

Icelanders as reindeer herders

Reindeer are not native to Iceland. Like all other land mammals reindeer were brought to Iceland by humans. The reindeer were brought in the 18th century, following a royal decree. The king and his advisors believed reindeer would thrive in Icelandic conditions. Icelandic farmers would then be taught reindeer herding. In fact the animals were never domesticated.

