



# Skógarrönd Newsletter

Issue 4



## Breeding Season

The breeding season has started again. The first mare for our stallion Þótti already arrived on the 2nd of October. It was love at first sight and she came in season on the spot! We wonder what will come out of this combination; a brown pinto mare with a black stallion....

Our mare still has to wait a while. Hugför will expect her foal the end of next month. Or probably beginning of December since she appears to carry nearly a year!

Breeding seasons also means a break from riding the stallion. He has to concentrate on his mares and



shows all he has in stock for me; beautiful canters, transitions, uplifted tölt, extended trot!

has enough exercise. He has to show off to his potential brides and at the same time

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### Skógarrönd Ltd

- *Small scale breeding with excellent pedigree horses*
- *Benni's Harmony Icelandic Horse gear*
- *books and DVD's on training Icelandic Horses*
- *Pre-purchase advice*
- *Trainings advice*

## In this newsletter

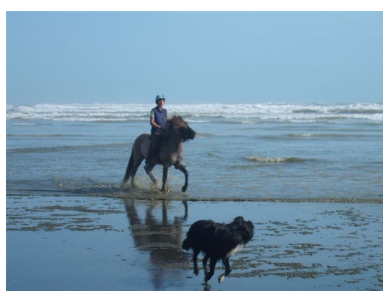
In this newsletter information on breeding, covers, fertilising, lessons, news from Iceland and more.

Happy reading, and continue enjoying your Icelandic Horse!

Jennie Boerema

Skógarrönd Ltd.

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



# Wrights Watergardens

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)

If you would like to go out for the day, combine a visit to these unique Watergardens with a look at our breeding horses. Please mention at the Gardens you would like to have a look at the horses as well and they will let you know where they are.

Wrights Watergardens

## Grooming your Icelandic Horse

As Icelandic Horse owner you probably have had many comments from fellow horse owners about the manes and coat of your Icelandic. Comments like ‘is he able to see through all those manes; will it not be too warm with a coat like that, don’t you have to cut his manes and tail...etc etc.

Icelandic Horses are known for their abundant manes and tails and their thick winter coat which they loose during spring. The latter much to the pleasure of lots of birds which will have very soft and comfy nests!

Grooming an Icelandic means carefully brush manes and tails. You

usually brush tops and ends of tails and do the rest with your hands. You hardly ever cut the manes. The tails are only cut very minimal to prevent them standing on it when backing up. At competitions the manes and tails are brushed (e.g. using a detangle spray) till they are shiny and loose with as a result beautiful waving manes and tails.

The winter coats are best brushed with a spiral metal brush. This is the only way you will get all the dirt out of their thick coat. Needless to say you do not use a metal brush on those parts of the body where the bones are closer to the surface like on the head or legs! In spring these



combs are ideal to brush off all the loose hairs when they start losing their winter coat; you can fill many cushions with all that hair... Grooming the summer coat is similar to other breeds.

## To cover or not to cover.....

One of the other many asked questions is if you use a cover on Icelandic Horses. The answer is usually NOT. Of course there are situations when you can use a cover, e.g. for old horses that are not able to keep themselves warm anymore during cold rainy weather. Or for horses that are sick and need extra protection against the elements and cannot be stabled for one or the other reason. Otherwise a big NO. Covers are not very comfortable for horses anyway. Even in colder climates like Europe horses can stay out and about without covers. They however have to have protection against rain, snow and cold winds, especially a combination of both. If you supply them with a shelter (also against the sun!), that is usually enough. Some people do clip their Icelandic's when they want to train whole year round since otherwise it will take ages before the horse will dry off after being ridden into sweat. For this purpose you can clip them the ‘hunting style’. Then they still will have protection against rain and cold winds. In some area’s of Australia you might have to give them protection against the flies which causes sweet Itch.



*DeMeulenkamp sweet itch rug*

There are special rugs available for this purpose; DeMeulenkamp rugs. If you would like more information on these insect rugs, please feel free to contact us.

## Fertilisers

With the spring the season for fertilising your paddocks starts as well. A lot has been written on fertilising and what to do or what not to do. Pat Coleby in her book "Natural Horse Care" puts amongst others emphasis on a proper maintenance of your paddocks; you are what you eat! I am a firm believer in this as well. Certainly after I completed my study as a Naturopath for Animals. Many soils nowadays lack a lot of minerals, not only naturally but also due to extensive use of solely NPK

fertilisers. Before you start with fertilising your paddocks it is good to take a soil sample and let it tested. This gives you a good indications on the condition of your soil and which minerals are lacking. Since a couple of years we are using a lime/mineral product from Agrissentials ([www.agrissentials.com](http://www.agrissentials.com)), called Rokat lime. We top this up with EF Bio-rocket from Environmental fertilisers ([www.environmental-fertilisers.co.nz](http://www.environmental-fertilisers.co.nz)) on a regular base during the growing season and find

our paddocks are looking better and better over the years. We still have a long way to go though since we were basically farming on 'waste land' according the soil sample test.....! The level of organic matter in our top soil was also low. To build this up we use the composted manure of our horses and cows and spread it out over the paddocks in spring. It contains heaps of worms and they will help us creating a better top soil.

## A lesson with Jo

A couple of months ago I started with the Coaching Program of Equestrian Sports New Zealand (ESNZ). For the course you have to do several assessments which need to be signed off by a qualified Coach-educator. Jo Street from Hunua is one of them. She also happens to be a very good Coach with interest in Icelandic Horses and their gaits. She now teaches several Icelandic's and their riders. I used to attend lessons and clinics on a regular base back in the Netherlands. Of course there we had the ideal situation of having access to various very good Icelandic Horse trainers/coaches. Occasionally I had some instruction in NZ since we came here in 2003 but the main update was from the books and magazines I read on training Icelandic horses. Without regular lessons you and your horses come into some habits which otherwise should have been corrected in an earlier stage by a coach. I am very happy we



now have the possibility to take ourselves and the horses to the next level. Horse riding is a continuous learning process! There is no point when you can say, 'I know it all', since there will be always something new to learn. Training methods are changing, every horse and there for every horse-rider combination is different so you always have to update yourselves and your horses. It does not matter whether you are an ambitious competition rider or just like to hacking out and about; we all want to have a horse which reacts well to all aids and is comfortable to ride. In the last Newsletter I already mentioned for every discipline a horse needs to be supple and be able to use his body properly. There for you need to do exercises like bending, riding circles, making transitions where the horse is properly using his whole body. A coach is there to correct you and guide you through all the exercises and as a result you will actually have way more pleasure with your horse!

I would recommend all owners and rider of Icelandic Horses to attend lessons on a regular base. You and your horse not only learn a lot but it is also fun, you meet new people and more people will get to know the Icelandic Horses! If you

*With horse riding you never finish learning!*

have kids it would be great to take them



and their horse to pony club and the gymkhana's. Actually, they are not only for kids but also for adults.

If you are interested in lessons, just ask around for good coaches with an open mind to gaited horses. It is such a pleasure to ride responding and supple horses!



## 'Nanny Biskup'



Our 12 year old gelding Biskup is now a 'nanny' to our two young horses Áki and Brynja. It is important to have an older experienced horse with the young ones to teach them

The pictures in the articles on grooming and Iceland came from the website: [http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/10/herd\\_in\\_iceland.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/10/herd_in_iceland.html)

## 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)*

## Lifland (advertisement)

In one of our previous newsletters 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



## 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 two great foals; the two year old gelding Áki and the 11 month old Brynja. Áki is a five gaiter with expressive and supple movements, Brynja is a supple four gaiter with high leg movements.

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*



## News from Iceland

Below some news from Iceland on training and the contagious respiratory infections which still goes around, forwarded to us by Guðrún Katrín from Iceland.

### Training

"This is the time of year when most horse activities are at a standstill. Of course our professional riders are doing their fall chores and riding young horses and sales horses but the average rider has their horses in the paddocks so both

horses and riders have fall holiday. The weather has been exceptional in Iceland in September and October and average heat records have been broken in many areas. It is for the first time now, in the second half of October that we are having temperatures below 0°C here in Reykjavik during the night and that is very unusual. We have been enjoying 10-15°C during the day in October.



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**We are on the web;  
[www.vikinghorse.co.nz](http://www.vikinghorse.co.nz)**

**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 try to answer all your questions regarding the breed! You are most welcome to have a look at the herd. Contact us for a visit.

## Continue from page 5 'News from Iceland'

### *The horse disease.*

Horses are being exported again since September. However horses that are to be exported will have to be quarantined "at home" before they are exported. Each owner or exporter is trusted to do so and all horses will be checked by a veterinarian before departure. It is estimated that almost all of Iceland's 80.000 horses have been affected by this disease. It has been identified as Streptococcus Zooepidemicus which can usually be found in the respiratory tracts of healthy horses but seems to have taken on a more vicious form, which is highly contagious. The Streptococcus can be transferred to other mammals and at least one cat, two dogs and one human have been diagnosed with the same infection.

Most of the horses that caught the disease in spring or summer are healthy again but some are still coughing. Foals and young horses seem to be the most susceptible now. The foals get a natural

protection through their mother's milk (colostrum) for the first three months of their lives but after that people have to make sure that they monitor their foals very well in the paddocks. Autopsies have revealed that five foals have died as a direct result of the disease. Two adult horses have also died of pneumonia. These are the only confirmed cases but no one can guess how many horses/foals might have died and not dissected.

People fear what will happen the moment they start bringing their horses to stable in December/January. It is vital that sick horses are not brought into stables and paddocks to mingle with healthy horses. As horses are often kept very close together in the stable areas of the big horse clubs in urban communities in Iceland during winter and spring, the risk of re-infection is high. It is up to each horse owner to handle their horses responsibly. Stable owners were urged to clean and disinfect their stables after bringing their horses out to

paddocks this spring. Disinfection of stables and the small paddocks highly reduces the risk of re-infection.

Horses that caught the disease in spring or summer but had very mild symptoms can easily be infected again. However the infection is usually mild the second time around. The good news is that the bacteria is very susceptible to penicillin so horses can be treated if they show serious symptoms from their respiratory tracts such as coughing and runny noses. Coughing horses are not necessarily infectious. They might still have some irritation in their upper respiratory area from their first infection. People are urged to check the body temperatures of coughing horses to determine if they are sick or not. '