



Youth Work Report from Switzerland 2011



IPV-CH

Islandpferde Vereinigung Schweiz is the only national Icelandic horse Association in Switzerland although there are some regional associations that are not associated with IPV-CH. The members of the regional clubs can however also decide to be members of IPV-CH.

In 2011, IPV-CH had 1'138 members, in other words 80 more than in 2010. Among these there are about 150 – 200 youngsters.

Some youth work is done by the members of the „youth and grassroots committee“. There are five members in the committee, which meets about 6 times a year. Other committees also do youth work, such as sports, education and breeding. In every committee one member is responsible for youth work. The advantage of sharing youth work with all the other committees is that it is integrated in all aspects of the IPV-CH. However, we always need to make sure that there is a good flow of information.

In 2012, we intend to solve this problem by involving a young rider in the “youth and grassroots committee” as a speaker for the young riders, giving us information about all kinds of themes and handing on wishes and ideas to us.

Here is what went on in 2011:

IPV-YOUTH-EVENT:



For the first time we organised an IPV-Youth-Event and our theme was “Showriding”. Irene Indermauer from the Swiss Youth Show group and her Team welcomed 11 youngsters who were able to try out tricks with Irene’s show horses. At the end of the course, the show group members demonstrated their tricks. The day was a great success.



This year we are organising a day with Eve Barmettler who will talk about her experience and will give tips for going to tournaments. This day is for riders on every level, as well as for visitors.

YOUTH APÉRO AT THE SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP:

For the first time we organised a youth apéro in combination with the Swiss Championship in Brunnadern. Non-alcoholic drinks and snacks were served free of charge, and all the activities and courses offered by FEIF and IPV-CH concerning younger riders were presented. Our youth-squad-trainer Ladina Sigurbjörnsen and all those responsible for youth from the committees attended to make contact with the youngsters and answer questions.



This event will also take place this year.

PARTICIPATION IN FEIF EVENTS 2011

Youth Camp 2011

We were happy to send 2 young girls to Scotland to the youth camp 2011. They came back with big smiles on their faces. Congratulations to the organizers.

YOUNGSTERS COMPETING IN COMPETITIONS

In Switzerland

There are special classes for younger riders in all competitions. The numbers of riders depends on the classes that are announced.

In 2011, there were a lot of young riders especially in competitions for the qualification to the FEIF Youth Cup. The interest to go abroad is increasing.

Very young riders also like to go to the tournaments. We had up to 66 starters all over the year in regular A category tournaments and 73 in the category C.

New Regulations concerning young riders:

In 2012, young riders have to qualify for sport A. For tölt- and four-gait, the qualifying score is 5.5, for five-gait they have to get 5.3.



The World Championship

We were happy to send 3 young riders to the world championship 2011 in Austria.

Supporting young riders:

Our best young riders have the opportunity to visit special courses. In 2011, 12 youngsters qualified for the young riders squad.

For 2012 we are organising 5 courses with Ladina Sigurbjörnsson-Foppa and hope to see a lot of youngsters taking up this offer.

Young riders between 16 and 21 are allowed to take part in the adult's squad training. In 2011, three youngsters took up this opportunity.

YOUTH AND BREEDING

Our breeding committee organises interesting seminars for all IPV-CH Members every year. Our youngsters benefit from a reduced price. The seminars teach them about exterior, behaviour and riding. In 2012, we will try to get more youngsters interested in these courses.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR ICELANDIC HORSES

Last year I wrote about the possibility of getting an apprenticeship programme for gait-horses approved by SVPS, the Swiss Association for Horse Sports. In 2011, the first diplomas were handed out to 6 apprentices. And ... they achieved the best results of all students, including Horseracing, Show jumping, Dressage ect. ☺

COMMUNICATION TO AND BETWEEN THE YOUNGSTERS

There are 3 ways to reach out to youngsters. The fastest one is Facebook and the IPVCH website. In addition, there is a magazine sent to all members 4 times a year. The Magazine was redesigned in 2011 and the website will have a new "look" this year. On the new website the youngsters, and their parents, will be able to find information more easily. Our Facebook site has more than 100 likes/members at the present time. That makes 40% more than 2010.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST

I will present 2 events, which had a good response from our youngsters.

1. Swissmôt 2011:



We do not offer special youth-competitions. So I will mention one activity organised by the IPV-CH to show how we can combine younger and older riders. The youth and grass roots committee organized a fun-competition for all kind of riders for the first time this year. This was a good opportunity for younger riders not who do not ride in regular competitions. This was a big success and will take place this year in some other area in Switzerland.

Following tests were included:

THREE-GAIT:

The rider can use which gaits they want to ride and be marked on.

HANDPFERDEREITEN:

Riding with a horse on hand through a parcours

FINO-TÖLT:

Riding over a wooden board (see picture)

Judged just by hearing the steps. The judges' eyes were covered.

**ISI-SPEED:**

Riding a slalom parcours with a glass of water in your hand.

Judging: time minus lack of water.

Ball event at the general meeting of IPV-CH:

After the annual general meeting (GV) all members old and young are invited to a gala ball event with music and dance. And we were surprised how many young members were delighted to dress up and join the party last year.

VISIONS FOR 2012

First of all, we hope to encourage more young people to share their passion for Icelandic horses and to get to know other young riders. Then we would like to give them a good education in all subjects concerning the Icelandic horse, ethics as well as social competence.

We will organise 2 qualification tournaments for the Youth Cup. The youngsters achieving the points will be sent to Germany.

Unfortunately the riding event in Sweden does not take place during our school summer holidays. They start the second week of July and end in the middle of August.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in Malmö this year. And hope to get some new ideas about how to increase our youth work in Switzerland.

Best regards

Mia (Maria) Estermann