, we were blessed with lots of snow. In spite of it, many of our members continued to ride and work with their horses. Some of us are participating in the Sea-2-Shining Sea Ride, which keeps us logging our hours. Our club has two teams in the event, the AIHA team and the Alaska Arctic Riders.
Our early summer events are a Jelena Ohm clinic on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, and a clinic with our own Janet Mulder planned for June 25-26. I am looking forward to both of these early clinics and will share how they go in the next edition. Enjoy your horses and the summer !

AIHA members Brenda Richard and Mary Sackinger enjoy a winter ride.

CIA member Sandie Weaver and her student enjoy the San Juan Capistrano trails on senior mares Birta (29) and Aska (27). Photo by Yulianna Galvez.

CIA

by Helga Sveinsdottir Thordarson

Congratulations to Flying C Ranch in Santa Ynez, CA, which celebrated its 35th anniversary in February. Betsy and Will Covert started Flying C as a business in 1987 when they purchased their first Icelandic horses. Preparations are underway at Flying C for the Spring CIA Open show on April 23-24. The show will be in the rearview mirror when this update goes to print; we look forward to reporting on it in the next issue.

In an important personal milestone, California Icelandic Association member Sandie Mortenson Weaver marked the seventh anniversary of a brutal 2015 dog attack with a peaceful and triumphant trail ride on her sweet mare, Aska. Aska and Sandie were both seriously injured in the incident in 2008. Sandie has patiently and mindfully worked on healing both her mare and herself and returning to trail riding over these last seven years. Sandie notes, "Aska is not the same horse and I am not the same rider, but we are still a team."

In San Diego, certified trainer Alexandra Montan Gray is settling in after her move to the US from Sweden. Southern California Icelandic horse owners are very happy to have lessons and skilled local training available again!

CIA member Kimberly Hart of Sunland Ranch took San Francisco visitors on a beach ride at Fiesta Island. Only one of the imported horses had been to a beach before, but all behaved beautifully as the group pranced and galloped in the waves—while calmly encountering hoverboards, bicycles, kayaks, kite surfers, and skateboarders. Our breed is truly impressive.

FLUGNIR

by Kydee Scheetz & Ellen Parker

The tremendous amount of Icelandic hair floating through the air indicates that warmer weather is coming to Minnesota and Wisconsin, so despite being buried under snow at the moment, Flugnir Club members are looking forward to many upcoming events. We are hopeful that we will be able to congregate to learn, play

and compete without restriction for the first time since 2019!

The Minnesota Horse Expo takes place April 14-16, and our enthusiastic team of more than 20 riders and support staff always strives to entertain, educate, and impress the nearly 25,000 attendees at this annual event. We will have a hard time topping last year's Viking extravaganza—complete with fireworks, smoke, and horses jumping over spears—but we will do our best. In addition to our usual twice daily breed demonstrations, we will be helping various Expo clinicians with their gaited horse demos, Centered Riding courses, and Rider Awareness work. Kydee Sheetz and Laurelyn Turbes also plan to provide some stiff competition in the Battle of the Breeds obstacle challenge. Several of our horses are hoping to be selected for the equine massage demonstrations!

Flugnir is also organizing Flugnirkeppni, an exciting sport show with judge Johannes Hoyos on June 11-12. This show will take place at gorgeous Tolthaven Icelandics in Pelican Rapids, MN. We hope to have several first time participants, in addition to an excellent group of experienced riders and trainers competing on the track overlooking the hills and fields of this beautiful farm. While the many excellent virtual training and competition options over the last two years have been much appreciated, the excitement of actually getting together can never be truly replaced.

Heidi Benson took this striking photo of Flugnir member Ellen Parker's 2021 foal, Artemis from Avalon.

Flugnir members are also looking forward to showing off our wonderful horses at the hunter paces organized by Long Lake Hounds. The Icelandic teams have routinely placed at or near the top for the last three years at these events.

In-person and virtual clinics have prepared Flugnir members Ellen Parker, Eve Loftness, and Dave Loftness to wow the judges at several dressage shows this summer. Ellen particularly appreciated Carrie Brandt and Laura Benson's No Stirrup November virtual competition, where she placed second in the amateur division against some stiff competition. She also plans to try some endurance competition for the first time with her mare Mýsla from Nordurstjarna.

Flugnir members are planning some great camping and trekking around the Midwest, with several people excited to return to the beautiful hills of North Dakota. While Kydee Sheetz and Pernilla Rypka are still debating whether or not to conquer the terrifying Hell's Canyon Trail for the second time, the group is united in their excitement to see Mount Rushmore from the back of a tolting horse once again. Kydee also plans to return to Colorado for a third year to work with horseman Mark Rashid to continue adding to her Trainer C education.

The Land of Fire and Ice is calling to several Flugnir members. With international travel opening up, Susy Oliver and Ellen Parker are both thrilled to attend Landsmót, the national horse show in Iceland, for the first time, while Kydee and Pernilla are preparing to participate in the fall horse roundup in September. Several other members are eagerly planning treks in Iceland as well.

What is spring without the excitement of gorgeous talented Icelandic foals running through the pastures? Several breeders throughout our region are expecting foals out of amazing first prize breeding horses this year. The breeders of Aslan's Country Icelandics, Avalon, and Tolthaven are all expecting to lose sleep this spring as we eagerly await the new arrivals. Ellen Parker, expecting four foals at Avalon, will likely be the most exhausted. Last year's foal, Artemis from Avalon, by Álfadans frá Ingólfsvoli out of Hugrun frá Hellubæ was certainly amazing!

Lord's Hill Park in Monroe, WA, through the ears of Lucy from Extreme Farm. Photo by Susie Johnson.

HESTAFOLK

by Lisa McKeen

As COVID wanes in Northwest Washington, we are making plans to gather. Collaborating with the Cascade Club of the Pacific Northwest, for example, we are hoping for a return of our popular winery ride. Small groups of riders are beginning to gather to help one another and share stories. We try on saddles and bits, and generally show one another what we can do with our horses. We invite new folks and help them find their very own dream horse, build community, and, most of all, have fun.

To start the year, we began charging dues again. Paying club members have access to our once-a-month talk with trainer Freya Sturm. We cover a range of subjects, like testing your hay and water and then considering necessary supplementation. For a discussion of conformation, club members sent Freya pictures and we talked about the range of gaits a horse's conformation allows and how to be better

partners with our horses.

Some Hestafolk members are participating with the Woodbrook Hunt Club and their challenging foxless hunts. Our Icelandics are very good at it.

Lauren Murphy and two Icelandics will represent our club again at the Washington State Fair. We will also be taking Icelandics to the Northwest Viking Fest in Arlington, WA. We are hoping that our youth group will provide informational posters for the fair and be stall ambassadors as well.

KLETTAFJALLA

by Florie Miller

As I'm writing this we are in the middle of spring, which, in the Rocky Mountains, means t-shirt weather one day and a blizzard the next. Klettafjalla Club members are starting to get back in the saddle after a long winter; shoes are being put back on our horses, conditioning is starting, and we are planning out which events to attend this year.

Lots of exciting things are happening this year. April 30 will kick off the season with a virtual club event. Next on the calendar will be a new type of event, the Klettafjalla Fun-Keppni. Modeled after similar events in Iceland, this fun competition day will start with coffee and donuts, followed by youth and adult classes. A Fun-Keppni is all about creating a supportive, positive, and informal environment, where everyone can learn something and have a great time with friends and horses.

Klettafjalla member Zoe Johnson is heading off to college (sadly, without Prins).

Klettafjalla member Abby Hickox and her recently imported mare Víka.

May 28-29 there is a club-sponsored clinic at Gyetorp II in Wyoming, at which the fabulous Caeli Cavanagh will be focusing on tölt. The next week, June 2-5, there is an amazing opportunity to attend the USIHC Sport Judging Seminar with Þorgeir Guðlaugsson at Tamangur Icelandics in Larkspur, CO. Multiple trail rides and other events are also planned for the summer. Check our Facebook page and website to stay in the loop. We have also launched a Facebook trail ride group as a great way to connect, since most of our members live considerable distances from each other and can't always meet up in person. Send us an email to sign up.

Klettafjalla remains a vibrant and lively club with a steady increase of members and a continued influx of new horses. Some are directly imported from Iceland, like Abby Hickox's new mare Víka, and some come from other parts of the US, such as Kat Payne's horses, which made the trip from Minnesota. An avid trail rider, Kat now lives in Southern Colorado with her husband, dogs, and herd of Icelandic horses. For now we say goodbye to loyal longtime club member Zoe Johnson, who's leaving Colorado to go to college. We wish her all the best and we'll be right here waiting for her to come back.

NEIHC

by Jennifer Bergantino

The 150+ members of the Northeast Icelandic Horse Club are a hearty group, undeterred by winter weather. Despite a snowmageddon or two, in January we formed teams and signed up for the USIHC's Sea-2-Shining Sea virtual ride. As of the end of March, four NEIHC teams were in the top 10: Solheimar Dream Team, Cedar Tree Icelandics, Northcountry Tolters, and Merrimack Valley Icelandics.

When the footing prevented us from logging hours on the trails, we headed to the beach. The biggest organized ride was in early January, when local riders Anna Wallstrom, Charity Simard, Claudia Burnham, Phebe Kiryk, and Andrea Smith were joined by Jana Meyer, Finja Meyer,

Vivian Goddard, happy to be back in the saddle aboard her grandmother's horse Hástigur. Photo by Anna Goddard.

NEIHC Members from Massachusetts and Vermont frolic with their horses on a sunny (but cold) day at Crane Beach in Ipswich, MA. Beachgoers enjoyed seeing eight Icelandics tölting together.

and Quinn Thomashow from Vermont for an amazing, sunny (but cold) ride on Crane Beach in Ipswich, MA. Beachgoers enjoyed seeing eight Icelandics frolicking in the surf and tölting together.

Over at Merrimack Valley Icelandics in Boxford, MA, trainer Ebba Meehan and her riders enjoyed the beach and much, much more. In March, 20+ NEIHC members enjoyed an in-person Thorrablót partly with Icelandic delights such as flatkaka og hangikjöt (flatbread with smoked lamb), harðfiskur með smjöri (dried cod with butter), and sviðasultu (meat from sheeps' heads), and fabulous "regular" food for the slightly less adventurous. Ebba's program continues to thrive, with over 25 lessons per week and an ever-growing student base. The MVI drill team met once a week throughout the winter, and will practice more often as the performance season approaches.

On the clinic front, MVI held an Equine Massage Clinic with Exclusive Equestrian Services, including a lecture, a demonstration (with Thor loving being the center of attention), and private lessons for Kate Kalan, Nancy Rohlfs, Valerie Moore, Greeley O'Connor, and Ebba and their four-legged partners. Along with auditors Clauda Burnham, Andrea Smith, Scott Smith, and Shelby Walker the group learned about horse biomechanics and anatomy, focusing on which parts of the horse need to be suppled and stretched.

At Solheimar Farm in Tunbridge, VT on March 26-27, trainer Sigrún Brynjarsdóttir offered an excellent Centered Riding clinic. NEIHC members Nancy Woods, Jennifer Bergantino, Charity Simard, Nancy Brown, Chuck Fergus, Richard Davis, and Marilyn Blaess, and junior rider Liesl Kolbe learned the biomechanics and skeletal connections of horse and rider, the building blocks of balance, and the importance of the rider's influence on how a horse goes. With the help of "Bruno," Sigrún's friendly skeleton, we learned about our own human frame and the importance of riding "on our bones," not with our muscles.

A Connection from the Ground clinic was held at Cedar Tree Stables in Ipswich, MA, home to seven Icelandics. Phil Whitmore's Trick to Better Communication exposed the group to fun and interesting ways to maintain your horse's attention, trust, and consistent and predictable responses to cues. Joann Hayssen, Jennifer Bergantino, Nancy Rohlfs, Claudia Burnham, Anna Wallstrom, Charity Simard, and Phebe Kiryk participated along with "big horse" participants and many auditors.

We also continued learning virtually. Many NEIHC members participated in a webinar with Charlotte Cook, sponsored by Taktur Icelandics. Charlotte, top Icelandic competitor (especially in pace) and a veterinarian provided the theory behind conditioning and a practical approach to exercise horse physiology.

Sigrún Brynjarsdóttir (far right) held a well-attended Centered Riding Clinic at her Solheimar Farm in Vermont last March.

The horses loved being the center of attention when Ebba Mehan (third from right) held an Equine Massage Clinic at Merrimack Valley Icelandics in Massachusetts.

Andrea Smith, Nancy Rohlfs, and Phebe Kiryk packed up and headed to Hestaland in Borgarnes, Iceland for a five-day winter workshop with trainer Guðmar Pétursson. March in Iceland is still winter, but the group had long days of light and lots of time to fine-tune their training techniques and equitation. After discussing a training plan and goals in detail with Guðmar, he assigned each rider two horses for which to be accountable. Mornings consist of small group lessons that Guðmar individualized to specific goals aimed at learning for riders and training for horses. At a hearty lunch with the Hestaland staff, one never knew who might show up to dig into delicious meals together—a vet, blacksmith, or other visitors. Afternoons were focused on each rider working independently with their two horses to advance specific training exercises and goals, always with easy access to training staff for questions or assistance. Staying at the on-farm guesthouse was cozy, spacious, and made for a homey way to fix breakfast and dinner, and to relax after the day wound down. Long walks on the property, working on a sweater project, and many hours to chat together planning the next Iceland horse trip, filled in any gaps before one fell into bed for a much-needed night's sleep. Andrea, Nancy, and Phebe all made big strides in their skills and in their own horse training journeys.

Other NEIHC members stayed close to home, riding and sharing with grandkids and friends. Proud grandmother Amy Goddard's grandchildren were happy to be back in the saddle during their winter school break! New member Maggie Breen and Spraekur, in southern Vermont, after "hanging out, kinda waiting for the ice to melt," got out and "had a blast! Spraekur has such a personality…my favorite thing to do is gallop up the fields!" Lori Leo at Four Winds Farm in Hanover, MA has an exciting spring planned. She has restarted her breeding program. This spring she will breed two of her mares!

NEIHC held its annual meeting via Zoom on March 5; 21 members attended. Board members reported on the challenges that 2021 brought, and Erika Tighe, trainer at Merrimack Valley Icelandics, presented "The Benefits of Dressage and How to Prepare the Icelandic Horse for the Dressage Ring." We also voted in the new Board of Directors: Ebba Meehan, Emily Potts, Hilary Houldsworth, Leah Greenberger, Leslie Chambers, Nancy Rohlfs, and Ona Kwiatkowski will serve

through March 31, 2024. Thank you all!

We are energized and excited for in-person events to continue to flourish. Our NEIHC Open will be the highlight of the season, featuring a pre-show clinic June 14-16 with Taktur Icelandics, a Dressage Schooling Show and Family Fun Show on June 17, and a National Ranking sport competition and finals on June 18-19, complete with a fun and festive BBQ for participants, their families, and spectators.

SIRIUS

by Janet Kuykendall

The Sirius Ohio Kentucky Icelandic Horse Club enthusiastically invites everyone to our first ever Fun Show, to be held August 26-28 at Léttleiki Icelandics in Shelbyville, KY. Camping is available on-site, and rooms in the Yellow House are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Stalls, as well as leased horses, will be available, too. The weekend will start with a meet-and-greet event on Friday evening. Saturday will open with schooling classes and fun classes, and Sunday will wind up with fun classes and awards. The club is charging a flat rate for the entire weekend, and participants can ride in as many classes as they choose. More classes = more fun! If you are wondering what the FEIF classes are all about, this is the time for you and your horse to give them a try. And there will be a wild (that's right: "wild" not "wide") variety of fun classes to enter, along with ribbons and prizes to be won! Traditional and non-traditional, there will be something for everyone. No pressure—just lots of fun! One highlight will be the costume class, and we all know that Nancy Radebaugh and Gunnar have some outstanding costume experience! Check the Sirius Ohio Kentucky Icelandic Horse Club Facebook page for all the specifics. Or, email us at siriusokicelandichorseclub@gmail.com. Details will also be on the Léttleiki website. Club member and host Maggie Brandt always does something special to make every event memorable. We're all looking forward to this as a high point of the summer!

Costume experts Nancy Radebaugh and Gunnar as the Toy Soldier.

Frances Rospotynski and Landi enjoy a lesson from Carrie Lyons Brandt at the winter clinic organized by Sirius member Esther Gates.

Three trail rides remain on the club calendar: The July 29-31 ride will take place at Caesar Creek State Park in Waynesville, OH. Debbie Favor and Kerstin Lundgren are the trail coordinators. This state park features easy bridle trails that range from 1.5-14 miles, as well as an equestrian horse camp. Our next ride will be at beautiful Shaker Village, KY, on September 17-19. This is the premiere equestrian riding destination in the state, with nearly 30 miles of beautiful trails, 22 miles of which are groomed for horse-drawn carriages. There are stalls and trailer parking; $10 trail-use pass is required for each day of riding. Camping will be in a separate location. Trail coordinators Jeny Feldner and Kerstin Lundgren promise this will be a ride to remember! The last trail ride of the year will be October 7-9 at Hocking Hills State Park. Club members can camp at Pine Creek Horsemen's Camp in South Bloomingville, OH. Last year's ride at Hocking was our best-attended ride of the year, and trail coordinator Sherry Hoover hopes to break that record this fall. All are welcome at our club rides.

Sirius Ohio Kentucky Icelandic Horse Club members were very busy in 2021. Two club teams participated in the USIHC's Sea-2-Shining Sea Ride, finishing

the year with significant miles. Sirius Trail Tolters 1 riders completed 2,250 total miles, with Ron Hoover leading the group with 938 miles. However, the Sirius Trail Tolters 2 team dazzled with 3,250 total miles. Jaime and Shawn Jackson led with 956.12 miles each. It was quite a challenging year with both human and horse injuries, and we're very proud of all the participants. The 2022 teams are already logging miles, and we wish them many healthy, fun-filled miles as they virtually travel the 4,000 mile trip from Minot, ME to Hollywood, CA.

Sirius member Esther Gates sponsored an amazing winter clinic at South Farm in Middlefield, OH on Feb. 12-13. Clinician Carrie Lyons Brandt, head trainer and co-owner of Taktur Icelandics, did an exceptional job in providing exactly what each participant wanted to work on. The clinic featured two individual 20-minute sessions per day for each rider/horse combination. That was just the right amount of time for human and horse to grasp the concept. Esther, along with partner John Griffin, saw improvement through using shoulder-in, beginning with a large circle, along with practicing loose rein as a reward, especially when tölting. Esther feels that she needs to remember to have contact with her horse's mouth without being tight and pulling. Frances Rospotynski benefitted from tips on body position, such as opening the hips, sitting back, toes in, and shoulder position while riding. She's also using stretching exercises for her horse. Melanie Ku practiced leading with her hand away from the horse's neck in the direction she wants to travel and keeping the opposite rein on the horse's neck, moving her instead with the leg. Sherry Hoover concentrated on leading rein, leading hand. Sherry's go-to previously was pulling up with the rein, and she is now pulling out away from her horse and having great results. Sherry also worked on using her thighs for the sitting trot. Ron Hoover learned how to use a circle to bring his horse back into the tölt from a trot during tölt training. Circles help the horse become more supple. Jaime Jackson concentrated on lateral movement and engaging her horse's hindquarters. Shawn Jackson benefitted from proper hand, body, and leg position for mounting his horse. The facility featured a heated viewing lounge, so everyone watched all of the lessons. Attendees provided a hot dish each day for the luncheon potluck, and everyone agreed they would do it again—except maybe not for the major snowstorm that greeted them at the conclusion of the clinic.

Toppur's S2SS team on a pop-up trail ride (left to right): Liz Appel, Ulrike Passe, Cindy Niebuhr, and Lisa Blumhagen.

Carrie Lyons Brandt also presented a Zoom clinic on March 15 on Riding Outside the Arena. The clinic was free of charge for all club members as a benefit of membership. Carrie started off the evening by saying that she feels Zoom clinics are the format of the future. The event certainly worked well for our club, because our membership shares such wide geographic diversity. It's a challenge to plan activities that all can enjoy, and Zoom clinics are readily available to everyone. Many members watched as the clinic took place, and all club members received an email link to connect to the taped version.

Carrie emphasized that "you can't control your horses' emotions, but you can help them learn to regulate their reactions." She also talked about plus (+) and minus (-) directions. That seems like a simple-enough philosophy about going away from and returning to the barn or the trailer, but it explains a lot of behavior when you really think about it! And she offered so many easy training tips to take advantage of that behavior. Carrie also covered some basic equine anatomy, such as the fact that horses don't have collarbones. This makes it a challenge for horses to maintain their balance and stop when they are diagonally descending hills. She also told us why she always has Icelandic horse sellers take videos of any horse she is thinking of importing carrying a rider who is hitting themself on the helmet with a stick. (We won't spoil the surprise here!) Carrie ended the clinic by answering members' questions, and everyone who participated thought this was an excellent presentation. We are hoping there are many more spectacular Zoom clinics like this one in our club's future!

TOPPUR

by Cindy Niebuhr

In Iowa, Toppur members have been champing at the bit to get their 2022 riding season started: This new year brings in with it many adventures.

We kicked off the year in January

with the official formation of our Sea-2-Shining Sea team. Plans were made at our annual meeting on January 22 for educational and riding clinics, horse fair exhibitions, and both National Ranking and schooling shows. Save the dates of August 30-31 for the Harmony Icelandics Breeding and Riding Horse Assessment, and September 3-4 for our Toppur Annual Sport Horse Show. Both will be held at Harmony Icelandics in Truro, IA.

February gave us some beautiful days, and S2SS team leader Lisa Blumhagen threw together some wonderful pop-up trail rides. Thanks to Harmony Icelandics, members were able to spend time leisurely riding over rambling hills and open fields experiencing the awakening of spring.

March proved once again to be packed with excitement. Thanks to the sponsorship of Harmony Icelandics, we were able to have clinicians Guðmundur ("Mummi") Skúlason from Hallkelsstaðahlið, Iceland and Carrie Lyons Brandt from Taktur Icelandics in Kentucky share their knowledge and talents in a long weekend of workshops. Carrie presented a theory lesson on Liberty training, while Mummi presented one on Leadership work. Each clinician also provided attendees with private lessons and answered questions from the many auditors. Mummi and Carrie were also available to provide Knapamerki testing at the end of the weekend, and Toppur members Teresa Harp, Liz Appel, and Ulrike Passe all passed their Knapamerki 1 test.

Toppur members Liz Appel and Cindy Niebuhr in full Viking mode at the Iowa Horse Fair.

The last weekend in March, a group of eight riders came together and displayed the unique talents of our very special horses at the Iowa Horse Fair. Demonstrations of trail riding, jumping, dressage, the five gaits, and the beer tölt were given. Our club, once again, placed in the stall decoration contest! Way to go Team Toppur!

April will continue to bring our members many more clinics in jumping, dressage, and showing. Sea 2 Shining Sea riders will continue to ride, and many of us will welcome new horse members to our families. We hope you all can continue to enjoy each other's company while riding throughout the spring!

The Toppur Drill Team at the Iowa Horse Fair.

The Search

by Andrea Barber

In the last issue of the *Quarterly*, I wrote about "Choosing Your First" Icelandic horse. Now you've done all the deep soul searching, you've been honest about your riding future, you've assessed the practical problems of horse ownership, and you're prepared to take the next step. You have the checkbook ready, and you're revved up and ready to find the Icelandic horse of your dreams. Yippee! But where do you start? What things should you think about when buying an Icelandic? What are the potential pitfalls? This is a major decision that will require not only a large financial investment, but often a significant emotional one. There's a lot to consider.

FIRST, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT AN ICELANDIC?

I know that sounds crazy. If you weren't sure you wouldn't be reading this article. But many people seem to make their decision to purchase an Icelandic horse based only on seeing photos and video online or watching them at Equine Affaire or another demo. While online research is great, it's no substitute for meeting an Icelandic horse up close and personal. And when you meet the horses you also meet their people, which can give you great insight as to whether or not the breed is really suitable for you. Icelandic horses are wonderful—but they are certainly not for everyone.

No doubt breeders and importers can be a great help here, but do not discount the value of meeting individual owners and their horses. You may find people with similar interests who can give you a great education from their own experiences (good and bad). It's a rare Icelandic horse owner who doesn't love to talk about their horse! You can assess similarities and differences in riding styles and practices that may tell you if getting an Icelandic horse is a good choice for you. As a bonus, you'll also gain a good support network for when you bring your horse home. You may even have some new riding buddies lined up!

Start by seeing if there is a USIHC Regional Club in your area. A list of all the clubs affiliated with the USIHC can be found on the USIHC website (https://icelandics.org/affiliated-clubs). Members of these clubs differ greatly in their level of knowledge and participation. This is good, because it will provide you with a diverse base of experiences to draw from. No club near you? Contact the closest one, and they will likely know if there are Icelandic horse owners in your area. Though our distances in the US are great, the Icelandic community is a small and friendly one.

Do more than just ride when you are horse shopping. Many of your interactions at home will take place on the ground. Take care to get to know the horse outside of the saddle, as Deb Callaway is doing here with Káinn frá Keldum. Photo by Andrea Barber.

GET RIDING!

Once you've decided that, yes, Icelandics are definitely the breed for you, the next step is to ride, ride, ride. It's important to get riding experience on as many different horses as possible to learn what you do and don't like.

Check out the Farm List on the USIHC website (https://icelandics.org/farm-list). There you can find places to take lessons on Icelandic horses, join a "newbie" clinic, test ride sales horses, etc. Even if a farm doesn't have any horses available for you to ride, they may be able to suggest others that do. And yes, you may have to travel. Enlist a trusted friend or trainer to come along for an adventure.

Taking a trip to Iceland to ride Icelandic horses may seem like a great idea—and it is. But here are some words of caution: First, the riding conditions in Iceland are very different from those in the US. In Iceland you can typically ride at high speed for long distances without a care; in the US we have to deal with trees, stop signs, busy roads, biting insects, etc. Second, if you are going on a trek, remember that the horse is likely just following along on a route it has taken many times before. You are its passenger, not its rider, and thus the horse is not always under your direction. Your experience riding an Icelandic horse (even the same horse you rode on the trek) here in the US may be quite different.

Even more so than in many of the three-gaited horse breeds, there is a tremendous diversity in the Icelandic breed. The positive side of that is there is something for almost everyone. The negative is that you have to ride a lot of horses to discover—and be able to articulate—what you are looking for in your own equine partner. As my husband Steve always says, forget everything you are told about the horse. Those are other people's opinions that may not be the same as yours. Instead, focus on how does the horse feel to you when you ride it.

It's more than a horse just being four or five-gaited. The Icelandic breed includes a wide spectrum of gaiting abilities, from very trotty horses, to racing pacers, to everything in-between. Some horses offer tölt naturally, some need assistance from the rider to keep the gait. Some have a very supple smooth tölt, others feel more stiff. Some have a giant flashy trot, while the trot on others is almost smooth as a tölt. There are endless variations. Again, some people may think you are crazy for liking a particular type of gait. Who cares? It's going to be you riding the horse, not them.

Beyond gaits, there's the conformation of the horse. Some Icelandics are big, some are very small. Some are wide, some are narrow. Some have a proud high-set neck, while the neck on others is set lower. You may find that you fit like a glove on some horses, while on others you feel like you are riding a picnic table. Having a horse that you physically mesh with can mean the difference between being a confident, effective rider and struggling with a puzzle where the pieces never seem to fit. Plus, consider that the horse may feel the same about you! You want to swing your leg over, sit down in the saddle, and have it feel right.

Probably the most important thing to consider is the character of the horse. The Icelandic breed includes a wide range of personalities and temperaments. Remember, in Iceland there is only one breed of horse, so the Icelandic horse is bred to fit all riders' tastes and abilities. Some horses are very sensitive and forward thinking, while others are sleepy and laid-back. Some have outgoing gregarious personalities, and others are introverted and shy. Some are proud and serious, some are goofy and playful. Only when you meet and experience a lot of them, do you start to discover the personalities you are most drawn to. Again, don't worry about what other people think you should like. This isn't an arranged marriage. It's your individual choice.

The more horses you ride the clearer the picture of the horse you are looking for will become.

FINDING THE ONE

Now that you really know what you are looking for, you can start actively searching for that dream horse. Note: For the purposes of this article I am going to focus on finding a horse in the US or Canada. Searching in Iceland, or buying sight-unseen from Iceland, is a whole other article for another time.

The best place to start, again, is the USIHC Farm List. Contact a number of farms that have horses for sale. Talk to them about your experience and what you are looking for. Be wary of those that have the "perfect" horse for you without even having talked to you at length about your experience and requirements. Reputable sellers will want to have a thoughtful conversation with you to truly understand what you want and to then gauge if what they currently have might be suitable. They will likely want you to come try the horse so that they can judge the fit. Responsible sellers care less about making sales and more about making good matches, where both horse and rider can be successful.

Each ride should leave you excited for the next—and smiling like Meredith Vanderminden, here, on Gullbrá frá Velli II. Photo by Andrea Barber.

If, after several conversations, it seems a particular seller may have a good prospect for you, then it's time to hit the road (or skies) and go see the horse. If possible, having an educated person such as a trainer or experienced friend along can help; it's also more fun. Horse-buying can be a little overwhelming, so having that second person around to discuss things with is really valuable.

Really try to do everything with the

The connection you feel with the horse is important. Here, Steve Barber bonds with Silfurtá frá Vatnsleysu. Photo by Andrea Barber.

horse that you will be doing at home. Remember you'll be doing more than just riding. Catch the horse out in the field, groom it, tack it up, etc. See how you mesh with the horse. Does the interaction come easily? Or does it feel stiff and forced? Does being around the horse make you feel good—or tense? Yes, of course we should always make rational decisions, but this is also a case where you need to listen to your heart. This is an animal you are planning on having a significant emotional connection with for many years. It doesn't have to be love at first sight, but if it's forced that probably doesn't bode well for the future.

Have the seller ride the horse first. I'm always amazed at the number of people who are willing to just hop on a strange horse. Not a good idea. Just because the horse looks sweet and easy on the ground, you have no idea how it will really be under saddle. Let the seller get on first and show you the horse. In addition, you should also want to see the horse going with its familiar rider, so you can get an initial read on its abilities, training, and temperament. Taking a video of the seller riding the horse is also a good idea, so you can refer back to it later.

If all looks good then it's time for you to give it a try. Always try the horse first in an enclosed area. I know you probably just want to ride out on the trail, but again, safety first. In addition, it is often a good idea to listen to the seller's instructions. They know the horse and will help give you the tools to be successful—plus you'll likely get some good riding tips. Just like you did on the ground, try to get a feel for the horse to see if you connect. You'll want to feel comfortable and good. First-ride butterflies are totally normal! But if you feel afraid or truly uncomfortable, there is absolutely no shame in dismounting. Remember again, this is for fun.

The ride doesn't have to go perfectly. Even great dancers have some hiccups when they are first joined with a new partner. But it should feel like a fun challenge to start to learn a common language together. You should get off already looking forward to the next ride.

And there should be a next ride. If you are truly interested in a particular horse, try to ride it on several different days. Have your friend or trainer take a video of you riding the horse, so you can refer back to it. If you want to ride on the trails at home, make sure you ride the horse on a trail when you try it out. If you plan to ride out alone, see if you can ride the horse alone down the seller's driveway, etc. Again, it doesn't have to go perfectly (remember, the horse is still getting to know you too), but it should feel like the start of an exciting adventure.

Some additional things to keep in mind: Please be respectful of the seller and of their time and effort. Be punctual and don't play games like showing up hours early or late. Make sure you have brought your helmet, riding boots, etc. Expect to groom and tack up the horse yourself, and to care for it after the ride. If the seller has spent a lot of time with you and you decide not to purchase the horse, you should offer to pay them for their time and any lessons they have given you. It will be greatly appreciated even if they decline your offer.

THIS IS IT!

So, you're in love. You've found the one, and you can't wait to get that dream horse home and ride off onto the trails. Not so fast.

First, make sure the horse is registered to be sure you are actually purchasing a purebred Icelandic horse. If the horse is in the US, it should be registered with the USIHC. If it is, you can look it up on the USIHC website (https://icelandics.org/registered-horse-search) and the seller can show you its registration papers. Some imports may not be US-registered, though most reputable sellers do register their imported sales horses. For those horses, you'll want to see the Certificate of Ownership from Iceland, which is the document you'll need to register the horse. If you have any questions, reach out to the USIHC Registrar (registry@icelandics.org) for assistance.

Second, make sure you have a solid sales contract. This is a legal document that will likely be provided by the seller and that you will sign when leaving a deposit for the horse. This is a serious and important step. If you are not comfortable reviewing the contract, an attorney experienced in equine law can help. At a minimum, the sales contract should lay out the basic terms, such as the full, registered

name of the horse, the sales price, the transfer of ownership, etc. You'll also want to make sure that it includes the terms for a pre-purchase veterinary examination and what happens (such as getting a refund of your deposit) if the horse does not pass the vet's exam.

Third, you'll want to schedule the pre-purchase exam. This will be at your cost, and it's important not to skimp. Ideally, you should select a knowledgeable veterinarian in the area who is not the one used regularly by the seller. In some cases that may not be possible, due to a lack of local veterinarians, but in most areas it is. Before the exam, speak with the vet and tell them what you'll be doing with the horse and what your concerns are. Also, have the seller release all the horse's veterinary records to your chosen vet. Both of these will help guide the vet as they perform the exam. At a minimum you'll want a solid, comprehensive exam that includes flexion tests. You may also choose to have x-rays of the hocks taken to check for bone spavin, as this can be a common issue in Icelandic horses. Other tests and x-rays may be applicable depending on what your vet recommends.

Don't be surprised if the vet finds things. That's what they are getting paid to do, and no horse is perfect. Discuss the findings in detail with the vet—and with your vet at home, if you have one. Then you can decide if the issues are trivial, or if you should back out of the deal. But if everything looks good feel free to jump for joy! You're getting a new horse!

PREPARING FOR TRANSPORT

If the horse is close enough, and you (or a friend) has a trailer, you may be able to pick the horse up yourself. If not, be careful to choose a reputable shipper. The seller may be able to suggest someone that their clients have used previously with good success. Quality horse shippers do not come cheap. With high fuel prices, insurance, and regular maintenance of their equipment, it takes a lot for them to cover their costs, much less make a profit. But this is not the time to simply go with the lowest bid. After all, your new horse is valuable cargo! Do your homework and select a trustworthy shipper.

Depending on where you are shipping the horse from or to, you may have to pay for additional vaccinations, a Coggins test, health papers, brand inspection or transfer, etc. All these are at your cost. It's a good idea to see what your locality requires, as these differ from state to state. If the horse is not up-to-date on the vaccinations needed in your area, this is a good time to get them done. The horse will likely be stressed upon arrival, so you'll want its immunity up.

Ask the seller to provide you with all the horse's health records. Reputable sellers will be able to provide detailed records of veterinary, farrier, dental care, and worming. This will be helpful so you know when to schedule these services once your new horse arrives home. The seller should also let you know what the horse's diet is. If possible, try to maintain the exact same diet when you get the horse home, at least at first. That may mean purchasing some hay from the seller. This will allow you to make dietary changes gradually to avoid additional stress.

Ask the seller to show you the tack currently used on the horse and explain why it's used. Since the horse is going well in this tack, it's a good idea, at least at first, to use the same tack. The same goes for shoeing. So much of this horse's life is going to change when it goes to its new home, that keeping as much continuity as possible is key for a smooth transition. The seller may be even willing to sell you the horse's tack, which can be a great benefit: The horse gets the tack it is comfortable with, and you don't have to worry about going out and buying everything new.

HOMECOMING

Your new horse has arrived. Yippee! What's next? Jumping on and galloping off into the sunset? Um, no. You still have more work to do.

Read the next article in this issue, "Helping Them Adjust" by Virginia Lauridsen, then find Issue Two 2021 of the *Quarterly* (archived at https://icelandics.org/quarterly-magazine) and check out Helga Sveinsdottir Thordarson's article "After the Long Journey" for a great primer on starting your partnership with your Icelandic horse.

Keep things consistent. At least at first, use the same tack as has been successfully used on the horse by the seller. Here, Svartaþoka frá Borgarnesi shows off her favorite bridle. Photo by Andrea Barber.

Helping Them Adjust

by Virginia C. Lauridsen

When I began importing horses from Iceland to Iowa, I noticed that it took some of them a long time to adjust to their new surroundings—even up to a year or more. The enormity of the consequences of relocating a horse really hit me in 2019. I was hosting a clinic, and a client who had purchased a horse from me in 2014 was a participant. I had recently imported another horse from the same farm in Iceland where his mare had been raised. When he and his mare arrived at my farm, the two horses obviously recognized each other. They whinnied and ran to the fence to greet one another. I realized I had not fully appreciated the depth of social bonding between horses in a herd.

In order to learn how I could help the horses I import adjust more easily, I sat down with renowned animal behaviorist Suzanne Millman, who is a professor at Iowa State University. Suzanne holds joint appointments in the departments of veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine and biomedical sciences in the college of veterinary medicine. As an applied ethologist, her research interests include understanding the behavioral responses of animals to states of pain and illness. In addition to a PhD and a stellar academic resume, Suzanne is a gentle soul, with a calming presence and an upbeat demeanor. She has lived as a shepherdess in Scotland and as a stable groom in Greece and the UK. She is an accomplished dressage rider. I believe these close relationships caring for animals are the source of her deep wisdom concerning animal behavior.

Suzanne not only legitimized my observation of the two horses' mutual recognition after five years of separation, but offered her own experience of witnessing two mares recognize each other after seven years apart! It is clear to me now that horses form deep social bonds and that adapting to a new environment can cause them great anxiety. And this is true whether they are being moved from a herd in Iceland to a barn in Iowa, or just from one barn in the US to another across the country, across the state—or even just a mile down the road.

The good news is that we, as horse owners, can take actions to alleviate their stress. Here are some excerpts from my interview:

CONDITIONING

VCL: Are there any studies about horses adjusting to a new environment?

Half siblings Stjarni from Hanging Valley and Dídí from Harmony Icelandics meet over the fence, perhaps for the first time. Photo by Liz Appel.

SM: Not really. There has been significant research done relating to novelty and horses that have been reared in groups as opposed to individually. The social context mattered when they were in a familiar environment, but it didn't matter at all in a novel environment. A horse that is "bomb proof" in the trainer's facility, but is not when it is moved to a new facility, could be influenced by things it had to give up. So even if the management is similar, the familiarity of surroundings and relationships that it has lost will affect its level of anxiety. The default emotion of horses is fear. They have fear of novelty and they want to be in a group.

VCL: There was a study done in 2016 by researchers at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences measuring the stress of horses when being loaded into a trailer. (See reference below). Six Icelandic horses, aged 2-3 years, were observed during loading and habituation and their heart rates were measured during these procedures over three days. Increased heart rate is an indicator of fear in horses. Not surprisingly, these horses had an increased heart rate while in the trailer. Interestingly, however, the rate of increase diminished with each successive day, indicating that it is possible to condition a horse to being transported.

SM: If a horse is not conditioned to being transported, this action will be overwhelmingly stressful. This is called "flooding." People believe the horse will eventually settle down, but it doesn't really settle. When a horse is in a really fearful situation and can't get away from it, it becomes exhausted. But it is very easy to condition a horse to being transported. Give it a bit of experience with the trailer in advance. That would be a big, big thing to do to set a horse up for success.

AGENCY

VCL: What factors influence a horse when it arrives at a new location?

SM: When a horse arrives in a novel environment, it will have lost its social companions, it is going to have a different kind of feed, it doesn't know the humans, and the humans may be interacting with the horse in a way in which the horse

The stallion Gosi frà Lambastöðum (left) and gelding Hlér frá Gullberastöðum were both imported in 2014, but from different farms in Iceland. Now they are best buddies in Iowa. Photo by Susy Oliver.

is not familiar. The horse may get very anxious. It may become depressed, but it is more likely to be anxious. Not being around other horses, not seeing other horses, and not having agency all cause anxiety.

VCL: What is "agency?"

SM: The ability to make decisions for itself. When a horse is out in a paddock with other horses, it can make its own decisions about what it wants to do. It can choose to hang out with another horse, shake the flies off its face, or be alone. When a horse is in a stall, it has no control over its situation. It can't make decisions for itself. It can get really aggressive or anxious.

VCL: What are the signs that a horse is anxious?

SM: High head carriage, vocalizations, pawing, and being slow to eat. It is all right to be stressed—it is natural—but we need to have a stress response, a way to relieve stress.

RELIEVE STRESS

VCL: What are some things we can do for the horse to relieve stress?

SM: Horses are happiest when they can see other horses. Quarantine is tough, because they are usually alone in a stall. A paddock has lots of benefits. If you can put them out with hay, where they can see other horses eating, it is very calming. They can see that the other horses are not afraid. There is good research that shows that when horses have a panoramic view around them, their stress levels drop. In a stall, you can reduce stress by providing a mirror—using highly polished steel, not glass—in which the horse can see its reflection. Again, seeing another horse eating is calming.

VCL: Is there a standard amount of time that it takes a horse to adjust to new surroundings?

SM: It really depends on the horse. There are things we can do to make it better, that is, to send "calming" signals and instill confidence. A horse will be calm if you are calm. If you are angry or aroused, and unpredictable, they will get anxious. If a horse is freaking out, it probably needs to be in the barn for safety reasons, but it will be happiest if it can see other horses.

VCL: So wait to get on and ride until the horse is calm and confident?

SM: Yes, absolutely. Introduce the horse to its new environment in a calm way. See if your horse will accept any food rewards. That is usually the first way to make a connection. You can experiment with treats in the stall. Then you can develop a language—you can teach the horse what you want. The horse will develop confidence because it knows what is expected. Do ground work and hand leading. Walk the horse around the property when things are quiet and controlled. For instance, go into the arena when someone else is quietly working their horse so that your horse can see there is no reason to be afraid.

VCL: What about grooming? Will the horse form a stronger relationship with me if I am the one who grooms it?

SM: I would say yes. Grooming is a de-stressor—it is how horses form relationships with each other. However, that doesn't mean a horse won't have a relationship with its rider even if he or she doesn't do the grooming, but it does mean that the horse will also form a strong relationship with the person who is grooming, feeding, and leading it to the paddock.

PAY ATTENTION

VCL: Are there things we should look for that tell us a horse is anxious before we get on to ride it?

SM: Horses are individuals and can have very different reactions, but you really need to pay attention to the signs. If a horse has a high head and is distracted, it is not paying attention to you. You also want the horse to be confident. You want to be of enough value to the horse that it pays attention to you, not because it is

Animal behaviorist Suzanne Millman of Iowa State reminds us that horses need time to settle in and relearn trust.

Trailering can be traumatic, until the horse gets used to it. Here, Barón from Creekside Farm and his owner Cindy Niebuhr prepare to leave Virginia's farm after a clinic. Photo by Virginia Lauridsen.

afraid of you, but because it wants to. Doing things together forms social bonding and provides the basis for a relationship.

VCL: What are some postures of relaxation?

SM: A dropped head, relaxed ear posture, chewing, licking, and a soft jaw. The reason dressage judges like to see saliva in the horse's mouth is that it shows a soft jaw. Anxiety causes a dry mouth, so a horse that is salivating is relaxed.

TRAUMA

VCL: Let's talk about the negatives. I have seen some really negative experiences in the last couple of years. The horse was supposed to be very calm, but when the rider first gets on they get bucked off and the horse bolts. It is hard for me to think of a horse as "mean." As an animal behaviorist, what would you say causes a horse to bolt? Is it fear?

SM: It's trauma. Imagine a horse that lives in Iceland. It has always lived on the same farm and things were done in a particular way. Then it gets put into a container on an airplane. All the noise, the pressure changes, everything is new. To the horse, it is trauma. Afterward, you can expect post-traumatic stress.

VCL: PTSD? Horses have PTSD?

SM: I don't know if anyone has ever said that, but I would say it. It is the same as for any animal coming out of a traumatic situation. Not all horses would necessarily be traumatized by this situation, but if one comes off the transport and it is really anxious, then…

VCL: So you can't expect a horse to be the same when it hits the ground in America as it was in Iceland.

SM: It's not a car.

VCL: Horses that have difficulty adjusting are often resold quickly and, sadly, that scenario is often repeated. Some horses never seem to get settled and are resold time and again. What does that do to a horse?

SM: I agree this can happen, and it is so sad. A horse that keeps being moved without being given enough time to settle in and trust its new owners is at risk of becoming increasingly reactive or resistant over time. After each successive rehoming, the take-home message from the horse's point of view is that people are unpredictable. A horse needs time to settle in and learn how to function in its new physical and social environment; this is especially true with a youngster. Even a horse that has been trained for good stable manners and good responses under saddle in its original home needs to learn that these same rules apply in this new place or with this new rider. In learning theory, we call this "generalization." It is reasonable to expect a horse to push its boundaries and to misbehave in these early days, since this is how we learn… through our mistakes.

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Horses are happiest when they can see—and be near—other horses. These two 2021 foals from Harmony Icelandics—Titania (left) and Prins—are calm and content relaxing together. Photo by Liz Appel.

Summer Eczema Update

by Virginia Lauridsen with Bettina Wagner

As summer approaches, so does the dreaded fear of summer eczema or SE. Also known as Sweet Itch, SE is an allergic dermatitis caused by a reaction to the saliva of Culicoides midges. Also known as no-see-ums, these tiny flies can cause a wealth of irritation to a reactive horse. Intense itching, loss of hair, and scabs on the skin can lead to great discomfort for the animal.

There are no Culicoides midges in Iceland, so imported horses must develop an immune tolerance to these minuscule monsters to stay healthy. That task seems to be easier for younger horses than it is for older ones. Sometimes the reaction does not appear for two to three years after importation, and it can increase in severity over time. There is currently no cure for SE, but some researchers are working to desensitize animals using immunotherapy, injecting them with small amounts of the proteins found in Culicoides saliva. It's kind of like humans getting allergy shots for hay fever.

The face of summer eczema: It's not pretty. Until there's a vaccine, Icelandic horse owners need to be vigilant about reducing exposure to midges and treating the itchy bites.

SE RESEARCH

We are fortunate to have a USIHC member conducting research on summer eczema. Veterinary immunologist Bettina Wagner serves on the faculty at Cornell University and is the owner of EasyGait Farm in New York. Cornell previously produced the very helpful study on normal blood markers in Icelandic horses (see Issue One 2018), and Bettina was instrumental in that study as well.

The good news, Bettina says, is that there has been some progress in understanding SE and its effect on the Icelandic horse. The bad news is that definitive results are yet to be published, and research on treatment is still ongoing. Because it is not a life-threatening disease, research funding for summer eczema is minimal, so progress is likely to be slow.

All horse breeds are susceptible to summer eczema. However, studies show there is a higher incidence in imported Icelandic horses. A study from 2006 found that almost one third of the Icelandic horses imported into Europe showed a reaction to Culicoides (1); interestingly, no genetic influence on their sensitivity was established. A study conducted in Finland in 2009 found that imported Icelandic horses reacted more frequently than Icelandic horses born in Finland (2). More recent observations at Cornell University have shown that summer eczema can develop in up to 55% of the imported horses from Iceland.

MANAGING SE

Since there is no cure, reducing or eliminating your horse's exposure to midges is key to managing SE. For example, midges are not good fliers, rendering windy places (like Iceland) inhospitable to them. It follows, then, that if we can keep our horses in a windy location, there may be less incidence of summer eczema. Bettina notes that the water in Iceland has a high sulphur content; that could be inhospitable to Culicoides, which breed in standing water. These midges love wet, humid evenings: Throughout much of the US, we see swarms of them at dawn and dusk. Icelandic horse owners in hot and humid areas should bring their horses into the barn during those hours to reduce exposure. Fans in the barn can also reduce the number of midges in these areas. Keeping the manure pile away from the barn could also help, as flies love manure. Finally, careful management of the symptoms is important. If your horse has any lesions, Bettina advises you to carefully clean them and use an antibiotic ointment to prevent infection.

Anecdotally, I have not had an SE problem with the horses I have imported from Iceland to my Iowa farm. Of the 18 imports I have had, only one has shown signs of any sensitivity to Culicoides, and it is a very mild reaction. All of my horses live outside, but can come in to a sheltered place at any time. Iowa is hot and humid in the summer, but it is very windy at my farm.

HOW TO HELP

Gifts to support Bettina Wagner's research can be made by check (made out to "Cornell University") and mailed to Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 37334, Boone, IA 50037-0334. Please note "Wagner-Icelandic Horse Research" in the memo line. To make a gift online, visit: https://bit.ly/3KneIfo

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Green Horse Awards

by Martin K. Nielsen

Over the past couple of years, the USIHC board has been thinking about how to highlight and acknowledge our US breeders of Icelandic horses. While breeding evaluations are important and encouraged, the board also finds value in highlighting US bred horses that are successful in sport competitions.

Starting in 2022, we have taken two new initiatives. We have introduced a new ranking for talented US bred horses. After some discussion in both the sport committee and the USIHC board, we decided to rank the US bred horses in Green Horse Tölt and Green Horse Fourgait. This is to recognize our young and talented horses and create a level playing field with horses being at comparable levels of education. Given our criteria for aging out of the Green Horse classes, this will also mean that we will be electing new winners every year. While our National Ranking system tracks scores achieved by riders, this new ranking will be different: It will be the only one ranking the horses.

In addition to these two new Green Horse rankings, we will also highlight US bred horses ranked in any other discipline. Whenever a US bred horse appears on the National Ranking list, that fact will be clearly indicated. The work to code the database is ongoing as these lines are being written, so check out the National Ranking on the USIHC website and see what it looks like.

In 2021, the highest ranked US bred Green Horses were as follows:

Trainer Lucy Nold and the award-winning Leikur from Dalalif, with his proud owner Emelia Stewart riding.

GREEN HORSE TÖLT:

- Freyja from Four Winds Farm (6.43), shown by Þórunn Kristjánsdóttir at the USIHC Fall Virtual Show.
- Hnokki from Windsong (5.43), shown by Caeli Cavanagh at the USIHC Spring Virtual Show
- Leikur from Dalalif (5.20), shown by Lucy Nold at the USIHC Virtual Spring Show.

GREEN HORSE FOURGAIT:

- Leikur from Dalalif (5.90), shown by Lucy Nold at the USIHC Virtual Spring Show.
- Tholinn from Vinland (5.65), shown by Carrie Lyons Brandt at the Montaire Show.
- Hnokki from Windsong (5.43), shown by Caeli Cavanagh at the USIHC Spring Virtual Show

We congratulate the breeders, owners, and riders of these excellent US bred horses. You can read more about the two winning horses below. We look forward to celebrating US Breeding in years to come.

LEIKUR FROM DALALIF

by Lucy Nold

Leikur (US2011104482) was bred by Anne-Marie Martin of Dalalif in Santa Ynez, CA. His dam is Rák frá Akureyri, a first-prize mare with several successful offspring in the US. His sire is the famous first-prize stallion Hrafn frá Garðabæ, who stands at Flying C Ranch in Santa Ynez. The name "Leikur" means playful and lively, and it suits him perfectly. Leikur has a very curious and engaged personality and has been very fun to train. Leikur spent several years as a trail horse in Nevada before he came to Five-Gait Farm to begin his training for sport competition. It was immediately clear that Leikur would make the most fabulous all-around horse. Leikur enjoys horse camping and trail riding in the mountains and on the beach. He is extremely brave and has ponied many other young horses on their first experiences off the farm. Leikur is also talented, with well balanced and high quality gaits that make him very fun to ride and have led him to success in his first year of sport competition. Leikur has a bright future with his new owner, my eight-year-old student Emelia Stewart. The two started competing in the Novice level classes this fall and are now working toward competing in Intermediate level classes. It will be very exciting to watch this pair grow together!

Annual Report: Icelandic Horses Registered for year 2021

	Domestic Bred Under 12 Months	Domestic Bred	Imported from Iceland	Imported from Canada	Imported from other countries	Total Registered		Total Transfers
Mares	17	4	27	5	0		53	56
Stallions	17	0	9	1	0		27	6
Geldings	3	5	33	4	3		48	49
Total 2021	37	9	69	10	3	Total	128	111
Total 2020	43	22	58	9	3	Total	135	193

Freyja from Four Winds Farm arriving in Delhi, NY, where her new owner, Samantha Tuttlebee, is boarding her.

FREYJA FROM FOUR WINDS FARM

by Þórunn Kristjánsdóttir

Freyja (US2012204954) was bred, born, and raised in the Northeast. Her breeder is Lori Leo of Four Winds Farm in Hanover, MA. Her sire is Gustur from Four Winds Farm and her dam is Hamingja frá Ólafsbergi. Her parents come from quite extraordinary bloodlines, with numerous first-prize ancestors like Auður frá Lundum, Dama frá Ragnheidarstöðum, and Hágangur frá Narfastöðum. That said, Freyja as an individual is also quite extraordinary and is an amazing ambassador for the breed. Besides having watched her mature and grow since she came to our farm (Thor Icelandics in Hudson, NY) as a youngster, I really fell in love with her once we started working together two and a half years ago. We just clicked—and when that happens, it is always magic. As a result, we created the kind of relationship that you always strive for in your horsemanship. Freyja is a very honest horse. She's not lacking in the spirit or talent departments, and my joy in working with her was to bring that out in her. But further, she trusted me to do it. For me, the ultimate achievement with any horse, but especially with horses that you breed and/or raise and then train, is to create such a deep relationship that you not only have a close connection with a horse, but they trust you completely—and in turn you can trust them completely. Freyja and I found that connection right away, and since then, we have had one amazing ride after the next as she grew, matured, and developed into the beautiful mare she is today.

Freyja from Four Winds Farm shows beautiful form in these stills from a training video.

An Endurance Attitude

by Florie Miller

Editor's Note: In Issue Four 2021, Jess Haynsworth wrote about taking part in a 100-mile competitive trail ride (CTR) in Vermont. Her story inspired Florie Miller to introduce us to another USIHC distance rider who is, as Florie says, "rocking it" in endurance riding competition. On the difference between endurance riding and CTR, see "Going the Distance" by Danielle Fulsher in Issue Four 2020.

Sami Browneller and Mídas from Pegasus Flughestar covering ground. He may be small (even for an Icelandic), but Mídas loves to go and go.

Sami Browneller has been riding endurance for more than 20 years. She has racked up a little over 3000 competitive miles, including 23 awards for best condition, 45 wins, and the 2017 US Endurance National Champion title.

Her Icelandic endurance horse is Mídas from Pegasus Flughestar. (He is affectionately known as "Shorty Pants," after a bad shaving job getting him ready for his first ride.) Mídas is a super special guy. Born in 2013, he is small, even by Icelandic standards: He stands about 12.3 hands and does not weigh over 650 pounds, with a light build. Sami sometimes jokingly calls him her miniature thoroughbred.

Since 2019, Sami has worked with Icelandic trainer Coralie Denmeade at Coralie's Tamangur Icelandics in Larkspur, CO. Sami is currently the assistant trainer and assistant barn manager. "Her strengths at our barn lie in starting young horses and getting horses conditioned and comfortable out on the trail," says Coralie. "Her endurance-riding experience comes in handy when working on the trail, but I feel like it's more that she looks at every facet of horse training, from dressage, conditioning, and biomechanics, to horsemanship. She combines that knowledge to be successful in endurance and, of course, in horse training in general. Sami has a great feel for the requirements of each horse she works with. She gives great attention to creating a solid foundation of knowledge and trust in the horses she is training."

It was at Tamangur that Sami met Mídas, who had been working there as a schooling horse for a while. Sami knew immediately that it was not the right job for him. "He loves to go and go," she says. "Every time I would take him out on the trail, he would just want to go farther and faster. He was never ready to come back to the barn. I just felt that he would make a great endurance horse, since one of the most important factors in a good endurance horse is the attitude—and boy does he have attitude.

"Mídas is also a fast learner. He can jump just about anything. He can be roped off of, if you're working cattle, say. And he's a star student in dressage. He came up for sale as I was looking for a new endurance horse—my older horse was retiring, and I had moved my other one up to 100-mile rides. I was looking for a horse that could do a year of Limited Distance (LD) rides, then move up to 50 miles, and I thought Mídas would be the Icelandic to try it on. He prefers to trot and canter and is not the biggest fan of tölt."

CAME INTO HIS OWN

The first weekend Sami owned Mídas, in April 2021, she entered a fun ride. Mídas did the 10 miles and came back in still wanting to go. The next month, there was a ride scheduled in Wyoming. Sami took two horses, Mídas and her "big" horse Annapurna. She and Annapurna completed the 50-miler, and the next day Sami saddled up Mídas for the 25-miler.

"I had planned to just go at his pace, finishing with him happy and feeling good," Sami says. "Little did I expect he would come into his own. He just went right around the course in 2 hours and 13 minutes. We finished in fourth place and won the award for Best Condition."

It was the start of a wonderful first endurance season. That year, Mídas entered six rides and won three of them. All of his finishes were in the top four. He received four awards for Best Condition. Twice he not only won first place, but also was awarded Best Condition. In addition to those accomplishments, Sami and Mídas have since won the LD Best Condition award for the mountain region of the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC). They finished in the top ten for overall best condition in AERC, and in the top five for LD miles in the mountain region.

"I always knew that Icelandics have a long history of endurance," Sami says. "Mídas showed that not only can he do the miles, but he can compete with the Arabians. I'm looking forward to seeing what he can do when he steps up to 50s and 100s. We still have a lot of learning to do together and a lot of tails to see. But he is a joy to ride on tricky trails and to explore new trails with."

THE HEART OF THE HORSE

What makes a good endurance horse? "What I have found is that it's the heart of the horse," Sami says, "the willingness to work with you.

"In endurance riding, you are spending a lot of time alone with your horse. You may spend up to 24 hours together to complete a 100-mile ride. For that, you want a horse that is willing to go down the trail and check out what's over the next hill. You want a horse that does not waste energy on silly things, like racing against other horses or fighting with the rider over what the plan is. You want a horse that's smart and that learns quickly, a horse that learns to eat when there is food, to drink when there is water, and to rest when they can.

"As a rider, you want a partner that you can get along with. We do this kind of riding because we love being out there in nature and enjoying the horse. You can have the most talented horse, but if you don't like each other it really does become a test of endurance."

COOPERATION

Since Mídas is Sami's first Icelandic endurance horse, she admits "there has been a learning curve. He has different requirements for getting him in shape and keeping him cool than my other horses." Her success is apparent in all those Best Condition awards; these are based on the vets' scores at the periodic "holds," or mandatory stops, worked into each endurance ride.

Overall, when getting ready for an endurance ride, Sami's focus is on cooperation—finding out what makes her horse happy and what makes her happy as a rider herself. Her philosophy is to keep their day-to-day training varied. Just because a horse is an endurance horse, doesn't mean he can't play cowboy every now and then, or do some jumping!

The general rule, Sami explains, is to ride as many miles in a week as you plan on riding in the competition. "Ride in all the gaits and learn what your horse prefers. What speed in each gait is your horse's sweet spot?" Another basic training goal is to teach your horse to trot in hand. "This will be helpful for the vet and you."

This year, Sami is getting Mídas ready to compete in 50-mile rides and maybe one 100-miler. "He now gets worked three times a week, for a total of up to 25 miles," she says, "then one day a week we do a 20 to 25-mile ride. He gets lots of rest and turn-out to balance all that work. On one of his three work days, we work on brain work like dressage, chasing cows, doing a kid's lesson, or anything else that happens to cross my mind. Once he gets fitter, I will switch to two days of brain work and two days of long trotting and cantering. Balancing brain and body endurance is the way to go."

Most important, she says, is to learn what works for you and your horse. "Try different things, and if they don't work then try something else. What works for you might not work for your friends. Be open to new ideas. I learn at every ride what works and what doesn't. But always try new things first at home, not on the ride."

GET IN SHAPE

The horse is only half of the endurance team, Sami stresses. The other half of the team is the rider. "You need to get in shape too! You might think that your butt will be sore. That will be the last thing that gets sore. Your shoulders and calves will get tired and sore first. You will get rubs in odd places, in places you never want to get rubs. There are a lot of products to help with that, and some work better then others—ask around.

"On the ride, you need to drink lots of water. Just like for your horse, you will need to carry electrolytes for yourself. This will help with soreness and in your recovery. You have to find out what you can eat in the morning, on the trail, and at vet checks. I'm one of the odd people who can eat and drink anything I want over the ride. I love having grilled chicken and Pepsi. I have a friend who eats cold hot dogs, and another that can only eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with grape jelly."

JUST RIDE

When asked what is the best route to take to get started in endurance riding, Sami answers, "Mostly just ride! Twenty-five miles may seem like a very long way, but when you get to the ride it will feel like the miles fly by. That's what gets you hooked on trying longer and longer rides."

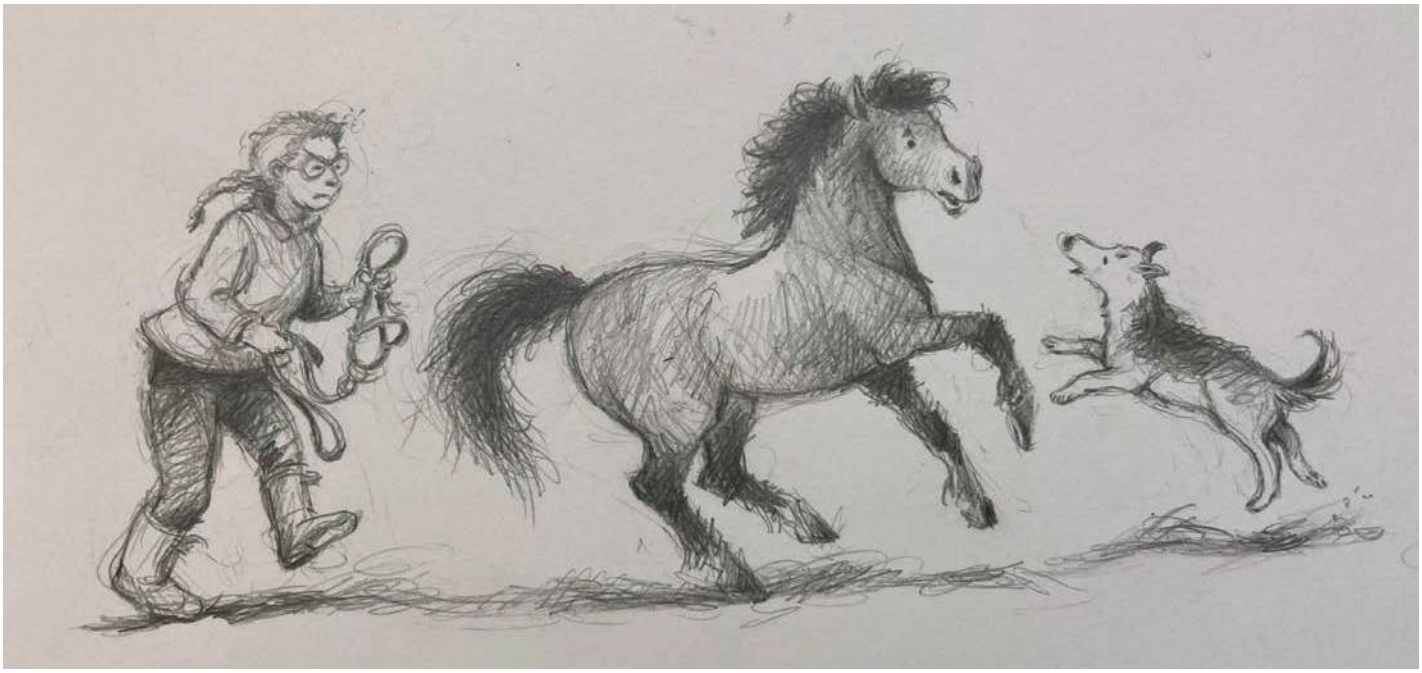
She adds, "Any healthy horse can go do a 25-mile ride. I have ridden a horse with really bad conformation, but she loved her job and was very good at endurance. One of the great things about endurance riding is that you do not need a special horse—you can use the horse you already have. The trick is to learn what works best for your own horse. I have three different horses that I compete on, and each one requires a different riding strategy."

To find out when and where to ride, Sami relies on the American Endurance Riding Council. Their website (AERC.org) is a wonderful resource that can point you to local endurance groups, she says. Lots of these local groups have clinics that you can go to for hands-on learning. "Or attend a ride and volunteer! Help is always appreciated," she says. Sami herself will be organizing some endurance clinics at Tamangur Icelandics as well. "Most endurance people are very friendly," she says, "and they love to get people involved in their sport."

Sami and Mídas competing in an endurance ride at Fort Mead, CO. In 2021 they entered six races, won three, and earned four awards for Best Condition. Photo by Rockin' R Images.

The Escape Artist

by Deb Kenny



Illustrations by Margot Apple

There is no doubt that owning Icelandic horses is amazing and rewarding. This story reflects on the more, shall we say, "interesting" side of owning them.

I say "interesting" because, while their antics can be frustrating, the fun never seems to end and the things they can get up to never cease to amaze me. I have used fictional names here to protect the innocent, but those reading this account will certainly recognize themselves—except perhaps my horse, who doesn't read the *Quarterly*, but who knows what I am thinking. I often call him "the Scallywag," because he seems so hell-bent on getting into trouble that even his cuteness factor cannot outweigh.

One day last fall, I had taken both my Icelandic horses over to our barn to ride and work them. I had just finished a lovely ride with my never-troublesome mare, and I was preparing to get out the Scallywag. As I was bringing my mare into the stall where he was waiting, he saw an immediate opening to rudely squirt right by me and out into the barn aisle—halterless.

I knew exactly what was going on. The Scallywag wasn't going to be caught. Despite the people trying to head him off, he was determined to get outside to see what additional trouble he could get into. He scooted by everyone in his way, undeterred, and managed to get into an area with nothing but dry grass.

OUT OF THE BARN

I was running after him—sort of. Imagine an older woman who has long since lost the ability to run, dragging a halter and trying to move as fast as she can on orthopedic-nightmare legs. It is not pretty!

Still, everyone else had not yet quite figured out what had happened, so I was the lone person going after this horse. Just as I had got him somewhat cornered, one of the barn dogs decided to "help." The dog went right after the horse, who tore around the side of the barn and headed toward the open gate to the road. My only thought was that I hoped someone else had run the other way around the barn and could head him off before he got out to the road. I have to give this dog some credit, though. His herding instinct took over, and he managed to turn the horse around to double back toward me and my halter.

This horse is not dumb by any means. He is always scheming, always thinking—his wheels are always turning! He knows precisely what he is doing. He does not want to work today but only to play. As he came around, he spotted another open gate. So he flew past me and into a small pasture.

By this time, others had joined in the chase. To be honest, I cannot remember what other dogs or people were involved in his new game. I was singularly concentrating on catching my horse. I closed the gate behind me, thinking he was now at least semi-closed in and safe from going into the road.

THROUGH THE GATE

Meanwhile, the Scallywag was leading us on, kicking and snorting. Then to my utter chagrin, I noticed the gate into the track area was open. He headed straight toward it. At that time, my only thought was, "Who is giving whom the workout here?"

Fortunately, a couple of people down by the track with their horses and their dog (who was leashed, thankfully) saw what was happening. The Scallywag pulled up next to the other horses and stopped. One of the people there, whom I'll call "RJ," managed to get right up to the runaway's nose and was about to loop a set of reins around his neck. Nope! Scallywag was having none of that! RJ set off after him and began getting out the thunderbolts with a few choice words himself.

I got to the track, huffing and puffing, and closed the gate, thinking, "Now we

have got him." It was a large area, but we could perhaps corner him. Meanwhile, he was in Icy heaven—dashing about, galloping here, bucking there, tolting and trotting. I almost expected to see flying pace from a four-gaiter at that point.

DOWN THE HILL

Then he disappeared down a hill. He had found yet another open gate! "Who leaves all these gates open?" I am thinking, and, "When is this going to end? Is this just a bad dream, and will I wake up soon?" So now, RJ and I are in the final pasture (we hope). Fortunately, RJ can run. He went to the other side of the creek and managed to head the horse off, back toward the open gate where I was standing. To my relief, he came back through. I quickly closed it (or so I thought) and started hobbling as fast as my legs and elderly hips could carry me. I am certain it was a sight. I looked back and saw the gate swinging back open. Another few choice words.

By now, there were several more people in on the chase. I was on my way back to make sure that gate was closed when I heard someone holler, "We've got him." I left the gate where it was, thinking that they would have him in hand when I came over the hill.

Oh no, the Scallywag had found one more open gate. He had gotten himself into an alleyway. A quick-thinking person on the other end of the alley closed the far gate (or we would have been right back where we started—minus the stall). So he was "captured" in this long alley.

He headed for the far end. When he saw no escape there, he turned around to look back. Now, I know what was going on in his head. He was trying to work out how to get back into the pasture. As RJ and I walked toward him, RJ remarked, "He still doesn't know he is caught!" "Nope," I said, "and he is trying to figure out how to get past us."

CAUGHT!

This time, he didn't succeed. We caught him, and I began the long walk back to the barn. "Yes," I thought, "I got my 10,000 steps the hard way!" Scallywag, on the other hand, was still raring to go.

As I reflected on what had just happened, I realized I had learned a few lessons:

1. Never underestimate an Icelandic horse. They are capable of critical thinking.
2. I have lots of barn friends who dropped everything to help. Bless them.
3. That horse actually does have fabulous suspension, when he wants to!
4. That playful spirit is why I love these horses so much!

Of course, I have yet another name for him when he has acted like this. I call him @#$%! But after I was rested, Scallywag got saddled up and worked, and very soon indeed all was forgiven. He is well worth his shenanigans, and how can one ever hold his extraordinary character against him? Ah, such is the interesting and unpredictable life of owning an Icelandic horse. (But, seriously, who left all those gates open?)

ALL THE HORSES OF ICELAND

by Sarah Tolmie

Editor's Note: The New York Times *raved about* All the Horses of Iceland, *published in March by Tor: "Tolmie — both a medievalist and professed horse person — brings a scholarly precision to her fantasy that makes magic mundane and the mundane utterly sublime." We wanted to know more, so reached out to the author:*

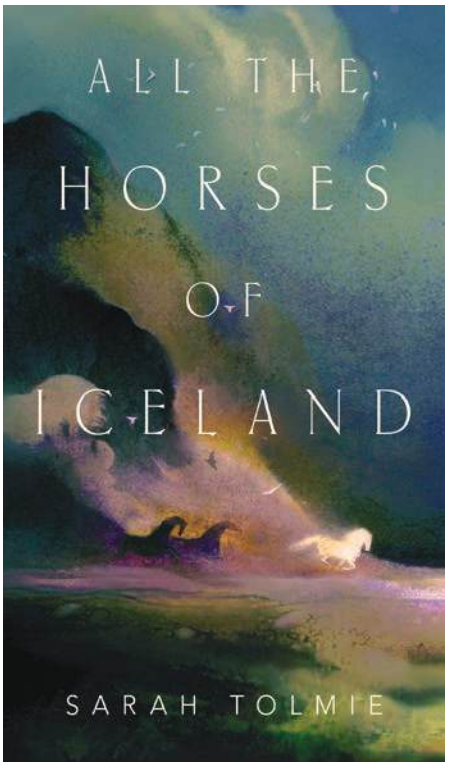
My personal experience of working with Icelandic horses is fairly limited. A friend of mine when I was a horsey teenager owned an Icelandic mare, from one of the small number of studs in Ontario at the time. She also owned a hunter, and I looked after both of them a few times when she was away. So I had ridden at the tölt a couple of times before I arrived in Iceland, years later, in 2018 to attend the Iceland Writers Retreat. While I was there I took an afternoon off to do the touristy thing and go on a short cross-country ride at a stable close to Reykjavik. The two other tourists that day had hardly ever ridden before, and were scarcely even aware that Icelandic horses had different gaits—however, the man who ran the stable was a real pro.

Author and award-winning poet Sarah Tolmie.

He did an English- language brief history of the horse, ran over the safety protocols, brought out three tacked-up horses, and we set off with himself plus an assistant within half an hour. Very efficient. I rode a chestnut gelding whose name, I'm pretty sure, was Bjarni. He was a great guy and we had no problems, riding over some truly varied terrain in a short time: over some fields of drastically red earth with huge rocks covered with rare (and highly protected) lichen, and over a field covered in the dead black lava rock that Iceland is famous for. It was the first time I had been on a horse in years, truly fantastic.

Still, it was two years after this experience that I heard a chance remark in a TV special on Icelandic horses: namely, that they are genetically descended from the horses of the Central Asian steppe. This was news to me. I knew that horses were not native to Iceland in the way that British native ponies are to the British isles. If I had thought about it at all, I guess I had assumed that the horses brought to Iceland by the settlers were from mainland Scandinavia. But no, it seems that they came, over time, from further afield: from northern Russia, once the highly Norse region of Kievan Rus (Gardariki), and further south and east into the herds of Mongolia. This meant they would have been transported along the ancient trade route along the Volga river that Norse-speaking peoples used to move goods to and from the Caspian Sea, finally making contact with the Sassanian Empire (Sarkland).

I immediately knew that I had to write an origin story for the Icelandic horse that began in Mongolia, and that I had to write it (this is the medievalist in me) in the form of a saga. So I did. This novella-length work came together incredibly fast. Even though I did have to do a considerable amount of reading about Kievan Rus, the Khazar khaganate and its mythology (now in modern Turkey; there's a fascinating and widely-dispersed story that its medieval rulers were Jews), Mongolian language and customs before Genghis Khan's unification, plus quite a bit about Norse magic *(seiðr)*



and ghost stories. The book is like the original Norse (Old Icelandic) sagas in that it is quite terse—it covers an enormous amount of ground, from Iceland to Central Mongolia and back again, quite quickly—and treats both worldly matters like trade and supernatural matters like ghosts with a similar practicality and directness. It also features a typically tight-lipped protagonist, Eyvind, a trader from Eyri in western Iceland. Eyvind is not a Viking; he's trading, not raiding. As such he has to be cautious, yet experimental and tolerant, to achieve his aims: bringing a cargo of 25 horses, including one magical white mare that nobody else can see while she remains in Mongolia, back to Iceland, so he can make enough money to settle down and farm. Along the way he makes deals with fellow Icelanders, Rus princes, Turkic traders, a Mongolian qan, and, perhaps most importantly, the qan's mother-in-law, the magician Hoel'un. She needs Eyvind's help to lay the restless ghost of her daughter, Börte; in return, she gives Eyvind the help he needs to get his horses home. Eyvind's white mare becomes the mother of all the horses of Iceland.

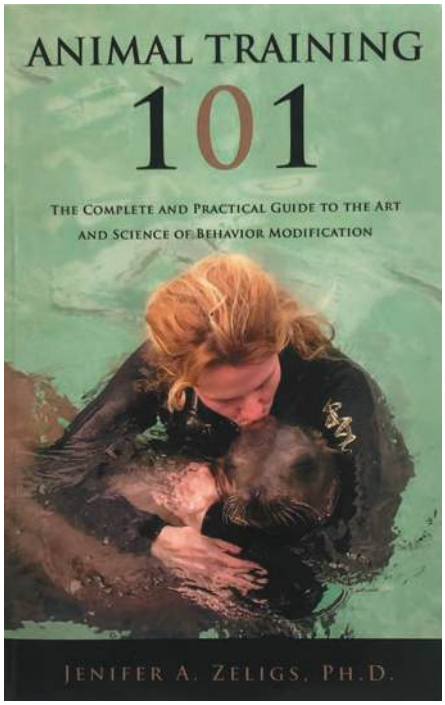
MINDFUL PARTNERS

Review by Nicki Esdorn

On my journey to discover new training methods based on connection and harmonious partnership with horses and dogs, I came across Jenifer Zeligs's first book, *Animal Training 101*, in 2014. This book answered all my questions about different training methods and styles, with a clear and concise description of their advantages and disadvantages. It is a very detailed and technical reference book and does a great job organizing clear principles to demystify the discipline of animal training in general. It helped me a lot in choosing what I wanted to do, and why.

However, something was missing. Animal training is both a science and an art. The answer lies in Jenifer Zeligs's new book, *Mindful Partners*, which goes deep into "the Zen art and science of working with animals."

Here she focuses on what she calls "excellent foundational and guiding principles mixed with a philosophical viewpoint based on compassion, generosity, kindness, and mindfulness." If this sounds a bit "woo-woo" to you, please bear in mind that Jenifer Zeligs has a 40-year history of successfully training wild and domestic animals, including training sea lions to film wild whales in the open ocean! She has been teaching advanced care and training of both domestic and exotic animals at California State University for over 20 years.



I could not wait to find answers to some of my persistent and difficult behavior questions and to be inspired. Like, how do I motivate my horse while causing minimal stress? How do I build confidence and overcome fear? How do I handle our frustrations? How can I reduce unwanted behavior without punishment?

A BANK ACCOUNT

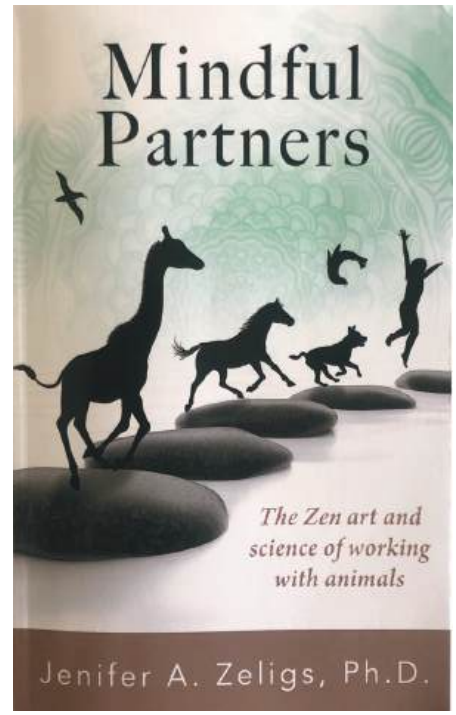
In *Mindful Partners*, Jenifer's training philosophy, principles, and techniques are fully illustrated and explained. She begins by talking about the importance of building a "relationship bank account." This is particularly relevant for us horse people, I believe. Why do so many of us routinely talk about going to "catch" our horse before working with it? Do we expect that our horse will not inherently want to work with us? If your animal partner does not approach you willingly in open space, then your relationship bank account is empty or, worse, overdrawn. There will be situations when all we have left to inspire trust and cooperation is that balance in the bank account—like at the end of a long day, or when the animal is afraid or overwhelmed.

DEFAULT POSTURE

Another great concept Jenifer introduces is to teach your animal partner a "calm default posture," one that will induce a calm and peaceful emotional state. This is an ideal starting and returning point to and from any work. For horses, this default posture would be a low and relaxed head carriage, while the horse is standing or walking quietly. It is actually a concept that we, the trainers, also need to develop in ourselves! We, too, need to default to a calm and peaceful emotional state and to express that in our bodies.

SHARP POINTS

Another chapter discusses how to deal with unwanted behavior, or what Jenifer calls the "sharp points" of our relationship with our animals. Reducing problem behavior is a difficult task to do skillfully and without damage to the partnership. Problem behavior, she explains, is either caused by ignorance, attraction, or avoidance. Does your horse pester you when you come with food? Are you dealing with a horse that refuses to do as you ask? Or worse, is your horse aggressive?



BALANCE

Jenifer writes in conclusion: "In developing a mindful partnership, it helps me to adjust to each animal by remembering that wellness is found in balance. The art of training is balance. We must work with the needs and energy of each individual and find the best way to get their talents moved comfortably in the direction of the goals we set for them."

I highly recommend this book to everyone who seeks happiness and fulfillment, both for themselves and their animals.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ **New Membership Application** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

☐ Individual ☐ Individual Three Year ☐ Individual Lifetime ☐ Family ☐ Junior ☐ Junior Lifetime

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

City: ..... State: ..... Zip Code: .....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

☐ I am a United States Citizen and/or my primary residence* is the United States.

☐ I prefer **not** to receive a copy of the *Quarterly* magazine in the US Mail.

**Primary Residence* - must reside in the US for a minimum of 6 months and one day per calendar year to be eligible.

Regional Club (optional): .....

If you have selected a **Family Membership** please complete the following for the second adult and any children to be included in the membership (use the back of the page to add more family members):

Name	Year of Birth (juniors only)	Email (optional)

☐ Farm Listing Paid members of the USIHC may opt to include a farm listing on the Congress' website (www.icelandics.org) and printed in *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly*. There is a $110.00 annual fee for the farm listing in addition to your membership fee.

Farm: ..... Owners: .....

Address: .....

.....

City: ..... State: ..... Zip Code: .....

Phone: ..... Email: ..... Web: .....

Membership Fees & Restrictions	
Individual	**$60/year** **$150/ Three Year Membership** **$1200/ Lifetime Membership**
Family	**$80/year** Two adults and unlimited children (under 18 years) living in the same household. Adults can vote.
Junior	**$50/year** or **$280/Lifetime membership** One child (under 18 years). Not eligible to vote. Lifetime membership is valid until 18.

Membership Fee: $.....

Farm Listing Fee: $.....

W/C Fund Donation: $.....
(optional support for the World Champion team)

Youth Fund Donation: $.....
(optional support for youth programs)

Breeding Fund Donation: $.....
(optional support for Breeding Evaluations)

Total: $.....

Please make checks payable to "USIHC" and mail to the address below:

N2746 Hardscrabble Road Palmyra, WI 53156, USA (866) 929-0009 [ext 1] info@icelandics.org

Montaire Fall Classic

October 22-23, 2022

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- Stallion show
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Registration forms available online at montaire.org

Photos by Valerie Durbon

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HESTALAND

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- Five Judges

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maggie@lettleikiicelandics.com
502.541.4590

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- clinics
- shows

Alexandra Pregitzer - IPZV Trainer C - USIHC Sport Judge B
www.4-beat.com email: alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de

USIHC PARTNERS

FLYING C RANCH TACK SHOP

SCOOT BOOT

These partners contribute to USIHC membership benefits.
visit www.icelandics.org/partners for more information.

FARM LIST

The owners of the farms listed below have offered to have you visit in order to become acquainted with the Icelandic horse. Some are breeders, some importers, and some are interested in breed promotion alone. Their listing here does not constitute an endorsement of any kind by the USIHC.

ALASKA

True North Farm
Cindy Wallace-Bonine
46892 Lake St Kenai, AK 99611
Kenai, Alaska 99611
541-517-2878

CALIFORNIA

Flying C Ranch
Will & Asta Covert
3600 Roblar Ave.
Santa Ynez, California 93460
(805) 688-1393
asta@tolt.net
www.flyingctack.com

Gravity Hill Ranch
Rebecca Lynn
5307 Lichau Road
Penngrove, California 94951
(415) 794-9990
rebecca.a.lynn@gmail.com

Valkyrie Icelandic
Laura Benson
937 Westridge Drive
Portola Valley, California 94028
(650) 281-4108
invaderlala@gmail.com
www.valkyrieicelandic.com

Violet Nova Ranch
Violet Nova Ranch, LLC
2763 E Westfall
Mariposa, California 95338
(707) 486-8733
lauraelinstrong@gmail.com

Whidbey Stables
Whidbey Stables Inc
8900 Summerhill Lane
Glen Ellen, California 95442

COLORADO

Granite Peaks Ranch
Melissa & David Lunsford
25080 CR 501
Bayfield, Colorado 81122
(970) 442-0256
melissa@granitepeaksranch.com
www.granitepeaksranch.com

Hestar Ranch
Monika Meier-Galliker
P.O. Box 1744 / 30420 C.r. 500
Arboles, Colorado 81121
(970) 883-2531
m.meier@hestar-ranch.us
www.hestar-ranch.com

Lough Arrow Icelandics
Andrea Brodie, D V M
22242 County Road 46.0
Aguilar, Colorado 81020
(719) 680-2845
fiddlinvet@gmail.com
www.coloradoicelandics.com

Tamangur Icelandic Horses
Coralie Denmeade
5775 Best Road
Larkspur, Colorado 80118
(719) 209-2312
coralie@tamangur-icelandics.com
www.tamangur-icelandics.com

Tolt Mountain Ranch
Thomas R Dowding
1200 Quanah Road
Westcliffe, Colorado 81252
(619) 977-4975
dowdingtom@gmail.com

IOWA

Harmony Icelandics
Virginia Lauridsen
1401 Casady Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50315
(515) 556-3307
virginia@harmonyicelandics.com
www.harmonyicelandics.com

KENTUCKY

Lettleiki Icelandics
Maggie Brandt
6105 Eminence Pike
Shelbyville, KY 40019
(502) 541-4590
maggie@lettleikiicelandics.com
www.lettleikiicelandics.com

Taktur Icelandic Horses
Terral Hill & Carrie Lyons Brandt
12501 W Hwy 42 Apt B
Prospect, KY 40059
(502) 409-1924
carrieandterral@gmail.com
taktur.horse

MAINE

Fire & Ice Icelandic Horses
Alicia Flanigan & Nikkisue Flanigan
32 Putnam Ridge
Limington, ME 04049-3643
(207) 615-8556 (phone)
icelandics17@gmail.com
www.fireandice.horse

MASSACHUSETTS

Four Winds Farm
Lori B. Leo
703 Hanover Street
Hanover, Massachusetts 02043
16178272001
loribleo@gmail.com
www.fourwindsicelandics.com

Merrimack Valley Icelandics
Neil and Ebba Meehan
282 Main Street
Boxford, MA 01921
(781) 521-0841 (phone)
ebbameehan@me.com
www.merrimackvalleyicelandics.com

MICHIGAN

Chippewa Acres
Kristina Simmons
8465 S Airport Rd
Dewitt, Michigan 48820
(517) 7491-671
kristinahorses3@yahoo.com
www.chippewaacres.com

NEW MEXICO

Windsong Icelandic Horses
Ulla Hudson
733 State Road 344
Edgewood, NM 87015
(505) 615-5050
ullahudson@mac.com
https://windsongdressage.com

NEW YORK

EasyGait-Farm LLC
Bettina, Jana and Stephan Wagner
4694 Clark Road
Cincinnatus, NY 13040
(607) 592-2372
bettina@easygaitfarm.com
www.easygaitfarm.com

Sand Meadow Farm
Steven & Andrea Barber
300 Taylor Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
(585) 624-4468
toltstar@yahoo.com
www.sandmeadow.com

OHIO

Beat'n Branch Icelandics
Ron & Sherry Hoover
4709 Beat Rd
Litchfield, OH 44253
(330) 635-5623 (phone)
890hoover@gmail.com

OREGON

Alfadans Equestrian Arts
Caeli Cavanagh and Alexandra Venable
34260 NE Old Parrett Mountain Rd
Newberg, Oregon 97132
(802)299-5468
alfadansequestrianarts@gmail.com
www.alfadans.com

Five-Gait Farm Icelandics
Lucy Nold
86623 Central Road
Eugene, OR 97402
fivegaitfarmicelandics@gmail.com
(831) 332-5328
www.fivegaitfarm.com

Mountain Icelandic Farm
Annette Coulon
19565 Tumalo Reservoir Rd
Bend, OR 97703
(831) 331-0442
mountainicelandics@gmail.com
www.mountainicelandics.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

Black Creek Farm
Sarah C. Elkin-Marsh and Michael P. Marsh
449 Jewell Boone Rd.
Pelion, South Carolina 29123
(803)3078270
www.blackcreekfarm.us

VERMONT

Lunar Hill Icelandics
Jana Meyer
151 North Bridgewater Road
Bridgewater, Vermont 05034
(603) 856-6697
lunarhill70@gmail.com
www.lunarhillicelandics.com

Mad River Valley Icelandic Horses, LLC
Jess Haynsworth
1268 Fuller Hill Rd
Warren, Vermont 05674
(617) 962-0065
madrivervalleyicelandics@gmail.com
www.madrivervalleyicelandics.com

VIRGINIA

Montaire Icelandic Horses
Antje Freygang
36727 Leith Lane
Middleburg, Virginia 20117
(202) 372-5324
freygang999@gmail.com
www.montaire.org

WASHINGTON

Avondale Icelandics LLC
Doreen Shoda
Redmond, Washington 98053
avondaleicelandics@outlook.com
www.avondaleicelandics.com/

WEST VIRGINIA

Deep Creek Farm
Curtis Pierce and Marsha Korose
537 Fjord Rdige Dr
Mathias, West Virginia 26812
(304) 897-6627
www.deepcreekfarm.com

Icelandic Thunder
Denise & James Taylor
550 Hackers Creek Rd
Philippi, West Virginia 26416-7198
(304) 457-4238
www.icelandicthunder.com

WYOMING

Gyetorp II
The Behringer Family
810 Valley View Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
307-757-7915
gyetorp2@gmail.com
www.gyetorp2.com

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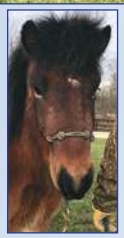
For more information email:
info@icelandonhorseback.com

Beat'n Branch Icelandics Presents

US2019105414
Andvari from Beat N' Branch



2 Full Siblings
Andvari a 2 year old gelding
and
Hríma a 4 year old mare
from
Excellent Parents

F.:IS2005137340 **Sporður frá Bergi, First Prize**
FF.: IS2001187660 **Álfasteinn frá Selfossi, First Prize, Honor Stallion**
FM.: IS1994237335 **Hrísla frá Naustum**
M.:IS1998225081 **List frá Hrafnhólum**
MF.: IS1991158626 **Kormákur frá Flugumýri II, First Prize, Honor Stallion**
MM.: IS198422508 **Löpp frá Hrafnhólum**

US2017205263
Hríma from Beat N' Branch

Beat'n Branch Icelandics

Beat'n Branch Icelandics is on Facebook

Ronald and Sherry Hoover 330-635-5623

IS2006165491

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Þröstur frá Hvammi

Est. 2012

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"Þröstur's uniquely kind and cooperative attitude combined with his fantastic gaits and conformation makes him a great breeding option for almost any mare. He has enormous speed capacity in his tolt and pace and his well set neck, withers and shoulders stand out as particularly good characteristics".
Carrie~Taktur

"Þröstur really is a truly complete package of talent, temperament & elegance. His gaits are well-separated & fluid. His temperament is that perfect mix of being forward but in control. These are attributes he has passed on to his offspring. No stallion in this country has a more impressive record with an Icelandic Champion & the highest evaluated four year old of 2015 counted among his offspring".
Caeli Cavanagh BSci Riding and Riding Instruction, Hólar University, Level 3 FEIF Trainer

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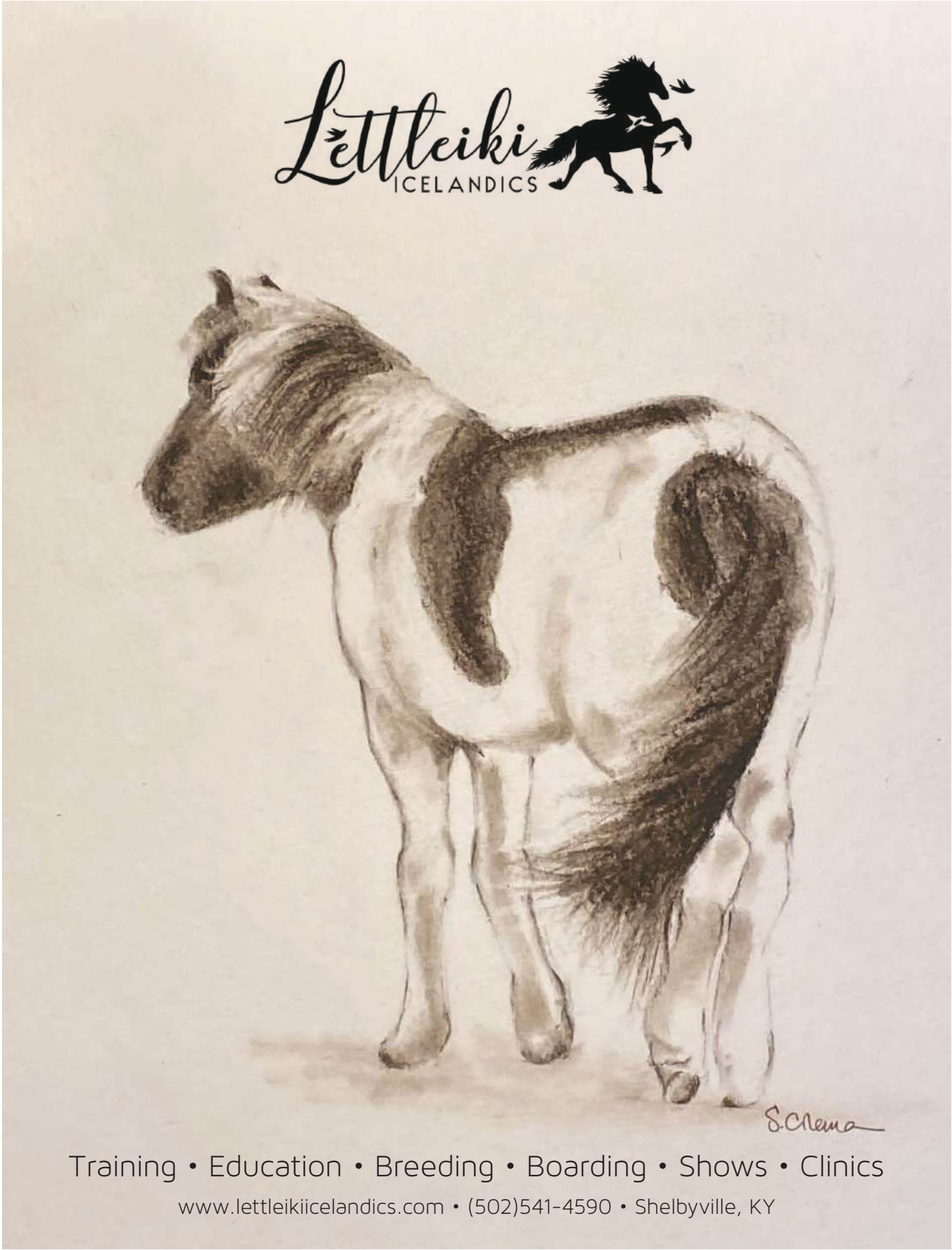
Contact: Kristina Behringer
Tel: 307-757-7915
Email: gyetorp2@gmail.com

Assessment Total: 8.59
F: Þorri frá Þúfu í Landeyjum (Honor Stallion)
M: Löpp frá Hvammi (Honor Mare)

Just a few of his talented offspring:
Trausti frá Þóroddsstöðum, Total: 8.66
Hátíð frá Hemlu II, Total w/o pace: 8.69
Gammur frá Hemlu II, Total: 8.37

Lettleiki ICELANDICS



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- ROECKL - FLECK - TOP REITER - WERKMAN - FAGER BITS - THINLINE - G-BOOTS - EQUES - HRÍMNIR - ÁSTUND - F
EITER - WERKMAN - FAGER BITS - THINLINE - BACK ON TRACK - G-BOOTS - EQUES - HRÍMNIR - ÁSTUND - FEATHER
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