

Editorial



Dear reader,

We are now in the middle of our society's biggest events: In this edition, you can read a comprehensive report from the SV Bundessiegerzuchtschau, which was held from September 2-4 in Nuremberg. And in the next edition, we will be bringing you a report from the SV Bundessiegerprüfung including an agility competition (September 16-18 in Oberhausen) and the WUSV World Championships (October 5-9 in Meppen).

A clash of the best German Shepherds; not only in terms of showing but also performance.

We hope to have highly motivated, successful teams, exciting yet fair competitions fueled by a love of animals, humanity and equality.

From time to time, strength trials in sporting competitions quickly result in success or failure, accompanied by frustration. The Rio Olympic Games that have just drawn to a close have all shown us that legitimate hopes of a medal can be dashed in just a few seconds. This is also the case for our sport. And this is all the more significant for us – unlike other sports, we are not solely responsible for ourselves. It is also crucial that our four-legged friend and companion also reaches their peak performance right at that very moment.

When striving for success and titles, we have an enormous responsibility towards the public to provide breed- and welfare-friendly training, and to handle and present the animals entrusted to us.

Size, slanting back lines and instability in the hind legs were the focus at the winners' show. We were pleased to learn that our international guests support our aims in this area and also want to promote them in their home countries. In this regard, I would like to inform you that the "Size breeding program" that was confirmed at the Federal Convention – as has been published several times – will be implemented this year with appropriate consequences. I would like to make a personal appeal for understanding and acceptance of those who will be affected by these measures, and I hope that our breeders will work with us. This is the only way we can manage this problem together in the long term.

The newly determined character judgments were presented nationally and internationally to the expert audience at the winners' show. This was also accepted unreservedly. In the medium term, it can be assumed that this test will be implemented for our breed throughout the world. This will help us to wonderfully present and even raise the claims made globally about our dogs' characteristics.

All these measures aim to ensure that all friends of German Shepherds, who do not strive for top performances – particularly our members be they part of the SV or the WUSV – feel welcome in our community, make the most of our society's extensive offering, and have fun when working with their/our German Shepherds.

With my very best wishes,

Heinrich Meßler



This edition's cover photo was taken at the BSZ by Sylvia Krause.



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