



## BUYING AN ICELANDIC HORSE

There are many things you can do to ensure that the horse you buy is really the horse of your dreams and will bring you joy for many years to come. This document is intended to encourage you to consider some important questions before buying an Icelandic horse. In doing so, you contribute to the welfare of the horse, more joy and safety for both rider and horse.

Icelandic horses inspire with their strong personality and their gaits. Both can be a challenge. It's good if you have a certified trainer who can help you with advice and support if necessary.

### **Basic questions you should ask yourself**

- Do I know how to keep an Icelandic horse in a species-appropriate manner? Can I organize species-appropriate accommodation?
- Do I have enough time, money and know-how to do an Icelandic horse justice in terms of care and exercise?
- Do I need a certified trainer?

### **Characteristics of the horse**

The Icelandic horse is very versatile. A horse suitable for sport has different characteristics than a therapy horse, even if one does not exclude the other. It is good to be clear about which characteristics of the horse are more important and which are less important to you. The temperament of the Icelandic horse varies a lot, from calm to really spirited.

- What temperament should my horse have? Calm/ lots of temperament/ something in between?
- What do I want to use the horse for? Sport (lower- or higher-level tournaments) or Leisure (family/ children's horse; riding in nature in groups/ alone)?
- Am I looking for a 4 or 5-gaited horse?
- How much training should the horse have? Young horse (untamed/ not yet ridden/ broken in)/ well trained horse/ experienced in sport?

### **Riding skills and rider's fitness**

To meet up with the need of your horse, your riding skills and fitness are further points to consider. A young horse needs an experienced rider in good balance. A sports horse needs a rider with good riding skills and fitness.

- How good are my riding skills?
- How fit am I?

### **Test Riding**

Once you have found some horses which could come up to your expectations, it is recommended to test the horse in different situations and environments.

### **Sales Inspection**

After testing the horse, you should think about having the horse checked by a veterinarian. A sales inspection can be anything from a simple health check that only takes a short time to a very comprehensive and detailed examination that can even take several days. On behalf of the buyer a veterinarian will carry out a sales inspection. Even if the veterinarian never can predict all the defects or future problems of a horse, a sales inspection can be an indication for whether the horse is healthy or not.

### **Things to do after you bought a horse**

- The horse's identity at the time of the purchase should be checked by reading the microchip
- The horse's papers should be handed over
- The new owner should be registered in WorldFengur and in the horse's passport
- The new owner now is responsible for the horse, which is why it may be advisable to take out appropriate insurance for the horse.