



Reindeer and reindeer husbandry in Finland

The reindeer (poro) is a half-domesticated animal, which bears a great resemblance to its ancestor, the wild deer. The height at the withers of a male reindeer, hirvas, is about 110 cm (3 ft 7 in) and weight around 90 to 180 kilos (200 to 400 lbs). A female reindeer, vaadin, weighs 60 to 100 kilos (130 to 220 lbs) and its height about 90 cm (3 ft).

Reindeer husbandry is allowed only in the reindeer husbandry area demarcated for reindeer herding and regulated by the Reindeer Husbandry Act. In Finland this area is divided into 54 Reindeer Herding Cooperatives. The districts managed by cooperatives vary both in surface area and number of reindeer. Each cooperative is a community formed by its shareholders and responsible for reindeer herding in its district. A reindeer owner can be a shareholder of one cooperative only. Reindeer husbandry is the oldest of the original livelihoods still practiced in the North.

The maximum number of reindeer in the reindeer herding area is 203 700 heads. The operations and organisation of Reindeer Herding Cooperatives is regulated by the Reindeer Husbandry Act. Each cooperative is headed by a Chief of District.

The reindeer herding area covers 36 % of the total area of Finland and it comprises of Lapland excluding the Kemi-Tornio area, and the northern parts of Northern Ostrobothnia and Kainuu.



www.porokilpailijat.fi

Lähde: Paliskuntain yhdistys

www.paliskunnat.fi/reindeer/reindeer-races
www.paliskunnat.fi/poro/porokilpailut



REINDEER INFO

Reindeer races

Reindeer racing has long traditions and it is not only a fast and colourful sport but also an inseparable part of the northern reindeer tradition and livelihood. Reindeer races have been held from 1932.

Today, reindeer racing is an organised and regulated sport. Races increase the visibility and familiarity of reindeer herding as a livelihood. The racing reindeer are trained male reindeer. Their well-being is regarded very important by the racing community. The reindeer are trained systematically and skilfully.

There are about 600 registered racing reindeer. The racing season lasts from February to April and in the final race the best 24 hot series reindeer run for the Championship of the season. The Reindeer Competition Committee supervises the Poro Cup races and is in charge of organising the Reindeer Championships.



The racing reindeer can run as fast as 50 to 60 km/h (30 to 37 mph) and the world record per kilometre (0.6 miles) is 1.13,01 which was run at the Yli-Ii partial race of Poro Cup in 2012 by a reindeer named Timon Tumma owned by Timo Vaarala from Oraniemi Reindeer Herding Cooperative.

How does a racing reindeer qualify for the racing series?

In a preliminary race, the reindeer run individually and aim to run at 1.25,00 or under per kilometre. The reindeer that manage to do this are given the status of a racing reindeer and can participate in the general series of official races. Not all reindeer make the required time and thus are not allowed to participate in official races, yet they often race in so called village races, which have a long tradition as well. Preliminary races are supervised by an official representative and about 20 preliminary races are organised in the reindeer husbandry area during the racing season.



General series

The reindeer competing in this series have made 1.25,00 or under per kilometre and entered in the racing reindeer register held by the Reindeer Herders' Association. A reindeer races in this series until it makes the required speed of 1.18,999 per kilometre to qualify for the hot series.

The hot series

When a racing reindeer reaches the speed of 1.18,999 per kilometre or under, it rises to the hot series which is a series for the fastest reindeer.

The reindeer races authorised and supervised by the Reindeer Competition Committee are open competitions and maximum five of them are included as partial competitions in the yearly Poro Cup series of competitions.

The partial competitions are organised by local associations and clubs. The reindeer scoring the highest number of points from the partial races is declared the Poro Cup Champion. The racing season is finalised at the Reindeer Championships, where the best 24 hot series reindeer of the Poro Cup partial races compete for the Championship.

Reindeer Drivers

A person driving a reindeer at a race or preliminary race must be 14 years of age or older or reach the minimum age by the end of the year. The maximum number of reindeer for one driver per series is 15. In the women's series one driver can drive only five reindeer per competition. A driver participating in a race or preliminary race must weigh at least 60 kilos (130 lbs) including equipment.



The top five of Poro Cup 2019

(five partial competitions)

Rank.	Reindeer	Owner (last name, first name)	Reindeer Herding Cooperative
1	Velemu	Törrö Esa	Pudasjärvi
2	Mellakka	Krupula Hannu	Isosydänmaa
3	Annin Suivakko	Vuolab Juha, Portimo Anni	Paistunturi
4	Tulimus	Näkkäläjärvi Rauni	Sallivaara
5	Spiella	Länsman Asko, Vartiainen Tomi	Kaldoaivi

Top five of Reindeer Championships 2019

Total time of 1000 metres/0.6 miles and 2000 metres/1.2 miles)

1	Annin Suivakko	Vuolab Juha, Portimo Anni	Paistunturi
2	Hymynkare	Krupula, Petäjäjärvi	Isosydänmaa
3	Myrsky	Uusitalo Ossi	Palojärvi
4	Spiella	Länsman Asko, Vartiainen Tomi	Kaldoaivi
5	Leilan Tähti	Harri Matti	Palojärvi

Poro Cup 2019 kolme parasta kilpa-ajajaa

1	Alatalo Janne
2	Tervaniemi Marko
3	Päkkilä Eero