

Skógarrönd Newsletter

www.vikinghorse.co.nz

Issue 1



New Years Foal

First of all a Happy New Year to you all!

Our New Year could not have had a better start; our fourth foal from Hugför



and Thótti was born on Wednesday 4 January very early in the morning. It is a filly. She is brown black with a tiny little star. Her name is Efridís which means higher goddess. She is curious and moves



elegantly on her high legs; like a real goddess!

We hope you have a nice holiday despite the rain! At least we do not have to worry about the grass not growing...

It seems to be strange weather all over the world; In the northern part of the Netherlands they are soaked because of the heavy rainfall whereas in Reykjavík, Iceland, they have had snow since the end of November!

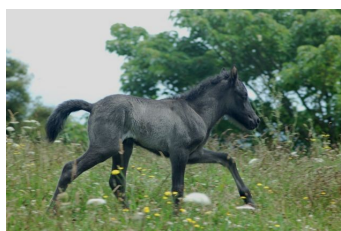
Happy reading and if you would like to have any more info about something in the newsletter, please feel free to contact



us. We would love to hear from you!

Jennie

January 2012



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Skógarrönd Ltd

- Small scale breeding with excellent pedigree horses
- "All Black" Stallion at Stud, fully tested on spavin
- Benni's Harmony Stübben range gear special for Icelandic Horses
- book and DVD's on training Icelandic Horses
- Pre-purchase advice
- Trainings advice, on location and through video

It is a tradition to give all Icelandic horses born wherever in the world, a real Icelandic name in honour to their land of origin. Icelandic Horse names refer to the history of Iceland and its people and give an insight into the richness of the Icelandic language and culture. The pronunciation of these names however can sometimes be a bit challenging. Fitjamyri Icelandic Horses in Canada now has a list of names for mares and stallions with their translation and pronunciation on their website: www.tolthorse.com. You can even record your own pronunciation and compare! World Fengur is working on a similar tool on their website.

Óðinn: The God of the Gods

On 19 September 2011 Óðinn, his brother and two sisters were born in Waipawa, Hawkes bay. He is bred by Elizabeth Olinger.



We always wanted to have an Icelandic Sheepdog at one stage and were very happy to meet Elizabeth who imported her two breeding dogs Thorri and Gala from the United States. They are carefully selected and a couple of years ago Elizabeth had her first litter out of this combination. It was the first litter in Down Under!

September last year she had her second litter and we were very happy we could adopt one of the pups! Thanks a lot Elizabeth!



There are now only 11 Icelandic Sheep Dogs in

New Zealand (and Australia) and Elizabeth has 9 of them! One lives in Dunedin and Óðinn of course with us.

Óðinn is a lovely, lively and playful pup. They are very social and love to be with other animals, including humans of course! He settled in very well and now lives with us, Penny the nearly 16 year old Australian Shepherd,

In 1950's the breed was in danger of becoming extinct!

Jake the 6 year old Border/Bearded Collie cross and two cats, In February he will attend his first puppy course, more to follow. He already knows the sit command and we are busy practicing wait; that is quite challenging for a young puppy with a very short concentration span...he loves to walk with us over the paddocks, to check the horses and wa-

ter troughs. Especially the latter are very interesting...before you know he jumps into them and swims round and round and round! They love water and we now have one of those blue shells they use for small kids as sandpit, filled it up with water and this is Óðinn's private bath. Well, private...Jake now also uses it although it is a little too small for his 1 meter long body! He has a high respect for our Dexter cows with horns and off lately discovered what electric fence is. Every day he learns more about his surroundings and we enjoy him a lot. I am already looking forward to also be able to take him out and about with the horses!



Horses for sale at Skógarrönd

At Skógarrönd we may have a horse for sale that's right for you. We try to match our horses with the right owner.

We do not start them before they are 4 years of age because at Skógarrönd we like our young horses to be able to grow up relatively undisturbed and in a mixed herd. This is more natural for the horse, as the older ones will teach them manners and they are able to play a lot. These horses will have more respect for you and are very eager to please you once you have

established yourself as the leader.

Horses younger than 4 years are only sold under the condition that they either have to come back to us for starting under the saddle or we will guide you through the whole process if you decide it to do it yourself. Nothing is more fantastic than to be the first person ever to mount your own young horse!



Eiðfaxi (advertisement)

Eiðfaxi is *THE* international magazine for anyone interested in the Icelandic Horse. Whether you are a breeder, trainer, competition– or leisure rider, there are interesting articles catering for all; training, breeding, trekking and many more. Very useful information, especially for us

down under and far away from where it all happens!!

Eiðfaxi also offers an online subscription. Visit their website for

EIÐFAXI

more information: www.eidfaxi.is

For a subscription on Eiðfaxi magazine, email isf@eidfaxi.is or ingibjörg@eidfaxi.is

Breeding at Skógarrönd: the natural way

Þótti is a pure bred 5-gaited totally black stallion. Imported in 2003 from the Netherlands, he presents very good bloodlines from famous Icelandic stallions like Hrafn frá Holtsmúla and Sörli frá Sauðarkróki.

His half-brother Trúr frá Wetsinghe (www.trur.de) is one of the highest assessed four gaited stallions in the world. Their mother, Hrefna von Wiesenhof has showed she is a really good



broodmare and produced several highly assessed stallions. Þótti's father is the friendly Pruður frá Wetsinghe. Pruður is praised for his high movements and supple back, which he consequently passes on to his offspring. Recently several of Pruður's daughters received awards for their confirmation and offspring.

At your service Þótti frá Wetsinghe, All Black 5-gaited pure bred Icelandic Horse Stallion

You can imagine we are very proud to offer you Þótti for service! Þótti's offspring in New Zealand already shows he passes on his steady four-beat tölt, high movement and easy going character.

In combination with our imported mare Hugför frá

Kopavógi (grand daughter to Hrafn frá Holtsmúla), he has produced four great foals; the 3r old gelding Áki and the 2 year old filly Brynja, 1 year old gelding Dvalinn and the new born filly Efridís. Áki is a five gaiter with expressive and supple movements, Brynja and Dvalinn supple four gaiters with high leg movements. Efridís will most likely develop into a five gaited horse.

At Skógarrönd we prefer to do the serving the natural way; in the herd. The stallion is perfectly able to sort out the right time and moment for serving. Þótti will not interfere with a mare when she is not ready to receive. If for some reason you are not able to bring your mare to our stallion, we offer the possibility of AI. Occasionally our stallion will be available for service elsewhere in New Zealand.

If you are interested in Þótti's services or would like to know more about our breeding, please [contact](#) us for more information.

Lífland (advertisement)

The web shop of Lífland in Iceland has a good selection of gear and gifts related to Icelandic Horses. Check out their website www.lifland.is with an interesting range of products.



Incredible journeys

By Þorgeir Guðlaugsson

English translation: Dr. Gundula Sherman

It was not until 1851 that British traders first got permission to buy and export horses from Iceland. Trading was modest to begin with, but it took off quickly. At its peak, more than 3,000 were shipped abroad annually. In spite of these numbers, these business dealings were kept to a very low profile for a long time, possibly because there was a certain shame attached to the trade that supplied mainly pit ponies to English coalmines. But recently it has been discovered that the market was increasingly interested in other characteristics of the Icelandic horse. The horses were used for a variety of purposes and that some horse dealers were quick to sell the Icelandic horse all over the world. Here are a few of these stories about incredible journeys and amazing destinations.

89 days at sea

When the imported horses arrived in Britain they were then further traded at auction. Just like any other commodity, some of them were sold, and sold again, until they fetched the highest price. The imports from Iceland arrived at a time when the trading might of the British Empire reached the furthest corners of the world, as was the realm of Queen Victoria.

Continue

purchaser before leaving again.

Two days later on Christmas eve, an advert inserts in the same paper announced that the horse would be for sale by auction. The description runs:

THIS DAY.
THE HAYMARKET.
For sale, This Day (Thursday), at 12 o'clock,
Ex 'Hero,' from Melbourne,
AN IMPORTED ICELAND PONY, Strong,
Hardy, and Active; a good Hack and excel-
lent in harness.
ALFRED BUCKLAND.

A few Icelandic horses had to travel a long way, and in the autumn of 1862, four of them were taken onto the *Venus*, of the Mersey Shipping Company in Liverpool. Heavily loaded with all sorts of goods and commodities the *Venus* set sail on 30th October.

They sailed south, and 39 days later, the ship crossed the equator. Then it set course for in South America, before turning east across the Atlantic past the Cape of Good Hope, and onwards across the Indian Ocean. Finally, after having been at sea for 89 days, the *Venus* dropped her anchor in Hobson's Bay off Melbourne, Australia on 27th January 1863. All the newspapers of Melbourne reported on the arrival of the *Venus*, and *The Argus* specifically states that on board were four horses from Iceland, all in very good condition. A few days later, another local paper reports that the horses were sold by the horse traders W.C. Yuille & Co, and had fetched 21 pounds on average, and that was an excellent price. It is not known if these had been the first Icelandic horses in Australia, or whether more horses arrived after that time. There is no more mention of this in any of the contemporary sources.

Captain Logan's horse

A little later the first Icelandic horse

arrived in New Zealand, in the year 1868. And no horse from Iceland can possibly travel any further than that!

On 22nd December 1868 you could read in Auckland's *Daily Southern Cross*:

We observe that Captain Logan, of the s.s. 'Hero,' has brought with him from Sydney a beautiful little Iceland pony, which no doubt he will be willing to dispose of should he get a sufficient offer. The animal is well worth inspection by any person who has a taste for horses in miniature, and as it is warranted to be perfectly quiet in harness, suitable for either lady or gentleman, we have no doubt that Captain Logan will find a purchaser before leaving again.

We observe that Captain Logan, of the s.s 'Hero' has brought with him from Sydney a beautiful little Iceland pony, which no doubt he will be willing to dispose of should he get a sufficient offer. The animal is well worth inspection by any person who has a taste for horses in miniature, and as it is warranted to be perfectly quiet in harness, suitable for either lady, or gentleman, we have no doubt that Captain Logan will find a

Nothing further is mentioned about the sale in the local paper, but it is not unthinkable that the horse ended up as a wonderful Christmas surprise at the home of one of the good citizens of Auckland.

In the wake of the whales

In 1908 the Norwegian firm Storm, Bull & Co. from Christiania [in 1925 the city would reclaim its original Norwegian name Oslo] entered into a contract with the French brothers

Henry and Rene Bossière over the fishing rights around the Kerguelen Islands. This island group, which had been in French ownership since the late 18th century, lies in the southern Indian Ocean, about half-way between Australia and South Africa. It comprises of about 300 islands and a total of 7,000km², partly hidden under glaciers. Due to its barrenness and formidable climate the archipelago

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had no indigenous population and there were no permanent settlements. The Norwegian brothers planned to hunt whales in the region, and to build a whaling station and a processing plant. To that purpose they established the whaling company A/S Kerguelen. The company bought the steamship Jeanne d'Arc and some of the necessary equipment, and on 25th August 1908

the ship left from Tønsberg in Norway. The next landing would be at South Shields on Tyneside, where the ship took on more coal and other provisions.

The fact that the Norsemen were off again, to build a settlement on some remote and inhospitable island caught the imagination of *The Scotsman*, which published a long

article about this venture on 1st September 1908:

The Norwegian steamer Jeanne d'Arc, owned by the Kerguelen Whaling Company, Christiania, has attracted considerable attention since her arrival in Tyne Dock, where she is taking in goods and coal prior to a very interesting voyage to Desolations Island [...] There



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will be formed quite an interesting little colony, at the instigation of the daring and enterprising company. [...] The steamer is laden with miscellaneous cargo, material for building huts, machinery of all sorts and description in connection with extracting the oil from the blubber, boiling it &c.; indeed, it is a very valuable cargo. Besides there are on board two Iceland ponies, twenty sheep, four pigs, a number of hens for breeding purposes on Desolation Islands, which are, however, it may be stated, not barren by any means,

as there is plenty of sport. The islands are inhabited by wild goats and ducks.

The ship sailed from Britain on 1st September, and made two landings on the way south, first in St Vincent, Cape Verde, and then in Durban, South Africa. In Durban a further 60 whites and 24 black workers came on board who were hired on a two-year contract. The journey in mid-October, and they quickly build a

harbour settlement, which was called after the ship Port Jeanne d'Arc. In November, when the spring had fully arrived the whaling operation was in full swing.

Hardy sheep

Not much is known about the Icelandic horses after they arrived on the Kerguelen Islands. They are briefly mentioned in a short article which Henry Bossière, one of the brothers who had purchased the hunting rights from the French gov-

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ernment had written for the journal *L'illustration* and which was published in the September issue of the year 1909. Here it is stated that there were three horses, and not two as had been the original plan.

Bossière, who had only lived on the islands for a few months also stated the following in the same article:

The ground is covered by an edible plants, which are similar to chick-

weed. All the animals are quite keen on it: the three horses, and the pigs, which had been brought along even more so, they all graze it with great appetite, and don't seem to want anything else. The sheep, which had come from Iceland, and had been released at Langey (France) to be left semi wild and without any housing had all lambed when I left for home, and the lambs were skipping cheerfully all over the countryside.

As we can see, the Norwegian had not only taken Icelandic horses with them to the Desolation Islands, but also Icelandic sheep, more specifically 20 ewes and two rams.

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We are on the web;
www.vikinghorse.co.nz

Skógarrönd Ltd is dedicated to the Icelandic Horse. We are breeding and selling quality horses on a small scale, promoting the breed Down Under, selling tack, training DVD's and books related to Icelandic Horses.

If you have any questions regarding the Icelandic Horse, do not hesitate to contact us; we are happy to answer all your questions regarding the breed and training! You are welcome to visit our herd. Please feel free to [contact us](#) for further information or make an appointment for a visit. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

New look website!

On the Equidays I met Jorina Gerken from Germany. She helped us out with the IHBRANZ site at the Breeders village.

Jorina is well acquainted with Icelandic Horses; in Germany she owns an Icelandic gelding at the Wiesenhof. She is travelling Down Under for a working holiday. Since she works in the IT sector, she has a lot of knowledge regarding computers etc. We are very happy she was able to help us with changing the look of our website and has made a great job of it! It is still work on progress but just have a look at our website yourself;
www.vikinghorse.co.nz

Benni's Harmony (advertisement)

At Skógarrönd we sell the high quality Stübben range of Icelandic saddles and bridles: Benni's Harmony especially designed for the Icelandic Horse.

New: bits and Icelandic stirrups. Please [contact us](#) for more information



Benni's

HARMONY



Continue from page 5....

In an article which published by the Bossière brothers in the *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society* in 1910 they are full of admiration about the hardiness of the Icelandic sheep. The ewes looked after themselves over the winter and showed no signs of suffering. Most lambs survived, even though it was turning to autumn in the southern hemisphere when they were born, and the numbers had soon doubled to what they had been in the beginning. This was such an impressive performance that the Bossière brothers started a huge sheep farming enterprise themselves and imported 1150 sheep to the islands in 1913. But these sheep, which came from South America, had none of the hardiness of the Icelandic sheep and most perished in the first winter.

The Icelandic connection

The Norwegians built whaling station in more places than the Kerguelen Islands and took horses there. There have been horses in various Norwegian whaling stations on South Georgia in the South Atlantic, but it is not known if these were Icelandic horses. One of the reasons why this particular company, A/S Kerguelen, had taken Icelandic horses, and Icelandic sheep with them to the Desolation Islands may have to do with the fact that the station manager, Petter Ellefsen by name, might have been a relative of the well known entrepreneur Hans Ellefsen, who had a lot of business interests in Iceland at the turn of the century. Hans Ellefsen, who built the whaling station at Sólbakka in Önundarfjörð and later Asknes in Mjóafjörð was an Icelandic citizen and a well-known man all over the country. He was a good friend of Hannes Hafstein the first and only appointed Icelandic minister at the time, and it is believed that given him his luxurious residence when he left Sólbakka for the East fjords. Hannes took the house to pieces, moved it to Reykjavík, and re-assembled it in Tjarnagata. This house became the residence of the president of Iceland for many years, and today it is still called the President's house (Ráðherrabústaður).



Hunting the whales off the Kerguelen Islands was not as successful as had been hoped. Over three seasons they only caught 442 whales, mainly humpback whales. But to make up for that they brought in a lot of elephant seals and produced oil from the blubber. Whaling stopped in 1911, but the hunt for elephant seals continued for a few years. With the beginning of the First World War the whole operation came to an end, the factory itself, the machinery and all other equipment were dismantled and shipped to South Africa. It may well be the case that our three Icelandic horses ended their days in Africa. But this is where our trail disappears – and nothing more is known of their fate.