

FEIF Breeding Evaluation Clinic

April 23rd 2017

To: Arnold Faber- Education Committee of the CIHF

As a rider relatively new to the world of Icelandic's I was so grateful for the opportunity to attend the 7th FEIF Breeding Horse Trainer seminar. The clinic was held at Skeiðvellir farm in Hella Iceland.

There were 22 riders participating in the clinic; Canada was the only countries to come from the west of Iceland, the rest of the riders were all from Europe. The first day of the clinic was a dinner and meet and greet with a brief over view of the clinic outline. Each of the participants gave an introduction of themselves and their riding experience.

Elsa Albertsdóttir began the second day with a power point presentation that defined the expectations of the breeding assessment. This was a very informative lecture, which Elsa thoroughly went over the rules of the breeding assessment. The new rule changes for 2017 were explained in detail of why the changes were made. I was impressed with the new changes because it emphasizes a good riding horse that everyone can ride; not just a pretty flashy horse that a trainer can ride.

Katrín and her husband did a fantastic job of having horses assigned to each rider for the riding assessment portion. The first time on the track was in true Icelandic style with slush on the track and snow blowing. After our 8 to 10 passes we met with Elsa and Olil Amble for feedback on how we rode and tips for the second assessment. Having the hands on experience to ride the horses and know what your scores were was my favorite part. Day 3 started with our second assessments, we were split into groups and we also had to make remarks of the other participants riding assessment. After our second time showing our horse we once again received feed back from Elsa and Olil.

To finish the clinic Inge Kringeland went over how to read and understand the BLUPs of horses as well as what to look for in a breeding stallion and mare. He brought up the importance of the age of the horse at the time of its assessment for how much value to place on the "over all score". Stating a 4 yrs. old stallion with 7.9 is far more impressive than a horse 10 yrs. old with 8.3 for example. Explaining the difference between natural talent and trained talent.

There was mention of potentially hosting a part 2 of this clinic, which would only be open to those who have attended part 1. The second clinic would go into more detail of how to ride as well as different ways of showing different horse types.

This was a very informative seminar. I am very impressed by FEIF for organizing such a great workshop. I would highly recommend to attend; Canada I feel has an advantage to get a spots for these clinics as the Icelandic's are not as big here as in European countries that have more applicants wanting to attend such clinics.

Sarah McAninch