

# WHO IS FEIF?

FEIF unites people in their passion for the Icelandic horse

FEIF is the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations, composed of Icelandic Horse associations in 21 countries. FEIF, from the German Föderation Europäischer Islandpferde-Freunde (Federation of European Icelandic Horse Friends), was established in 1969 in Switzerland. As a federation of national associations, FEIF is also the sum total of the members of these organisations. That means: FEIF really is you – and about 80,000 other people who love, ride, breed, care for, and passionately enjoy the Icelandic horse, wherever they may live, from Iceland to New Zealand. Phew – that is huge! But does it really help to answer the question? This series of FEIF leaflets on breeding, education, leisure riding, sports and youth work will explain the work of FEIF, and how we achieve our goals.



International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations

[www.feif.org](http://www.feif.org)

find us on  and  @feiforg

Photos: Gundula Sharman (2)



BREEDING



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## BREEDING A SINGLE SET OF STANDARDS

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## Each horse is special

So, there it is, your wonderful Icelandic horse, happily grazing away, and gradually disappearing out of vision, because the grass is always greener just that little bit further ahead. What does FEIF have to do with it?

## FEIF ID – Cracking the code

Regardless of what you may affectionally call your horse, it will have an Icelandic name. Why? Because most horse owners, and the breeders, who choose the name, are proud of being able to track the horse's lineage back to Iceland. That is a FEIF Regulation, and you find the rules for naming Icelandic horses in the FEIF Rules and Regulations book on the Feif website. In your horse's passport you will also find a unique FEIF ID number. Take, for example this code: IS1994257656. The code states that the horse was born in Iceland (IS), in the year 1994, the next digit, a 2, shows that she is a mare (males will have a 1), the 57 is the area code in Iceland (Skagafjörður) and, being quite old, this mare actually has a brand mark 656. Today, most horses just have a random code for the last 3 digits.

## WorldFengur

The names and ID of your horse are only but one small part of the traditions and horse culture that create a direct link to Iceland, wherever you keep your horse, be it in the northern or even southern hemisphere. Pure-bred Icelandic horses all over the world are registered in a single database called WorldFengur. If you know the full name of any given horse, WorldFengur is a wonderful place to explore: you find information about the age, and gender (mare, stallion or gelding), the place where the horse was born, details about the parents and grandparents of the



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horse, and any offspring it might have had. If it is a sport horse, you can read up on sporting achievements, and if your horse, or its parents or grandparents, were evaluated at a breeding show, you will find the actual scores the horse was given.

Finding every registered Icelandic horse in the world in one place is an amazing project, and the envy of many other horse breed societies all over the globe. It is also a constant challenge to keep the information up to date and accurate. Without a single set of rules and a single set of standards in breeding (and in sport), this would not be possible (or it would be meaningless). The work of FEIF is to maintain and reinforce these sets of rules, which apply universally from Iceland to Australia.

In other words, horse naming, and most other aspects of breeding and breeding evaluations, are governed by FEIF. As a member of your national Icelandic Horse Association, you have free access to [www.worldfengur.com](http://www.worldfengur.com). This great help sheet will help to set you off on your journey into the history of your horse(s).



## Breeding judges

Of course, writing down rules is not enough. It is equally important, that there are enough people who want to work together to maintain this vision: breeding judges need to be consistent and able to agree on the same standards. Once people have learnt the basics in their home country, FEIF trains and examines the FEIF International Breeding Judges, ensuring the greatest possible consistency at an international level. In fact, ALL Icelandic horses evaluated at a breeding show, in- and outside Iceland, will have been judged by at least two of only about 30 breeding judges world-wide, and unlike sport judges, breeding judges work as a team and mutually agree on the marks for the horse at a breeding assessment.



**All horses evaluated at a breeding show will have been judged by at least two breeding judges.**