

# Skógarrönd Newsletter

[www.vikinghorse.co.nz](http://www.vikinghorse.co.nz)



Issue 5



## Dvalinn is born!!!

Early in the morning of the 11th of December our new foal, a colt we named Dvalinn (Dwa-lin) saw his first daylight. Our mare carries

nearly a year so we patiently waited and waited until finally it was her time. This time she delivered a very light brown-black coloured colt with a star and dorsal stripe flowing from mane to

tail. His ears are black on the edges with light beige fluffy hairs on the inside which gives him a very pretty and cute look. He already shows

he is a true gaited horse when he moves along under the very watchful eyes of his mum. He is a real daddy long-legs, just like his full brother



and sister. His mum is a very caring and protective mother. She does not leave him out of sight and directs him with a single movement of the

head/neck anywhere she wants him to go. If he is sleeping she wakes him up when there is something going on and takes him away from the source of anticipation.

After a couple of days she allowed him to roam a little further and I could even touch him. That is such a magic moment! I could sit there for hours and just watch this small family group!

Dvalinn is named after one of the four stags in a story of Icelandic mythology.

*All pictures of mare and foal are made by Heather Batkin.*

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## In this newsletter

In this short newsletter information the importance of wearing helmets, Christmas specials from Lifland and more pics of our new foal .

Happy reading and we all wish you a lovely Christmas and a great 2011!

Jennie Boerema  
**Skógarrönd Ltd.**



### Skógarrönd Ltd

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

# Wrights Watergardens and Icelandic Horses during Lotus Festival!

Our breeding horses are grazing on paddocks close to the beautiful

Wrights Water Gardens in Mauku. 'Wrights Watergardens are built around the historic Mauku Waterfall and stream. The area has a rich and eventful history.

During the 1800s, a huge water-wheel was located at the top of the waterfall which powered the flax mill built beside it. Once dismantled, the area became a favourite picnic spot and the site of many wedding proposals.

After the Second World War, the land was turned into a rock quarry which provided much of the hard metal for the roads leading out to the local steel mill. After the quarry

was abandoned, noxious weeds and rubbish covered the area for several decades.

The quarry has now been transformed into a 4-acre garden, beautiful in all seasons. A different scene emerges each day, from the ever-changing selections of trees, shrubs and native plants. Water-lilies, lotus and iris all flourish in this stunning setting.'

This and more information can be found on their website:

[www.wrightswatergardens.co.nz](http://www.wrightswatergardens.co.nz)

**During the Lotus Festival at the Waterfall Gardens the end of January, beginning February 2011 we will showcase our Icelandic Horses. More information will follow in the next newsletter!**



Wrights Watergardens

## Helmetts

Year ago, it must be nearly 20 years now (time flies!) I wrote an article for the Dutch Icelandic Horse magazine on the use of helmets. Back in those days hardly anyone with an Icelandic Horse rode with a helmet. Even the competitions were ridden without helmets. When I swapped big horses for Icelandic's, to be honest, I found it a relief not to have to wear a helmet. Well, you could hardly speak of a helmets, they were more caps. They looked like cardboard with a black velvet lining and an elastic band under your chin. Most times the elastic band was not used with the result of the helmet hitting the ground a lot earlier, after parting company with the head it was meant to protect....

Anyway, when I was pregnant of our first child I realized that I have only one head and when falling off I did not want that to be damaged. It was a hormonal change at that time which triggered this safety issue. We went to the UK for Christmas. At Newmarket, the Mecca of the race-horse industry and ditto products, I

bought myself a real safety helmet; a jockey helmet with some neat covers. From that year onward I never rode without a helmet anymore. Only a little later it became compulsory to wear a helmet during competitions, and everybody started to get used to wearing them whenever they were riding. A lot of articles of the pros and cons were written, but steadily the awareness

*Think you are too good to need a helmet? WRONG. "The better you ride the harder you fall. Beginners fall off, Good riders get launched"-Jean White*

grew of the importance of wearing a helmet. Nowadays there is no discussion about this, simply everybody wears them! Although... recently there has been an accident which left US Olympic dressage rider Courtney King-Dye in hospital in coma for a month with a serious head injury. She was NOT wearing a helmet at the time of the accident and is currently undergoing rehabilitation. This was the start of a campaign for raising awareness of the importance of wearing a helmet while riding. "The decision was made to launch the riders4helmets

campaign after consulting with various leading equestrians on the matter." see [www.riders4helmets.com](http://www.riders4helmets.com)

Since my helmet is rather 'overdue' I am shopping around for a new one. Also looking for a good helmet? Contact your local saddle shop for e.g. the Troxel range or the Casco range (see [www.cascohelme.de](http://www.cascohelme.de)) The latter is available through Lifland ([www.lifland.is](http://www.lifland.is)).



## Export Horses from Iceland continues

Guðrún Katrín from Iceland forwarded us the following information:

The home quarantine for Icelandic export horses will be lifted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January so export matters are getting back to normal. In spite of the infection, 1064 horses have left Iceland this year to 15 countries and some are still scheduled to leave before the year is over. 1588 horses were exported to 21 countries in 2009. An Icelandic stallion, Þráður frá Austurkoti (sired by Sær frá Bakakoti) will be exported to Spain in the following weeks. Only two Ice-

landic horses are known to be in Spain so Þráður will be the third.

## Christmas Specials at Lífland (advertisement)

### Lífland in Iceland has some special offers for Christmas:

**DVD: Tölt with Diddi.** This film was first published on VHS some years ago but is now available on DVD in Icelandic, English and German. Sigurbjörn Bárðarson "Diddi" is an A-level riding instructor and is a Master in horse training. In his 40 year long career as a competition rider and trainer Diddi has won almost every conceivable title and countless Icelandic Champion titles. Diddi is a treasure of knowledge about the Icelandic horse, competition and training. <http://lifland.is/item.php?item=3889>

**Puzzled by Iceland.** New puzzles with great photos of the Icelandic countryside, the Icelandic horse and lamb. <http://lifland.is/category.php?idmc=25&idc=94>

**Kátína.** A beautiful children's book in four languages: Icelandic, English, Swedish and German. The book tells the story of the filly Kátína (Joy) from birth to four years of age when she is presented in a breeding show and wins 1st prize. The author is a 17 year old high school student and horse lover, Hildur Þóra Ólafsdóttir. <http://lifland.is/item.php?item=3895>

## Give them a break!

This is the time of the year when many young horses from 4 years onwards are going to be started, an exciting time for owners! It is an unforgettable moment to be able to mount your young horse for the first time.

The starting is well explained in the DVD Starting Horses from Benni Lindal (see advertisement). The

whole process takes as long as needed and varies per individual horse. Although it is very tempting to continue riding them after they are started, it is better to give them a well deserved break by turning them out into the paddocks with their friends. To be started is mentally as well as physically quite a challenge for them. Usually we give them a

break of a couple of months until they are about five, and then the real work starts. More on this in the next newsletter.

## Eiðfaxi (advertisement)

Eiðfaxi is THE international magazine for the Icelandic Horse owner. Whether you are a breeder, trainer, competition- or leisure rider, there are interesting articles catering for all.

Eiðfaxi now also offers an online subscription. Visit their website for more information: [www.eidfaxi.is](http://www.eidfaxi.is)

# EIÐFAXI

*For a subscription on Eiðfaxi magazine, email [isf@eidfaxi.is](mailto:isf@eidfaxi.is) or [ingibjörg@eidfaxi.is](mailto:ingibjörg@eidfaxi.is)*

## Breeding at Skógarrönd: the Stallion

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](http://www.trur.de)) is his half brother. Their mother, Hrefna von Wiesenhof has showed she is a really good broodmare and produced several high 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 character.

In combination with our imported mare Hugför frá Kopavógi, he has produced three great foals; the two year old gelding Áki and the 1 year old Brynja. And now the week old 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.

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

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



## Lifland (advertisement)

In one of our previous newsletter I mentioned the new Sprenger KK-Conrad Ultra . I have been using these new bits now for a couple of months and I am very pleased with them, as are my horses.

It is very important to get the right size for your horse. If you are not sure, ask your horse dentist.

As far as I know these bits are not avail-

able in the smaller sizes in New Zealand. You can however order them through Lifland in Iceland.

The web shop of Lifland has a good selection of Icelandic gear and gifts.



## Benni's Harmony (advertisement)

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

Occasionally we also will have some second hand good quality saddles for sale. Please [contact us](#) for more information



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**At Skógarrönd we care for our  
horses!**

Skógarrönd Ltd is dedicated to the Icelandic Horse. We are breeding 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! You are most welcome to have a look at the herd. Please feel free to [contact us](#) for a visit.