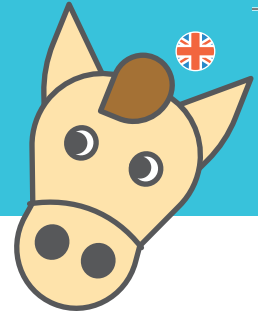


DO YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE A PROFESSIONAL RIDER IN LAPLAND?

FIND OUT!



You get one point for each correct answer.

On the back of the card, you can find the correct answers.

TRUE

FALSE

1. Mainly Finnhorses and Icelandic horses are used for tourism in Lapland.
2. Horses prefer to live alone.
3. The horse breeds used in Lapland are used to temperatures around -20 °C.
4. You should always approach a horse from behind.
5. It is important to set the rider's weight limit for each horse.
6. Finnhorses are used also for sleigh rides.
7. Finnhorses and Icelandic horses can only travel on open and easy terrain.
8. You can feed your own snacks to horses because they like them.
9. A horse can easily sense your mood, feelings and attitude.
10. There are more horses than reindeer used in animal-based tourism in Lapland.





THE CORRECT ANSWERS

- 1. True.** Most horses used for horseback riding in Lapland are Finnhorses and Icelandic horses. The Finnhorse is a pure breed developed fully in Finland and it is the official national horse breed of Finland. This breed can perform all the tasks required of a horse in Finland – from agricultural and forestry work to harness racing and riding. Icelandic horses are popular in tourism activities in Finland. They are sure-footed mounts, rather small, calm tempered and adapted to a harsh climate.
- 2. False.** Horses are social animals and they need other horses for company. Usually horses are only kept alone so that the other horses in the herd will not injure them. However, living alone is a greater risk for a horse's welfare than possible serious injuries, which are rare. It is particularly important for horses used in tourism that they are used to being with other horses and people.
- 3. True.** Horse breeds used in Lapland grow a thick winter coat and therefore can tolerate surprisingly low temperatures. Wind and rain are worse for them as their hair gets wet and does not insulate them anymore. In extreme conditions blankets and extra feeding can be used to give more protection against the cold. However, tolerance of cold is an individ-

ual quality and can differ, even between horse individuals of the same breed.

- 4. False.** A horse is prepared to meet you and stays calm when it sees you approaching and talking calmly. If you approach from behind, it might be surprised and frightened just because it did not notice you. This can cause dangerous situations.
- 5. False.** A horse's ability to carry a rider is more about the rider's physical condition and skills than his/her weight. If the rider has good body control and is able to adapt to the movements of the horse, the riding experience is better for both.
- 6. True.** A Finnhorse is very capable of pulling a sleigh. In relation to its size, a Finnhorse is one of the strongest draught horses in the world as it has a persistent character and uses a "clever" pulling technique. It can pull up to three times its own body weight. In Finland the breed was commonly used in heavy farm and forestry work until the end of the 1950s.
- 7. False.** The Finnhorse and Icelandic horse breeds are known for their sure-footedness and ability to cross rough terrain. Nevertheless, a horseback riding tour through challenging terrain would require previous riding experience.

- 8. False.** In terms of food, horses are quite sensitive animals and therefore the wrong kind of food can make them seriously ill. You should always ask the company staff first if it is all right to give the horses anything to eat.
- 9. True.** Horses are very good at reading humans. If you feel insecure or nervous, be honest and tell it. In that way, many unpleasant surprises can be avoided.
- 10. False.** There are around 1,000 reindeer that are used in tourism in Lapland. The number of horses is around 200.

I SCORED...

9–10 points

Excellent! You could move to Lapland to work as a professional rider.

6–8 points

Good. You seem to have mastered horsemanship with coldblood breeds.

3–5 points

Fair. You have probably ridden warmblood horses, but you need to learn more about coldblood breeds.

0–2 points

Not so good. But don't worry – you can learn a lot about coldblood breeds and horsemanship in Arctic conditions when visiting Lapland.