

# Dear Stud-reader



L-R: Pórunn / Thórunn Kristjánsdóttir,  
young stallion Kjói frá Kjarri,  
and Martina Gates

This has been one of the most fun projects that I have ever gotten involved in. For years now, I have thought how important it would be to have a stallion book so that breeders can see stallions all over North America. Sort of like a breeding bible. The International Icelandic Eiðfaxi Stallion Book has been part of my favorite reading materials for years, and it seemed crazy that we did not have such a resource here in the U.S. and Canada. When Thórunn [Kristjánsdóttir – co-publisher of this magazine] approached me with the idea, I nearly fell off my seat! I jumped at the opportunity. This had been a dream of mine for some time.

Loaded with tons of enthusiasm, the two of us started making lists of all the stallions in the United States and Canada.

When we started this project we had no idea how many great stallions we have in North America. When we finished counting, there were over 50 first prize stallions. We were amazed. Where were all these horses, and who owned them? Thus a long string of detective work began, trying to track down some of these great horses, that had seemingly vanished into thin air. Unfortunately the registration did not seem to work perfectly, as many of the horses missing were still registered to their original owners in Iceland. Thórunn started tracking down the owners in Iceland to find out who bought the horse in the first place. We went back over stallion reports and registered offspring to see if we could find our way to these horses. I'm proud to say we found most of them. Still missing is the well-known silver dapple Huginn. Numerous horses on our list were also either gelded or deceased.

Ásta Covert, at the United States Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC), was amazing. She

not only updated all of the records, but was also extremely helpful in our search.

Unfortunately not everyone wanted his or her stallion listed. It would have been more complete if we had gotten all of the first prize stallions to join in. Surprisingly some owners never even returned our emails or phone calls, and they owned great breeding horses.

We tried to keep the price to a minimum to cover printing and shipping costs, making it affordable for the horse owners and advertisers. We had decided early on that it was more important to get this publication out to as many people as possible, than it was charging for the issue and risking that only a select few would see it. Therefore this issue is getting sent out to close to 1,000 recipients in the United States and Canada, free of charge this year. (For the 2011 issue, we are going to ask subscribers for a small mailing fee.) We hope that the magazine will be on everyone's coffee table for this coming year, and will spark lots of interest in breeding to the most suitable stallion.

By god, there sure is a great stallion selection! I must say I am very tickled knowing how many great breeding opportunities we have in this country.

This StudBook would not have been possible without my partner, Thórunn. She slaved away at her day job, and then rolled up her sleeves after hours to complete this monumental task. Hundreds of phone calls back and forth to Iceland, talking to breeders, advertisers and past horse owners. Designing the issue, the website, and all the other promotional pieces. The result is this fantastic StudBook packed full of amazing horses, breeding articles, statistics, and a wide array of ads.

Thank you to all of the owners who participated, to the advertisers that made printing and shipping this issue possible, and to my partner Thórunn, who is simply amazing, and made the impossible possible.

Enjoy!

– Martina Gates