



Úrvalshestar Icelandic Horses - Curriculum in Equine Studies

The Úrvalshestar Equine Studies program is a curriculum which is divided into stages, or levels. Each stage consists of lectures, demonstrations and practical training, as well as number of other activities, including learning basic horse care and teaching lower level students. Learning outcomes are assessed at the end of each stage and are dependent on whether the skills and competencies (stated in the objectives for each level) have been achieved. Students are tested on their ability and competency levels at the end of each stage, and receive a diploma at a successful completion of each level.

1. Level

Main objectives

- Start a young, untrained horse to be ridden at the walk
- Ride a horse at the walk and trot
- Free lunge a horse
- Participate in daily horse care

Description: The student learns to start a young horse that is halter trained and educate it to the point where it knows how to be ridden in walk. The student learns to ride a horse in walk and trot where emphasis is put on correct seat and aids by the rider, and regularity and freedom of gaits by the horse. The student learns correct aids to free school horses. The student learns routine daily horse care.

2. Level

Main objectives

- Ride a horse at the walk, trot, and canter
- Lunge a horse with one rein
- Take daily care of horses
- Halter train a young, green horse



Description: At this level, the student graduates from riding the gaits to training the horse for improved balance in walk, trot and canter. Emphasis is put on rider's position and seat, correctness and effect of the aids. Student learns to catch a green horse and teach it to yield to rein contact and lead. The student learns to lunge a horse with one rein, and becomes confident in taking daily care of horses.

3. Level

Main objectives

- Ride the horse in walk, trot, canter and tolt
- Ride gymnastic exercises to create and improve suppleness
- Remove shoes and trim hooves

Description: Emphasis is put on riding and training tolt, in addition to more advanced training of walk, trot and canter. The student becomes confident in riding exercises to create and develop looseness and suppleness in the horse. At this level, the student can be responsible for taking care of horses.

4. Level

Main objectives

- Effective use of advanced gymnastic exercises to improve the gaits
- Advanced training of tolt
- Working the horse on long reins
- Student becomes familiar with competition, rules and regulations in the Icelandic horse Society

Description: More advanced training of walk, trot, canter and tolt with emphasis on understanding how exercises developing looseness, suppleness and



collection help aiding with strength and flexibility of the horse, and hence, further improvement of the gaits. Tölt training involves riding and training tölt at a varying speed, and improving problems originating from incorrect beat. The student learns basic rules of most common competitions for the Icelandic horses, and about structure of the Icelandic Horse Association.

5. Level

Main objectives

- Riding flying pace
- Advanced training of all five gaits of the Icelandic horse

Description: At this final level the student prepares a horse for a final graduation test from the Úrvalshestar Equine Studies Program. The test is in two parts:

- 1. Riding a five gait test on an oval track**
- 2. Riding a dressage test**

Horse production level

Main objectives

- Reproductive physiology of the mare and stallion
- Mare and foal care during foaling season
- Blup
- Breeding evaluation
- Evaluation of young horses
- Color genetics

Description: Participants learn through lectures and demonstrations the principles of reproductive physiology, and participate in breeding horses and taking care of the new born foal. Lectures include topics on the blup system,



WorldFengur, and color genetics. Students learn to use the international scale of judging breeding horses, and do applied evaluation of young horses.

To finish the Horse production test the student has to have finished level 2 or the equivalent.