

Open Letter

IPZV calls for an immediate end to the blood mare industry in Iceland

Dear Hanna Katrín Friðriksson,

The Icelandic Horse Riders and Breeders Association of Germany (IPZV e.V.) strongly speaks out against the practice of extracting blood from pregnant mares for the commercial production of the fertility hormone PMSG.

Around 4,000 mares in Iceland are currently kept solely for this purpose. Their blood is taken during pregnancy to produce PMSG, a hormone used in intensive livestock farming—mainly in pig breeding in Central Europe, including Germany. This practice causes significant distress to mares and is incompatible with modern principles of animal welfare.

Furthermore, **synthetic alternatives to PMSG now exist**, making the use of live animals for hormone extraction entirely unnecessary. Continuing this practice despite available alternatives cannot be justified on ethical or scientific grounds.

The Icelandic horse is admired worldwide for its strength, purity, and close connection to nature. The exploitation of pregnant mares for commercial gain stands in stark contrast to these values and damages Iceland's international reputation as a country of integrity, natural beauty, and respect for animals.

The current licence for the company conducting this practice expires later this year. This moment offers a crucial opportunity for the Icelandic government and parliament to take decisive action:

- **End the extraction of blood from pregnant mares,**
- **Reject any licence renewal for PMSG production, and**
- **Support and promote the use of ethical, synthetic alternatives.**

We call upon the Icelandic authorities to act now—protect the welfare of mares, uphold Iceland's global reputation, and ensure that the Icelandic horse continues to represent harmony between people, animals, and nature.

On behalf of the Board of IPZV e.V.

Icelandic Horse Riders and Breeders Association of Germany