



United States Icelandic Horse Congress



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the USIHC? What does it do?

The Icelandic Horse community worldwide is governed by FEIF, the International Federation of Icelandic Horse Associations. (Pronounced "fife," the acronym comes from the German.)

Comprised of the National Breed Associations of 18 European countries (including Iceland), Canada, and the United States, FEIF governs

competition activities and regulates the breeding and registration of Icelandic Horses throughout the world outside of Iceland. (See [the FEIF website](#) for more information.)

The United Icelandic Horse Congress was formed in 1987 as an umbrella organization to join together two US organizations, the U.S. Icelandic Horse Federation and the International Icelandic Horse Association to meet the FEIF rule that only one association from each country is allowed to represent the breed. In 1993, the organizations merged into the umbrella organization and the name was changed to the United States Icelandic Horse Congress, or USIHC.

As a FEIF member organization, the USIHC maintains the Registry of Icelandic Horses in the US, organizes US participation in international competitions, and regulates breeding and competition activities in the US in accordance with FEIF rules. USIHC also sponsors activities, events, and educational programs "to promote the knowledge of the Icelandic Horse within the United States and its correct use as a competition and riding horse," according to the USIHC Constitution. Finally, the USIHC represents the United States in FEIF.

2. Why should I join the USIHC? What are the benefits?

As a member of the USIHC, you are part of the worldwide community of Icelandic Horse enthusiasts. By joining USIHC committees and working on projects, you can contribute to the progress of Icelandic Horses in America and have a voice in the international Icelandic Horse world.

All USIHC members receive The Icelandic Horse Quarterly, a high quality quarterly magazine featuring news, practical information, and stories about Icelandic Horses. Members are also eligible to receive FEIF-sponsored mailings and starting in 2007 a free subscription to WorldFengur – an international database of Icelandic horses. .

USIHC members who qualify are eligible to compete internationally at the World Championships on the US team and to take part in USIHC programs such as the Pleasure

Rider Program, and the Riding Badge Program. They receive discounts at other USIHC-sanctioned programs, such as Breeding Evaluations and Sanctioned Shows.

Your membership dues are spent on the day-to-day operation of the Congress, including publication of The Icelandic Horse Quarterly, maintenance of the USIHC website <www.icelandics.org> and e-mail account (info@icelandics.org), publication of promotional brochures, creation of displays, and other general informational projects. The more members, the more the USIHC can accomplish to educate the American public about the Icelandic Horse.

3. How do I join?

Individual membership is \$40 per year (\$55 for those residing outside the U.S.) ; family membership (two adults and all children under 17) is \$60 per year. Farm listings are also available for \$110 per year.

Complete the Membership application (this page in PDF format) and send it and a check directly to

Ed Hilgaertner, Treasurer, USIHC,
P.O. Box 1724
Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Please send a check or money order (do not send cash) made payable to: USIHC. (We do not accept Canadian checks. All non-U.S. memberships must be sent in US Dollars by US Traveler's checks.)

When your application has been processed, you will receive the USIHC Welcome Packet, including: an issue of The Icelandic Horse Quarterly (the USIHC magazine); a copy of the Constitution and Registry Rules. To check on the status of your application, call the USIHC office at (907)346-2223 during business hours or contact us by e-mail at info@icelandics.org

4. How is the Congress organized?

How are the Officers and the Board of Directors elected?

The USIHC is governed by a volunteer nine-member Board of Directors elected by the USIHC membership. Board members serve a three-year term. The terms are staggered on a rolling system so that three Board positions are open for election each year. For more information see Article VII of the USIHC Constitution.

The current Board of Directors are:

Bernie Willis, Alaska (President), 2008
Sandie Weaver, California (Vice President), 2008
Barbara Riva, Wisconsin (Secretary), 2009
Ed Hilgaertner, California (Treasurer), 2010
Andrea Barber, New York, 2008

Laura Benson, California, 2010
Caryn Cantella, California, 2009
Anne Elwell, New York, 2009
Katrin Sheehan, Georgia, 2010

The USIHC Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are elected by the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting after the Annual Meeting. Each officer's term is for one year or until a successor is elected by the Board. For more information see Article VII of the USIHC Constitution.

5. Who organizes USIHC programs?

USIHC programs are organized by committees appointed by the Board of Directors. All committee members, including the chairs, are volunteers, and any USIHC member can join any committee by contacting the chairperson. Each committee chair, if not a Board member, reports to a Board member, and all expenditures are approved by the Board.

Current Committee chairs are:

Breeding -- Katrin Sheehan (KSheehan@klip.com)
Competition -- Heidi Kline (585-245-2124; heidi@icetolt.cc)
Pleasure Riding -- Andrea Barber (585-624-4468; toltstar@yahoo.com)
Quarterly -- Judy Strehler (763-498-8432; judystrehler@att.net)
Regional Clubs -- Andrea Barber (585-624-4468; toltstar@yahoo.com)
Education – Alex Pregitzer (608-436-1751; alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de)
Promotion -- Laura Benson (Leiri91@aol.com)
Youth -- Sandie Weaver (949-248-5204; weaverintl@aol.com)
Website -- Mark Peal (802-496-5235; mark.peal@gmail.com)
Constitutional Review -- Anne Elwell (914-496-5561; pruthur@aol.com)

6. When does the USIHC meet? Can I attend the meetings?

The USIHC Annual Meeting is held in the first quarter of each year, usually in March. For the past few years, it has been held in Dallas, TX. USIHC members are encouraged to attend and meet other Icelandic Horse enthusiasts and become more informed about the organization.

The Annual Meeting consists of reports from Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer), from the breed registry, and from the committees. Members are encouraged to attend and may also propose items for the agenda.

The Board of Directors meets periodically at times established by the board, usually the third Tuesday of each month. These meetings are usually held by telephone conference call. The minutes are posted on the USIHC website and published in the next available issue of the Quarterly. Each USIHC Regional Club is entitled to have a non-voting observer at the Board meetings; there is more information on establishing a Regional Club here.

For more information on meetings see Article VIII of the USIHC Constitution.

7. Why should I register my Icelandic Horse?

Registering your Icelandic Horse with the USIHC, whether you're active in breeding or not, increases the value of the horse. Some USIHC programs such as the Pleasure Rider Program, the try outs for the world championship team, and inclusion in the Stallion book, requires the horse to be registered.

Registering your horse also helps the USIHC keep track of how many Icelandic Horses there are in America. Currently over 3,000 Icelandic Horses are registered with the USIHC. Finally, registration fees not only underwrite the cost of the registry, but are used to support special USIHC programs such as Breeding Evaluations and the providing of FEIF-certified judges to well-attended Icelandic Horse shows.

8. How do I register my Icelandic Horse?

The Registry of Icelandic Horses in the US is maintained by the USIHC in accordance with FEIF rules. The Registry Rules and registration forms are available on the USIHC website or by contacting the registrar,

Asta Covert main contact
Caryn Cantella,
P.O. Box 1724
Santa Ynez, CA 93460;
805-688-1393
registry@icelandics.org

Each horse to be registered (except imported geldings) must be DNA-typed and its parents must be registered with the FEIF member association in their country of residence. DNA-typing is performed by the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory, University of California-Davis, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-8744; 530-752-2211. www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/service/parentage/ Contact the Laboratory for more information on the procedure to follow.

9. How can I meet other Icelandic Horse owners?

The USIHC numbers over 500 members spread throughout the country. Many USIHC members organize informal trail rides, clinics, open houses, and other events to which you may be invited; often these are advertised in the Calendar section of the Icelandic Horse Quarterly and are posted on the events section of the USIHC website. There are also 12 Regional Clubs affiliated with the USIHC. These clubs organize many of their own events.

10. Who can I call for help?

Each member of the Board of Directors and each Committee chair is experienced in one or more areas concerning the USIHC or Icelandic Horses in general. They are also happy to refer you to experts in the US, Iceland, or other FEIF countries, depending on the information you need.

For example, for questions related to health or breeding, contact the head of the Breeding Committee, Anne Elwell (914-496-5561; pruthur@aol.com).

For questions about competition rules or procedures, contact the head of the Competition Committee, Heidi Kline(585-245-2124; heidi@icetolt.cc).

For questions about registering Icelandic Horses, contact the registrar, Asta Covert (805-688-1393; registry@icelandics.org).

Andrea Barber (585-624-4468; toltstar@yahoo.com) can answer questions concerning the Pleasure Rider Program.

Judy Strehler (763-498-8432; judystrehler@att.net) is in charge of the magazine, The Icelandic Horse Quarterly.

Andrea Barber (585-624-4468; toltstar@yahoo.com) is in charge of the Regional Clubs program.

Alex Pregitzer (alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de) is in charge of the Education committee

Laura Benson (Leiri91@aol.com) is in charge of the Promotion committee.

Sandi Weaver (949-248-5204; weaverintl@aol.com) can provide information about Congress Youth activities.

Mark Peal (802-496-5235; mark.peal@gmail.com) is in charge of the Website.

Additional experts can be found by contacting the Congress office at (907)346-2223 or by e-mail at info@icelandics.org.

For more information, contact:
THE UNITED STATES ICELANDIC HORSE CONGRESS
6800 East 99th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99507; (907) 346-2223
info@icelandics.org - www.icelandics.org
