

Skógarrönd Newsletter

www.vikinghorse.co.nz

Issue 2



Winter is approaching

This week Christchurch was again hit by a sever earthquake. Will it never end? It is so devastating for the people there; again cleaning up all the mess, being without power, and most of all that terrifying feeling if it will hit again. There is only so much you can take and I can imagine many people have now reached the limit. From this side of New Zealand we wish the people in Christchurch much courage to face this all again!

While the (European) trees are losing their leaves, the days are getting shorter, the horses are changing into their winter coats, we collect fire wood and are preparing for the nice and cosy winter evenings reading books while the fire place keeps us warm. The temperature however is far from normal this time of the year. The poor horses are sweating in their thick winter coats and the grass is still



growing abundant. At least we do not have to feed out already!

We are in the process of extending our property with a nice block of land from the neighbours. It has some very steep parts, area's not suitable for grazing which we are going to plant with natives and thus create a little native



area to attract wild life. There is a lot of work to be done but very satisfactory. We feel more like caretakers of the land and prepare it for future generations. There will be nice and exciting paddocks for grazing. The steeper and rocky parts will be excellent for the development of the young horses. They learn to be sure footed and

develop their hindquarters while climbing the hills. We are very happy we were offered this possibility by our neighbours as you can imagine!

Now I have only one horse to ride, Biskup the gelding is working on his movie career and will be away till June next year. Although it is now quite muddy everywhere, Þótti and I make the most of it, riding on the wide verges

along the quiet country roads, having a lessons every now and then and enjoy a ride in the forest.

Happy reading and take care!

Jennie

June 2011

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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 Stubben range saddles special for Icelandic Horses*
- *book and DVD's on training Icelandic Horses*
- *Pre-purchase advice*
- *Trainings advice, on la-coation and through video*

Sweden vs. New Zealand

The passion for Icelandic Horses brings one in contact with a variety of nice and like-minded people. In Europe you often do not have to travel far to meet likewise people. Down Under you often have to travel quite a distance. It however brings you to the most unusual places; from a magnificent High Country Station on the South Island to a spectacular cliff top location with a private beach up North. It is quite common when Icelandic Horse owners travel abroad, they have a look whether there are any interesting studs to visit. People are often surprised there are even Icelandic Horses Down Under and we often get a request from those travelers if they are able to visit us.

Some time ago I received an email from Sweden with the same request. I like to meet these travelers since they often have interesting news and stories to tell and to be honest, what is nicer than to talk a whole afternoon about Icelandic Horses.....

Greg and Åsa from Sweden visited us a couple of weeks ago. It was pouring down when they arrived so after a short intro to our soaking wet stallion we fled indoors for a cuppa. Greg is original from New Zealand, his parents still have a

Solbergs Gard:
www.solbergsgard.se

farm in South Auckland and they were visiting them with their two sons. It appeared they own a beautiful old farm " Solberg " in Sweden where they breed Icelandic

Horses and sheep .They breed with carefully selected mares and proved top stallions. Birkir frá Solberg

(see picture), silver dapple bay, is one of their breeding products. They have access to very high assessed and proven stallions like Mokkur frá Varmalaek and Garri frá Reykjavik with a breeding values (BLUP) of 120 and more, stallions where we can only dream of... Recently Glitra frá Solberg was born with an expected BLUP of 125.5! See picture. Her father is Garri frá Reykjavik.

More information can be found on their website www.solbergsgard.se (also English). We had a very interesting afternoon talking about breeding, the importance of good breeding stock, riding, promoting the breed and before we knew it was time for them to go. We could have gone on for hours as you do when talking about Icelandic horses!



Åsa and Greg are considering to move to New Zealand but find it difficult to make a decision now since their two boys are at an age where it is not very nice for them to move countries. We hope they will make the move one day and bring some of their great breeding horses with them. That would give the New Zealand Icelandic Horse population a very positive boost! They are of course welcome to already send some of their youngsters Down Under to acclimatise

May the coming winters in Sweden will be long and cold....We will give you a very

warm welcome to New Zealand Åsa, Greg and family! In the meantime, we wish you all the best with the breeding in Sweden and hope to catch up with you one day either in New Zealand or Sweden!



New feed from Dunstan

For already quite a few years I am feeding the horses Dunstan Coolfeed Standard with the Boost nuggets as vitamin and mineral supplement. Dunstan now introduced a new therapeutic feed for horses requiring a low starch diet; for horses prone to laminitis, obesity; **Dunstan All 4 Feet**.

According Denise Johnson, Equine Feed Specialist from Dunstan "could the **Dunstan All 4 Feet** fit the Icelandic feeding requirements if they are at a higher level of training because of the slightly higher level of protein and also suit pregnant / lactating Broodmares

*The **Dunstan Coolfeed** (high fibre low GI) fed at a token level with **Dunstan Boost** (delivery all the necessary Vitamins and Minerals) is still a good combination for this and similar breeds who have a intolerance of starch and sugars and prone to laminitis."*

If you have any questions, please contact Denise:

Denise Johnson
Equine Feed Specialist
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DUNSTAN
NUTRITION LIMITED
WWW.dunstan.co.nz

Breeding in New Zealand

Talking about breeding with experienced breeders from Sweden lets me think again about the situation here in New Zealand. In FEIF countries, to be allowed to breed with a stallion, the stallion has to be assessed regarding his confirmation, gaits and character by two qualified judges and reach a certain limit.

For organising an official breeding assessment in New Zealand we have to invite two judges from overseas. This is unfortunately too expensive now with the small amount of breeders we have.

A couple of years ago however we had the luck an official FEIF judge looking at our breeding horses, assess them and confirm the combination works out pretty well and we should indeed be proud of our breeding products.

In New Zealand none of the stallions is officially assessed. Not a real problem, but you would like to have an opinion of the stallion you are going to choose for your mare. Most of the people in New Zealand are relatively new to breeding with Icelandic Horses. In Europe and also in the USA and Canada there is widespread knowledge available, most of the stallions are assessed and the info on the assessments is available through their studbooks and the WorldFengur website. That makes life a lot easier. If you e.g. have a mare who prefers the trot and has slightly fine joints you choose a stallion with the extra fifth gait or a very easy natural tölter which passes this on consistently to his offspring, together with strong joints. The assessments have been done for you and you only have to choose. On top of that with that many good stallions

Our Horses

This time of the year I usually ride more often since the weather is nicer, a bit cooler. However this year it is different. Warmer and wetter. Also, since Biskup is working on his movie career I have only one horse to ride; our stallion. The poor horse is also on his own now which is not very nice especially if you are a very social horse, love to talk to other horses and more over love to ride together with other horses. If we are in the forest or even riding around in our area, he is looking out for other horses to talk to. Our new neighbours have horses now so he is able to talk, only over the fence though. And one is wearing a cover so he actually does not really look like a horse.... Since we do not like to mow the lawns Þótti is our lawn mower which he loves doing; being close to us, talking to the dogs and chickens. I do not find it an ideal situation, a horse has to have a friend to groom with, to play and run with. But it is only for some months so he has to cope with it. When the breeding season begins he is allowed to be in with the mares so can catch up with the missed social contacts.

available you even have the possibility to choose a certain colour. Not that it would be the colour of your future foal.... Mind you, a good horse has no colour so that should actually be the last aspect of your choice anyway!

Importing semen to NZ would be a possibility to increase the available amount of stallions. However the Biosecurity restrictions for stallions abroad are such that it is not profitable for the stallion owner to comply to these rules seeing the small amount of mares and potential interested breeders over here. I however hope in future this will be a possibility. It is so important to have access to various good blood lines.

Although we do not have assessments for the stallions as yet, several stallions now have enough offspring with various mares which will at least give some information on their ability to pass on certain qualities.

I would advise the mare owners to have a good look around and think what you would like to achieve with your breeding. Look into the bloodlines via the WorldFengur website and ask people who have a good knowledge about the Icelandic Horse and breeding on their opinion. The Eiðfaxi magazine will update you with various articles on breeding..



Less riding gives me also some time to continue with the Coaching programme I started. I have now also finished the riding part and am onto the last part; coaching. When I have completed this part I am looking for topping it up with a coaching certificate especially for the gaits. In Europe the FEIF has set up a coaching programme for Icelandic Horse trainers. The Coaching programme of the ESNZ, which I am doing now, has lots of similarities, apart from the speciality for Icelandic Horse gaits. I am now looking into the possibility to finish that part abroad.

The mare and her three offspring are grazing all together and form a nice little herd. The young colt prefers to hang out with his brother and sister. He only comes to mum if he seeks comfort and for a drink. Mum could not care less I think, she is not really into playing and Dvalinn has this on his mind most of the times! He will be with his mum till he is about 10 months old. We like to keep foals as long as possible with the mare, than they are not only stronger but who can better teach them manners than their mum!

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 now also offers an online sub-

scription. Visit their website for more information: www.eidfaxi.is

EIÐFAXI

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.

One of the highest assessed four gaited stallions, Trúr frá Wetsinghe (see also www.trur.de) is his half brother. 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.

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 charac-

ter.

In combination with our imported mare Hugför frá Kopavógi (grand daughter to Hrafn frá Holtsmúla), he has produced three great foals; the two year old gelding Áki and the 1 year old filly-Brynja. And now the colt Dvalinn. Áki is a five gaiter with expressive and supple movements, Brynja is a supple four gaiter with high leg movements. Dvalinn will most likely develop into a five gaited horse.



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

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

Lifland (advertisement)

The web shop of Lifland 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. Lifland is the main sponsor of the Landsmót and will have a side over there as well!



News from Iceland

It looks like it is now our turn in Down Under to experience the results of a volcanic eruption: delays of flights in NZ and Australia due to the eruption in Chile. Strange enough some companies are able to fly underneath the ash clouds whereas others are cancelling the flights.... Anyway, some weeks ago the volcano Grimsvotn in Iceland erupted, causing delays for flights around EU and USA. From Gudrun Katrín Jóhannsdóttir we received info on what the people in Iceland experienced;

"This eruption is the biggest eruption in Grimsvotn in over a century. The villages and farms beneath the glacier are badly affected, they have not seen daylight for three days now. It is dark as night all day long. Farmers can not find their stock in the ash and sheep and lambs have been found dead. Some farmers have to use GPS tracking to get from their houses to their cow/sheep stalls even if the distance is only 100-200 meters. Lambing season is almost to an end now and ewes and lambs are all outside. When the sheep quantity triples (most ewes have one to three lambs) farmers do not have housing for all the sheep even if they can find them all. Rescue squads are trying to help farmers find their stock when the wind picks up and blows the ash south so they can see a little. It broke my heart yesterday to see a farmer on the news with a face mask describing how he has found some dead sheep but can not find them. Rescue squads are help-work in hospitals and old people's homes in one is to stay at home unless they urgently have to drive by GPS.

Birds have started laying their eggs and aimlessly and some fly into glass win-

Keflavik airport has opened up again airspace is closing now due to ash in

Scientists are hoping that the melting lava will start to flow and it will stop usually does not erupt for a long period at a time so hopefully this eruption will be short.

The ash gets into the eyes of the animals, blinding them."



are being found dead also. They fly around dows trying to get inside, into the light.

but part of Norway, Denmark and Scotland the air.

water is evaporating from the crater so that spewing ash. On the upside, Grimsvotn

In the mean time all seems to be back to normal again, but this news shows there is more under the sun than only flight delays as a result of volcanic ash clouds!

Thanks again for informing us Katrín!

New Website promoting Icelandic Horses

There is a new website which invites you to a virtual riding tour in Iceland. The website is an initiative from The Horse Breeders Association of Iceland. On this website you can find information on trekking in Iceland and buying horses in Iceland. The text underneath is from the email you can send to a friend via this website to invite them to a virtual riding tour. It explains why the Icelandic Horse is what it is. We have to keep this in mind when breeding and raising the horses in New Zealand as well!

"The Icelandic horse - imprinted by origin
Horses bred in Iceland are special. Shaped by the wide open spaces of Icelandic na-



ture, roaming free in open fields and highlands. Foals will follow their mothers for the first few months of their lives, sometimes longer, later raised in a herd where they learn to live in a group and find their place in the chain of com-

This manner of raising horses is the key to shaping the personality and character of the Icelandic Horse. These horses

will treat humans with respect as they have only been handled occasionally and

they learn to behave within the herd. The outcome is a spirited and forward going horse with much respect for the rider."

Check out this great website:
www.icehorse-experience.is

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

**A little try out on YouTube,
watch this space for more!**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=IDGrOU_0aak](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDGrOU_0aak)
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=QPtJnzZrV8s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPtJnzZrV8s)

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.

Dates competitions

The Landsmót, this year it will take place in in Skagafjörður, in Northwest Iceland from 26 June—3 July 2011. For more information, see www.landsmot.is

The World Championships will be held in Austria, see www.islandpferde-wm.at

Benni's Harmony (advertisement)

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

Occasionally we will have some second hand good quality saddles for sale.

Please [contact us](#) for more information

