

ISSUE TWO

THE

2009

ICELANDIC HORSE

Q U A R T E R L Y



Official Publication of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress
Member Association of FEIF (International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations)

HANDICAPPED RIDING • USING WORLDFENGUR • STARI FRAN BREDHALL

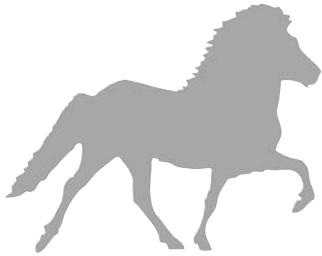
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THE
ICELANDIC
HORSE
QUARTERLY
Issue Two 2009

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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The Icelandic Horse Quarterly is published in March, June, September, and December by the USIHC as a benefit of membership. Membership fees of \$45 per individual (\$35 for youth members) or \$65 per family (2 adults and children) are due on January 1 each year. Renew online at www.icelandics.org.

USIHC members are encouraged to submit articles and photos or illustrations for publication. Deadlines are January 1 (for the March issue), April 1, July 1, and October 1. See the instructions online at www.icelandics.org or email the editorial committee at quarterly@icelandics.org. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Advertising rates and instructions are also online at www.icelandics.org.

Back issues of *The Icelandic Horse Quarterly* may be purchased for \$5.00 each as available.

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ON THE COVER: The USIHC Board has declared 2009 to be "The Year of Youth." To celebrate, we asked USIHC member Natalie Bramlett of Santa Cruz, CA, to pose with her horse Snugga from Saga California (US2003203608). Photo by Heidi Benson.



Mjolnir, the first foal born at Thor Icelandics, leading a herd of mares. See story on page 26.

Thorunn Kristjansdottir



FEIF AND THE USIHC

FEIF is the international association dedicated to the protection and promotion of Icelandic horses. Comprised of the National Breed Associations of 17 European countries (including Iceland), Canada, and the United States, it governs competition activities and regulates the breeding and registration of Icelandic horses throughout the world outside of Iceland. See www.feif.org for more information.

The United States Icelandic Horse Congress 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. As a FEIF member organization, the Congress maintains the Registry of Icelandic Horses in the United States, sponsors U.S. participation in international competition, and regulates breeding and competition activities in the United States in accordance with FEIF rules. USIHC also sponsors activities, events, and educational programs in the United States which are beneficial to the overall interests of the breed. Yearly membership is \$45 (\$35 for youth members); family membership, \$65. For more information, see the Congress website at www.icelandics.org.

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The Congress maintains the Registry of Icelandic Horses in the United States in accordance with FEIF rules. The Registry Rules and all forms needed to register an Icelandic Horse in the United States are available on the Congress website at www.icelandics.org. Contact Asta Covert P.O. Box 1724, Santa Ynez, CA 93460; 805-688-1393; registry@icelandics.org

WEBSITE

Visit www.icelandics.org to update or renew your membership, download the electronic Quarterly, subscribe to RSS feeds for the Events Calendar or web updates, register for WorldFengur, find a Regional Club or USIHC registered horse, join a committee, download USIHC guidelines and forms, submit a proposal, and learn more about FEIF and the USIHC.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bernie Willis writes: Thirteen of 19 member nations of FEIF met in Hamburg, Germany, on February 27 to March 1, 2009. You may remember the list of reasons I gave for being a member of the USIHC. Remember the last one? It was meeting all those nice people that share your passion for the Icelandic horse. This conference is the place for that squared. I had a wonderful time with friends and learned some things too.

The conference opened with a message from our president, Jen Iversen of Denmark. Then the department meetings began. USIHC delegate Doug Smith attended the sport meetings and his wife Gayle sat in on the youth meetings. At the chairman's meetings, we gave reports on what we had done the past year about emphasizing the Welfare of the Horse in our countries. I was happy to report about the welfare issue of the *Quarterly* and the special health seminars arranged by Alex Pregitzer for USIHC members.

Friday night we were treated to a harbor cruise of Hamburg. Dinner was served aboard the ship. There were eight folk at my table, and none of us were from the same country. It makes it nice for me when they all have to speak English.

Classical Riding

Saturday morning started with a presentation by Michael Laussengger, a former rider from the Spanish Riding School of Vienna. Today he operates his own stable and has three Icelandics in lower Austria. In his talk about classical riding, he made it clear that its 3000-year history was based upon rules that allow the goal of training and developing the natural qualities of a horse, and to do these movements on demand. Riding was part of nobility, just like dancing and fencing. In Iceland, there was less class structure but there was still the art of riding. At its highest level there is a connection between the horse and rider. The horse becomes a mirror and reflects the image of the one it carries. If the rider is stiff or angry, the horse will be also. A happy horse is like an experienced runner who experiences a "high" when it



all comes together

Michael also had concerns about some things in FEIF. He feels that the steps in the riding tests in the FIPO are too large. Slow tolt, for instance, should not be asked for in any test before T-1. To him it takes a very well-trained and fit horse to perform a correct, expressive tolt at slow speeds. He was also critical of loose reins in the hands of beginners. I talked to him personally later on and

learned that he believes the tension to the bit should be between 3 and 7 kilos (6-14 pounds) at all times. When I suggested that this seems like a lot of pull on the reins, he said it's much better than the zero to 25 kilos (0-50 pounds) typical of the beginning rider.

Michael's presentation was followed by more departmental meetings and lunch. Then Sonke Lauterbach of the German National Equestrian Federation spoke to us about their organization. It is known as FN and is the equivalent of the United States Equestrian Federation. It was originally started in 1905 because breeders wanted to market their horses. Over the last 100 years it developed shows, a training and educational program, a pleasure-rider scheme, and an equestrian center. It focuses on the "German Horse" which is used for dressage, jumping, and three-day eventing. The government is the primary funding source. Membership only costs a dollar and a half. It has 750,000 members. FEIF is an associate member, as are other special breed organizations.

Saturday night was the Gala. We found our way to another hotel and, on



The 2008 National Ranking was presented at the Annual Meeting. Asta Covert of Santa Ynez, CA, took first place in five categories: T1, T3, V1, V2, and F2. Here she rides Dynjandi frá Dalvík (US1997103860) at the CIA Open in April 2009.

Heather Skopnik



Bernie Willis (next page) and Kari Pietsch-Wangard (above) modeled a new line of USIHC-branded clothing at the Annual Meeting; the idea had been suggested by Juli Cole. Members, farms, and regional clubs can order shirts, hats, jackets, duffel bags, etc., embroidered with the USIHC logo by the company IZZO (www.izzoemb.com).

the top floor, were part of the annual meeting of the IPZV. It was kind of like the annual meeting of the USIHC except that there were 400 people instead of 40. After all, their membership is 35,000 and ours is 500. I also discovered that over 50% of the Icelandic horses in Germany are within a two-hour drive of Hamburg. There was good food, dancing, and conversation. I enjoyed learning about the troubles of Holland from our international sport leader, Marko Mazeland, and was impressed with the skills of my companion for the evening, as she spoke English to me, French to the friends on the other side, German to the Swiss across the table, and Norwegian to some folks who stopped by. I still had time to see the annual awards for the German riders.

Vet checks at Landsmot

Sunday morning, Sigridur Bjornsdottir updated us on the veterinary controls

used at the last Landsmot. Only healthy and fit horses were allowed to compete. All horses were checked before each preliminary, semi-final, and finals test. Did you catch it that the top horses were checked three times? The exam included the horse's nutritional status, lymph nodes, heart and respiration rate, temperature, limbs for lameness and swelling, and mouth. Of some 300 horses, two were disqualified for unfit limbs and one for mouth injuries. Old wounds and scars were not disqualifying. The lesson from these exams is that competitions don't damage horses, but that the preparation for them can: 14% of the horses ridden by young riders had old injuries, as did 8% of the A class and 11% of the B class. Most of the problems were caused by nose bands that were too tight, bits that were too long, and poor riding skills. Recommended solutions were to use more than one bit that fits the horse and to ride more with the seat and less with the reins. A good goal is to aim to ride without a nose band.

Committee Highlights

The conference wrapped up with highlights from each committee.

Chairmen

1. We need a word picture of what we want to see as the welfare for the horse.
2. Further development from the working group on what FEIF can do for the country clubs.
3. Future funding for FEIF may be an endowment or patron program.
4. 2011 World Championships will be in Austria.

Breeding

1. We are seeing too few breeding horses shown in breeding shows.
2. The young horse assessment program will have one more year of trials.
3. We need more emphases on slow gaits and walk.
4. We must maintain Icelandic language-based horse names.

Youth

1. FEIF Youth Cup for 2010 will be in Denmark.

2. FEIF Youth Camp 2009 will be in the U.S.
3. Each country should develop a youth protection policy.
4. IPZV will share its children's educational material with other countries.
5. The development of an international youth exchange program.

Education

1. Work on a FIPO for education.
2. Riding instructors and trainers should work on professional development.
3. FEIF will publish the schedule for riding instructor courses.
4. EU funding is being sought for educational projects.
5. Country clubs need to send more delegates to the conference next year.

Sport

1. Records show a decrease in mouth wounds throughout the riding season.
2. The five gait classes will be limited to tracks with at least 250 m or "P" shaped.
3. Protective boots will be limited to 250 grams sometime in the future.
4. A limit to the number of tests per day per horse is being considered.
5. The development of a competition structure for advancement, beginning with starting riders on up.



RIDING BADGES

Eight young riders earned their USIHC Riding Badge Level 1 at Winterhorse Park, WI, in March. Those who took and passed the exam on March 12 are: Savannah Brauer, Jessica Elmlblad, Elisabeth Everson, Libby Hartzler, Rachael Kurwski, Setareh Saeian, and Summer Saeian. Their instructor was Ann Christin-Kloth, IPZV trainer B; their examiner was Anne Heeman, IPZV trainer C.

Another student, Kevin Draeger, had previously participated in a Riding Badge seminar in 2007 in Minnesota; he took and passed the exam on March 15 at Winterhorse Park.

WORLD-RANKING EVENT

The first FEIF World Ranking event to be held in the U.S. will take place at Silver Maple Farm, Tunbridge, Vermont, on June 27-28, 2009. The contact person is Susan Peters (susan.peters@gmail.com). The event will be preceded by a Success Management seminar for competition riders, coaches, and family members on June 24; followed by a Judging Seminar on June 25-26; and a Chiropractic Lecture on June 26, all at Silver Maple Farm.

According to FEIF, the World Ranking system is almost fully automated (so making sure riders' names are spelled correctly is of the utmost importance). Scores are sent in by the country's Sport Leader (Will Covert for the U.S.) and included in the World Ranking one day after they have been received by FEIF. Only marks of 5.50 or higher in FIPO tests are included in the WorldRanking. In Pace Race 250 m only times faster than 25.60" are included; and in Pace Race 150 m only times faster than 16.50"; in Speed-Pass only times faster than 8.70". A rider needs at least three of these marks to be included in the World Ranking; marks are valid for a period of two years. The World Ranking is calculated and refreshed every day. Complete ranking lists per test and per country, and complete overviews of riders' marks are available on the FEIF website. Starting in 2007, the FEIF ID and the name of the horse were connected to individual marks/times, in order to

provide the sport results of horses for WorldFengur. For more information, see www.feif.org/worldranking.

USIHC ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Members Meeting of the USIHC was held on January 17, 2009 in Santa Clara, California. Seven Board Members and 25 USIHC members attended. President Bernie Willis opened the meeting, praising the work of the Board members and other volunteers who keep the USIHC functioning. "It's been said that the only constant is change itself. It's easy to see that change is all around us, but it is much more difficult to adapt to it. ... I am confident that our horse club will be around for a long time simply because we are flexing with the times. We have challenges. We need to identify and meet the needs of our members more completely. Education is easily spoken of but it is much harder to inspire people to want to learn than to just provide the information. Nevertheless I am convinced that this team is pulling together in the direction we need to go."

In addition to committee reports and general discussion, three break-out sessions were held on WorldFengur, Youth, and Sport. Two amendments to the constitution were passed. The guest speaker was endurance rider John Parke, who spoke on his "Journey to the Center of the World." The awards dinner an-



nounced the 2008 National Ranking and the winner of the new Anne Elwell Breeding Award.

Complete minutes and reports from the meeting are available on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org). Click on "About the USIHC," then "Board Meeting Minutes." The following are some highlights.

2008 Membership: USIHC membership in 2008 was 198 individual memberships, 76 family memberships, and 4 junior memberships. Most memberships were renewed over the web using PayPal.

Treasurer's Report: The Congress posted an end-of-year profit of \$6,500 for 2008. Treasurer Kari Pietsch-Wangard attributed the improved financial picture to several factors: Katrin Sheehan did not submit any charges for last year's annual meeting; the Congress did a better job of collecting reimbursement for funds paid to FEIF by the Congress for individual member expenses at the FEIF conference; the Quarterly committee did a better job of making sure all advertising was fully paid; the educational seminars showed a profit; 2008 was not a World Championship year; sanctioned show expenses were reduced; and membership dues increased. For reasons that are unclear, the Registry income was down about 25% from 2007.

Breeding Award: A new "Anne Elwell Breeding Award" will be presented to the highest evaluated domestic-bred breeding

horse in the U.S. each year. The award honors Anne's contributions to the Congress since its founding, and her devotion to Icelandic horse breeding. This year's award-winning horse is Hamur from Mill Farm (US1997103009) owned and bred by Dan Slott (Icelandic Sports, Ltd.).

Judge Scholarships: A special mention was made at the Annual Meeting of an anonymous \$10,000 donation for a Judge Scholarship fund. This fund provides financial incentive for prospective Sports Judges in the U.S. to seek FEIF judge licenses. \$1,000 is payable from the fund when an individual receives his license. A second \$1,000 payment is available after the individual judges three sanctioned shows in the U.S. A final \$1,000 is made when the individual renews the license for the first time.

Youth Fund: The Board has designated 2009 the *Year for Youth*. A Youth Scholarship Fund was started with two \$1,000 donations (from Kathy Love and Doug & Gayle Smith); a three-member committee (Laura Benson, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, and Susan Milloy) will administer the fund. A formal notice of the fund and its intended use will be published once the committee has established the basic framework. An optional Youth Fund contribution will be added to the Congress membership and renewal process. Other Youth projects in the works include the FEIF Youth Camp, to be held at Winterhorse Park in July; a youth advisory board



Martina Gates

The first annual Anne Elwell Breeding Award, for the highest evaluated domestic-bred breeding horse in the U.S., was awarded to Hamur from Mill Farm (US1997103009), owned and bred by Dan Slott (Icelandic Sports, Ltd.), shown here ridden by Shannon Hughes at the 2008 NEIHC Breeding Evaluation in New York.

to the youth committee; a USIHC blog for kids; a "featherlight" seat award; a national camp; earlier planning for FEIF Youth Cup and World Championships; sponsors for youth participation in international events; a mentoring program; a youth riding badge program; and greater coordination with Regional Clubs.

Spæjari Award: The 2008 Youth Spæjari Award went to three dedicated young riders: Jennifer Wright, Megan Milloy and Emily Pfoutz. Spæjari is the Icelandic name of the Icelandic endurance horse commonly known as Remington. Spæjari is known for his determination, passion, and indomitable will. This award is intended to inspire and encourage these same qualities in our youth who enjoy spending time with Icelandic horses. John and Marilyn Parke (owners of Remington) kindly sponsor this award on an annual basis. You can read the essays of last year's winners in the June 2008 issue of the *Quarterly*.

Electronic Quarterly: A question was raised about the handling of the electronic-*Quarterly*. Each new issue is added to the web site two weeks before the printed version is mailed. Only active Congress members can download the new issue.

After six months, issues can be not only downloaded, but printed. After one year, anyone can download and print an issue.

Breeding Evaluations: The Board removed the requirement that Regional Clubs host breeding evaluations.

Trainers List: To help USIHC members locate trainers, see what their qualifications mean, and get in touch, the Education committee has created a list of all certified trainers in the U.S. to be posted on the USIHC website. When finished, the list will link to detailed descriptions of the FT, IPZV, and FEIF trainer programs.

Internet Resources: The Education committee is collecting articles with educational value from back issues of the *Quarterly*. These will be scanned and formatted for the USIHC website in an effort to improve the level of educational material about the Icelandic horse that is available on the Internet.

Pleasure Riding: The PRP now has 52 active members. In addition to Mountain Horse, two new prize sponsors will be added for the 2009 season. *Tölt News* will offer a free subscription for 2,500-hour riders. Kerrits will sponsor the 1,000 hour and youth award categories. New awards



in the works are a Community Service award and an All-Stars division for past PRP winners.

Regional Clubs: In 2008, the 14 Regional Clubs were involved with parties, parades, drill teams, fun shows, clinics, meetings, trail rides, trail trials, gymkhana, on-line classes, and geocaching. In terms of USIHC support, the clubs would like to have airfare covered for judges of Schooling Shows, help for the fees of clinics, and help paying insurance costs. They also suggest that USIHC show organizers use the words "Fun Day" and "Schooling Show" when possible instead of "Competition" to help increase participation in events, since many people do not want to feel as if they are getting "judged."

Promotion: A brainstorming session was held to discuss a new job description for the Promotion committee. Ideas included revitalizing the trade show booth and creating a second booth; reduce advertising and "pay to play" articles in national magazines, since these do not seem effective; the Congress might be more successful courting health and fitness magazines rather than more traditional equestrian publications; there might be benefits to working with home schooling groups to introduce more children to horseback riding and the Icelandic horse. A question asking members how they came to the Icelandic horse will be added to future application and renewal forms.

Branded Clothing: Bernie Willis and



2008 National Ranking:

Discipline	Rider	Average Score
T1	Asta Covert	7.60
T2	Anne-Marie Martin	7.30
T3	Asta Covert	7.35
T5	Kari Pietsch-Wangard	5.90
T6	Sverrir Bjartmarz	5.30
T7	Dominic Ng	5.85
T8	Lucy Nold	7.65
V1	Asta Covert	7.40
V2	Asta Covert	6.75
V3	Doug Smith	5.65
V5	Dominc Ng	6.00
V6	Lucy Nold	6.50
F1	Gudmar Petursson	6.80
F2	Asta Covert	5.40
F3	Kari Pietsch-Wangard	5.75

The complete results of the national ranking can be found on the USIHC website.

Kari Pietsch-Wangard modeled a new line of USIHC-branded clothing at the Annual Meeting; the idea had been suggested by Juli Cole. Members, farms, and regional clubs can order shirts, hats, jackets, duffel bags, etc., embroidered with the USIHC logo by the company IZZO. Explains Kari, "Everything is embroidered as it is ordered. The way it works is you look at the catalogues online at www.izzoemb.com. They can embroider our logos on anything you see in these catalogues. Then you either call them (1-888-843-2411, Eastern time) or email them (izzoemb@hotmail.com) for a price and/or place an order. They accept credit cards and usually ship within a week or less." Bernie's embroidered cap is Bodek #8102; it comes in many colors and costs \$10.00 plus shipping. Kari's embroidered microfleece hoodie is Sanmar #L105, also available in tan; it costs \$45 (with the large logo) or \$40 (with a small logo like the one on the cap). The USIHC makes no profit off the sales; the purpose of the program is to build recognition and community among members.

Iceland Breeders Brochure: Copies of this one-page brochure can be printed

for 19 cents per copy (in a quantity of 10,000). Members, farms, and regional clubs will be solicited for printing donations. An additional logo can be added to the item for a \$150 set-up charge.

World Championships: Tryouts for the August 3-9 event in Switzerland were scheduled for California (Flying C Ranch, Santa Ynez), New York (Mill Farm, Ancramdale), and Georgia (Creekside Farm, Atlanta) in mid-May with judge Einar Ragnarsson, who was the chief judge at the World Championships in 2007 and will be again in 2009. He judged the U.S. tryouts in 2007, along with the German and Icelandic teams.

A general discussion of WC logistics included these points: ticket purchases should be coordinated to create a block of US supporters in the stands; local accommodations will be limited based on the size of the town, but trains are very reliable, so visitors should look for hotels along the train route leading into town; driving in town should be avoided. For more information, see www.icelandic-horses2009.ch

Since Will Covert will likely be a judge, an alternate Team Leader will be



chosen. Each rider is entitled to a groom of his/her choosing. The Youth Committee will seek interested grooms from the ranks of Congress youth. Suggestions will be made to the team leader, but the final choice will be up to the individual riders on the team.

New Show Rules: The FEIF show rules, FIPO, are valid from April 1 to April 1 of the next year. Every year at the end of March, a new version is published which includes all the changes made in the previous year. This version (in English and in German) can be downloaded from the USIHC website. USIHC Sanctioned Show rules (also on the website) are updated at the same time and go into effect on April 1.

USIHC Website: Numerous improvements have been made to the site in keeping with its mission to serve the needs of the membership, promote the Icelandic horse to guests, and relieve the burden of Congress volunteers. Additional changes planned include updating the photos with new, more powerful images; investigation the implementation of a horse sales page to generate revenue for the Congress; allow online tracking and submission for the PRP and online applications for sanctioned shows.

Registry: In 2008, 280 horses were registered and 174 registrations were transferred, bringing the total of domestic horses registered to 2,276 and imported horses to 1,570; total number of registered Icelandic horses in the U.S. is 3,846. Most U.S.-born horses now have their

DNA and parent verification information listed in WorldFengur, but registrar Asta Covert cautioned that some of the older ownership information listed in WorldFengur is not correct. WorldFengur is not the official registry database for U.S. registered horses. Any owner interested in having the information in WorldFengur corrected can send an email to registry@icelandics.org to request the update. There is no fee for updating WorldFengur to reflect the current U.S. registration information. (Any change to the U.S. registration information, however, is subject to the customary fees.)

Special cases handled by the registry in 2008 determined that: a registration can be changed without a deceased owner's signature if a death certificate accompanies the papers; a rescued or abandoned horse's registration can be changed based on a court order; there is no record of intermediate transfers if a horse had changed hands several times—the only signature required is that of the last owner of record as shown on the horse's U.S. registration papers.

USIHC BOARD MEETINGS

USIHC Board members attending the January, February, and March meetings were: Laura Benson, Asta Covert, Anne Elwell, Kathy Love, Karen Olson-Fields, Kari Pietsch-Wangard, Doug Smith, and

Bernie Willis. Kathy Lockerbie was appointed to Kathy Love's vacant Board seat at the January meeting. Complete minutes can be found on the USIHC website (www.icelandics.org); the following are highlights that were not also discussed at the Annual Meeting:

Trainer Seminar

Bernie asked Susan to provide an overview of her experience at the recently concluded Trainer Level I seminar. She noted that, overall, the experience was very positive, albeit grueling. The quality of instruction was excellent; the course continues to be based on excellent materials prepared by Walter Feldman. However, she added that the materials are in German, which poses a significant problem. Without infringing on Mr. Feldman's copyright, the students are constructing a "study guide" to help future seminar participants navigate the German materials more efficiently. Susan said that, in the future, there should be seminar prerequisites since participants would then have a better chance for success. She opted to attend for the educational benefit and elected to skip some of the testing for which she felt underprepared. Bernie took this recommendation to the Education Committee for discussion.

Intern Judges

A discussion took place regarding the

2008 Sanctioned Shows

Location & date	FEIF International Judge(s)	Starting Combinations
Dillsburg, PA (May)	Petur Jokull Hakonarson	21
Santa Ynez, CA (May)	Uschi Heller-Voight	35
Watsonville, CA (June)	Petur Jokull Hakonarson	27
Watsonville, CA (August)	Johannes Hoyos	26
Vermont (August)	Marlise Grimm	38
Wisconsin (September)	Halldor Gunnar Victorsson	45
Virginia (October)	Horst Klinghart	46
Kentucky (October)	Petur Jokull Hakonarson and Isolfur Lindal Thorisson	76
Santa Ynez, CA (November)	Rune Svendsen	25

challenges of keeping our intern judges advancing their training and skills while not making it more difficult to find judges for schooling shows. Board members agreed that, although there is a need to support schooling shows, it is not in anyone's best interest to have judges who aren't doing the best possible job at any show.

The following ideas were discussed for referral to Education and Sport: Require intern judges working alongside or scribing for licensed judges at sanctioned shows to obtain an evaluation from the licensed judge, a copy of which would be forwarded by the show organizer to the Education committee. This would give the intern judge direct feedback and give us feedback about where the judge training is doing well or needs improvement. Strongly encourage attendance at either the refresher seminar in Vermont or the FEIF Sport Judge seminar in Europe. In the future, look to requiring attendance at a continuing education seminar to maintain the license. Remind the intern judges of the Judge Scholarship Fund. Kathy requested another full intern judge training seminar be set to get new intern judges into the process.

Sanctioned Shows

After some discussion of the status of sanctioned competitions in U.S., Doug moved that the current reimbursement policy for sanctioned shows be abolished. Ásta Covert seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. At Will Covert's request, as Sport Leader, the Eastern Seaboard Show from October 2008 shall be eligible for reimbursement under the former policy until April 1, 2009. If the post-show packet isn't received and accepted by the Sport Leader by April 1-2, 2009 the judge's travel expenses shall not be reimbursed. Will also requested and received Board approval to reimburse judges' travel expenses to the \$1,000 limit for the October Kentucky show.

Conference Calls

The Board adopted the service (FreeConferenceCall) without the toll-free option. Regional club observers will be able to listen on a toll line or to a recording of

the Board meeting on the USIHC web site at any time before the next meeting. The dial-in number and PIN to activate calls will be made available to all committee chairs for their use.

Policies Document

An extensive overhaul of the Policies document was discussed. Doug will circulate the revised document on the Board email list. Once the revisions are approved, the document will be published on the web site with reference to the date of this Board meeting.

New Fee Schedule

A \$25.00 fee will be added to all paid Registry transactions if at least one party of the transaction is not an active USIHC member. The fee will be waived if the Registry transaction is accompanied by an application for a USIHC membership. This was proposed by Doug, seconded by Laura Benson, and unanimously adopted. The board also directed Doug and Ásta to investigate using PayPal for Registry transactions. The implementation will be similar to the process used by UC Davis to pay for DNA processing. The Registry fees would be pre-paid via the USIHC web site and PayPal. A printed receipt for the PayPal transaction will be included with the required documentation sent to the Registrar in lieu of a check.

Website Information

Doug has added Youth Fund Donation support to on- and off-line membership forms. In addition, he's increased the number of website sponsors, and coordinated with WorldFengur for the renewal of members' subscriptions. All indications show the process is working fine. No member complaints have been received to date. The board voted unanimously to make a last minute renewal plea on the Yahoo "Forum" group and bulletin board page to try to boost the membership before the March *Quarterly* went to press.

Doug also noted that approximately 20 articles from the *Quarterly* and out-of-print issues of *Tölt News* had been received. The quality of the scans provided was not sufficient to extract the text for the website. Gayle Smith is in the process

of rescanning the articles and extracting the text. Once the full body of articles has been processed they will be formatted for the website. Doug was instructed to include a text box at the top of each *Tölt News* article describing the magazine, including a their logo and a link to their website. Both Andrea Barber, representing *Tölt News*, and the Board approved.

Membership Extension

Bernie received a complaint from a USIHC member, who joined the Congress on October 8, 11 days before the cutoff date for the new member year. She didn't understand her membership would only last until the end of calendar 2008. Upon review, it was determined that the October 19 date is arbitrary. Using the measure of the *Quarterly* issues, any date between August 16 and November 15 is essentially the same. Any of those dates amount to "5 issues for the price of 4." After some discussion, the "magic" date for new members to receive credit for the current, partial year and the following full year was changed to December 1.

Discounts

The Board approved a 20% discount for all Congress members who enroll in a seminar and pay in full 30 days before the start of the seminar. Discounted payments are eligible for a 50% refund up to 10 days before the start of the seminar and are non-refundable within 10 days of the start of the seminar.





Participants at the FEIF Education Seminar in Deurne, Netherlands.

EDUCATION SEMINAR

Gundula Sharman writes: This year's FEIF education seminar took place in Deurne, a big equestrian college in the south of the Netherlands. About 50 participants enjoyed a stimulating and varied program with lectures, demonstrations, and a strong emphasis on hands-on workshops.

One of the recurring themes was the fact that—different though it may be—the Icelandic horse is first and foremost a horse. All horse disciplines should build their *instructor education* around the needs of a sound *training program* for horse and rider, based on a thorough *understanding* of the nature of the horse. Our practice needs to be informed by continuous education and research, regardless of what type of equestrian activity we engage in. In that context, it was refreshing to hear in the opening demonstration of the work done in Deurne that “show jumping is nothing other than doing dressage with a few obstacles,” and that the training of the trotting horse has a lot in common with our goals.

Although there was some overlap, the workshops and lectures fell into three basic categories, teaching the rider, skills around the horse, and the practical application of research.

Teaching the Rider

Naturally, I could not attend all the events, but the workshop “Winning Is No Coincidence,” led by Geert van Attevelt, dealt with the most important psychologi-

cal issues for success, using techniques borrowed from psychoanalysis and hypnosis. Judith van Aarle, human and animal physiotherapist, helped us to analyse the physical properties and limitations of “The Rider’s Seat.” And Marion Schreuer, chief riding instructor at the college, had her workshop participants “Teach the Shoulder-In.”

Skills Around the Horse

These practical sessions included a workshop with farrier Chris Omen on “Hoof-care.” Deurne has a well-equipped forge, which is also used for teaching farriery to college students. Moving from the feet to the mouth, Chris Hannes taught his participants about the importance and the technicalities of “Equine Dental Care.” And physiotherapist Guy Blom held a hands-on workshop on “Horse Anatomy and Biomechanics.” All participants are now able to feel the cervical vertebrae and locate the transition point between the lumbar and the sacral vertebrae.

In a workshop on “Horse Behaviour,” Machthelt van Dierendonck shared the conclusions of her ongoing research into the herd behavior of horses. For example, we learnt about the difference between dominant horses and those displaying leadership behavior. This was brought to life by a demonstration with Emiel Voest who, in close co-operation with Machthelt, has developed his own system of natural horsemanship called “Freestyle Training.”

Practical Application of Research

The importance of scientific research was emphasized time and again. Modern technology lets us measure and “see” so many things that we previously only guessed at.

As a follow-up from his workshop, Guy Blom gave a further lecture on the “Anatomy and Biomechanics of the Icelandic Horse.” After many years of being a practitioner with big horses *and* Icelandic horses, he has come to the conclusion that there really are physiological features unique to the Icelandic horse, particularly in their having much greater flexibility in all joints of the leg than is “normal.” A number of video clips in slow motion allowed us to see this hyperflexion of the lower limbs for ourselves.

It was also fascinating to hear Patricia le Cocq’s lecture on “Biometric Measurements” taken on all sorts of aspects of pressure and load on the joints of the moving horse, as well as examining varying pressures of riding equipment, such as the saddle and rein pressure.

No event such as this seminar would be complete without at least a brief excursion into the research and training methods of another sport. We visited the field lab of the national swimming pool in Eindhoven. Sports psychology, the need for exact and prompt feedback on training methods and performance at competitions, the use of computer technology in research—swimming as a competitive discipline is really not all that different from riding.

Final Remarks

Of course, these seminars and workshops were held together by a lot of discussion and social networking (not to mention the party on Saturday night) and helped along nicely by the excellent organization of the weekend. No one present had any doubts about how much we can learn from the best ideas and people in the general horse world, or indeed from other sport disciplines. And everyone felt refreshed in their inspiration in finding effective means of passing on that knowledge in our teaching. Maybe in this wider context we can agree that "Icelandic riding is nothing other than doing dressage in all five gaits."

FEIF YOUTH CAMP

The 2009 FEIF Youth Camp will be held at Winterhorse Park Icelandic Horse Farm in Eagle, Wisconsin, July 17-24, the first time it has been held in the U.S. The cost of the camp is \$800 for the week. USIHC Youth members who will be attending are: Ayla Green, Dink (Elizabeth) Everson, Alexandra Venable, Safari Fabrizio, Megan Milloy, and Emily Pfoutz.

Winterhorse Park is a 97-acre facility nestled in the middle of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. It offers an official 300-meter competition track and pace track and a 200 x 80 indoor riding arena. The itinerary includes Icelandic horses, including a trail ride through the Kettle Moraine Forest to the town of

Eagle for lunch. Other highlights will be: A full day of water park fun at Noah's Ark, America's Largest Water Park; American Indian Culture Day, with the Lac du Flambeau Indian tribe Dance and Drum group and an authentic American Indian meal; a refreshing summer day floating down the scenic Wisconsin River on inflated tubes; Western Riding and team penning at Southwind Ranch; and shopping at Prime Outlet mall.

WC JUDGING

The list of sport judges at the World Championships 2009 in Brunnadern (CH) has been set. Chief judge is Einar Ragnarsson, Deputy Chief Judge is Claudia Glück. Eleven judges were appointed by the member associations, four others by a selection committee. The 15 judges are: Asa Ericsson, Christian Reischauer, Eve Petersen, Karin Hassing, Fi Pugh, Laura Pikhala Posti, Meike Löwe, Nicolai Thyé, Per Kolnes, Rune Svendsen, Sophie Kovacs, Tómas Ragnarsson, Thorgeir Gudlaugsson, Uschi Heller Voigt, and Will Covert.

The FEIF Licensed International Sport Judge is the highest level of sport judge that can be reached. This license is required for judges at World Championships. The license can be obtained by passing a test that is organised once a year. The examinee has to have passed a national judge education program, must be at least 21 years old, and must be a

member of a member association of FEIF. He/she must also have a proven riding capacity (license, trainer exam, national judge exam if this contains riding, competition results, etc.).

The examination is based on experience and good standards. It is divided into a practical and a theoretical part. The *theoretical* part is oral, in English. Examinees may use their own language, in which case the Board of Examiners may require an interpreter. The following topics are part of the examination: training methods, riding; rules (FIRO, FIPO); Sport Judges Guidelines; comments on a video. The *practical* part should contain the following tests: Tölt T1, Tölt T2, Four Gait V1, Five Gait F1, Pace Test PP1, and Free Style Performance FS1.

CORRECTION

Member Steve Barber pointed out an error in our story on Anne Elwell in the March 2009 issue of the *Quarterly*. He writes:

"On page 34, second paragraph, first sentence, it states: '...Anne brought home three excellent mares—one being Elding frá Refsstad, the first First Prize mare to leave Iceland for the United States.' That is incorrect. According to WorldFengur, she is Second Prize:

FEIF-ID number
IS1979275137
Elding frá Refsstad3
01.01.1985 Fjórdungsmót Gaddstadaflötum 7.58

Please make note of that mistake in the next issue of the *Quarterly*."

Anne Elwell replies: "Actually, both of these pieces of information are wrong. She is indeed Second Prize but her score of 7.58 is from her first evaluation (1985). She was evaluated in 1986 and was scored First Prize in riding (8.03, I think). She ended up with something like 7.98. I was given the form from the second evaluation but I don't think I have it any longer. I'll look for it."



Heidi Benson

Ayla Green and Alexandra Venable are two of the USIHC members who will attend the FEIF Youth Camp at Winterhorse Park in July.

Once having passed the examination, the examinee receives a license as FEIF International Sport Judge for the period of three years. The license can be renewed in two ways: by taking part in the examination again, or by taking part in at least one International Sport Judges' seminar organised by FEIF and being a full judge for at least five WorldRanking events in this three years' period.

BREEDING MEETING

By the beginning of 2009, more than 310,000 horses had been already registered in WorldFengur; WorldFengur is already used as the main stud book by various countries.

Another item at the 2009 FEIF Breeding Meeting was the development of the linear assessment system for young horses. This improved system will increase the objectiveness of judgments and simplify statistical analyses. Plans to have foal shows with linear forms are being made in some countries already, but they are not required to use the linear system.

Regarding horse welfare, rough riding and lack of horsemanship at breeding shows will be handled as in sport competitions, and names will be published on the FEIF website. At the moment there are strong efforts to bring the sport rules and the breeding rules closer together regarding hooves, shoeing, and equipment. Ideas on veterinary examinations at international competitions were presented, based on the veterinary examinations at Landsmót 2008.

There were discussions on the change of the percentages of the breeding traits based on a report sent in by Iceland and a proposal from Germany. The breeding committee decided that more discussion was needed, along with more background information.

Future goals of the FEIF breeding committee include the establishment of a FEIF system for foal/young horse assessment, the introduction of a continental breeding event in 2010, the rewriting of FIZO to have a well-structured document, and the connection of breeding, sport, and education committees in goals, procedures, and rules.

YOUTH MEETING

Sweden was selected as the best youth country for 2008, as the amount of activities had increased at all levels. Activities with and without horses had been organized, and there was a lot of contact with the youngsters all over the country.

In 2010 a new youth exchange network will be introduced under the FEIF umbrella. The aim is to give youngsters from the different member countries a chance to spend two weeks in another country with another family, to learn more about other cultures.

The German Icelandic Horse Association invited youngsters from other member countries to participate in the German Youth Championship without having to pay any entrance fee. It might also be possible to borrow horses for the event, if riders ask well in advance. The German Association also gave the copyright to translate their booklets for youngsters, in which there are questions about the horses and welfare, to all other FEIF member countries.

It was decided that the welfare of the horse will always be on the agenda for lectures at the Youth Cup and Youth Camp.

SWISS ALPS IN '09

Writes Anke Schworer-Haag: The Icelandic Horse World Championships '09' ("Null Nüün" in the Swiss Dialect) are promising

to leave a long-lasting impression. They will take place August 3-9 at Brunnadern in the beautiful and romantic Neckertal area of middle Switzerland. Participants and spectators can be assured that they will find an optimally organized championship event. Last year the facility containing the oval and race track passed the test during two competitions. The FEIF Youth Cup was held in pouring rain and then the Swiss Championships were held one week later in beautiful hot summer temperatures—and both were a great success.

The Swiss organizing committee had already given evidence in 1995 that they were capable of running a large event. They will strictly keep all the rules and regulations that such an event requires, while at the same time not forgetting to organise a big celebration. A huge camping area for tents and caravans, as well as an area for food, drinks, and shopping will offer everything that visitors will need. More than 500 volunteers from all over the FEIF member countries will be on hand to help riders, horses, and the 30-35,000 expected spectators. There will be organized trips to the summit of the Säntis Mountain, to leisure facilities, to farms, and to museums, and much more, in addition to the area's possibilities for walking, hiking, or cycling. See www.icelandichorses2009.ch.



Site of the 2009 Icelandic Horse World Championships in Brunnadern, Switzerland.

REGIONAL UPDATES

ALASKA (AIHA)



Amy Rogde has had many adventures on her Icelandic mare, Lysy. Here, the pair had just completed a 28-mile ride in the area where they live, Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

Alys Culhane writes: The Alaska Icelandic Horse owners spent the spring gearing up for weekly and bi-weekly trail rides. The tack was cleaned repeatedly at club member get-togethers, and the horse toes were trimmed some time ago. It was a snowy winter, particularly in the interior, so the trails were impassable for some time. The horses shed like crazy and the neighborhood ravens came and gathered fuzz for their nests. There's hope that since we got a nice snow load, that it will be a good hay year.

The Fairbanks contingent is considering meeting up with the Kenai contingent, for a beach trail ride. A spring Mandy Pretty clinic has also been scheduled to take place in Fairbanks, which means that the Palmer/Wasilla club members will have a long drive ahead of them. (The way it's been working is that the Palmer/Wasilla folk host the annual TTeam clinic one year, and then the Fairbanks people host it the next.)

The very sad news is that long-time club member and newsletter editor Fran Bundtzen lost her old friend Ofeigur. Ofeigur, 30, was a very special horse; he was Fran's first Icelandic, and an exemplary teacher. He was purchased from Larry Miller in Healy at age six from Robyn Hood. Fran bought him from the Millers on Christmas Eve, 1991. Said Fran, "He was the best Christmas present I ever got!" He was born during a storm, hence the name Ofeigur which means "Survivor," or "One who needs to live." Fran and her kids learned to ride on him and he was a

mainstay at clinics. She once said that he always wanted to come into the kitchen, and so before a new floor was put in, she brought him into the house.

Club President Susan Tilly said to say that "we (club members) continue to watch for the other Icelandics that are just out of reach. Spring is a rough time for horses and crazy folks."

CASCADE

Rachel Knowlton and Jean Waller write: The Cascade Icelandic Horse Club kicked off 2009 with the annual club meeting held in Vancouver, WA where club members shared ideas, socialized, re-connected, and planned events for the year. New officers were elected: Rachel Knowlton (President), Sandy Solberg (Vice-President), Jean Waller (Secretary), Claudia Rancore (Treasurer), Lisa Roland (Membership Chair), and Lori Birge and Cindy Seibert (Members at Large).

The first event this year was the Northwest Horse Expo held in Albany, Oregon in March 2009. Dawn Shaw and Karen Brotzman were critical in the planning of this event. Club members participating in the various demos included: Renee Phelps, Dawn Shaw, Lisa Brandenburger, Sasha Roland, Lisa Roland, Walt and Mandy Pretty, and Madelyn Carr. The club really appreciated having two youth riders in this year's Albany demo. In addition, there were various other club members who were instrumental behind the scenes serving as grooms, photographers, and the cheering squad including: Rob and Barb Pitney, Jean Waller, Alice Heller, Bonny Houghton, Patti Moyer, and Missy Genova. The Margarita Sewing Club was

responsible for the gorgeous stall drapes. The Icelandic horses were very popular in the demos and there was a steady stream of visitors at the booth and the stalls.

In addition, the Viking Horse Parade and Celebrate the Horse events are quickly approaching. The club will also be getting together at the annual summer meeting as well as looking forward to other events such as the annual wine ride and beach ride.

FRIDA (FIRC)

Rich Moore writes: The first quarter of 2009 was quiet for FIRC members. The weather in January, February, and March did not make holding outdoor club activities possible. Nevertheless, a lot of members got to ride on nice winter days in arenas and on local trails.

Everyone was looking forward to a nice spring and the chance to ride together. Suzi McGraw and Sandy Newkirk planned to host a clinic with Magnus Larsson in the middle of April on their farm near Charles Town, West Virginia. Fifteen



Madelyn Carr pauses with a friend by the beautiful stall drapes provided by the Margarita Sewing Club for the NW Horse Expo.



Cascade club members prepare for the Northwest Horse Expo demos.



Several riders “testing” the brand new 250 meter track at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center in Lake View Terrace, CA.

riders signed up to participate with others taking private lessons. Seven members planned to do a judged trail ride run by the Battlefield Equestrian Society at the Manassas Battlefield in Virginia at the end of April. It was the first time that there were enough Icelandic horses to have a separate division for them in the field of 150 horses.

At the end of May, Tony and Laura Colicchio were scheduled to host an annual trail ride in a state park near their home in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The first club schooling show of the year was to be held on June 13 in Thurmont, Maryland at the farm of Sam Castleman and Sally Thorpe. Sandy Newkirk was scheduled to be the judge.

The club drill team has been active and had a number of practices in the spring. Members include Laura and Tony Colicchio, Marsha Korose, Mitch Martin, Susan and Megan Milloy, Rich Moore, Marcia Newman, Sali Peterson, Curt Pierce, and Jamie Sweeney. Sandy Newkirk is the director.

For additional information on club events, please see the FIRC events calendar at www.firc.us.

KRAFTUR

Annette Coulon writes: It has been a quiet start to the year for Kraftur. The Board had their annual meeting on a conference call and the main topic was planning events for the year 2009.

Our first event will be our club Easter ride at the Ft. Ord Public Lands. We also elected a new officer, Gabriele Meyer of Half Moon Bay, and she will fill the shoes

of Henriette Bruun who retired from the Secretary position.

Our southern California friends from the Los Angeles Icelandic Horse Club hosted a show where quite a few of our members drove down to the show. Here’s the summary of Kraftur participation at the LA show:

- Laura Benson, Punktur frá Stekkjarkholti : V2
- Madison Prestine, Rán frá Hofi : T8YA, V6YA
- Morgan Venable, Fjalar frá Skardi : T2, V2
- Alexandra Venable, Ægir frá Byrgiskardi : T8YA, V6YA
- Laurie Prestine, Godi frá Oddhóli : T7, T8F
- Ayla Green, Lokkur frá Hítarneskoti : T7, T8
- Gayle Smith and Doug Smith were the stewards. Gayle had the gate and Doug was the scribe, announcer, and “IceTest Guy.”

We have had two clinics so far this year at Mountain Icelandic Farm. One clinic by Steinar Sigurdbjornsson and one by Laura Benson. Steinar’s clinic focused on the individual and their needs, while Laura’s clinic was a canter clinic. Both clinics were fantastic and we look forward to learning more in the future.

Every 7-8 weeks our club joins together and we have our horses shod by Steindar Thorisson. He comes to Mountain Icelandic Farm and shoes anywhere from 18 to 25 horses in a four-day period. For

more information on the Kraftur Club you can visit our website www.kraftur.us.

LOS ANGELES (LAIHA)

Kristin Houser writes: A christening bottle of champagne wasn’t broken over the rope gate of the latest traditional Icelandic 250-meter competition track built in the U.S., but it certainly was enjoyed at a celebration at the hosting barn at the end of the inaugural show on the track!

Valhalla Icelandics and the Los Angeles Icelandic Horse Association co-hosted the first show on a 250-meter track finished literally the night before the competition started, March 28-29, 2009 at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center in Lake View Terrace, CA. Halldor Victors-son judged 36 horses and 25 riders, in 15 traditional classes. There was a great mix of adults and youth, pros, amateurs, and novices, hailing from northern California down to San Diego County.

Something new to California shows was the presence of a good number of spectators on both days. The track is on the public outside of the equestrian center property, so onlookers on horseback, on foot, and in cars were attracted to the sight of nattily clad riders zooming around the track on horses with tails and manes flying, and the sound of techno-pop, jazz, rock, and traditional Icelandic folk music with strong beats to tolt, trot, canter, and pace to.

A group of more than 60 people enjoyed a celebratory BBQ at the Hansen Dam EC club house on Saturday night, organized and sponsored by the LAIHA, and executed by the talents, hard work,

and creativity of LAIHA member Heather Skopnik. She organized and delivered an amazing meal of tri-tip, chicken, salads, potatoes, and desserts, all presented in a culturally rich setting of Icelandic horse and Viking artifacts.

And food wasn't all at the BBQ! Live music! Antonia Bennett and her band provided great entertainment, in a setting not exactly ideal for folks used to performing in clubs! On the patio of a club house, overlooking an arena...the best for horse people, but challenging for musicians.

And a special shout out goes to Valhalla Icelandics for the creation of a beautiful big track. Countless hours of planning and hard physical labor went into moving tons and tons of earth and boulders around, leveling, packing, and generally making it become a fabulous track to be enjoyed by many. Stay tuned for dates for a fall show at HDEC. In the meantime the track will be landscaped, and mightily enjoyed by riders lucky enough to be local or close enough to ride it for fun. Tolt on!

MAINE

Jan Fletcher writes: Although it's not at all uncommon for Maine horse owners to give their equines time off, many of our members do continue to ride and train their horses through the cold, snowy winter months. It's a great time to work on balance by riding bareback, with the added benefit of sharing the warmth of

those thick Icelandic winter coats! Sleigh rallies are often held in February and driving Icelandics certainly get attention amidst the more numerous Standard-breds and Morgans.

As winter progresses, however, we do find ourselves dreaming of riding without navigating two or three feet of snow on the trails, and snowplow drifts more than twice that height. It's also when we make plans for all the visiting, trailering, riding, and camping that we look forward to when the snow finally melts and the resulting mud dries up.

This year, the Maine Icelandic Horse Association held our annual meeting in March at Skyline Farm. Skyline is owned by a non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining its 50+ acres for equestrian use, as well as a carriage museum. We were fortunate to be able to have a private tour of the museum prior to our meeting. Following a lively discussion on plans for the coming riding season, we were treated to a presentation on trimming and shoeing gaited horses by Dave Whitaker, a Maine farrier who works with a number of Icelandic horses in the state. He discussed his experiences when, in November of 2007, he attended a seminar at Cornell University given by Sigurdur Sigurdsson, Director of Hoof Care Studies at Holar University, Iceland.

Our Board members will be meeting in June to begin implementing plans for a camping trip, trail rides, our second annual Schooling Show and other sugges-

tions discussed at this meeting.

NORTHEAST (NEIHC)

Betty Grindrod writes: Another successful Thorrablot party was held on Feb 28, our



Thorrablot party planner, Betty Grindrod smiles for the camera at the NEIHC fifth annual Thorrablot in February.

fifth annual. It began with a trail ride of eight riders following a warm-up in the indoor of Aspinwall Stables in Lenox, MA. The annual meeting was lively with discussions about shows and events upcoming. Then the food and drink came out for the 50 or 60 guests in attendance, plus kids and dogs. Brian Puntin's new stable, Aspinwall provided a terrific clubroom party area decorated with lights and containing plenty of long tables that were soon groaning with food. The dessert highlight, as always, was Johanna Gudmundsdottir's Icelandic pancakes with rhubarb jam and whipped cream. Once again, Michele Holmes provided her festive piñata grab bag of wonderful gifts, that is always a lot of fun.

A Facebook page was set up for the club entitled "Northeast Icelandics" as an online addition to our website, neihc.com. There are photo albums for members' horses and events, videos of drill teams and fun rides. This site was intended to keep us entertained as winter kept hanging on, interfering with riding.

Brian Puntin's silver dapple stallion, Magni was the model for illustrations in the children's book, *Elska*, part of a series. OK, so they didn't tell Magni that he was going to be transformed into a mare! It's



Sinna fra Icelandic Magic, owned and driven by Nancy Wines-DeWan, at Skyline Farm's sleigh rally last February.



Good friends, yummy food and a festive party room made for another successful NEIHC Thorrablot.



NEIHC President, Brian Puntin posing as a Viking boy.

a nice story about earlier times in Iceland from the point of view of the horse.

On Easter weekend, Thor Icelandics hosted some NEIHC members as well as some FIRC members who traveled north for riding and socializing, and a pace lesson as well for Jill Gates on her palomino, Dagfari. The facilities and hospitality were stellar and there was an abundance of horse talk and laughter when not out riding on the trails.

Upcoming events include:

June 13: Catskill Clip group ride followed by a BBQ on Saturday evening and another ride on Sunday at Heleen Heyning's West Wind Farm in Delhi, NY.

June 27-28 is the FEIF World Ranking Competition at Silver Maple Farm in Tunbridge VT. This is a USIHC sanctioned competition.

A youth camp is planned for July. Possibly at Bel-Di Icelandics.

Sept. 18-20: NEIHC Breeding Evaluations. Site to be determined. A young horse evaluation will be held on the first day.

Sept. 26-27: Riding clinic with Gudmar Petursson, West Wind Farm, Delhi, NY. The clinic will be held in the indoor arena, and plentiful trail riding is available across the beautiful Catskill countryside.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Hart writes: We've had a very eventful year so far...On our annual picnic ride in Rancho Santa Fe, we rode around the golf course, through Ewing Preserve, and on a ridge above the golf course where we could see all the ground

we had covered. We had a catered luncheon, rested, and rode on. It was a sunny but cool 67 degrees, perfect for us and our horses!

We lost one of our members this year to inflammatory breast cancer. It is rare and is one of the most undiagnosed diseases. Please learn about this disease to protect yourself and the ones you love. Sherry Fabrizio had participated in our club for many years. She had attended campouts, been in parades, participated in Night of the Horse in Del Mar, and had her daughter Safari show her horse in Burbank and in Del Mar. Sherry was an inspiration to horsewomen worldwide, riding in the Great American Horse Race as a teenager and traveling to Europe to ride. She competed for years in endurance until she found Icelandics and brought them to the attention of many of her friends. She loved to play dress-up more than anyone I know and excelled at costuming. We will dearly miss her. Goodbye, Sherry. Safari will be attending the FEIF Youth Camp and we look forward to a full report from her about her adventures.

Two of our members competed in the most recent show at Valhalla Icelandics in Los Angeles. Kathy Oxford took Eagle, and Benjie Walker rode Dalla. They are both novices in the show ring and were impressed by the judge and the helpfulness of other attendees. We will continue to encourage showing.

Our next event is a campout in Julian. Come play with us! Kimberly Hart: 858-472-1626.



Southern California Icelandic Riders top the hill at their annual picnic ride in Rancho Santa Fe. CA.

CROSSING THE CANYON

STORY BY LISA LEEPER AND PHOTOS BY THOMAS LEEPER



One of many steep switchbacks on the trail where Lisa walks Svali for safety.

Two years ago, Lisa Leeper and her trusty gelding Svali frá Hnausm (US1993102680) took their first ride together into the Grand Canyon. That adventure, a ride to the Havasupai Reservation, proved to be a “practice” ride for this much more challenging trek, one that Lisa had dreamed of and planned for many years.

On October 10, 2008, Svali and I crossed the Grand Canyon from the south rim to the north. The trip took three days, two nights, and lots of fortitude. Folks, don't try this on a whim!

After two years of trying to get the permit, and one postponement, we finally got permission from Grand Canyon National Park on Memorial Day Weekend, 2008. A week before that date, the southwest U.S. was hit by a massive wet front. The park called to say that the North Rim trail had experienced massive flooding, washing out bridges on the trail and collapsing the tunnel slightly below the rim. The trail was closed to all traffic, including Grand Canyon Concessionaire mules. Needless to say, we were disappointed. We had our trail food, and our certified weed-free hay pellets ready. And we were to meet reporters from a major magazine at the north rim for an article about the trip. It all had to be cancelled.

However, the park said we could go any time we wanted after the trail was reopened. Knowing that the temperatures in October were ideal for our trip, we opted to make the ride during my fall break from school. And so, once again, Svali and I began conditioning with extra weight at a walk on lots of steep hills and slick rock.

On October 9, having pre-packed as much as possible, we left for the canyon. Luckily for us, it is only four hours away. We arrived in the afternoon and were met immediately by the horse-camp host. The camp itself is located at the south rim in the park service residential area. It is a short walk to the rim overlook, the restaurants, and tourist shops. It has six pens, water, shade, easy pull-through for trailers, and a fire pit. There was one other couple there with their quarterhorses. The camp host gave us the "third degree" as to how I was going to make the journey. His concern was alarming, because the other couple had just sent their companions and horses to a vet in Flagstaff. Though they had only gone halfway down the canyon, they had turned it into a one-day journey, crossing the upper plateau to another trail coming up. The horses sent to Flagstaff did not make it. They died due to extreme dehydration and muscle stress.

Our plan was to ride to the bottom of the canyon the first day. This is approximately 12 miles to Phantom Ranch and the campground. My older son, Thomas would walk the trail with me, taking pictures. There we would spend the night and continue on across the bottom of the canyon on a gradual upward grade to Cottonwood Campground at the bot-

tom of the north rim trail. My husband and other son would then have time to trailer the 200+ miles to the north rim, hike down, and meet us at Cottonwood. We would then all travel the last 12 miles together.

FIRST HORSE TO CROSS

That night at the horse-camp, the balmy 50-degree temperatures dropped to 20 degrees. The next morning, packing Svali was a very cold chore. After some minor adjustments to the packs, we walked to the trail which leaves from the main tourist area. Next to the trail-head is the Concessionaire Mule Ring. There were approximately 30 mules there, saddled and being selected for that day's tourist ride to Angel Creek Ranch at the bottom of the canyon. The mule skippers stopped what they were doing and came to watch me mount my steady steed with the huge pack on this back. One of the skippers said he would check on us when we got to the bottom ... if we got to the bottom. And so, twice forewarned, we set off.

Day One: The tone was set within a half mile. Above us on the first switchback stood several bighorn sheep. They startled Svali and scattered debris on our heads. For the rest of the trip, Svali was leery of anything above us on switchbacks.



Not as high as the Colorado River Bridge, but just as open and scary.

The trail was steep and rocky. Although he never stumbled, I realized the combined weight of the pack and me was too much for many of the steeper sections. I ended up walking at least half the day. We were greeted by many folks coming up, and almost everyone that had hiked the canyon before had never seen a horse on the trail. At about 10:00 a.m. we reached Indian Gardens, the halfway point down. We stopped for a half-hour break and water. The mule train passed us. Two hours later, we reached the Colorado River and began the journey past the “people” bridge to the “mule” bridge, about one and a half miles further up and over a ridge. This bridge was built to accommodate the mule trains carrying passengers over the Colorado River to Phantom Ranch. The bridge is what keeps most horses from making the journey. The bridge is accessed via a tunnel through rock. It is an open suspension bridge about 100 feet over the water. There is a two-foot plank wooden walkway in the middle, designed to allow the mules to walk across. The rest of the bridge is very simple—a metal grid on either side. It is safe enough for people, but would be difficult on hooves. Although there are handrails all the way across, it is open and it would be easy to fall through from a horse. I was determined to ride this. With little hesitation, although some head shaking, Svali stepped onto the bridge and walked with me on his back across the Colorado. When we reached the other side, I could feel him heave a sigh and relax. We walked into Phantom Ranch and made camp at the lovely horse camp there.

The horse camp is designed for large groups. It has a trough, running water, a hitching post, and several tables. The camping area is flat and designed for several tents. It is rarely occupied and it was delightful. The mule skinner checked in with us and gave Svali a thorough exam. He had never seen an Icelandic horse and was very impressed. He said, “He’s built like a damn donkey!” My son, Thomas, and I had a great dinner that evening, cooked on my camp stove. You are not allowed to leave your horse alone, so we took turns going to the ranch to look at souvenirs and use the flush toilets there. The next morning we woke to find our space occupied by several mule deer.



At 7:00 am, Svali and Lisa begin the trek to the North Rim, seen in the distance.

I went to feed Svali, and he moved over to allow the deer to eat with him. What a guy! The mule skinner brought me hot coffee from his cabin. Life was good. We repacked and left for our second leg through a gorge and rolling terrain to Cottonwood Campground. I carried a cup of coffee in my hand, which was a source of amusement for several hikers.

Day Two: The gorge trail is narrow and the drop to Angel Creek sheer and steep. No switchbacks, though. We stopped several times for water and breaks. Svali felt so good, he broke into a tolt many times. We finally reached one of the bridges that had been washed out. It was still not completely repaired and it was a bit shaky going across. We saw a big-horn sheep dead in the water, a victim of the earlier flood. We met a park ranger, who had never seen a horse on that part of the trail. She said they were looking forward to meeting me on the top. The day was beautiful and the ride fairly easy compared to the day before. We passed beautiful landscape and waterfalls. We also heard that it had dropped to only 15 degrees the night before at the north rim and several folks notified us that my husband and son, Vincent, were on their way and looking for us. We met them about two miles from our camp. Upon reaching Cottonwood, we made camp, and Svali was able to have the entire park

service mule corral to himself—again with running water. He rolled and rolled. We washed up in the creek, had our dinner, and slept well.

Day Three: With no hay pellets left in his pack, Svali’s load was much lighter. He had hay waiting at the top. We began the very steep climb out. It is about eight miles out from that point and climbs about two vertical miles. When we reached Roaring Springs, I told my older son that he had been there before. The last time I had been at the north rim, I had taken a mule train down to Roaring Springs, pregnant with him. He wasn’t impressed.

We stopped a lot, I walked a lot. At one point the trail was simply a three-foot narrow piece of slick rock with an overhang of rock that scraped my head as we went through. I dismounted and led him. I felt that it might be wiser to lose the horse, rather than both of us, if he should slip. He never did, but I felt safer anyway. About one mile below the rim, we started to see frozen waterfalls. The day was tough and steep, and there were a few times when I felt that perhaps it was too much for Svali. We took it two switchbacks at a time and rested. We made the tunnel that had collapsed and rested at the turn-around for many of the mule trips. Several European tourists took pictures of “the pony.” One quarter of a mile later we

encountered our first mule train on the trail. The rules are that the lower equine party must backtrack to a point where they can get off the trail, so that the mule train can pass. This is because they are carrying non-riders and have liability issues should the mules spook at the sight of “the horse.” Knowing that it’s usually the horse that spooks at the sight of a donkey or mule, I found this funny. We turned around and waited. And then we were at the top.

We rode to the ranger station and were greeted by the rangers, who said they had been waiting for us. They informed us that Svali was the first horse to have made the journey in the manner we had. Others have gone to the bottom from the north or from the south, and mules have made the crossing, usually ponying pack animals, but none had both carried the pack and their rider at the same time. We were given a beautiful camp spot with a corral near the mule stables. Svali was beside himself getting out of his tack. It was cold and he welcomed the blanket I had packed for just that emergency. Again, there was running water—but it had frozen the night before and once the ranger got it running, we were told to leave it running, so that it would not freeze up again. The temperatures were to drop to the low teens that night. Because the camp is behind



Svali looking a bit worn after the second full day crossing the canyon.

a locked gate, we were able to leave Svali at camp and go to the North Rim Lodge (about five miles away) to have a hot toddy and watch the sunset. We cooked steaks at camp over a roaring fire and went to bed early. We were exhausted. Svali and I had completed one more to-do on my “bucket list.”

WOULD I DO IT AGAIN?

This is the complete list of what Svali carried: Icelandic saddle, heavy duty saddle blanket, crupper, breast plate, bridle/halter with reins that also served as his lead rope, me at 115 pounds, a front and rear three-day pack. The packs contained: 60 lbs. of certified weed-free hay pellets, a slicker, sleeping bag, bivy sack, camp stove, camp food for six meals, snacks for Svali and me, a collapsible water bucket, a feed bag, medical supplies for both horse and rider, two easy boots, a gun (should he have had to be put down—the cost of transporting out an injured horse is astronomical), camera, paper goods for our dinners, an extra change of clothes, a parka, chap stick, fly wipes, currycomb and brush, sunscreen, a coffee mug, and my one vice, a large flask of rum. Thomas carried his own supplies. I slept using the horse blankets as my pad under the sleeping bag.

If anyone is interested, I would be happy to help with the planning and packing. However, be warned, this is not for the faint of heart. You must be a wise

horseperson, as well as an experienced backpacker. The dangers are not only the trail, but the people on the trail. Many people did not have a clue as to what to do when they saw us coming. Many children grabbed at him as we went by. Some screamed, some cursed, some asked silly questions. And perhaps the last warning: The park asked that an article NOT be written by a major equine publication. They are afraid that too many people will try this and not be successful. It is a serious undertaking to rescue an equine and rider from the canyon. Little known fact: Several concessionaire mules are lost to the canyon every year.

Would I do it again? NO! It was hard on Svali, and he has saddle marks to prove it. We had discussed riding our other Icelandic down as well, but he was not in as good shape as Svali, and my son weighs more than I do. I truly believe if we had taken the second horse, he would not have made it, and we could have killed him.

However, Svali and I will be riding the canyon again this spring. We are going to make a one-day trip down and out. There are several trails with water that do not go to the bottom and provide beautiful vistas. We will not take a pack and we know what to expect. No permits are required for day rides.

Please feel free to contact me at leepsite@hughes.net if you are interested in knowing more.



Another of the many North Rim bridges.

PLEASURE RIDER PROGRAM 2008 RECAP AND 2009 UPDATE

BY KAREN OLSON-FIELDS, PRP DIRECTOR

The 2008 Pleasure Riding Program included 54 USIHC members and represented 11 Regional Clubs.

Over a wide variety of trails and terrain, parades, demonstrations and clinics, PRP riders helped to promote the USIHC and the horses we love. At the year's end, we had many happy riders and winners! Congratulations to all for another great year of pleasure riding!

The 2008 PRP was organized into three regions: Eastern, Western, and Central Mountain. Each region included an Adult and Junior division. Prizes included 1st-place riding jackets, which were sponsored by Kerrits. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were engraved and awarded to 1st- through 3rd-place winners in each division/region. The Regional Club that accumulated the most PRP members was Flugnir. They were awarded caps embroidered with the USIHC logo. A new award, the 2,500-hour award, was put in place.

Tolt News sponsored a one-year subscription for each new 2,500-hour winner. Raven Flores stands out as the first to reach the 2,500-hour achievement. Nine PRP



Elizabeth Haartz and Hrokur.

Walter Davis



Kari Wangard with horses Ofeigur and Hildi.

members achieved the 1,000-hour mark and received a 1,000-hour patch. They also received either a Kerrits or Ariat riding vest. (See some of their stories below.)

Look out for this year's PRP! So far, 80 USIHC members have enrolled for 2009! PRP enrollment is now available online and the 2009 logs are shorter and easier to fill out. New divisions have been put into place to accommodate the growing and evolving program. There is now an "All-star" Division for those who have won multiple first-place awards. The junior division is now one (combined) region, and all junior members will be awarded a national ranking and prize. Lastly, an award will be given to the PRP member who has contributed the most time involved in community service.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the PRP: the USIHC Board, our members, the PRP committee, and our sponsors!

1,000 HOURS OF FUN!

When PRP members have logged 1,000 hours in the saddle, they win a 1,000-hour patch and a riding vest. Read how some of the 2008 winners reached this milestone.

ANDREA BARBER, NEW YORK

It sounds very cliché, but riding my 1,000 hours was nothing short of a pleasure! I can't think of anything easier or more fun than simply getting out there and spending time with my horses. And of course one of the greatest things about Icelandics is how versatile they are. In addition to the always fun trail riding, my horses and I have participated in traditional Icelandic shows, breed demos, clinics of every topic and kind, hunter paces, trail trials, gymkhanas, and the list goes on. Whenever I see something that looks like fun, we give it a go. That keeps life interesting for me and for the horses.

2008 PLEASURE RIDER PROGRAM RESULTS

ADULT - WEST

1st place:	Heather Skopik	805
2nd place:	Morgan Venable	516
3rd place:	Lisa McKeen	393

JUNIOR - WEST

1st place:	Alexandra Venable	631
2nd place:	Callie Rich	33

ADULT - EAST

1st place:	Anne Owen	922
2nd place:	Nancy Wines-DeWan	535
3rd place:	Nicola Esdorn	509

JUNIOR - EAST

1st place:	Caleigh Anderson	431
2nd place:	Megan Milloy	336

ADULT - CENTRAL/MOUNTAIN

1st place:	Raven Flores	995
2nd place:	Gloria Verrecchio	523
3rd place:	Kari Pietsch-Wangard	449

JUNIOR - CENTRAL/MOUNTAIN

1st place:	Kevin Draeger	621
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2,500-HOUR WINNERS

Raven Flores

1,000-HOUR PATCH/ VEST WINNERS

Debbie Cook
Elizabeth Haartz
Sandie Weaver
Alexandra Venable
Morgan Venable
Andrea Barber
Kevin Draeger
Kari Pietsch-Wangard
Nicola Esdorn

500-HOUR PATCH WINNERS

Kevin Draeger
Kristin Houser
Rich Moore
Anne Owen
Kydee Sheetz
Heather Skopik
Judy Slayton
Kristin Sjolie
Mary Lamoureux
Ashley Gallant

100-HOUR PATCH WINNERS

Lori Birge
Karen Olson-Fields
Donna Nussdorfer
Anne Owen
Dawn Shaw
Heather Skopik
Jan Grey

REGIONAL CLUB RESULTS

1st place:	Flugnir
2nd place:	NEIHC
3rd place:	Kraftur, LAIHC

Participating in the USIHC Pleasure Riding Program has only added to the experience. The logs I have created over the years, which admittedly seemed a chore at first, have become valuable training tools for me. It's also fun to look back on my older logs now and see all the things I have accomplished with my horses. 1,000 hours really seems like only the beginning. I am eager and looking forward to lots more!

KEVIN DRAEGER, MINNESOTA

Icelandic horses have given me lots of great experiences and adventures. I have traveled to many places for competitions, expos, and clinics. I have gone from Minnesota to Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Kansas, and Virginia. I have traveled by train, plane, and automobile.

Icelandic horses have introduced me to lots of great people, who have helped me along my journey. They have given me a countless amount of fun times. I am always looking forward to the next big event, and in between events I am trying to ride every day. I enjoy doing many activities with the Icelandic horses including competition, trail riding, parades, demos, clinics, lessons, skijoring, riding on the frozen lake, jumping, bareback riding, camping, an attempt at vaulting, geocaching, and swimming in the river.

All of these fun activities are how I reached the 1,000 hours milestone. I just had fun, and wrote it down in my log sheets. Now, I look forward to all the fun in the future. I look forward to seeing new places and having new adventures. I look forward to better rides, and meeting new people. I hope to see Iceland, always learn new things, go to the FEIF Youth Cup in 2010, and always improve my scores in competition. Adventures are ahead!

ELIZABETH "BETZ" HAARTZ, VERMONT

The horses I've logged hours with in the PRP over the past ten years are: Hrokur fra Hrafnholum, Kjalarnesi, Stigur fra Storadal, Efstur fra Icelandic Magic, and Andvari from North Salem.

The Pleasure Rider Program began in August 1999, and I signed right up. I logged 38 hours that year, earning 3rd place for the Eastern Region! Since



Andrea Barber riding Víkingur frá Götu.

then I've been in an annual race with my husband for last place (least hours earned)! We only ride from March through November, so we have to start our horses slowly in the spring. I have logged as many as 144 hours; 100 is my annual target. It's taken ten years to earn 1,000 hours.

Four horses have contributed the majority of time to this award. Hrokur has done the most, taking me on New England Horse & Trail rides (in MA), Horse Power Therapeutic Riding (in NH), fundraising rides and Centered Riding clinics, trail rides and group lessons with Green Mountain Horse Association (VT) and Hartland (VT) Riding Club, and private dressage lessons. And, of course, hours of just plain fun pleasure riding with my husband, Walter Davis, and his horses, Andvari and Efstur. His horses have also contributed to my hours as I help Walter keep them fit.

Hrokur is now retired, so I mostly ride Stigur, who's taken me on Hartland Riding Club and Green Mountain Horse Association pleasure rides and group lessons, dressage lessons, cub hunting with North Country Hounds, and local parades. I also practice throwing a five-foot spear with an atlatl while riding Stigur.



Kevin Draeger and three buddies.

ESTABLISHING AN ICELANDIC HORSE BUSINESS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY THORUNN KRISTJANSDDOTTIR

A number of fateful events brought about the creation of Thor Icelandic. The primary one was finding the property in Claverack, New York that is now home to the farm. After being in the United States for almost 20 years, Kristjan Kristjansson and his wife Johanna searched for a property to begin their own horse farm.

For those of you who don't know Kristjan or his family, the Icelandic horse is their pride and joy. Kristjan and Johanna were both raised where horses were a part of their everyday life. They raised their children, Thorunn (I'm the one writing this account) and Fridrik the same way, placing them on horseback when both were only a few weeks old. Kristjan and Johanna moved their family to the United States in 1989 to help promote the Icelandic horse. When Kristjan arrived, he was one of Iceland's foremost trainers, competitors, showmen, and breeders.

Kristjan had five main criteria in searching for his property: that it face west so that it have a sunset, that there be running water through it, that it have a view, that it have flat areas, and that it have a certain amount of privacy. He found all of this, and then some, on the 70-acre property on Catskill View Road.

In June of 2006, Johanna and Kristjan bought the property, which was neglected and overgrown. There were three large fields making up about 70% of the property, wooded areas making up the rest, two streams, a gravel bank, and a hill with a breathtaking view of the Catskill Mountains. There was no electric, no water, no infrastructure, no fencing. But from day one, Kristjan envisioned his farm.

The first year was spent clearing. The edges of the fields had been overtaken by the woods; they were all cut back. Old



Kristjan working with a completely green four-year-old mare.

trees and vines were removed. Trail creation began. The fields were all mowed—for the first time in years. Before the fields were mowed, Fridrik and Johanna jumped into one of the fields and disappeared! Fridrik is over six feet tall, but the overgrown fields engulfed him completely. After mowing the fields, Kristjan disked and re-seeded two of the fields, while the top field was fertilized.

2007 was a busy year for the family. A family decision was made as to the location of the barn. This was a key decision. The barn was to be placed in the old gravel bank. The reason: The barn wouldn't sit smack-dab-in-the-middle of one of the fields and block the neighbors' view. Also, placing the barn in the gravel bank would close the eye-sore that gravel banks can be. But Kristjan loved the gravel bank. It allowed him to use his own gravel for trails, drainage, and whatever else he needed it for, instead of shipping it in. Also, it meant that there was great drainage in that area, for both the barn

and corrals around the barn.

Next, with the help of Kristjan's brother Hjalti, electric and water were brought to the farm. At the height of this endeavor, there were over 2,000 feet of open ditches. They fenced in the "long field," which occupies about 20 acres, built a run-in shed in that field, and finally moved their horses to the farm.

Numerous trails were created in 2007 as well. Kristjan and a good friend took the Kubota tractor and bulldozer into the woods, sometimes working until nightfall, creating trails. The rest of the family thought he was crazy at times, cutting trails in the forest. But Kristjan knew exactly what he was doing. And before they knew it, there were fantastic riding trails all over the property.

In December, he built the competition track. The track consists of a 250-meter straightaway and a 250-meter oval on the straightaway. Kristjan wanted a track so that he could use it to train horses for competitions, breed evalua-

tions, daily workouts, for fun, as well as to hold sanctioned competitions and shows, if he so desired. At the time of this writing, he is in the process of putting on the track's top layer of stone dust. He then has it on his to-do list to put in a corral in the center of the oval. He wants to be able to use that space for working horses for daily workouts and dressage exercises, as well as a location for teaching clinics and giving clients lessons.

In February of 2008, Kristjan and Johanna raised the barn. This was not the first time that Kristjan had built a horse barn. He built his first one at age 13 in Iceland. But after building a couple of barns, as well as other structures, and after spending 40+ years in the horse industry, he knew exactly what type of barn he wanted.

The barn was completed in the beginning of October, and its construction was a true family effort. The entire family worked full-time jobs, and built the barn at night and on weekends. The end result: a 48 x 80 foot barn, with 12 stalls, an office, tack room, bathroom, storage, and on the second floor, a hayloft and storage area. Each of the stalls is 10 x 12 feet, except for one stall, which is 12 x 12. There are eight stalls on the left side of the barn, and four on the right. The four stalls are built differently from the others, because Kristjan wanted the four stalls to be more open, so that the horses could interact freely with the people in the barn. These four stalls were also meant to be used for trained horses and the family's own horses.

The eight stalls on the left have taller walls separating them, which include bars, and they are more box-like. Kristjan built the stalls in this manner so that untrained horses and stallions would be safe and contained. The tops of the sliding doors open, so that the horses can stick their heads out to interact.

The inside of the barn has one-and-a-half-inch-thick hemlock siding, a strong wood that horses don't chew. Kristjan put aluminum on the inside edges of the stalls to prevent the horses from chewing, too. Eight of the stalls have doors directly leading into outside corrals, and there are a total of 19 windows on the first floor of the barn, where every stall has a window. Some might think that this was excessive, but it was very important to Kristjan. He

wanted a bright and open barn, with plenty of light and high ceilings. The ceiling is composed of white steel, which helps reflect light. He feels that having a bright and open barn is important not only for obvious reasons, but it also has to do with making the horses happy. And having happy horses was one of his main goals in how he constructed his entire farm: from the layout, to the barn, to the corrals, to the trails, and every detail in between.

Around the barn, Kristjan built five large corrals, ranging in size from a quarter acre to an acre-plus. One of these corrals is his riding corral, which is 20 x 50 meters. In the middle of that corral, Kristjan has a 12-meter training ring.

In early October of 2008, the first horses set hoof inside the barn, and from that day the Kristjansson family officially opened Thor Icelandics for business! However, it is a farm, and so there is never-ending work to be done. Kristjan, being a perfectionist, is constantly working on the infrastructure that is in place, and he has a very extensive to-do list, which he is chipping away at. On that to-do-list: fencing more fields, building another run-in shed, creating a 20-meter oval corral, creating more trails, extending the barn to add more stalls. And then, someday soon, building his house at the farm.

And let's not forget that in addition to all this farm work, Kristjan is also training horses all day, every day. At the time of this writing, he has a full barn of horses, both customers' horses and the family's own horses. These horses' train-

ing needs range from being completely green, to simply needing a little tune-up, to horses that are being trained for competitions and breed evaluations.

On a typical day, Kristjan works about 10 horses. The workout differs with every horse, and is determined by where the horse is in the training and what the desired end result is. He uses his riding corral and ring quite a bit, as well as taking the horses out on his trails. The family helps him with the horses, both with general care, as well as riding. This is truly a family operation.

Right now there is a lot going on at the farm. We are expecting three foals this spring, two of which are Stigandi fra Leysingjastodum offspring. The first foal born at the farm, Mjólnir, born in 2008, will turn one, and three of the three-year-old "bad boys" (two geldings, one stallion) will begin getting some basic groundwork training.

When Kristjan and his family are asked what their goals are with their horses and farm, they answer that it is to keep promoting the Icelandic horse, to train (both their own horses as well as clients' horses), and to keep breeding great horses. Breeding is one of the cornerstones of their operation, and it has been for over four generations. Some of the family's horses are the descendants of Kristjan's grandfather's and father's breeding.

The Kristjansson family met Sam Castleman when he and his family first got into Icelandic horses. Since then, Sam has become not only a customer, but a



Photo taken in early spring, from the oval on the track, looking back toward the barn. To the left, the end of the track's straight-away. Middle, one of the fields with a run-in shed, and the three 3-year-old boys, who are pictured to the right. Middle back, the barn and corrals.

dear friend of the family. He had this to say, “My mother and I have been involved with Icelandic horses for only a brief five years, however it was our good fortune very early on to meet Kristjan, Johanna, Thorunn, and Fridrik—a genuine horse-centric Icelandic family. The horse-love of my mother’s life is Hrifandi, a gelding bred, owned, and previously trained by Kristjan’s father.

“In October 2008, I brought two horses 350 miles north from Maryland to Thor Icelandics for training with Kristjan. I am convinced that only an Icelandic family ancestrally tied to their native horse could have envisioned, let alone built themselves, a space so perfect for the training and breeding of Icelandic horses. For every question I asked Kristjan about design or functionality, the core answer was always the same: ‘It is this way for the well-being of our horses,’ meaning all horses at Thor Icelandics, both those owned by the family and its customers.’” Every aspect of the infrastructure and daily operation of Thor Icelandics targets each horse’s emotional needs and so prepares them for a solid learning experience.

“What strikes me most deeply about



Inside the barn, looking from back to front. The open stalls are on the left, the closed-off ones to the right. Kristjan in the aisle with List, a mare from his breeding.

my experiences at Thor Icelandics,” Sam continues, “is: 1) the operation is first and foremost dedicated to the health of the horses—mental, physical, and emotional; 2) success thus far and into the future is clearly routed in this being a family affair; and 3) the pure joy and enthusiasm expressed by trainer and family for the breed and a

desire to promote in the United States the traits of the most talented Icelandic horses.”

Contact:

For more information, go to www.thorice-landics.com. To see more pictures of the farm, go to <http://thorundesigns.smugmug.com> and click on “Thor Icelandics.”



The Kristjansson family in front of their barn. From left to right: Fridrik, Thorunn, Johanna and Kristjan. All of the horses are from the family’s breeding.

THE HORSE WITH THE HOLE IN HIS NECK

STORY BY ALYS CULHANE AND
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NANCY WINES-DEWAN

In November 2007 I noticed that Sigggi, our three-year-old Icelandic gelding, had a half-dollar-sized bite at the shoulder/neckline. I paid little attention to this supposedly minor wound because our older gelding, Tinni, was suffering from what turned out to be pneumonia. Our veterinarian, Dr. Sandi Farris, did a farm call and put Tinni on antibiotics. As an aside, I asked her if she'd take a look at Sigggi. Her concerned expression indicated that the area in question needed immediate attention. Dr. Farris instructed me to clean the wound once or twice daily with Betadine, put antibiotic cream on it, and keep her informed as to how it was coming along.

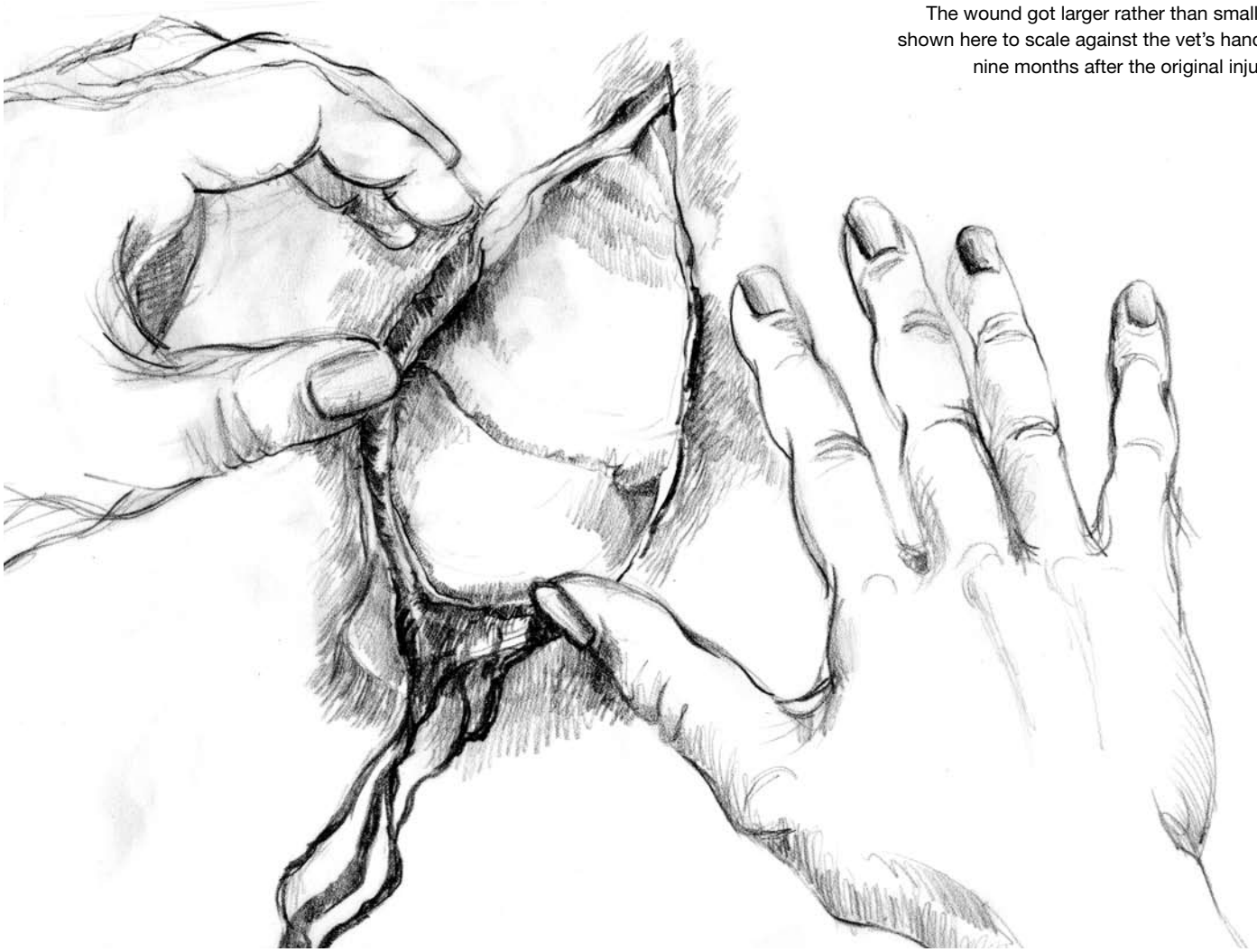
Little did Pete (my husband) or I know that it would take a year for the above-mentioned wound to heal. The clichéd expression is that every cloud has a silver lining. If there was one here, it was that we became more knowledgeable about wound healing and physiology. Of course, we, like most people, hope that our horses stay healthy and injury free. But should something like this happen again, we'll better know how to deal with it.

We presumed that Sigggi would have a speedy recovery, and that second intention healing would soon take place. This is wound healing minus surgical closure. In such instances, the wound "granulates in," or closes by contraction and fills with tissue. The problem with second intention wounds is that they're open, prone to infection, and more granulation tissue is needed to close the wound than say, first intention wounds. The timing of the appearance of various wound types is the same in both cases; however, second intention healing takes longer because the wound area is larger. Another drawback is that the body must close the second intention gap with connective tissue. This can be problematic since fibroblasts (fixed cells involved in the development of connective tissue) can't cover the



Pete, Alys's husband, checking out Sigggi's wound. It would take over a year to heal.

The wound got larger rather than smaller, shown here to scale against the vet's hands, nine months after the original injury.



entire area. So some become myofibroblasts and act with other myofibroblasts to fill the wound, thus bringing the margins together and facilitating healing. (Colville and Bassert, 2008, p.493).

WEEPY, OOZY, PUSSY...

We were overly optimistic. The wound couldn't be bandaged and was just above the shoulder blanket line. Alaska winters are cold, and this one was no exception. The bite scabbed over, but come spring, it opened up and exuded pus. Pete surmised that it had been frostbitten. I noticed that five inches of surrounding skin had detached itself from the muscle, creating an inner pocket that would have been large enough to hold a set of car keys. Dr. Farris suggested that I begin flushing out the pocket with Betadine solution. This is where Pete stepped in.

Pete, seeing my hands were full with horse chores and a home-based, manual

composting operation (see the article in Issue Two 2008 of the *Quarterly*), tended to Sigg's wound. His routine (which was okayed by Dr. Farris) went like this: He laid out his tools on a piece of plywood, which he placed on a barrel. These consisted of a syringe with a 6" piece of 3/8 tubing attached to it, sterile gauze pads, gloves, Q-Tips, and 1% Silver Sulfadiazine cream. After arranging all on a clean paper towel, he tied Sigg to our horse trailer, which had been washed down previous to setting up shop.

Pete first used the gauze pads to clean around the outside of the wound, working from the wound outward. He then used the syringe to flush out the underlying area. (This worked well since it allowed him to flush far under the skin surface). Once the site had been flushed, he packed it with Sulfadiazine. There was, by now, some duress involved. Sigg's having to be treated on a thrice-daily basis meant that we had to abandon our sum-

mer vacation plans.

This upset Pete, who in July had planned on doing a sea kayaking trip in Prince William Sound. I was more troubled by the expectation/value equation. We'd known for some time that Sigg has questionable leg conformation, and in time, at best could be used for light riding. So, it went without saying that we were sinking money into an animal with lawn ornament status. Pete was okay with this, because he isn't a rider. We each dealt with our feelings of dismay about Sigg's situation by focusing on the positive when the other seemed down. This was made easier by the fact that Sigg is an endearing sort who, when he was a scrawny, underweight yearling, convinced us that his welfare should be a top priority. And so, our breakfast, lunch, and dinnertime conversations often began with one of us asking, "How's Sigg's doing?" The other usually responded with a detailed description of his condition. The

wound was (take your pick) weepy, oozy, pussy, slimy, gooky, and (my favorite) gunky. The good news was that Siggi grew used to Pete's poking and prodding. The bad news was that he remained what a neighbor called "the horse with the hole in his neck."

Dr. Farris repeatedly commended Pete for being so diligent with wound cleaning. But when late summer rolled around, she too agreed that the healing process had ground to a standstill. She pointed out that the area between the skin and muscle probably contained fibrous tissue, and that she'd need to go in and take a look around. None of us figured that this would be any big deal. In fact, we all thought it best to do this prior to the castration of our two young goats. The procedure ended up taking close to three hours, which was far longer than any of us anticipated.

SURGERY

Dr. Farris prepped for surgery by cleaning the wound and surrounding area with Betadine, and sedating Siggi with Dormosedan IV (.04 cc's). Pete and I assisted by supplying her with paper towels and clean warm water. Siggi was soon standing head down, eyes half open. With scapel in gloved hand, she cut away the skin. The underlying fibrous material looked like overcooked roast beef. It was obvious why healing had not taken place—there was no way in which skin could adhere to it. When cleaned, the opening was approximately six inches around, red, and bloody. "Healthy tissue," Dr. Farris said. Healthy or not, I felt light-headed. I could handle looking at pictures of text-based surgical procedures, and suspected that I would not have a problem being around other animals that were undergoing surgery, but this was different. This was the horse that I'd been with since his birth. I helped him get up and nurse.

Dr. Farris cleaned around the wound with fresh scalpels, then sewed the area shut using size 0 suture (internal dissolving) and size 0 monofilament (external). Done, she stressed that what we were now dealing with a laceration rather than an open wound. Defined, a laceration is a slice, cut, or tear through the thickness of the skin, revealing such structures as fat, muscle, tendon, or bones underneath.

Siggi was put in his own enclosure.

My list of horse chores now included spreading hay over the pen's sand base, and removing manure four times daily. Pete took to his now less time-consuming task; cleaning the lacerated area with 2% chlorhexidine solution and applying Fura-Septin. We continued to keep in close touch with Dr. Farris. We sent her twice-weekly digital images via email of Siggi's wound, and Pete and I talked to her in person on Monday evenings, before her weekly animal anatomy and physiology course. The healing went slowly, so she suggested that we put him on oral antibiotics. This failed to do much good, so she next suggested that we give him Penicillin. Pete relayed this last bit of information to me, after talking to Dr. Farris on the phone. He added that we'd need to give him seven intermuscular injections.

"You've got to be kidding!" I said.

"I'm not kidding!" Pete replied.

"But I can't give injections!"

"Dr. Farris said that you've taken both her vet tech classes, so you know how to do this."

"We didn't have any labs. Why can't she come out here and do this?"

"You know why. She lives in Willow, which is 50 miles from here. The injection cost

along with the farm visit cost would be \$100.00 a pop. We can't afford to pay her \$700.00."

"All right. I'll hold Siggi and you can give the injection."

"Why me?"

"Because Siggi **LIKES** you. You're his man."

"He belongs to both of us," Pete said hotly.

We bickered for the next two hours, as we first went to pick up the medication and syringes, and then made our way down to the barn. I won. I always do. Siggi let Pete give him the one injection, but not another. The next day, Siggi decided he'd had enough, and in his haste to get away from Pete, bowled me over. We called Dr. Farris who suggested that we build a set of stocks. Pete, who likes to build, considered this option, but then decided that he didn't have the time. Dr. Farris agreed to do yet another farm visit. I could tell by her set jaw and noncommittal attitude that she was even more frustrated by Siggi's inability to heal than we were. This time she showed us both how to give an injection. But in all fairness to Siggi, we all realized that the 20-gauge needle was not to his liking. He did much better when we used the smaller, 22-gauge needle.



Siggi, hiding the "hole in his neck" behind his two paddock-mates.

READING UP

I was taking Dr. Farris's animal anatomy and physiology course. Since it had applicability to our current situation, I read up on wound healing. My two main sources were McCurnin and Bassert's *Clinical Textbook for Veterinarians* (2006) and Colville and Bassert's (2008) *Clinical Anatomy and Physiology*. I also scrutinized the material in several veterinary related websites, and interlibrary loaned journal articles that contained equine wound-related readings.

We were counting on first intention healing, or healing that occurs in surgical wounds that have been closed with a sterile suture. First intention wounds are clean, so the inflammation doesn't involve infection. Within 24 hours, neutrophils (granulocytic white blood cells) infiltrate the infected area and begin phagocytosis (the ingestion of microorganisms by phagocytic cells, neutrophils, monocytes, and macrophages). This wipes out bacteria and foreign bodies. New blood vessels provide nutrients for the migrating fibroblasts and scaffolding for tissue repair. This healing stage sets the stage for repair and lasts approximately 48-72 hours. New epithelium is usually visible on a wound in 4-5 days. In a sutured wound, epithelialization (skin growth) can occur as early as 24-48 hours after surgery. The normal epithelial cells at the wound's edge produce new cells that migrate across the granulation tissue. The wound is held together by sutures and a thin layer of fibrin. After three days, fibroblasts appear. They provide the connective tissue that's necessary for wound repair. The wound is filled in by new granulation tissue, or blood vessels, and collagen. Granulation tissue, which is bright pink and glossy, is mainly comprised of thin blood vessels and thin sheets of connective tissue. The granulation tissue eventually keratinizes (makes keratin, a tough waterproof protein inside the epithelial cells of the skin) and toughens. It also loses its bright pink color and begins to resemble the surrounding normal tissue. There may be scarring, or obvious connective tissue. Inflammation should disappear in two weeks' time.

Yes, yes, and yes, phagocytosis, epithelialization, and keratinization were taking place. But collagen remodeling? I didn't think so. I remarked to Pete that the edges of the wound weren't coming

together. Then there were further complications. Three weeks after Siggie's surgery, I let all three horses out of the two enclosures, so that a neighbor could excavate some dirt and replace it with sand. All raced around the property, kicking, bucking, and squealing. I went to retrieve Siggie and noticed that he had ripped open his stitches. In tears, I led him back to his pen. Winter was coming on. If the wound again became frostbitten, it would be like that movie, *Groundhog Day*. Pete would be like Bill Murray, who in repeating his actions, has to get it right before moving on with his life. There he'd again be, hanging out next to the trailer, flushing out the dang pocket. Both Pete and Dr. Farris were out of town, so I cleaned the wound, repeatedly, with Betadine.

Dr. Farris paid us yet another visit, and re-stitched, again using a simple cruciate pattern. Then, three weeks later, she again appeared, this time to take the remaining stitches out. The skin had finally adhered to the muscle, and the wound edges had nearly come together. Dr. Farris, Pete, and I figured that it was safe to put Siggie back in with Raudi and Tinni. Alas, we figured wrong. Later that day, Siggie and Tinni began sparring, and again opened up the wound. Dr. Farris again appeared, and re-stitched. This time, she put in a horizontal tension (mattress) suture pattern to release the sideways pull on the wound line.

A YEAR LATER

It was in November 2008, nearly a year to the day in which I became aware of Siggie's predicament, that the healing process started to align itself with a textbook definition. I had read about, and was now familiar with, the four phases of wound healing. The inflammatory, debridement, repair, and maturation phases (as described by McCurnin and Bassert, 2006) coincided with my journal entries. They employed the discourse conventions of veterinary medicine. And I employed the discourse conventions of a creative writer/horse owner.

McCurnin and Bassert write: *The inflammatory phase begins after injury. Blood fills the wound and cleans the wound surface. The blood vessels constrict to slow hemorrhage, but vasoconstriction lasts approximately 5-10 minutes. The blood vessels then dilate and leak clotting fluid containing clotting elements into*

the wound. This fluid, which is combined with blood, causes clot formation. The blood clot stabilizes the wound edges, and fibrin within the clot provides the limited wound strength. Sutures also provide strength. The blood clot dries and forms a scab, which protects the wound, prevents further hemorrhage, and allows sub-surface healing to progress (135).

November 15, I wrote: Oww, ick. The wound is way more scabby than it was two days ago. It seems to me that even with Siggie's having blown his stitches, twice, that healing is now taking place. For sure, clotting is going on. This should help with skin adhesion.

McCurnin and Bassert write: *The debridement phase begins approximately six hours after injury, when neutrophils and monocytes (white blood cells) appear in the wound. These cells remove necrotic tissue, bacteria and foreign material, from the wound. The white blood cells, in combination with fluid that's entered the wound, form exudates associated with wounds (135).*

November 16, I write: There's some exudate, not a lot, its mainly at the base of the laceration. Nothing like before, seems to me like some kind of flushing out is going on here. Out with the bad and in with the good . . .

McCurnin and Bassert write: *The repair phase begins after the blood clot has formed and necrotic tissue and foreign material have been removed from the wound. The repair phase, which is active 3-5 days after the injury, is associated with invasion of fibroblasts into the wound. These produce collagen, which matures into fibrous or scar tissue. The repair phase is characterized by an increase in wound strength. The first 3-5 days after injury are associated with a minimal increase in wound strength. This is why the first 3-5 days are known as the "lag phase" of wound healing. The formation of new epithelium on the wound surface (epithelialization) occurs during the repair phase and begins once an adequate granulation bed is formed. New epithelium is usually visible on a wound in 4-5 days (135).*

November 25, I write: I see pink skin on the edges of the wound, good stuff, and the skin is no longer pocketed, not even at the base. I want to snap my fingers and have Siggie healed. But we are close, very close.

McCurnin and Bassert write: *Maturation is the final phase of wound healing. The wound strength increases to its maximum level because of changes in the scar. Remodeling of*

the collagen fibers in the fibrous tissue, with the alteration of their orientation and increased cross-linking, improves wound strength. The number of capillaries in the fibrous tissue gradually decreases, causing the scar to become more pale. The maturation phase begins once the collagen has been adequately deposited in the wound and may continue for several years. (135)

December 1, I write: I see white on the edges of the wound, but now the wound edges are very close together. Also, there has been closure on the top and bottom. Closure, that's a clichéd word, but it seems most applicable in this particular instance.

McCurnin and Bassert write: *Healing is considered to be "the desired outcome of inflammation."* A successful inflammatory response involves injury or infection by the rapid elimination of bacteria or foreign bodies, by repairing damaged tissue with connective tissue, and by saving the tissue's ability to function.

Healing differs from simple repair healing because it involves regeneration of parenchymal tissue while repair by connective tissue does not. The best healing occurs when the inflammatory response is quick and effective, resulting in minimal damage.

The healing process begins soon after inflammation starts. It's not uncommon for inflammation to occur at the same time as healing, with neutrophils and macrophages working next to fibroblasts that are laying down collagen. Inflammation and healing can occur simultaneously, so it can be difficult to figure out how the healing process is coming along. Oftentimes, the injury will not resolve well, particularly if the inflammatory stimulus is strong and ongoing. Chronic inflammation typically results in dense connective tissue throughout the wound area and can lead to encapsulated abscesses or heavy scarring. Foreign material in the wound such as sutures, surgical implements, drains, or extraneous material can cause intense inflammatory reactions that

interfere with normal wound healing. Soil particles can contain specific infection-enhancing factors. (135)

December 4, I write: First intention healing is taking place. The skin has adhered to the muscle, and the tissue on both sides of the straight wound site are nearly joined together. It appears as though there will be little or no proud flesh. If there is a down side, it's that the scar tissue won't be as strong as the original tissue.

It's now December 7, 2008. We're back to taking Siggie for walks and he's being given ample turnout time. He's in great physical condition for a horse that's been in confinement for eight months. His case was atypical for an instance in which the veterinarian did all the right things. Most horses with wounds of the sort Siggie has heal far more quickly. If say, we had a heated barn, we might have seen second intention healing. And had we kept Siggie in solitary for a longer period of time, first intention healing would have happened at a faster rate. But who's to say? I'm just glad that come next spring, that we won't have to (again) put wound care and healing theory to practice.

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Siggie, tied to the trailer where Pete worked on his wound each day.

IMPORTING A HORSE

STORY BY YVONNE EBERLING AND
ILLUSTRATION BY NANCY WINES-DEWAN

Did you ever think about buying a horse somewhere other than in North America? Did you ever go on a trip to Iceland, Germany, the U.K., France, you name it, and fall in love with a horse? If you can answer these questions with “yes,” you’ve probably thought at least once about importing a horse to the U.S. If you didn’t do it, you probably had the same doubts going through your head that were clustering in my head when it came to the point of making a decision about importing my horse to the U.S. or selling him in Germany.

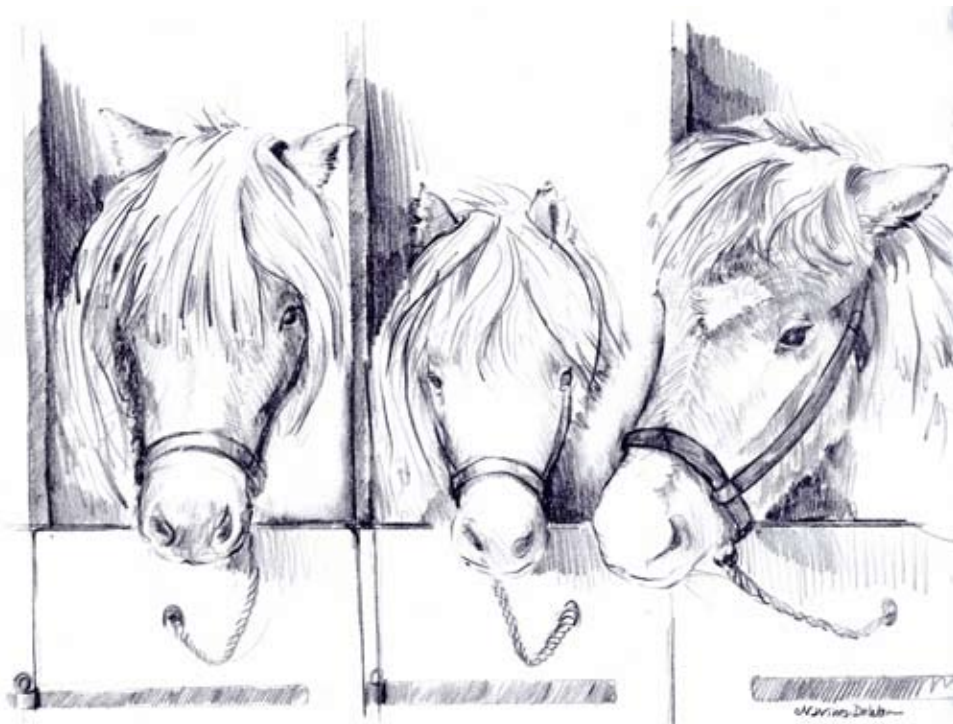
We all know the pros and cons. Besides the negative effect this huge change can have on your horse’s health, the question that bugs us the most is this one: Is he/she really worth all that hassle? What actually goes on? How is it done? And why does this country (or any other country) have these regulations that just add more complications to the whole process?

It can be so incredibly discouraging that sometimes we just step away from that vacation love, that possible lifetime friend we had found on our trip. But I really think, after going through the process, that it is worth it! Buying a horse is a commitment we make for a lifetime and the process of importing this horse should not be a hurdle that affects that decision negatively.

IN THE AIR

Many horse people I’ve met in the past months give me an unbelieving stare and ask, “HOW did he get over here?” Some people actually believe that horses are still coming over on ships.

These times are certainly over. Horses are “shipped” via airplanes, in very neat transportation boxes that resemble trailers. In most cases, there are three horses in one container, accompanied by so-called grooms, or “equine flight attendants,” that watch over them and take great care of them while they are on their way to their new homes. These grooms do everything possible to make the travel-



ing time as comfortable and stress-free as possible for their four-legged passengers. The flight itself is also a little different from the usual passenger flight. Since the horses have to keep their balance in a unknown, unfamiliar, and already stressful situation, the aircraft has to avoid sharp curves and turns—so the route slightly changes. If the horse you want to bring home can safely be transported in a trailer, he or she will have no issues traveling by air.

THE THING WITH QUARANTINE

Quarantine might be the scariest part of the whole importing process. At first sight, it appears to be incredibly confusing and discouraging. Most of all, it appears to have a huge price-tag attached to it. At this point, most people like me (non-sporting, non-breeding pleasure riders) put on the brakes and put the thought of importing a horse aside.

But quarantine is necessary to keep U.S. agriculture safe. With the world

becoming smaller and smaller, we are facing more and more threats to our environment. I am not talking about global warming or waste management. I am talking about non-domestic diseases that are spread by relocating animals and even their “products.”

There are different rules for different kinds of animals coming from different environments.

Stallions and mares are treated differently than geldings and foals, due to Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), which is caused by the bacteria *Taylorella equigenitalis*; this bacteria causes an infection of the genital tract and is spread by the mating process. The U.S. was considered free of CEM until December 2008, when several breeding stallions tested positive for *Taylorella equigenitalis*. This started a whole avalanche of testing and treatment of about 711 horses all over the U.S. which were bred or exposed to the initially positive-tested horses. An unrecognized and uncontrolled outbreak of

an infectious disease like this would have a substantial veterinary and economic impact on the U.S., especially on the horse industry.

Horses from Foot and Mouth Disease-positive countries could be a threat to the whole of American agriculture if not tested, found to be negative, and completely disinfected—that means scrubbed from head to hoof with a dilution of acetic acid to kill all the viruses that could be carried on their skin, hooves, or coats. Even if they haven't caught the disease, they still could carry it and infect animals nearby, and so cause an outbreak.

To roughly describe it, there are four different types of quarantines that can apply to imported horses: a three-day, a seven-day, or a 60-day quarantine, and the "CEM" quarantine. I will describe each type and list the countries it applies to. (Please note that you won't find Canada in any of these lists, because Canada has its own rules. Mostly, importing a horse from Canada requires inspection by a government vet on our side and certain health certificates and tests from vets on the Canadian side.)

THE 3-DAY QUARANTINE:

This affects all horses that enter the U.S. Upon arrival at the entry port, the horses will be roughly checked and their papers will be checked. From there they will be transported to the 3-day APHIS quarantine facility, where they will be checked again. Samples will be taken and sent out to labs in Ames, IA. For geldings and foals the quarantine mostly ends here and they can be picked up by yourself or the transporting agent.

Countries that require a 3-day quarantine are: Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, European Union Countries, France, Germany, Greece, Holland (The Netherlands), Hong Kong, Hungary, **Iceland**, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Scotland, South Korea, Switzerland, and Turkey.

THE 7-DAY QUARANTINE:

This regulation affects horses coming from countries that are not recognized

by the USDA as being free from VEE (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis) or screwworm. They will undergo the same procedure as the three-day quarantine candidates, but they will be held four more days, during which they will undergo testing and screening.

Countries that require a 7-day quarantine are: All countries in the **Western Hemisphere** *except for*: Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands.

THE 60-DAY QUARANTINE:

This affects horses coming from countries which are not free of African Horse Sickness. Horses from those countries can only enter the U.S. through New York, and they will have to spend their 60 days at the quarantine facility in Newburg, NY.

Countries that require a 60-Day quarantine are: Oman, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Arab Republic. All countries on the continent of Africa *except* Morocco.

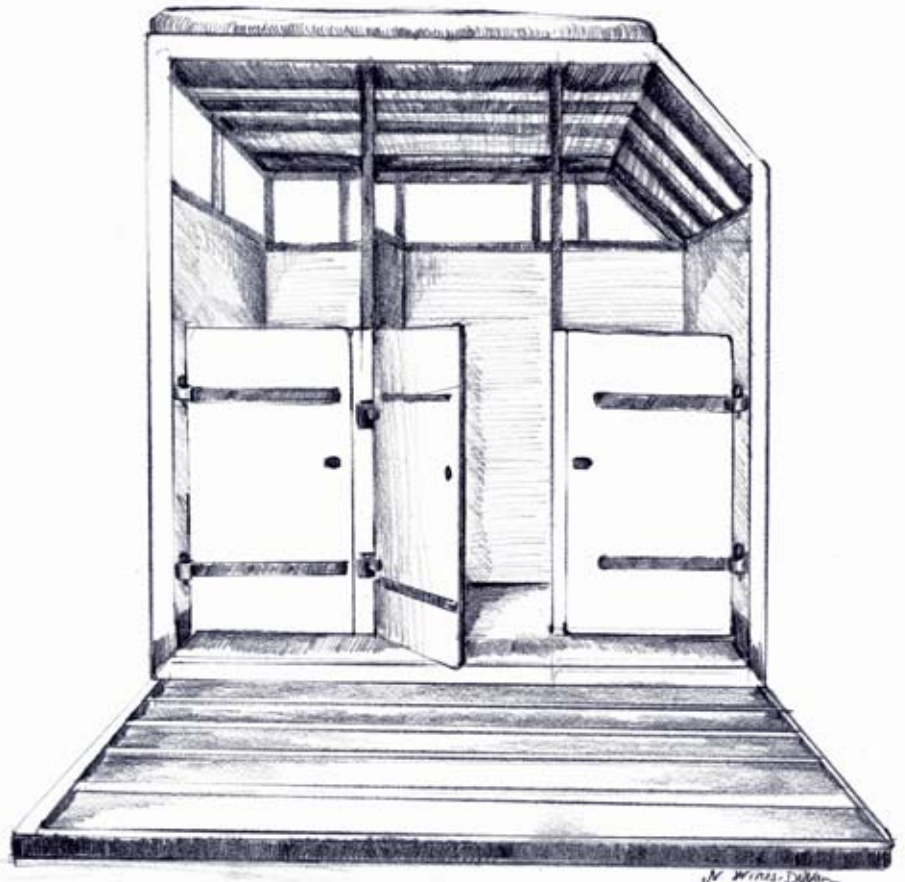
THE "CEM" QUARANTINE:

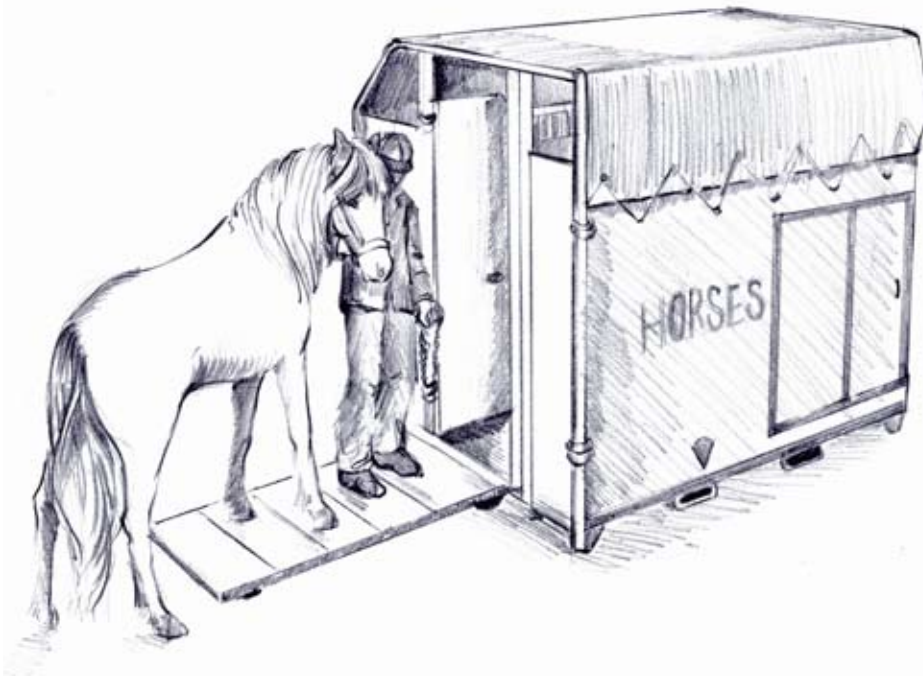
This quarantine affects horses that come from countries that are affected by CEM. Like I already mentioned, "CEM" is the abbreviation for Contagious Equine

Metritis, which is caused by *Taylorella equigenitalis*, a bacteria that will be spread during mating.

CEM-affected countries are: Member States of the European Union (includes Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom [England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, and Northern Ireland]); countries of the former Yugoslavia (includes Bosnia, Croatia, Herzegovina, Macedonian, and Serbia); the Czech Republic, Guinea, Bissau, Japan, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

Thanks to Iceland's rigorous rules regarding the import of horses onto the island, Iceland is not on that list! The CEM quarantine will be added onto the quarantine at the port of entry. That means, after the horses are released from the USDA facility, they have to go to a USDA certified facility, a facility that meets the USDA's expectations regarding isolation and quarantine management, and spend the time of the tests there. Sadly, the owner is mostly not allowed to visit their horses during that time, due to





government regulations, but these facilities offer controlled turn-outs and even an exercise program for their visitors.

Horses, no matter which gender, that are younger than 731 days (2 years) and geldings won't have to go through the CEM quarantine.

The best way to deal with all of this is to hire a transportation agent. There are several companies that specialize in the whole process. They fill out the paperwork that comes along and manage the reservations at the quarantine facilities and at the airport, and if a delay occurs (as happened in our case), the reservation for a boarding facility at the airport. They also offer transportation to the airport and, following the quarantine, to the horse's final destination.

It definitely pays off to compare prices and services provided by the different transportation-importation agencies; I was surprised to find that the variations in price went into the range of thousands of dollars.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

With the Icelandic Horse World Championships approaching this August, you may wonder how all these regulations affect horses going to and from competitions. From August 3-9, the best Icelandic horses and their riders from all over the world are coming together to compete

against each other and we, the U.S., will for sure be represented too.

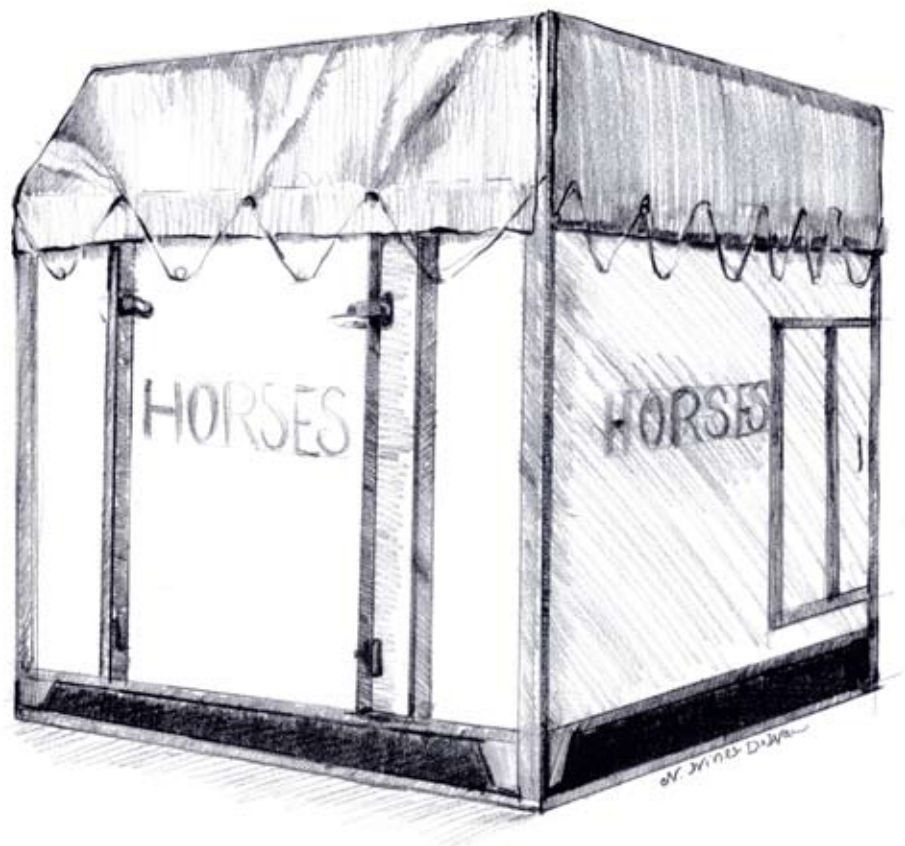
Since the competition horses stay in Switzerland less than 30 days, their re-import will be a little different from what they would experience if they stayed

longer. Since they are re-entering the U.S., having health certifications and probably pre-testing from the official vets in Switzerland, they will "just" have to undergo the same testing and quarantine requirements for the re-entry according to the country they visited.

Having this in mind, I have to voice my respects and appreciation to the horses and their riders that undergo all this to represent us at the World Championships. They are not only giving their best in the competition, they also have to deal with the transportation issues—the stress of flying and all the medical tests, and let's not forget the worries and the stress the riders have to endure knowing their partners have to undergo all these stressful situations.

LAST THOUGHTS

After all the sometimes rather dry information I have gathered here, I want to go back to the initial thought of this article. One of my beginning questions was, Is it really worth doing all this for a horse that probably will never be presented in competition, a horse that is "just" a good safe trail horse, a companion, and lifetime friend? I can assure you, having gone through it myself, it *is* worth it.





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V O L U N T E E R S N E E D E D !

The USIHC Quarterly Committee is looking for an Ad Salesperson (or more than one).

You would work with Denise Chythlook (ad manager) and Kari Pietsch-Wangard (USIHC treasurer) to sell ads for the Quarterly. The salesperson needs to be familiar with the USIHC and its members, especially those who own farms and run stores or other businesses. This person should create a list of everyone who has advertised in the Quarterly over the past 5-10 years, everyone listed in the USIHC Farm List, everyone who advertises on the USIHC website, everyone who advertises for Tolt News, and anyone who mentions an Icelandic-horse-related business on any of the Internet chat lists. Find out who is still in business. Send each of those people an announcement of the Quarterly's deadlines and ad rates, and information on placing an ad over the web and payment options. This info you can get from Denise; together you can change the sizes and prices if needed to suit an advertiser--just check with the Quarterly managing editor (Nancy Brown) to make sure the sizes are feasible and that you're not selling more color pages than we can print. Then contact each of these people one month to 2 weeks before each deadline (that's 4 times a year) and ask if they would like to place an ad. The salesperson would work with Denise to put together a list of the ads for each issue (size, color or B&W, placement) that can be submitted to the Quarterly managing editor (Nancy Brown) by the ad deadline. He/she and Denise would make sure all ads were on the Quarterly FTP site in usable form by the deadline--which will mean repeated calls to people who said they wanted to place an ad, but haven't yet gotten it together. And he/she and Denise would make sure Kari knows who has paid online and who needs to be invoiced for each ad. If this sounds like fun, please contact USIHC Quarterly committee chair Judy Strehler at quarterly@icelandics.org or 763-498-8432.



F A R M L I S T

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.

ALABAMA

Blackjack Farms
Kaci Sims
2420 Burns Lane
Birmingham, AL 35210
(205) 936-9627 (phone)
kdsims@uab.edu
www.geocities.com/kacidims/
blackjackicelandics.html

CALIFORNIA

Flying C Ranch
Will & Asta Covert
3600 Roblar Ave.
Santa Ynez, CA 93460
(805) 688-1393 (phone)
(805) 688-0629 (fax)
asta@tolt.net
www.tolt.net

Mountain Icelandic Farm
Annette Coulon
620 Calabassas Rd.
Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 722-8774 (phone)
annette@mountainicelandics.com
www.mountainicelandics.com

Sunland Ranch Icelandic Horses
Kimberly Hart
3675 Copper Crest
Olivenhain, CA 92024
(858) 759-1626 (phone)
(858) 759-8577 (fax)
kmbryhrt@sbcglobal.net
www.Sunlandranch.com

Valhalla Icelandic Horses
Stina & Steinar Sigurbjornsson
11127 Orcas Ave.
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342
(818) 808-8089 (phone)
(818) 890-4569 (fax)
valhallaicelandic@mac.net
www.valhallaicelandic.com

Valkyrie Icelandic
Laura Benson
1 Duane St. #33
Redwood City, CA 94062
(321) 278-0250 (phone)
leiri91@aol.com
www.valkyrieicelandic.com

COLORADO

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

GEORGIA

Creekside Farm
Katrin Sheehan
411 Old Post Rd.
Madison, GA 30650
(706) 347-0900 (phone)
(706) 342-2026 (fax)
kat@joeandkat.com

INDIANA

Windstar
Bonnie L. Windell
4845 Warrenton Road
Evansville, IN 47725
(812) 983-4125 (phone)
bonniwindell@yahoo.com

KENTUCKY

Gudmar Petursson Icelandic Horses
Gudmar Petursson
8901 Hwy 329
Crestwood, KY 40014
(502) 243-9996 (phone)
gudmarp@gudmar.com
www.gudmar.com

MAINE

Boulder Ridge Farm
Brian & Cindy Wescott
1271 Cape Rd
Limington, ME 04049
(207) 637-2338 (phone)
bricelandics@yahoo.com
www.bricelandics.com

Grand View Farm
Charles & Peggy Gilbert
137 North Road
Dixmont, ME 04932
(207) 257-2278 (phone)
(207) 941-9871 (fax)
grandviewfarm@midmaine.com





Ice Follies
Deborah Plengey & Trudie Lee
159 Lyons Rd.
Manchester, ME 04351
(207) 621-2942 (phone)
debplengey@roadrunner.com
MaineleeMorganHorses.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Berkshire Icelandic
Brian Puntin
P.O. Box 550
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 822-9550 (phone)
bpuntin@bcn.net
www.berkshireicelandics.com

Four Winds Farm
Lori B. Leo
703 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
(781) 829-9901 (phone)
lori@neprc.com

Roberts Woods Farm
Kathryn & Marc Roberts
P.O. Box 549
45 Art School Road
Monterey, MA 01245
(413) 528-6188 (phone)
(413) 528-6193 (fax)
kroberts@sequoigroupe.com

MICHIGAN

Afangi Icelandic Horses
Marcia Stacy
86 Meridian Court
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 773-5807 (phone)
mstacy@voyager.net
www.afangi.com

MINNESOTA

Crow River Icelandics
Sharon & David Johnson
2277 Colbert Ave. N.w.
Buffalo, MN 55313
(763) 682-3815 (phone)
sharonhilljohn@hotmail.com
www.crowrivericelandics.com

North Star Icelandics
Deborah & Steve Cook
1250 Waterville Rd
Waterville, MN 56096
(507) 362-4538 (phone)
(507) 362-8090 (fax)
cookice@frontiernet.net
www.frontiernet.net/~cookice

Penridge Farm
Gloria & Vince Verrecchio
14323 Ostrum Trail N.
Marine On St. Croix, MN 55047
(651) 433-4934 (phone)
(651) 433-2910 (fax)
verrecchio.dvm@frontiernet.net
www.penridgeicelandics.com

NEW YORK

Icelandic Sports, Ltd
Daniel Slott
P.O. Box 113 - Rt.3
Ancramdale, NY 12503
(518) 329-0185 (phone)
(518) 329-0188 (fax)
dslott@icesport.com
www.icesport.com

Sand Meadow Farm
Steven & Andrea Barber
300 Taylor Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
(585) 624-4468 (phone)
(585) 624-9361 (fax)
toltstar@yahoo.com
www.sandmeadow.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Hulinndalur
Sara Lyter
415 Bluebird Lane
Marshall, NC 28753
slyterz@yahoo.com

OHIO

Cytraas Farm
John R. Haaga
Call For Appointment
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
(216) 464-7260 (phone)
johnhaaga@gmail.com
www.cytraas.com

Northstar Farm
Lanny L. Carroll
11783 Temple Road
P.O. Box 63
Brookville, OH 45309
(937) 687-7103 (phone)
ohioicelandics@yahoo.com

OREGON

Alfasaga Farms
Karen Brotzman
5039 Cherry Heights Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
(360) 798-9286 (phone)
info@alfasaga.com
www.alfasaga.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Burns - Anderson Stable
Mary Burns, Caleigh Anderson,
and Connie Anderson
1641 Wildlife Lodge Rd.
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
(724) 337-4207 (phone)
caaenglishrider@yahoo.com





Meant To Be Farm & Sanctuary
Juli & Steve Cole
325 13th Avenue
New Brighton, PA 15066
(412) 779-2679 (phone)
juli2875@yahoo.com

Lone Cedar Icelandic Horses
Dawn Shaw
P.O. Box 524
Grapeview, WA 98546
(360) 275-7542 (phone)
theherd@oz.net
www.lonecedariclandichorses.com

UTAH

Shaggy Mtn Icelandic Horses
Karen Olson-Fields & Eric Fields
56 Shaggy Mtn Rd.
Herriman, UT 84096
(801) 523-5077 (phone)
kjo@xmission.com
www.omurfrabrun.com

Mountain Valley View Farms, Inc.
Dba Icelandic Horse Acres
Karen and Jim Hood
4301 South Chapman Road
Greenacres, WA 99016
(509) 924-8112 (phone)
(509) 922-9949 (fax)
karenjeanhood@hotmail.com
www.icelandichorse.com

VERMONT

Silver Maple Farm
Susan Peters
106 Gilley Road
Tunbridge, VT 05077
(802) 889-9585 (phone)
susan.peters@gmail.com

Red Feather Icelandics
Dick and Linda Templeton
24 Whitewater Drive
Trout Lake, WA 98650
(509) 395-9380 (phone)
(541) 386-7831 (fax)
lrtempleton@prodigy.net
www.redfeathericelandics.com

Solheimar
Sigrun Brynjarsdottir & Jason
Brickner
387 Strafford Road
Tunbridge, VT 05077
(802) 889-9472 (phone)
Sigrunb@aol.com
www.usicelandics.com

WEST VIRGINIA

Icelandic Thunder
Denise & James Taylor
Rr 1. Box 219
Philippi, WV 26416
(304) 457-4238 (phone)
gatedgirl@verizon.net
icelandicthunder.com

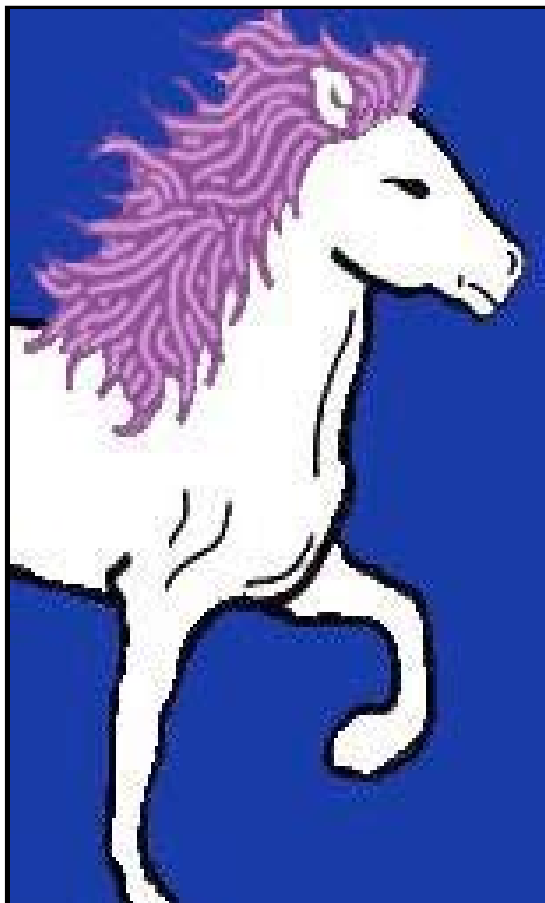
WASHINGTON

evans farm-orcas island
Wanda & John Evans
P.O. Box 116
Ogla, WA 98279
(360) 379-4961 (phone)
evansfarm@orcasonline.com
www.icelandichorsesnorthwest.com

WISCONSIN

Winterhorse Park Icelandics Horse
Farm
Barbara and Daniel Riva
S75 W35621 Wilton Rd.
Eagle, WI 53119
(262) 594-5152 (phone)
(262) 594-2720 (fax)
winterhorse@centurytel.net
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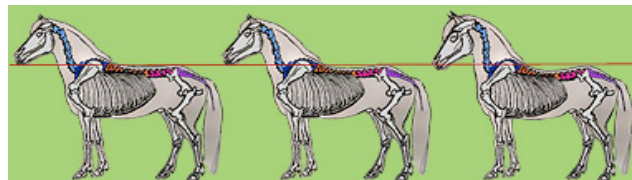
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