

Editorial



Dear reader,

Our society's show and examination season traditionally begins in March. Things really get underway in the next couple of weeks. We all have our plans for the year ahead and aims for our dogs set out in front of us, and are looking forward to diving straight into the action with our four-legged companions.

The society offers a wide range for every dog – regardless of age or their owner's area of interest. As part of the puppy groups, we even offer the very youngest the chance to learn the basics when it comes to other dogs and people. This is where they can set themselves up for life-long socializing with our four-legged friends. When they are a bit bigger, we can then prepare them for the character judgments which are being offered officially for the first time this year. By introducing these character judgments, the society is taking a step towards evaluating our dogs' quality based on their character, too. Everyone I have spoken to about our assessment so far – whether they are here in Germany or abroad – is excited at the prospect. Among the authorities and the general public, the assessment has been met with a level of acceptance we could not have imagined. I would like to take this opportunity to call on all SV members who have a dog of the right age to put themselves forward for this qualification. I'm absolutely certain that this will significantly help our breed and society – particularly when it comes to our public image. Once the dog is fully grown, they can then work towards any one of the dog sports offered by the society. Our crowning disciplines – IPO sport, breeding examinations, agility and obedience – are only a handful of examples. Activities that have a direct link to social life, such as rescue dogs, man training or therapy and special companion dogs, are forever gaining in popularity.

A worthwhile goal for us as a breeding society, even in light of different interests among individual specialists, is the breeding survey: the mainstay of any breeding society. It is a real achievement for any dog and any breeder of German Shepherds to have bred or to own a dog that has been recommended for breeding. These dogs demonstrably have physical and mental attributes that make them suitable for further breeding. They also meet clearly defined minimum requirements, both physically and mentally.

The Society for German Shepherd Dogs (SV) e.V. offers everyone who wants to work with or even breed from their dog the opportunity to complete different training courses offered by highly qualified instructors. The majority of members enjoy sharing their hobby with their dogs as part of the SV's offerings. In many areas, working with a dog leads to sporting competition. Then in the autumn, the best of the breed are shown and described in their specific fields. To be among the best at some point often offers great motivation and incentive for many people.

Dear reader,

The society offers you and your best friend – the German Shepherd – a greater spectrum of activities for you to enjoy together than ever before. Take advantage of the services offered by the local committees. I would like to wish you the best of luck for the upcoming season and hope you fulfill the aims you have set for yourself and your dog for the year ahead.

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler, SV President



On the cover of this edition, you can see "Figlia von Fidelius", photographed by Markus Lantermann. Breeder: Henning Setzer.