ÞÓRA JÓHANNA JÓNASDÓTTIR

Curriculum Vitae and Professional Profile

[redacted]



Professional profile

Veterinarian • Chief Veterinary Officer • Animal health and welfare • Risk assessment • Public administration • Research

Veterinarian and public-sector veterinary leader with extensive experience in animal health, animal welfare, regulatory implementation, scientific research, risk-related work and international cooperation. Currently Chief Veterinary Officer at the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST), with responsibility and experience spanning animal health and welfare, companion and wild animals, animals used for scientific purposes, disease prevention, official controls and regulatory development. Long-standing participation in European, Nordic and international veterinary networks, including EFSA, the EU and WOAH.

Key areas of experience

- Animal health and animal welfare policy, legislation and implementation
- Veterinary official controls, disease prevention and preparedness
- Scientific and evidence-based risk assessment and regulatory advice
- European and Nordic cooperation and representation of Iceland
- Leadership of expert groups, working groups and regulatory drafting processes
- Emergency preparedness, incident management, field leadership and multidisciplinary teamwork
- Public administration and governmental decision-making
- Research, clinical trials, comparative oncology and scientific supervision

Current position

Nov 2024– Chief Veterinary Officer | *Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority (MAST)*

Senior veterinary authority role covering animal health and welfare. Provides expert and regulatory advice, takes administrative decisions, leads or contributes to working groups and regulatory work, coordinates relevant official controls, and communicates scientific and veterinary information to authorities, professionals and the public.

Education and academic qualifications

2023– Master's studies in Public Administration (MPA) | *University of Iceland*

Expected completion spring 2027; average grade 9.18/10 for 2023–2026.

2004–2008 Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Comparative Oncology | *Norwegian University of Veterinary Science*

Spontaneous cancer in companion animals as models; clinical trials.

1996–2000 PhD – Veterinary Medicine / Cancer Genetics | *Norwegian University of Veterinary Science*

Hereditary renal cancer syndrome in dogs – genetic approach and diagnostic tools. Degree awarded 2002.

1984–1990 Veterinary Medicine degree | *Norwegian University of Veterinary Science*

Graduated with assessment recorded as "*Very good*".

1991 Veterinary licence | *Ministry of Health and Social Security, Iceland*

Leadership, governance and international representation

2024– Chair, Professional Council on Animal Welfare.

2024– Chair, Fish Disease Committee.

2024– Icelandic representative in the EU Animal Welfare Expert Group.

2024– Chair of the Wild Animal Team, a cooperation between the Environmental Agency, Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Marine and Freshwater Research Institute and MAST.

2023– WOAH focal point representative for Iceland on wildlife health and welfare.

2022–2024 Chair of a Ministry of Food working group, drafting regulations on education, rights and duties of veterinarians and animal health professionals.

2021– Chair of a governmental working group drafting regulations concerning zoos.

2019–2020 Member of an Ministry of Environment consultation group on legislation concerning protection, welfare and hunting of wild birds and mammals.

2015–2023 Nordic project on assessment and scoring of animal-welfare indicators for official controls; chaired the group from 2019–2023 and contributed to the final inspection framework for cattle, sheep and pigs.

2014–2019 Icelandic representative in the Nordic Council of Ministers working group (NMDD).

2013– WOAH focal point representative for Iceland on animal welfare.

2013– Icelandic representative in three EU animal-welfare groups (AW Network, AW Platform and AW Working Group).

2013–2019 Icelandic representative in the EU working group on welfare of animals at slaughter (NCP).

2010–2024 Board member, Oncoinvent AS, Norwegian pharmaceutical development company.

2003–2008 Board member, Norwegian research fund supporting research into cancer in dogs.

Chief Veterinary Officer / MAST – selected responsibilities

- Strategic and technical work on animal welfare, animal health and disease prevention.
- Oversight of the health status of relevant animal populations and application of legislation in the field.
- Monitoring international and neighbouring-country developments in animal welfare and veterinary policy.
- Participation in strategic measures to improve animal welfare and animal health.
- Governmental decision-making and provision of veterinary advice within and outside the authority.
- Leadership of expert working groups for regulatory development and preparation of formal opinions.
- Public and professional communication on animal health and welfare.
- Leader of decision-making and response teams concerning suspected criminal offences against animals (2016–2022).
- Member of the Professional Council on Animal Welfare (2013–2018).

International EFSA, EU, WOAH and Nordic engagement – recent

2026 EFSA Workshop for Chief Veterinary Officers, Brussels.

2026 First Scientific Network for Risk Assessment in Animal Welfare, Parma.

2026 WOAH World Assembly of Delegates, Paris.

2026 Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers in Europe), Nicosia.

2025 EFSA Workshop for Chief Veterinary Officers, Brussels.

2025 Nordic Chief Veterinary Officers Meeting, Reykjavík.

2025 GF-TAD Chief Veterinary Officers Meeting for Animal Health, Serbia.

2025 WOAH World Assembly of Delegates, Paris.

2025 Scientific Network on Risk Assessment in Animal Health and Welfare, Parma.

2025 WOAH training on wildlife health surveillance and One Health cooperation, Tbilisi.

2024 WOAH training for European animal-welfare focal points, Madrid.

2023 WOAH training for European wildlife focal points, Warsaw.

2015 EFSA workshop on guidance for assessing stunning at slaughter, Brussels.

Previous professional experience

2010–2013 Chief Executive Officer / Co-founder | *Oncoinvent AS*

One of four founders of a pharmaceutical development company in human oncology; served as CEO at 50% for the first three years and subsequently as board member through 2024.

2009–2015 Associate Professor | *Norwegian University of Veterinary Science*

Clinical teaching of veterinary students and supervision of PhD and Master's students; 20% position.

2004–2008 Postdoctoral Research Fellow | *Norwegian University of Veterinary Science*

Clinical comparative oncology research in cooperation with biotechnology and pharmaceutical development companies; led the establishment of a cancer diagnostics and treatment unit.

2000–2002 Project Manager | *deCODE genetics*

Research project management and personnel responsibility in renal-cell and prostate-cancer research.

1996–2000 PhD Researcher | *Norwegian University of Veterinary Science*

Research into genetic factors in cancer using naturally occurring canine cancers as models; 11 months at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, USA.

1990–1993 District Veterinarian | *Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Ísafjörður district*

Veterinary work with livestock and companion animals and official control duties in primary production, slaughterhouse operations and aquaculture.

Scientific and academic contribution

Author or co-author of peer-reviewed international publications in veterinary oncology, cancer genetics, comparative medicine and radiopharmaceutical research, including work published in PLoS One, BMC Veterinary Research, Veterinary and Comparative Oncology, Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and other international journals.

- International conference presentations and invited scientific speaking engagements in Europe, North America and Asia.
- University teaching in veterinary medicine, research methodology, animal experimentation and clinical subjects.
- Supervisor or co-supervisor of Master's and PhD projects; examiner at PhD defences.
- Peer reviewer for international veterinary and scientific journals.

Emergency preparedness, leadership and additional education and qualifications

2022–2024 Emergency Medical Technician training | *Icelandic emergency medical services*

Basic and advanced EMT training, including emergency transport (670 hours), with emphasis on scene leadership, teamwork and professional response in demanding situations.

2023– Head of Dog Division | *ICE-SAR / Slysavarnarfélagið Landsbjörg*

Volunteer leadership responsibility.

2021-23– Head of First-Aid Division | *ICE-SAR / Slysavarnarfélagið Landsbjörg*

Volunteer leadership responsibility.

2017– Team Leader | *Air Search Reykjavík Search and Rescue/Flugbjörgunarsveitin*

Leadership roles in search teams and search-dog operations.

2015– Volunteer and instructor | *ICE-SAR / Slysavarnarfélagið Landsbjörg*

Training and operational experience in search and rescue, mountain rescue, avalanche response, river and debris rescue, search techniques, first aid, wilderness first responder training and search-dog operations; instructor in several areas.

2015–2017 Toursit Guide education | *Tourist Guide School, Kópavogur*

37 credits; communication, knowledge transfer, group leadership, networking and leadership in guiding.

Languages and digital skills

- Icelandic – strong spoken and written proficiency
- English – strong spoken and written proficiency
- Norwegian – strong spoken and written proficiency
- Danish and Swedish – good spoken proficiency
- German – basic knowledge
- Good general proficiency with Microsoft Office and digital devices

Selected professional development

More than 100 professional courses and conferences since 1992. Recent development includes animal welfare and animal-health risk assessment, veterinary disaster management, One Health, emergency preparedness, EU regulatory training, official controls, slaughter welfare, wildlife health, veterinary legislation, leadership and public administration.

2026 Working party on animals and veterinary questions, June in Cyprus, September in Ireland
2026 Workshop w/ Swedish committee for Veterinary Disaster Mangagment, Reykjavík Iceland
2025 WOAH training for European Disaster management and risk reduction, Bucharesti, Romania
2025 WOAH training for European wild animal health focal points, Tbilisi, Georgia
2024 WOAH training for European animal-welfare focal points, Madrid-Spain
2024 One Health e-learning programme – WOAH / WHO / FAO.
2021 Parliamentary studies program on increased requirements for animal welfare.
2020 Administrative Law for staff of ministries, state institutions and municipalities – University of Iceland (54 hours).
2019 WOAH training for European animal-welfare focal points, The Hague-Netherland
2016 Advanced EU BTSF training in animal-welfare risk assessment, slaughter welfare and poultry slaughter welfare.
2015 EFSA workshop on assessment of stunning at slaughter.

References

- Hrönn Ólína Jörundsdóttir – Director General at the Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority [redacted]
- Sigurborg Daðadóttir – Former Chief Veterinary Officer [redacted]

Prepared as an information profile for EFSA institutional purposes. Full CV can be sent on request.