

# **ICELANDIC HORSE RIDING BADGES IN THE UNITED STATES**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Riding Badge Program has been developed by the Education Committee of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress (USIHC). It has relied heavily upon the German Riding Program with additional information from the US Department of Agriculture 4-H program.

The program consists of seven achievement levels. They are designed to be used in two ways at the option of the instructor and student. They can be taken consecutively with an emphasis on either competition or pleasure riding, or they can be taken individually. The subject areas have been selected to provide an overall background on the equestrian sport with a special emphasis on riding Icelandic horses. The theory behind each segment is presented through the use of questions. In many cases, some of the questions are repeated in the next higher level. These various levels can be presented in a multi-day clinic or hourly over many months. The goal of each level is for the student to be able understand and answer all of the questions and to successfully perform practical exercises.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

This program is available to any member of the USIHC. Some of the riding badges have more specific requirements for minimum age etc.... Those requirements can be found in the more specific description of each level. Instructors are asked to verify before beginning of the classes that their students are all current on their memberships with the USIHC.

The USIHC is requiring instructors/organizers of the seminar to provide information about the participants such as name, address, phone number, level of certification, passed/did not pass etc... to the USIHC in order to send out the badges, to stay informed on the number of seminars taking place to for general record keeping purposes. The information should be provided to the Education Committee Chairman..

## **RIDING INSTRUCTORS**

Riding instructors can be found associated with Icelandic horse farms. Some have certification from FT, the Icelandic Riding Federation in Iceland. Others may have certification from 4-H in the US or from some other affiliation of riding instructors. Still others may be independent instructors. In some cases, riding students may have multiple instructors or be self taught. At this time, the USIHC does not certify riding instructors. Interested instructors are welcome to get in touch with the Education committee for further information on the program. Please email [Alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de](mailto:Alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de)

## **EXAMINATION**

Each level will be completed with an examination. The examination will be given by a designated examiner from the USIHC. Questions in this program are a guide to the questions to be asked during the exam. In a class situation, not every student will be asked every question. However, each student should be prepared to answer them all. The tests will be given orally. Students not understanding a question will be given a chance to ask for it to be repeated or rephrased. To pass the exam, students must be able to answer 70 percent of the questions correctly. The questions not answered correctly will be discussed until the examiner is confident the student understands the answers.

## **EXAMINERS**

A list of designated persons serving as examiners for the USIHC is kept on file at the Congress office. These persons are entitled to charge a fee for their time and expenses to give an exam. They are required to file a report of their testing within a week of each exam. The Congress office will mail riding badges to the successful students. The financial arrangements for exams are between the students, instructors, and examiners. The USIHC provides curriculum material, lists of examiners, and awards but does not offer monetary help for the courses or set the fee structure. Interested examiners are welcome to get in touch with the Education committee for further information on the program. Please email [Alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de](mailto:Alexandra.pregitzer@gmx.de)

## **FEES**

The Cost of the seminar is to be determined by the instructor offering the seminar and will get published together with the invitation or the advertising for the seminar.

The person or facility offering the seminar shall include the costs for the exam (examiners expenses etc...).

There is an additional fee of US \$20 charged by the USIHC for the badges as well as administrative work involved with the seminar.

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# 1. USIHC Basic Riding Badge Level 1

## requirements:

children, youth, and adults  
children minimum age eight years  
four-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam

## questions:

### Theory

#### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - basic knowledge**

1. How can you tell if a horse needs to see a farrier?
2. What is the difference between stall and pasture board?
3. What does your horse need to be happy?
4. Which tools do you need to clean the stalls and barn area?
5. What is a paddock?
6. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? (Give reasons)

#### **GROOMING - basic knowledge**

1. Why do you groom a horse?
2. How do you groom a horse?
3. How do you tie a horse?
4. What tools do you use to groom a horse?
5. What do you do with the mane, forelock, and tail when grooming a horse?
6. What do you do with the hoofs when grooming a horse and why?

#### **FEEDING - basic knowledge**

1. What does a horse eat?
2. What are horses not allowed to eat?
3. What is important when feeding a horse after riding?
4. What does a horse drink?
5. How do you make sure your horse gets enough water?
6. Do you know what happens if your horse drinks too much water too quickly, especially after hard work?

#### **HEALTH - basic knowledge**

1. What does a healthy horse look like?
2. What would a sick horse look like?
3. What does a horse need to be healthy?

#### **TACK - basic knowledge**

1. How do you correctly put a saddle on a horse?
2. How do you correctly put a bridle on a horse?

#### **GENERAL BASICS - basic knowledge**

1. Name the parts of a horse's body.
2. What horse colors do you know?
3. How do you know if a horse is in a good or a bad mood?
4. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
5. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?

## **RIDING TECHNIQUE - basic knowledge**

1. How do you lead a horse properly?
2. How do you mount properly?
3. How do you dismount properly?
4. How do you sit on a horse properly?
5. How do you steer a horse?
6. How do you stop a horse?
7. How can you get a horse to slow down from canter to trot or from trot to walk?
8. How do you move off?
9. How do you start trotting?

## **GAITS - basic knowledge**

1. What gaits does an Icelandic horse have?
2. How do you ask a horse to start to walk?
3. How do you ask a horse to go from walk to trot?
4. How do you ask a horse to canter?

### **practical exercise:**

! Horse handling on the ground, must be able to demonstrate:

- A.
  1. Catching
  2. Haltering
  3. Leading
  4. Tack up in preparation for riding
- ! B. simple figures and transitions at the walk, trot, tolt

## 2. USIHC Basic Riding Badge Level 2

### requirements:

children, youth, and adults  
children minimum age eight years  
four-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam

### questions:

#### Theory

#### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - basic knowledge**

1. How often do you trim a horse?
2. How often do you shoe a horse?
3. How can you tell if a horse is due for a trim?
4. How can you tell if a horse needs new shoes?
5. How can you tell if a horse needs to see a farrier?
6. What is pasture board?
7. What are the most important rules in keeping a horse?
8. Which tools do you need for day to day barn work?
9. What is a paddock?
10. Describe the ideal fencing for horses.
11. Name different kinds of bedding with advantages and disadvantages.
12. Describe the ideal stall.
13. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? (Give reasons)
14. What is important to know/do if you keep a horse restricted to a stall?

#### **GROOMING – basic knowledge**

1. Why do you groom a horse?
2. What tools do you use to groom a horse, and how do you use them?
3. Where and how do you tie a horse?
4. How do you take care of a horse after riding?
5. When and how do you groom a horse's mane, forelock, and tail?
6. When and how do you care for hooves?

#### **FEEDING – basic knowledge**

1. Name the different kinds of horse feed.
2. Describe the different kinds of roughage.
3. How much water does a horse need per day?
4. What major nutrient must horses have to live?
5. Is it possible for a horse to drink too much water at one time?
6. What happens to a horse that drinks too much water at one time?
7. In what situations is a horse likely to drink too much?
8. Give a detailed description of a ideal feeding area for horses.

#### **HEALTH – basic knowledge**

1. What does a horse need to be healthy?
2. How do you know that a horse is healthy?
3. How do you know that a horse is sick?
4. Against what diseases should a horse be immunized?
5. How can parasites be controlled?
6. What are the normal pulse, respiration, and temperature readings for Icelandics? How are they measured?
7. What are the indications that a horse may have a fever?
8. What do you do if a horse has a fever?
9. What do you do if a horse coughs?
10. What do you do if a horse has minor injuries?

11. What do you do if a horse has a runny nose?

#### **TACK – basic knowledge**

1. How do you correctly put a saddle on a horse?
2. Name all parts of a saddle.
3. Name all parts of a bridle.
4. What kinds of nosebands do you know, and how do you adjust them to fit properly?

#### **GENERAL BASICS – basic knowledge**

1. How do you recognize the mental state of a horse?
2. Name the colors of the Icelandic horse.
3. What are the possible natural markings of an Icelandic horse.
4. What are the common man-made ways of identifying Icelandic horses?
5. Name the parts of a horse's body.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
7. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?

#### **RIDING TECHNIQUE – basic knowledge**

1. How do you mount properly?
2. How do you dismount properly?
3. Describe the correct full seat.
4. How do you lead a horse properly?
5. How do you move off?
6. How do you start trotting? (Describe all aids)
7. How do you start tolt? (Describe all aids)
8. How do you start cantering? (Describe all aids)
9. How do you slow down from a faster gait to a slower gait?
10. How do you come to a full halt?
11. How do you ride a turn? (Describe all aids)
12. Name the markers in a 20x40m dressage square or arena.

#### **TOLT – basic knowledge**

1. What is the sequence of steps in tolt?
2. What is the beat in tolt?
3. What are the different speeds in tolt?
4. What faulty sequences of steps exist in tolt?
5. How do you recognize and correct pacey tolt?
6. How do you recognize and correct trotty tolt?
7. How do you recognize and correct rolling in tolt?
8. What footing is best suited for tolt?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to tolt and to ride tolt?

#### **GAITS – intermediate knowledge**

1. What is the beat in walk?
2. What is the sequence of steps in walk?
3. What aids do you use to ask a horse to walk and while in walk?
4. What is the beat in trot?
5. What is the sequence of steps in trot?
6. What aids do you use to ask a horse to trot and in trot?
7. What is the beat in canter?
8. What is the sequence of steps in canter?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to canter and while in canter?
10. What are different seats in trot?
11. What are different seats in canter?

12. How do you know if a horse is on the correct lead in canter?

**Practical exercise:**

- Show a horse at any tempo trot, tolt, walk, and canter

### 3. USIHC Competition Riding Badge Level 1

#### requirements:

children, youth, and adults  
children minimum age eight years  
four-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam

#### questions:

#### Theory:

##### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - basic knowledge**

1. How often do you trim a horse?
2. How often do you shoe a horse?
3. How can you tell if a horse is due for a trim?
4. How can you tell if a horse needs new shoes?
5. How can you tell if a horse needs to see a farrier?
6. What is pasture board?
7. What are the most important rules in keeping a horse?
8. Which tools do you need for day to day barn work?
9. What is a paddock?
10. Describe safe fencing for horses.
11. Name different kinds of bedding with advantages and disadvantages.
12. Describe the ideal stall.
13. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? (Give reasons)
14. What is important to know/do if you keep a horse restricted to a stall?

##### **GROOMING – basic knowledge**

1. Why do you groom a horse?
2. What tools do you use to groom a horse, and how do you use them?
3. Where and how do you tie a horse?
4. How do you take care of a horse after riding?
5. When and how do you groom a horse's mane, forelock, and tail?
6. When and how do you care for hooves?

##### **FEEDING – basic knowledge**

1. Name the different kinds of horse feed.
2. Describe the different kinds of roughage.
3. How much water does a horse need per day?
4. What major nutrient must horses have to live?
5. Is it possible for a horse to drink too much water at one time?
6. What happens to a horse that drinks too much water at one time?
7. In what situations is a horse likely to drink too much?.
8. Give a detailed description of an ideal feeding area for horses.

##### **HEALTH – basic knowledge**

1. What does a horse need to be healthy?
2. How do you know that a horse is healthy?
3. How do you know that a horse is sick?
4. Against what diseases should a horse be immunized?
5. How can parasites be controlled?
6. What are the normal pulse, respiration, and temperature readings for Icelandics? How are they measured?
7. What are the indications that a horse may have a fever?
8. What do you do if a horse has a fever?
9. What do you do if a horse coughs?
10. What do you do if a horse has minor injuries?

11. What do you do if a horse has a runny nose?

#### **GENERAL BASICS – basic knowledge**

1. How do you recognize the mental state of a horse?
2. Name the colors of an Icelandic horse.
3. What are the possible natural markings of an Icelandic horse?
4. What are the common man-made ways of identifying Icelandic horses?
5. Name the parts of a horse's body.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
7. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?

#### **COMPETITION RIDING – basic knowledge**

1. What do you have to consider before taking a horse to a competition?
2. What do you have to take when going to a competition with a horse?
3. What do you have to consider when arriving at a competition?
4. How do you take care of a horse at a competition?
5. What is an oval track?
6. What is a pace track?
7. How do you warm up your horse for a competition? (in general)
8. What is a T1 class, and how do you ride it?
9. What is a T2 class, and how do you ride it?
10. What is a V1 class, and how do you ride it?
11. What is a F1 class, and how do you ride it?

#### **CARE OF A HORSE BEFORE AND AFTER THE RIDE - basic knowledge**

1. What do you do with your horse before going on a ride?
2. What do you do with your horse after a ride?
3. How do you water your horse after a long ride?
4. Should a horse have access to food before normal exercise? If so, what kind?
5. Should a horse have access to food after normal exercise?
6. If you feed grain, when is the best time to give it to your horse?
7. What are the disadvantages of giving grain to a horse before a ride?
8. What is the danger of feeding a horse, especially grain, too soon after a ride?
9. How can you tell if a horse is exhausted after a ride?
10. Why is it important to let your horse roll after riding?

#### **TACK - intermediate knowledge**

1. Name all parts of a saddle.
2. Name all parts of a bridle.
3. Describe the different kinds of nosebands and how they are adjusted to fit properly.
4. How do the different nosebands work/influence a horse?
5. Name different kinds of bits and describe their influence on a horse.
6. Name different kinds of bitless bridles and describe their influence on a horse.
7. Name different kinds of saddles and when /for what they are used.
8. How does the Icelandic saddle differ from other saddles?
9. Describe how to take good care of tack.
10. Describe how to correctly fit a bridle and how to adjust it to fit properly.

## **RIDING TECHNIQUE – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you mount properly?
2. How do you dismount properly?
3. Describe the correct full seat.
4. How do you lead a horse properly?
5. How do you move off?
6. How do you start trotting? (Describe all aids)
7. How do you start tolt? (Describe all aids)
8. How do you start cantering? (Describe all aids)
9. How do you slow down from a faster gait to a slower gait?
10. How do you come to a full halt?
11. How do you ride a turn? (Describe all aids)
12. Name the markers in a 20x40m dressage square or arena.
13. When do you use the full seat?
14. Describe the forward seat.
15. When do you use the forward seat?
16. Describe the light seat.
17. When do you use the light seat?
18. What different aids are there and how are they divided into further groups?
19. Name the different leg aids and when are they used.
20. Name the different weight aids and when are they used.
21. Name the different rein aids and when are they used.
22. What are additional aids and how are they used?
23. How do you do a half halt and what is its influence on a horse?
24. Describe what a full halt is, what aids you use, and how it should look.
25. Which aids are used to move off?
26. Which aids are used to start cantering?
27. Name the arena rules.
28. What is inside and what is outside when riding dressage?
29. Name the different phases in the scale of the dressage schooling of a horse.
30. What are loosening/suppling exercises?
31. What is beat/rhythm?
32. What is suppleness?
33. What is the connection between hand and mouth?

## **TOLT - detailed knowledge**

1. What is the sequence of steps in tolt?
2. What is the beat in tolt?
3. What are the different speeds in tolt?
4. What faulty sequences of steps exist in tolt?
5. How do you recognize and correct pacey tolt?
6. How do you recognize and correct trotty tolt?
7. How do you recognize and correct rolling in tolt?
8. What footing is best suited for tolt?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to tolt and to ride in tolt?
10. What should good tolt look like?
11. What could cause pacey tolt?
12. What could cause trotty tolt?
13. What could cause rolling in tolt?
14. What is vixel and how do you correct it?
15. What footing is best to correct a pacey horse?
16. What footing is best to correct a trotty horse?
17. What is the proper shoeing to correct pacey horses?
18. What is the proper shoeing to correct trotty horses?
19. Why do you use boots?
20. What is the sequence in phases in tolt?

21. How do you school a young horse in tolt?
22. How do you teach a horse that only will pace to tolt?
23. How do you teach a horse that only will trot to tolt?
24. Where can one train a horse in tolt?
25. How do you teach a horse fast tempo tolt, and what do you need to pay attention to during the training?
26. What other horse breeds tolt?
27. What equipment can be used to affect tolt and what do you need to pay attention to when using it?

### **GAITS – detailed knowledge**

1. What is the beat in walk?
2. What is the sequence of steps in walk?
3. What aids do you use to ask a horse to walk and while in walk?
4. What should a good walk look like?
5. What is the sequence of phases in walk?
6. What faulty sequences of steps exist in walk, and how do you correct them?
7. What are different speeds in walk?
8. What is the beat in trot?
9. What is the sequence of steps in trot?
10. What should good trot look like?
11. What is the sequence of phases in trot?
12. What faulty sequences of steps exist in trot, and how do you correct them?
13. What are different speeds in trot?
14. What are different seats in trot?
15. What aids do you use to ask a horse to trot and while in trot?
16. What is the beat in canter?
17. What is the sequence of steps in canter?
18. What aids do you use to ask a horse to canter and while in canter?
19. How do you know if a horse is on the correct lead in canter?
20. What should good canter look like?
21. What faulty sequences of steps exist in canter and how do you correct them?
22. What are different seats in canter?
23. What is the beat in flying pace?
24. What are the sequences of steps and phases in flying pace?
25. What aids do you use to ask a horse to do flying pace?
26. What aids do you use when riding flying pace?
27. What trails are suited for riding flying pace?
28. What prerequisites do horse and rider have to fulfill before they start with flying pace?
29. What is “touching across” (striking the diagonal leg) and how can one prevent it?
30. What is “forging” and how can one prevent it?

### **practical exercise:**

- ! Ride a V6 class (youth open four gait)  
(all participants regardless of age)
- OPTIONAL: rider may be asked to switch horses with other students for practice, not part of the exam

## 4. USIHC Competition Riding Badge Level 2

### requirements:

children, youth, and adults  
children minimum age eight years  
six-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam

### questions:

#### **Theory:**

#### **CARE OF A HORSE BEFORE AND AFTER THE RIDE - basic knowledge**

1. What do you do with your horse before going on a ride?
2. What do you do with your horse after a ride?
3. How do you water your horse after a long ride?
4. Should a horse have access to food before normal exercise? If so, what kind?
5. Should a horse have access to food after normal exercise?
6. If you feed grain, when is the best time to give it to your horse?
7. What are the disadvantages of giving grain to a horse before a ride?
8. What is the danger of feeding a horse, especially grain, too soon after a ride?
9. How can you tell if a horse is exhausted after a ride?
10. Why is it important to let your horse roll after riding?

#### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - intermediate knowledge**

1. How often do you trim a horse?
2. How often do you shoe a horse?
3. How can you tell if a horse is due for a trim?
4. How can you tell if a horse needs new shoes?
5. Describe different ways of incorrect trimming/shoeing.
6. What is pasture board?
7. What are the most important rules in keeping a horse?
8. Which tools do you need for day to day barn work?
9. What is a paddock and what does the ideal paddock look like?
10. How should a ideal shelter look like/be built?
11. Name different kinds of fencing with advantages and disadvantages.
12. Describe the ideal fencing for horses.
13. Name different kinds of bedding with advantages and disadvantages.
14. Describe the ideal stall.
15. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? (Give reasons)
16. What is important to know/do if you keep a horse restricted to a stall?
17. How much space does a horse need?
18. Name different kinds of pastures and their advantages and disadvantages.
19. Describe the ideal feed room.
20. Describe the ideal tack room.
21. Name the most important items for horse medicine cabinets and where the items are best kept.
22. When and how do you take care of your pasture (pasture management)?
23. Describe the ideal manure pile.
24. Name three poisonous plants in your area and describe one of them in detail. (grows where/when/how to tell it apart/poisonous parts etc.)

### **GROOMING – intermediate knowledge**

1. What tools do you need to groom a horse and how do you use them?
2. Where should one tie a horse for grooming?
3. How do you take care of a horse after riding?
4. When should one groom a horse particularly thoroughly?
5. When does a horse shed and what should one pay attention to when it happens?
6. When and how do you groom a horse's mane, forelock, and tail?
7. When and how do you care for hooves?
8. When and how do you bathe a horse?
9. When should one shoe a horse?

### **FEEDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. Name the different kinds of horse feed.
2. Describe the different kinds of roughage.
3. How much water does a horse need per day?
4. Give a detailed description of an ideal feeding area for horses.
5. Name the different kinds of grains used in feed for horses.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when giving water to a horse?
7. When do you feed grain and what is the amount dependent on?
8. What can you add to your daily feed? Why?
9. How much roughage per day does a horse need ?
10. What is grass silage and what do you have to pay attention to when feeding it?
11. What does good quality hay look like?
12. What does good quality straw look like?
13. What determines the amount of feed for a horse?
14. How do you feed a horse on a pack ride?
15. What major nutrient must horses have to live?
16. Is it possible for a horse to drink too much water at one time?
17. What happens to a horse that drinks too much water at one time?
18. In what situations is a horse likely to drink too much?
19. Normal water intake for horses varies with exercise, heat, and food intake. What amount of water can be considered normal per day for a horse?
20. How could you monitor how much water your horse drinks?
21. What mineral is essential for digestion along with water?
22. In cold weather horses may drink less than normal. What may this cause?
23. What can be done to increase the amount of water horses drink in cold weather?
24. What can a person do to prevent drinking-related colic in a horse?
25. What role does water play in the digestive process?

### **HEALTH – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you know that a horse is healthy?
2. How do you know that a horse is sick?
3. Against what diseases should a horse be immunized?
4. What can one do against worms?
5. What are the normal pulse, breathing, and temperature readings for Icelandics, and how are they measured?
6. What are indications that a horse may have a fever?
7. What do you do if a horse has a fever?
8. What do you do if a horse coughs?
9. What do you do if a horse has a runny nose?
10. What do you do if a horse has minor injuries?
11. What is the correct immunization schedule for an Icelandic horse?

12. What is the correct worming schedule for an Icelandic horse?
13. Name the poisonous plants in your area and describe one in detail.
14. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of colic.
15. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of azoturia. (tying up).
16. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of tetanus.
17. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of influenza (infectious bronchitis).
18. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of chronic bronchitis.
19. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of summer eczema.
20. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of saddle and girth sores.
21. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of rain rot. (mycosis)
22. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of open sores.
23. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of cracked heels/scratches.
24. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of frog decay/thrush.
25. Describe causes, symptoms, and ophtalmia. (inflammation of the eye)
26. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of diarrhea.
27. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of hoof abscess/bruises.
28. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of spavin.
29. What can cause a horse to rub itself?
30. What can cause a horse to lose too much weight?
31. What are the dangers of letting your horse be overweight?
32. What are the dangers of rapid weight loss?
33. What is hyperlipemia?

#### **TACK– intermediate knowledge**

1. Name all parts of a saddle.
2. Name all parts of a bridle.
3. Describe the different kinds of nosebands and how you adjust them to fit properly.
4. How do the different nosebands work/influence a horse?
5. Name different kinds of bits and describe their influence on a horse.
6. Name different kinds of bitless bridles and describe their influence on a horse.
7. Name different kinds of saddles and describe when /for what they are used.
8. How does the Icelandic saddle differ from other saddles?
9. Describe how to take good care of tack.
10. Describe how to correctly fit a bridle, and how to adjust it to fit properly.

#### **GENERAL BASICS – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you recognize the mental state of a horse?
2. Name the colors of the Icelandic horse.
3. Name the possible markings of an Icelandic horse.
4. What are the common man-made ways of identifying Icelandic horses?
5. Name the parts of a horse's body.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
7. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?
8. Name the bones and joints of the front leg.
9. Name the bones and joints of the hind leg.
10. Name the parts of the hoof.

## **RIDING TECHNIQUE – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you mount properly?
2. How do you dismount properly?
3. Describe the correct full seat.
4. How do you lead a horse properly?
5. How do you move off?
6. How do you start trotting? (Describe all aids)
7. How do you start toltng? (Describe all aids)
8. How do you start cantering? (Describe all aids)
9. How do you slow down from a faster gait to a slower gait?
10. How do you come to a full halt?
11. How do you ride a turn? (Describe all aids)
12. Name the markers in a 20x40m dressage square or arena.
13. When do you use the full seat?
14. Describe the forward seat.
15. When do you use the forward seat?
16. Describe the light seat.
17. When do you use the light seat?
18. What different aids are there, and how are they divided into further groups?
19. Name the different leg aids and when they are used.
20. Name the different weight aids and when they are used.
21. Name the different rein aids and when they are used.
22. What are additional aids are how are they used?
23. How do you do a half halt, and what is its influence on a horse?
24. Describe what a full halt is, what aids you use, and how it should look.
25. Which aids are used to move off?
26. Which aids are used to start cantering?
27. Name the arena rules.
28. What is inside and what is outside when riding dressage?
29. Name the different phases in the scale of the dressage schooling of a horse.
30. What are loosening/suppling exercises?
31. What is beat/rhythm?
32. What is suppleness?
33. What is the connection between hand and mouth?

## **TRAIL RIDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you behave on trail/out in nature?
2. How do you ride uphill?
3. How do you ride downhill?
4. Describe which gaits to ride in different terrain.
5. Why do you trail ride?
6. When and how do you take breaks during a day ride?
7. Describe a good place to take a break.
8. How can riding accidents be avoided?
9. What do you pay attention to when riding in a group?
10. How do you behave in traffic areas?
11. Which terrain is suitable for canter?
12. How do you get over a natural obstacle?
13. How should a horse be shod for a pack trip?
14. Name the general rules for polite and responsible behavior on the trail.
15. Describe suitable tack for a trail riding horse (long trails).
16. How do you swim with a horse?
17. What is the most important quality of a trail horse?
18. Good manners are important to any trail horse. Avoid a horse that....
19. Natural ability helps get any horse along a trail but the ability to go

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ steep hills is important.
20. What part of a trail horse must be sound?
  21. Name six skills necessary for trail horses to know.
  22. When should a horse be allowed to drink when trail riding?
  23. Chasing runaway horses is always a good idea. True or false
  24. On narrow trails it is best to follow in single file. When crossing a road it is often best to do a flanking movement. What is that?
  25. Demonstrate how to tie a horse with a slip knot.
  26. When and where would you use a bowline knot to tie a horse?
  27. At the end of the day or ride a horse's needs should be considered first. True or false
  28. What would you do if your horse disturbed a wasp or bee nest?
  29. What should you do if you are lost?
  30. Night riding should be avoided but, if necessary, list five things to make it safer.

### **COMPETITION RIDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. What do you have to consider before taking a horse to a competition?
2. What do you have to take when going to a competition with a horse?
3. What do you have to consider when arriving at a competition?
4. How do you take care of a horse at a competition?
5. What is an oval track? What are the measurements and what is the footing?
6. What is a pace track? What are the measurements, and what is the footing?
7. What is a T1 class and how do you ride it?
8. What is a T2 class and how do you ride it?
9. How do you warm up your horse for a tolt class?
10. What is a V1 class and how do you ride it?
11. How do you warm up your horse for a V1 class?
12. What is a F1 class and how do you ride it?
13. How do you warm up your horse for a F1 class?
14. How are finals different from preliminary rounds?
15. What general rules are there for riding in a competition?
16. How are gait classes judged?
17. What is the range for a poor score?
18. What is the range for an average score?
19. What is the range for a good score?
20. What is the range for an excellent score?

### **TOLT- detailed knowledge**

1. What is the sequence of steps in tolt?
2. What is the beat in tolt?
3. What are the different speeds in tolt?
4. What faulty sequences of steps exist in tolt?
5. How do you recognize and correct pacey tolt?
6. How do you recognize and correct trotty tolt?
7. How do you recognize and correct rolling in tolt?
8. What footing is best suited for tolt?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to tolt and to ride in tolt?
10. What should good tolt look like?
11. What could cause pacey tolt?
12. What could cause trotty tolt?
13. What could cause rolling in tolt?
14. What is vixel and how do you correct it?
15. What footing is best to correct pacey horse?
16. What footing is best to correct a trotty horse?
17. What is the proper shoeing to correct pacey horses?

18. What is the proper shoeing to correct trotty horses?
19. Why do you use boots?
20. What is the sequence in phases in tolt?
21. How do you school a young horse in tolt?
22. How do you teach a horse that only paces to tolt?
23. How do you teach a horse that only trots to tolt?
24. Where can one train a horse in tolt?
25. How do you teach a horse fast tempo tolt, and what do you need to pay attention to during the training?
26. What other horse breeds tolt?
27. What equipment can be used to affect tolt, and what do you need to pay attention to when using it?

### **GAITS – detailed knowledge**

1. What is the beat in walk?
2. What is the sequence of steps in walk?
3. What aids do you use to ask a horse to walk and while in walk?
4. What should good walk look like?
5. What is the sequence of phases in walk?
6. What faulty sequences of steps exist in walk and how do you correct them?
7. What are the different speeds in walk?
8. What is the beat in trot?
9. What is the sequence of steps in trot?
10. What should good trot look like?
11. What is the sequence of phases in trot?
12. What faulty sequences of steps exist in trot, and how do you correct them?
13. What are the different speeds in trot?
14. What are different seats in trot?
15. What aids do you use to ask a horse to trot and while in trot?
16. What is the beat in canter?
17. What is the sequence of steps in canter?
18. What aids do you use to ask a horse to canter and while in canter?
19. How do you know if a horse is on the correct lead in canter?
20. What should good canter look like?
21. What faulty sequences of steps exist in canter, and how do you correct them?
22. What are different seats in canter?
23. What is the beat in flying pace?
24. What are the sequences of steps and phases in flying pace?
25. What aids do you use to ask a horse to do flying pace?
26. What aids do you use when riding flying pace?
27. What trails are suited for riding flying pace?
28. What prerequisites do horse and rider have to fulfill before they start with flying pace?
29. What is “touching across” (striking the diagonal leg) and how can one prevent it?
30. What is “forging” and how can one prevent it?

### **practical exercise:**

! light seat in trot and canter / simple arena figures

! riding a T1 class

! riding a V1 class

## 5. USIHC Competition Riding Badge Level 3

### requirements:

youth and adults  
six-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam

### questions

#### **Theory:**

#### **RESPIRATION, TEMPERATURE AND PULSE – basic knowledge**

1. What are the normal temperature readings for an Icelandic horse at rest?
2. What are the normal temperature readings for an Icelandic horse after strenuous work?
3. How and where can you take the temperature?
4. When and why do you take the temperature readings?
5. What can cause high temperatures in horses?
6. What are the normal pulse readings for an Icelandic (beats/min) at rest?
7. What are the normal pulse readings for an Icelandic (beats/min) after strenuous work?
8. How and where can you take the pulse?
9. When and why do you take the pulse?
10. What can cause the pulse to be higher than normal?
11. How often per minute does an average Icelandic horse breathe at rest?
12. How often per minute does an average Icelandic horse breathe after strenuous work?
13. How do you count how often a horse breathes?
14. When and why do you measure the respiration?
15. What can cause a horse to breathe faster than normal?
16. How long after hard work should the readings be back to normal?
17. What do you do if the readings are not the way they are supposed to be?
18. How do Icelandic horses differ from other horses in measurements for temperature, pulse, and breathing?

#### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - intermediate knowledge**

1. How often do you trim a horse?
2. How often do you shoe a horse?
3. How can you tell if a horse is due for a trim?
4. How can you tell if a horse needs new shoes?
5. Describe different ways of incorrect trimming/shoeing.
6. What is pasture board?
7. What are the most important rules in keeping a horse?
8. Which tools do you need for day to day barn work?
9. What is a paddock, and what does an ideal paddock look like?
10. How should an ideal shelter look like/be built?
11. Name different kinds of fencing with advantages and disadvantages.
12. Describe the ideal fencing for horses.
13. Name different kinds of bedding with advantages and disadvantages.
14. Describe the ideal stall.
15. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? (Give reasons)
16. What is important to know/do if you keep a horse restricted to a stall?
17. How much space does a horse need?
18. Name different kinds of pastures and their advantages and disadvantages.
19. Describe the ideal feeding room.

20. Describe the ideal tack room.
21. Name the most important items for horse medicine cabinets and where best to keep the items.
22. When and how do you take care your pastures/pasture management?
23. Describe the ideal manure pile.
24. Name three poisonous plants in your area and describe one of them in detail (grows where/when/how to tell it apart/poisonous parts etc...)

### **GROOMING – intermediate knowledge**

1. Why do you groom a horse?
2. What tools do you need to groom a horse, and how do you use them?
3. Where and how should one tie a horse for grooming?
4. How do you take care of a horse after riding?
5. When should one groom a horse particularly thoroughly?
6. When does a horse shed and what should one pay attention to when it happens?
7. When and how do you groom a horse's mane, forelock, and tail?
8. When and how do you care for hooves?
9. When and how do you bathe a horse?
10. When should one shoe a horse?

### **FEEDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. Name the different kinds of horse feed.
2. Describe the different kinds of roughage.
3. How much water does a horse need per day?
4. Give a detailed description of a ideal feeding area for horses.
5. Name the different kinds of grains used in feed for horses.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when giving water to a horse?
7. When do you feed grain, and what is the amount dependent on?
8. What can you add to the daily feed? Why?
9. How much roughage per day does a horse need?
10. What is grass silage, and what do you have to pay attention to when feeding it?
11. What does good quality hay look like?
12. What does good quality straw look like?
13. What determines the amount of feed for a horse?
14. How do you feed a horse on a pack ride?
15. What major nutrient must horses have to live?
16. Is it possible for a horse to drink too much water at one time?
17. What happens to a horse that drinks too much water at one time?
18. In what situations is a horse likely to drink too much?
19. Normal water intake for horses varies with exercise, heat, and food intake. What amount of water can be considered normal per day for a horse?
20. How could you monitor how much water your horse drinks?
21. What mineral is essential for digestion along with water?
22. In cold weather horses may drink less than normal. What may this cause?
23. What can be done to increase the amount of water that horses drink in cold weather?
24. What can a person do to prevent drinking-related colic in their horse?
25. What role does water play in the digestive process?

### **HEALTH – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you know that a horse is healthy?
2. How do you know that a horse is sick?
3. Against what diseases should a horse be immunized?
4. What can one do against worms?
5. What are the normal pulse, breathing, and temperature readings for Icelandics, and how are they measured?
6. What are indications that a horse may have a fever?
7. What do you do if a horse has a fever?
8. What do you do if a horse coughs?
9. What do you do if a horse has a runny nose?
10. What do you do if a horse has minor injuries?
11. What is the correct immunization schedule for an Icelandic horse?
12. What is the correct worming schedule for an Icelandic horse herd?
13. Name the poisonous plants in your area and describe one in detail.
14. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of colic.
15. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of azoturia. (tying up)
16. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of tetanus.
17. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of influenza (infectious bronchitis).
18. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of chronic bronchitis.
19. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of summer eczema.
20. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of saddle and girth sores.
21. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of rain rot. (mycosis)
22. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of open sores.
23. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of cracked heels/scratches.
24. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of frog decay/thrush.
25. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of heel injuries.
26. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of ophthalmia.  
(inflammation of the eye)
27. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of diarrhea.
28. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of hoof abscess/bruises.
29. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of spavin.
30. What can cause a horse to rub itself?
31. What can cause a horse to lose too much weight?
32. What are the dangers of letting your horse be overweight?
33. What are the dangers of rapid weight loss?
34. What is hyperlipemia?

### **GENERAL BASICS – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you recognize the mental state of a horse?
2. Name the colors of the Icelandic horse.
3. Name the possible markings of an Icelandic horse.
4. What are the common man-made ways of identifying Icelandic horses?
5. Name the parts of a horse's body.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
7. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?
8. Name the bones and joints of the front leg.
9. Name the bones and joints of the hind leg.
10. Name the parts of the hoof.

### **TRAIL RIDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you behave on trail/out in nature?
2. How do you ride uphill?
3. How do you ride downhill?
4. Describe which gaits to ride in which terrain?

5. Why to you trail ride?
6. When and how do you take breaks during a day ride?
7. Describe the ideal place to take a break?
8. How can riding accidents be avoided?
9. What do you pay attention to when riding in a group?
10. How do you behave in traffic areas?
11. Which terrain is suitable for canter?
12. How do you get over a natural obstacle?
13. How should a horse be shod for a pack trip?
14. Name the general rules for polite and responsible behavior on trail.
15. Describe suitable tack for a trail riding horse (long trails).
16. How do you swim with a horse?
17. What is the most important quality of a trail horse?
18. Good manners are important to any trail horse. Avoid a horse that....
19. Natural ability helps get any horse along a trail but the ability to go \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ steep hills is important.
20. What part of a trail horse must be sound?
21. Name six skills necessary for trail horses to know.
22. When should a horse be allowed to drink when trail riding?
23. Chasing runaway horses is always a good idea. True or false
24. On narrow trails it is best to follow in single file. But when crossing a road it is often best to do a flanking movement. What is it?
25. Demonstrate how to tie a horse with a slip knot.
26. When and where would you use a bowline knot to tie a horse?
27. At the end of the day or ride a horses needs should be considered first. True or false
28. What would you do if your horse disturbed a wasp or bee nest?
29. What should you do if you are lost?
30. Night riding should be avoided but if necessary list five things to make it safer

#### **TACK – detailed knowledge**

1. Name all parts of a saddle.
2. Name all parts of a bridle.
3. What kinds of nosebands are there, and how do you adjust them to fit properly?
4. How do the different nosebands work/influence a horse?
5. Name different kinds of bits and describe their influence on a horse.
6. Name different kinds of bitless bridles and describe their influence on a horse.
7. Name different kinds of saddles and when /for what are they being used.
8. How does the Icelandic saddle differ from other saddles?
9. Describe how to take good care of tack.
10. Describe how to correctly fit a bridle and how to adjust them to fit properly.
11. Name different kinds of auxiliary reins and when and how to use them correctly.
12. Describe how the Icelandic shank bit works/influences a horse and how to adjust it to fit properly.
13. How does a Pelham work /influence a horse and how do you adjust it to fit properly?
14. How does a double bridle /curb bit work and how do you adjust it to fit properly?

#### **RIDING TECHNIQUE – detailed knowledge**

1. How do you mount properly?
2. How do you dismount properly?

3. Describe the correct full seat.
4. How do you lead a horse properly?
5. How do you move off?
6. How do you start trotting? (Describe all aids)
7. How do you start toltting? (Describe all aids)
8. How do you start cantering? (Describe all aids)
9. How do you slow down from a faster gait to a slower gait?
10. How do you do a full halt?
11. How do you ride a turn? (Describe all aids)
12. Name the markers in a 20x40m dressage square or arena.
13. When do you use the full seat?
14. Describe the forward seat.
15. When do you use the forward seat?
16. Describe the light seat.
17. When do you use the light seat?
18. What different aids are there and how are they divided into further groups?
19. Name the different leg aids and when are they used.
20. Name the different weight aids and when are they used.
21. Name the different rein aids and when are they used.
22. What are additional aids and how are they used?
23. How do you do a half halt and what is its influence on a horse?
24. Describe what a full halt is, what aids you use and how it should look like.
25. Which aids are being used to move off?
26. Which aids are being used to start cantering?
27. Name the arena rules.
28. What is inside and what is outside when riding dressage?
29. Name the different phases in the scale of the dressage schooling of a horse.
30. What are loosening/suppling exercises?
31. What is beat/rhythm?
32. What is suppleness?
33. What is the connection between hand and mouth?
34. What should a dressage test look like?
35. Name and describe faulty positions in the full seat.
36. Name and describe different ways of holding the reins.
37. Which aids does the rider use to ride on a bent line?
38. What is a bend, what is a flexion, and what is the difference?
39. Describe how to properly ride a turn on the forehand with all correct aids.
40. Describe how to properly leg yield with all correct aids.
41. Describe different forms of leg yielding.
42. Describe how to properly back up with all correct aids.
43. Give reasons for riding dressage with Icelandic horses.
44. How to you get a horse to step forward to the bit?
45. Name faulty connections between hand and mouth.
46. What can cause faulty connections between hand and mouth and how do you correct them?
47. What is a half pirouette in walk and how do you ride it properly?
48. What is a turn on the haunches and how do you ride it properly?
49. What is impulsion?
50. What is straightening a horses spine?
51. What is collection?
52. Describe how to correctly ride a simple lead change at canter.
53. What are the basics in the dressage schooling of the Icelandic horse?

## **CARE OF A HORSE BEFORE AND AFTER THE RIDE – detailed knowledge)**

1. What do you do with your horse before going on a ride?
2. What do you do with your horse after a ride?
3. How do you water your horse after a long ride?
4. Should a horse have access to food before normal exercise? If so what kind?
5. Should a horse have access to food after normal exercise?
6. If you feed grain, when is the best time to give it to your horse?
7. What are the disadvantages of giving grain to a horse before a ride?
8. What is the danger of feeding a horse, especially grain, too soon after a ride?
9. How can you tell if a horse is exhausted after a ride?
10. Why is it important to let your horse roll after riding?
11. How do you know your horse is in shape for strenuous exercise?
12. How can you tell after a ride if your horse has a normal recovery time?
13. How long before a strenuous ride should a horse get water?
14. How soon after a strenuous ride should a horse get water?
15. How do you prevent your horse from drinking too much water too quickly after a strenuous ride?
16. How long before a strenuous ride should a horse get food and what kind of food?
17. How soon after a strenuous ride should a horse get food and what kind of food?
18. When is the best time to give grain to a horse after a strenuous ride?
19. How do you take care of your horse after a strenuous ride in hot weather?
20. How do you take care of your horse after a strenuous ride in cold weather?
21. How do you take care of your horse after a strenuous ride in mild weather?

## **TOLT- specialized knowledge**

1. What is the sequence of steps in tolt?
2. What is the beat in tolt?
3. What are the different speeds in tolt?
4. What faulty sequences of steps exist in tolt?
5. How do you recognize and correct pacey tolt?
6. How do you recognize and correct trotty tolt?
7. How do you recognize and correct rolling in tolt?
8. What footing is best suited for tolt?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to tolt and to ride in tolt?
10. What should good tolt look like?
11. What could cause pacey tolt?
12. What could cause trotty tolt?
13. What could cause rolling in tolt?
14. What is vixel and how do you correct it?
15. What footing is best to correct pacey horse?
16. What footing is best to correct a trotty horse?
17. What is the proper shoeing to correct pacey horses?
18. What is the proper shoeing to correct trotty horses?
19. Why do you use boots?
20. What is the sequence in phases in tolt?
21. How do you school a young horse in tolt?
22. How do you teach a horse that only paces to tolt?
23. How do you teach a horse that only trots to tolt?
24. Where can one train a horse in tolt?

25. How do you teach a horse fast tempo tolt, and what do you need to pay attention to during the training?
26. What other horse breeds tolt?
27. What equipment can be used to affect tolt and what do you need to pay attention to when using it?
28. What equipment can be used when teaching a young horse to tolt?
29. Name the tolt classes in the FIPO.
30. What is T1 and how is it ridden?
31. What is T2 and how is it ridden?
32. How do you train a horse for T1?
33. How do you train a horse for T2?
34. How do the length of the hoof and weights affect the mechanics of the gaits, and why is this important?
35. How can a horse injure itself in tolt, and how can this be prevented?

### **GAITS – specialized knowledge**

1. What is the beat in walk?
2. What is the sequence of steps in walk?
3. What aids do you use to ask a horse to walk and while in walk?
4. What should good walk look like?
5. What is the sequence of phases in walk?
6. What faulty sequences of steps exist in walk, and how do you correct them?
7. What are the different speeds in walk?
8. What is the beat in trot?
9. What is the sequence of steps in trot?
10. What should good trot look like?
11. What is the sequence of phases in trot?
12. What faulty sequences of steps exist in trot, and how do you correct them?
13. What are the different speeds in trot?
14. What are different seats in trot?
15. What aids do you use to ask a horse to trot and in trot?
16. How do you get a horse that does not trot to trot?
17. What is the beat in canter?
18. What is the sequence of steps in canter?
19. What aids do you use to ask a horse to canter and while in canter?
20. How do you know if a horse is in the correct canter?
21. What should good canter look like?
22. What faulty sequences of steps exist in canter, and how do you correct them?
23. What are different seats in canter?
24. How do you correct a horse that only canters on one lead?
25. What is the beat in flying pace?
26. What are the sequences of steps and phases in flying pace?
27. What aids do you use to ask a horse to do flying pace?
28. What aids do you use when riding flying pace?
29. What trails are suited for riding flying pace?
30. What prerequisites do horse and rider have to fulfill before they start with flying pace?
31. What faulty sequences of steps exist in flying pace, and how do you correct them?
32. How do you train a flying pace?
33. What is important when choosing the equipment for riding flying pace?
34. What is “touching across” (striking the diagonal leg) and how can one prevent it?
35. What is “forging” and how can one prevent it?
36. What are the phases of the movement of a leg?

## COMPETITION RIDING – specialized knowledge

1. What do you have to consider before taking a horse to a competition?
2. What do you have to take when going to a competition with a horse?
3. What do you have to consider when arriving at a competition?
4. How do you take care of a horse at a competition?
5. What do you have to pay attention to when taking a horse to its first competition?
6. How do you condition a horse?
7. What is an oval track? What are the measurements, and what is the footing?
8. What is a pace track? What are the measurements, and what is the footing?
9. What is a T1 class and how do you ride it?
10. What is a T2 class and how do you ride it?
11. How do you warm up your horse for a tolt class?
12. What is a V1 class and how do you ride it?
13. How do you warm up your horse for a V1 class?
14. What is a F1 class and how do you ride it?
15. How do you warm up your horse for a F1 class?
16. How are finals different from preliminary rounds?
17. What general rules are there for riding in a competition?
18. How are gait classes judged?
19. What is the range for a poor score?
20. What is the range for an average score?
21. What is the range for a good score?
22. What is the range for an excellent score?
23. What is doping and why is it forbidden?
24. What are the important articles of the shoeing rules in the FIPO?
25. What are the important articles of the equipment rules in the FIPO?
26. What are the important articles of the USIHC show rules?

### **practical exercise:**

! dressage test (FIPO)

! riding a T1 or T2 class

! riding a V1 or F1 class

! In addition: rider has to switch horses with other students for both parts

## 6. USIHC Pleasure Riding Badge Level 1

### requirements:

children, youth, and adults  
children minimum age eight years  
six-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam

### questions:

#### **Theory:**

##### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - basic knowledge**

1. How often do you trim a horse?
2. How often do you shoe a horse?
3. How can you tell if a horse is due for a trim?
4. How can you tell if a horse needs new shoes?
5. How can you tell if a horse needs to see the farrier?
6. What is pasture board?
7. What are the most important rules in keeping a horse?
8. Which tools do you need for day to day barn work?
9. What is a paddock?
10. Describe the ideal fencing for horses.
11. Name different kinds of bedding with advantages and disadvantages.
12. Describe the ideal stall.
13. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? (Give reasons)
14. What is important to know/do if you keep a horse restricted to a stall?

##### **GROOMING – basic knowledge**

1. Why do you groom a horse?
2. What tools do you use to groom a horse, and how do you use them?
3. Where and how do you tie a horse?
4. How do you take care of a horse after riding?
5. When and how do you groom a horse's mane, forelock and tail?
6. When and how do you care for the hooves?

##### **FEEDING – basic knowledge**

1. Name the different kinds of horse feed.
2. Describe the different kinds of roughage.
3. How much water does a horse need per day?
4. What major nutrient must horses have to live?
5. Is it possible for a horse to drink too much water at one time?
6. What happens to a horse that drinks too much water at one time?
7. In what situations is a horse likely to drink too much?
8. Give a detailed description of an ideal feeding area for horses.

##### **HEALTH – basic knowledge**

1. What does a horse need to be healthy?
2. How do you know that a horse is healthy?
3. How do you know that a horse is sick?
4. Against what diseases should a horse be immunized?
5. How can parasites be controlled?
6. What are the normal pulse, respiration, and temperature readings for Icelandics? How are they measured?
7. What are the indications that a horse may have a fever?
8. What do you do if a horse has a fever?
9. What do you do if a horse coughs?
10. What do you do if a horse has minor injuries?

11. What do you do if a horse has a runny nose?

#### **GENERAL BASICS – basic knowledge**

1. How do you recognize the mental state of a horse?
2. Name the colors of the Icelandic horse.
3. What are the possible natural markings of an Icelandic horse?
4. What are the common man-made ways of identifying Icelandic horses?
5. Name the parts of a horse's body.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
7. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?

#### **RIDING TECHNIQUE – basic knowledge**

1. How do you mount properly?
2. How do you dismount properly?
3. Describe the correct full seat.
4. How do you lead a horse properly?
5. How do you move off?
6. How do you start trotting? (Describe all aids)
7. How do you start toltting? (Describe all aids)
8. How do you start cantering? (Describe all aids)
9. How do you slow down from a faster gait to a slower gait?
10. How do you do a full halt?
11. How do you ride a turn? (Describe all aids)

#### **CARE OF A HORSE BEFORE AND AFTER THE RIDE – basic knowledge**

1. What do you do with your horse before going on a ride?
2. What do you do with your horse after a ride?
3. How do you water your horse after a long ride?
4. Should a horse have access to food before normal exercise? If so, what kind?
5. Should a horse have access to food after normal exercise?
6. If you feed grain, when is the best time to give it to your horse?
7. What are the disadvantages of giving grain to a horse before a ride?
8. What is the danger of feeding a horse, especially grain, too soon after a ride?
9. How can you tell if a horse is exhausted after a ride?
10. Why is it important to let your horse roll after riding?

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE CONDITION OF A HORSE – basic knowledge**

1. Name the signs of a healthy horse.
2. How do you tell if a horse is too skinny?
3. How do you tell if a horse is too fat?
4. How do you tell if a horse has summer eczema?
5. How do you tell if a horse needs a trim or shoes reset?
6. How do you find out if an unknown horse is in a good condition?
7. How do you tell if a horse is well taken care of?
8. How do you tell if a horse is not well taken care of?
9. How does a happy horse look and behave?
10. How does an unhappy horse look and behave?

### **JUMPING – basic knowledge**

1. Name and describe the seat you use to jump.
2. Describe how you hold the reins before, during, and after a jump.
3. Which qualifications does a rider need to jump?
4. Which qualifications does a horse need to jump?
5. How do you prepare your horse for a jump on a trail?
6. How do you behave before and after a jump on a trail?
7. Describe faulty behavior of the rider when jumping.
8. What are the dangers of jumping obstacles on trail?

### **SAFETY ON TRAIL – basic knowledge**

1. Why is it important to know where you are riding?
2. How do you know your location on trail?
3. What is the first priority if an accident occurs?
4. What safety precautions can you take when going on trail rides?

### **FIRST AID FOR HORSES ON TRAIL – basic knowledge**

1. What do you do if your horse is bleeding severely?
2. What do you do if your horse stepped on a nail or sharp object?
3. What do you do if your horse seems to be exhausted?
4. What do you do if your horse gets severely injured?

### **TOLT – basic knowledge**

1. What is the sequence of steps in tolt?
2. What is the beat in tolt?
3. What are the different speeds in tolt?
4. What faulty sequences of steps exist in tolt?
5. How do you recognize and correct pacey tolt?
6. How do you recognize and correct trotty tolt?
7. How do you recognize and correct rolling in tolt?
8. What footing is best suited for tolt?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to tolt and to ride tolt?

### **TACK – intermediate knowledge**

1. Name all parts of a saddle.
2. Name all parts of a bridle.
3. What kinds of nosebands are there, and how do you adjust them to fit properly?
4. How do different nosebands work/influence a horse?
5. Name different kinds of bits and describe their influence on a horse.
6. Name different kinds of bitless bridles and describe their influence on a horse.
7. Name different kinds of saddles and when/for what they are used.
8. How does the Icelandic saddle differ from other saddles?
9. Describe how to take good care of tack.
10. Describe how to correctly fit a bridle, and how to adjust it to fit properly.

### **GAITS – intermediate knowledge**

1. What is the beat in walk?
2. What is the sequence of steps in walk?
3. What aids do you use to ask a horse to walk and while in walk?
4. What is the beat in trot?
5. What is the sequence of steps in trot?
6. What aids do you use to ask a horse to trot and while in trot?
7. What is the beat in canter?
8. What is the sequence of steps in canter?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to canter and while in canter?
10. What are different seats in trot?
11. What are different seats in canter?
12. How do you know if a horse is on the correct lead in canter?

### **TRAIL RIDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you behave on trail/out in nature?
2. How do you ride uphill?
3. How do you ride downhill?
4. Describe which gaits to ride in which terrain.
5. Why do you trail ride?
6. When and how do you take breaks during a day ride?
7. Describe a good place to take a break.
8. How can riding accidents be avoided?
9. What do you pay attention to when riding in a group?
10. How do you behave in traffic areas?
11. Which terrain is suitable for canter?
12. How do you get over a natural obstacle?
13. How should a horse be shod for a pack trip?
14. Name the general rules for polite and responsible behavior on trail.
15. Describe suitable tack for a trail riding horse (long trails).
16. How do you swim with a horse?
17. What is the most important quality of a trail horse?
18. Good manners are important to any trail horse. Avoid a horse that....
19. Natural ability helps get any horse along a trail but the ability to go \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ steep hills is important.
20. What part of a trail horse must be sound?
21. Name six skills necessary for trail horses to know.
22. When should a horse be allowed to drink when trail riding?
23. Chasing runaway horses is always a good idea. True or false
24. On narrow trails it is best to follow in single file. When crossing a road it is often best to do a flanking movement. What is that?
25. Demonstrate how to tie a horse with a slip knot.
26. When and where would you use a bowline knot to tie a horse?
27. At the end of the day or ride a horse's needs should be considered first. True or false
28. What would you do if your horse disturbed a wasp or bee nest?
29. What should you do if you are lost?
30. Night riding should be avoided but if necessary list five things to make it safer.

### **practical exercise:**

! showing a horse at any tempo walk, trot, tolt, and canter

! simple obedience test with transitions, stops, and mount /dismount

! behavior and riding on trails

!

## 7. USIHC Pleasure Riding Badge Level 2

### **requirements:**

youth and adults  
six-day clinic or equivalent number of instructional units  
including exam  
First aid course is a **prerequisite**

### **questions:**

#### **Theory:**

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE CONDITION OF A HORSE - basic knowledge**

1. Name the signs of a healthy horse.
2. How do you tell if a horse is too thin?
3. How do you tell if a horse is too fat?
4. How do you tell if a horse has summer eczema?
5. How do you tell if a horse needs a trim or shoes reset?
6. How do you find out if an unknown horse is in a good condition?
7. How do you tell if a horse is well taken care of?
8. How do you tell if a horse is not well taken care of?
9. How does a happy horse look and behave?
10. How does an unhappy horse look and behave?

#### **RESPIRATION, TEMPERATURE, AND PULSE – basic knowledge**

1. What are the normal temperature readings for an Icelandic horse at rest?
2. What are the normal temperature readings for an Icelandic horse after strenuous work?
3. How and where can you take a temperature?
4. When and why do you take temperature readings?
5. What can cause high temperatures in horses?
6. What are the normal pulse readings for an Icelandic (beats/min) at rest?
7. What are the normal pulse readings for an Icelandic (beats/min) after strenuous work?
8. How and where can you take the pulse?
9. When and why do you take the pulse?
10. What can cause the pulse to be higher than normal?
11. How often per minute does an average Icelandic horse breathe at rest?
12. How often per minute does an average Icelandic horse breathe after strenuous work?
13. How do you count how often a horse breathes?
14. When and why do you measure respiration?
15. What can cause a horse to breathe faster than normal?
16. How long after hard work should the readings be back to normal?
17. What do you do if the readings are not the way they are supposed to be?
18. How do Icelandic horses differ from other horses in their measurements for temperature, pulse, and breathing?

### **SAFETY ON TRAIL – basic knowledge**

1. Why is it important to know where you are riding?
2. How do you know your location on trail?
3. What is the first priority if an accident occurs?
4. What safety precautions can you take when going on trail rides?

### **FIRST AID FOR HORSES ON TRAIL – basic knowledge**

1. What do you do if your horse is bleeding severely?
2. What do you do if your horse stepped on a nail or sharp object?
3. What do you do if your horse seems to be exhausted?
4. What do you do if your horse gets severely injured?

### **KEEPING AND CARE OF HORSES - intermediate knowledge**

1. How often do you trim a horse?
2. How often do you shoe a horse?
3. How can you tell if a horse is due for a trim?
4. How can you tell if a horse needs new shoes?
5. Describe different ways of incorrect trimming/shoeing.
6. What is pasture board?
7. What are the most important rules in keeping a horse?
8. Which tools do you need for day to day barn work?
9. What is a paddock and how does the ideal paddock look like?
10. How should an ideal shelter look/be built?
11. Name different kinds of fencing with advantages and disadvantages.
12. Describe the ideal fencing for horses.
13. Name different kinds of bedding with advantages and disadvantages.
14. Describe the ideal stall.
15. Why would you keep a horse in a stall? Give reasons.
16. What is important to know/do if you keep a horse restricted to a stall?
17. How much space does a horse need?
18. Name different kinds of pastures and their advantages and disadvantages.
19. Describe the ideal feeding room.
20. Describe the ideal tack room.
21. Name the most important items for horse medicine cabinet and where to best keep the items.
22. When and how do you take care of your pastures/pasture management?
23. Describe the ideal manure pile.
24. Name three poisonous plants in your area and describe one of them in detail. (grows where/when/how to tell it apart/poisonous parts etc...)

### **GROOMING – intermediate knowledge**

1. Why do you groom a horse?
2. What tools do you need to groom a horse, and how do you use them?
3. Where and how should one tie a horse for grooming?
4. How do you take care of a horse after riding?
5. When should one groom a horse particularly thoroughly?
6. When does a horse shed, and what should one pay attention to when it happens?
7. When and how do you groom a horse's mane, forelock, and tail?
8. When and how do you care for the hooves?
9. When and how do you bathe a horse?
10. When should one shoe a horse?

### **FEEDING – intermediate knowledge**

1. Name the different kinds of horse feed.
2. Describe the different kinds of roughage.
3. How much water does a horse need per day?
4. Give a detailed description of an ideal feeding area for horses.
5. Name the different kinds of grains used in feed for horses.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when giving water to a horse?
7. When do you feed grain, and on what does the amount depend?
8. What can you add to your daily feed? Why?
9. How much roughage per day does a horse need ?
10. What is grass silage, and what do you have to pay attention to when feeding it?
11. What does good quality hay look like?
12. What does good quality straw look like?
13. What determines the amount of feed for a horse?
14. How do you feed a horse on a pack ride?
15. What major nutrient must horses have to live?
16. Is it possible for a horse to drink too much water at one time?
17. What happens to a horse that drinks too much water at one time?
18. In what situations is a horse likely to drink too much?.
19. Normal water intake for horses varies with exercise, heat, and food intake. What amount of water can be considered normal per day for a horse?
20. How could you monitor how much water your horse drinks?
21. What mineral is essential for digestion along with water?
22. In cold weather, horses may drink less than normal. What may this cause?
23. What can be done to increase water drinking by horses in cold weather?
24. What can a person do to prevent drinking-related colic in their horse?
25. What role does water play in the digestive process?

### **HEALTH – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you know that a horse is healthy?
2. How do you know that a horse is sick?
3. Against what diseases should a horse be immunized?
4. What can one do against worms?
5. What are the normal pulse, breathing, and temperature readings for Icelandics, and how are they measured?
6. What are indications that a horse may have a fever?
7. What do you do if a horse has a fever?
8. What do you do if a horse coughs?
9. What do you do if a horse has a runny nose?
10. What do you do if a horse has minor injuries?
11. What is the correct immunization schedule for an Icelandic horse?
12. What is the correct worming schedule for an Icelandic horse?
13. Name the poisonous plants in your area and describe one in detail.
14. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of colic.
15. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of azoturia. (tying up)
16. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of tetanus.
17. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of influenza (infectious bronchitis).
18. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of chronic bronchitis.
19. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of summer eczema.
20. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of saddle and girth sores.
21. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of rain rot. (mycosis)
22. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of open sores.

23. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of cracked heels/scratches.
24. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of frog decay/thrush.
25. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of heel injuries.
26. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of ophthalmia.  
(inflammation of the eye)
27. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of diarrhea.
28. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of hoof abscess/bruises.
29. Describe causes, symptoms, and treatment of spavin.
30. What can cause a horse to rub itself?
31. What can cause a horse to lose too much weight?
32. What are the dangers of keeping a horse overweight?
33. What are the dangers of rapid weight loss ?
34. What is hyperlipemia?

#### **TACK – intermediate knowledge**

1. Name all parts of a saddle.
2. Name all parts of a bridle.
3. What kinds of nosebands are there, and how do you adjust them to fit properly?
4. How do the different nosebands work/influence a horse?
5. Name different kinds of bits and describe their influence on a horse.
6. Name different kinds of bitless bridles and describe their influence on a horse.
7. Name different kinds of saddles and when /for what they are used.
8. How does the Icelandic saddle differ from other saddles?
9. Describe how to take good care of tack.
10. Describe how to correctly fit a bridle, and how to adjust them to fit properly.

#### **GENERAL BASICS – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you recognize the mental state of a horse?
2. Name the colors of the Icelandic horse.
3. Name the possible markings of an Icelandic horse.
4. What are the common man-made ways of identifying Icelandic horses?
5. Name the parts of a horse's body.
6. What do you have to pay attention to when catching a horse?
7. What do you have to pay attention to when handling a horse?
8. Name the bones and joints of the front leg.
9. Name the bones and joints of the hind leg.
10. Name the parts of the hoof.

#### **RIDING TECHNIQUE – intermediate knowledge**

1. How do you mount properly?
2. How do you dismount properly?
3. Describe the correct full seat.
4. How do you lead a horse properly?
5. How do you move off?
6. How do you start trotting? (Describe all aids)
7. How do you start toltting? (Describe all aids)
8. How do you start cantering? (Describe all aids)
9. How do you slow down from a faster gait to a slower gait?
10. How do you do a full halt?
11. How do you ride a turn? (Describe all aids)
12. When do you use the full seat?
13. Describe the forward seat.
14. When do you use the forward seat?
15. Describe the light seat.

16. When do you use the light seat?
17. What different aids are there and how are they divided into further groups?
18. Name the different leg aids and when they are used.
19. Name the different weight aids and when they are used..
20. Name the different rein aids and when they are used.
21. What are additional aids are how are they used?
22. How do you do a half halt and what is its influence on a horse?
23. Describe what a full halt is, what aids you use, and how it should look like.
24. Which aids are being used to move off?
25. Which aids are being used to start cantering?
26. Name the arena rules.
27. What are loosening/suppling exercises?
28. What is beat/rhythm?
29. What is suppleness?
30. What is the connection between hand and mouth?

### **TOLT - intermediate knowledge**

1. What is the sequence of steps in tolt?
2. What is the beat in tolt?
3. What are the different speeds in tolt?
4. What faulty sequences of steps exist in tolt?
5. How do you recognize and correct pacey tolt?
6. How do you recognize and correct trotty tolt?
7. How do you recognize and correct rolling in tolt?
8. What footing is best suited for tolt?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to tolt and to ride in tolt?
10. What should good tolt look like?
11. What could cause pacey tolt?
12. What could cause trotty tolt?
13. What could cause rolling in tolt?
14. What is vixel and how do you correct it?
15. What footing is best to correct pacey horse?
16. What footing is best to correct a trotty horse?
17. What is the proper shoeing to correct pacey horses?
18. What is the proper shoeing to correct trotty horses?
19. Why do you use boots?

### **GAITS – intermediate knowledge**

1. What is the beat in walk?
2. What is the sequence of steps in walk?
3. What aids do you use to ask a horse to walk and while in walk?
4. What is the beat in trot?
5. What is the sequence of steps in trot?
6. What aids do you use to ask a horse to trot and while in trot?
7. What is the beat in canter?
8. What is the sequence of steps in canter?
9. What aids do you use to ask a horse to canter and while in canter?
10. What are different seats in trot?
11. What are different seats in canter?
12. How do you know if a horse is on the correct lead in canter?

### **JUMPING – intermediate knowledge**

1. Name and describe the seat you use to ride over cavalettis or jumps.
2. Describe how you hold the reins before, during, and after a jump.
3. What qualifications does a rider need to jump?
4. What qualifications does a horse need to jump?
5. How do you prepare your horse for a jump on trail?
6. How do you behave before and after a jump on a trail?
7. Describe faulty behavior of the rider when jumping.
8. What are the dangers of jumping obstacles on trail?
9. How do you teach a horse to jump?
10. Describe the different phases of a jump.
11. What should a ideal jump look like?
12. In what trail conditions should you not ask a horse to jump?
13. What characteristics of a horse would discourage you from asking it to jump?

### **PONYING – intermediate knowledge**

1. What is the purpose of ponying horses?
2. How should the ridden horse and a horse being ponied be equipped/tacked?
3. What skills does the rider need to pony a horse?
4. What skills does the ridden horse need?
5. What skills does the ponied horse need?
6. Which basic rules do you have to obey when ponying horses?
7. What is important to pay attention to when ponying a horse on trail?
8. How do you train a horse to pony?

### **CARE OF A HORSE BEFORE AND AFTER THE RIDE – detailed knowledge**

1. What do you do with your horse before going on a ride?
2. What do you do with your horse after a ride?
3. How do you water your horse after a long ride?
4. Should a horse have access to food before normal exercise? If so what kind?
5. Should a horse have access to food after normal exercise?
6. If you feed grain, when is the best time to give it to your horse?
7. What are the disadvantages of giving grain to a horse before a ride?
8. What is the danger of feeding a horse, especially grain, too soon after a ride?
9. How can you tell if a horse is exhausted after a ride?
10. Why is it important to let your horse roll after riding?
11. How do you know your horse is in shape for strenuous exercise?
12. How can you tell after a ride if your horse has had a normal recovery time?
13. How long before a strenuous ride should a horse get water?
14. How soon after a strenuous ride should a horse get water?
15. How do you prevent your horse from drinking too much water too quickly after a strenuous ride?
16. How long before a strenuous ride should a horse get food and what kind of food?
17. How soon after a strenuous ride should a horse get food and what kind of food?
18. When is the best time to give grain to a horse after a strenuous ride?
19. How do you take care of your horse after a strenuous ride in hot weather?
20. How do you take care of your horse after a strenuous ride in cold weather?

21. How do you take care of your horse after a strenuous ride in mild weather?

### **TRAIL RIDING – detailed knowledge**

1. Which horses and riders should be allowed to go on trail rides?
2. Describe the disposition of a good trail horse. How do you behave on trail/out in nature?
3. How do you ride uphill?
4. How do you ride downhill?
5. Describe which gaits to ride in which terrain.
6. Which terrain is suitable for canter?
7. Why do you trail ride?
8. Where is a good place to take a break?
9. How can riding accidents be avoided?
10. What do you pay attention to when riding in a group?
11. How do you behave in traffic areas?
12. How do you get over a natural obstacle?
13. How should a horse be shod for a pack trip?
14. Name the general rules for polite and responsible behavior on trail.
15. Describe suitable tack for a trail-riding horse (long trails).
16. What do you do in case somebody has a riding accident?
17. What do you need to pay attention to when crossing unknown waters?
18. How do you swim with a horse?
19. How do you get over a natural obstacle?
20. What equipment do you need for a pack trip?
21. What skills does the rider need for a pack trip?
22. What do you have to pay attention to when planning a pack trip?
23. What is an endurance ride?
24. What is an endurance race?
25. How do you condition a horse for a 40 km endurance ride (about 25 miles)?
26. A good rule of thumb for extended trail rides is to condition horses \_\_\_\_\_ miles for every mile per day of the planned ride.
27. Two horses can be conditioned at once by riding one and \_\_\_\_\_ the other.
28. What prerequisites do horse and rider have to fulfill before participating in a competitive long distance ride?
29. What is the most important quality of a trail horse?
30. Good manners are important to any trail horse. Avoid a horse that....
31. Natural ability helps get any horse along a trail but the ability to go \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ steep hills is important
32. A horse with a short or long back is best for carrying the weight of a rider over long distances. Which is correct?
33. The legs of a horse should be correct and of sufficient bone. Joints should be large, hard, and clean. Name or describe five serious deviations found in the legs.
34. What part of a trail horse must be sound?
35. Name six skills necessary for trail horses to know.
36. When should a horse be allowed to drink when trail riding?
37. What two things can be done to help a horse drink when it returns to its trailer?
38. Chasing runaway horses is always a good idea. True or false
39. On narrow trails it is best to follow in single file. But when crossing a road it is often best to do a flanking movement. What is that?
40. Demonstrate how to tie a horse with a slip knot.
41. When and where would you use a bowline knot to tie a horse?
42. At the end of the day or ride a horses needs should be considered first. True or false?
43. What would you do if your horse disturbed a wasp or bee nest?

44. What should you do if you are lost?
45. What five things can a GPS do for a trail rider?
46. Night riding should be avoided but if necessary list five things to make it safer.
47. Which two of the following nutrients are most important for a trail riding horse: salt, protein, fat?
48. What does inverted mean in relation to pulse and respiration rates? Is this a problem for Icelandic horses?

**Practical exercise:**

! showing a horse at different speed levels at tolt

! showing a horse at any tempo walk, trot, tolt, and canter

! obedience test (backing, stopping, mount/dismount)

! two jumps, maximum height two feet

! ponying horses easy level

! behavior and riding on trails