

Editorial



Dear friends of the German Shepherd,

As most of you know, the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs (WUSV) holds its general assembly every year as part of the Bundessiegerschau. This year was no exception, with over 60 member countries from all five continents meeting in Ulm. Members learnt about the current status of the breed and the latest determining factors.

In recent years, the SV has led this assembly towards standardizing the breed on an international level. In light of globalization and a shortening of geographical and informal lines, the WUSV – with guidance from the SV – has launched numerous necessary initiatives in the past in order to align and subsequently implement their international framework with the native country's conditions. This is both the purpose and function of the WUSV.

Unfortunately, as the SV in Germany, we only have limited influence on the breeding of all dogs classed as German Shepherds. This applies to an even greater extent for many WUSV member countries. In recent years, it has often been the case that statistics and publications – particularly abroad – have been widely discussed in the media, but are based on a pool of dogs that we as the SV and the WUSV do not manage and therefore have no influence upon at all.

Unfortunately, this “unmanaged population” is often seen as the benchmark for our breed. As a consequence, the SV – representing the breed's native country and the leading pedigree society – and the WUSV are given sole responsibility by the public and the media at large. And as I've already mentioned, this happens without us having the slightest influence or any kind of control over the breeding of this population. At this juncture, I would like to clearly state that our responsibility and quality guarantee can only be applied to dogs managed by the SV and the WUSV. Please remember that umbrella organizations issue breed authenticity certificates and pedigree certificates that nowhere near correspond with our (SV) stipulations. All of these dogs are purebred shepherd dogs by definition, but in most cases do not meet our high quality expectations. To summarize, it can be said that these animals have not been bred at all in accordance with the SV's criteria and requirements. They would never be awarded our stamp of approval – the SV's pedigree – here in Germany. The fact is that the vast majority of umbrella organizations have set out quality and health criteria for breed dogs on their banners and in their constitutions, yet there is a de facto lack of control and implementation of the required quality criteria. Unfortunately, those requirements that are an absolute minimum for us, such as identity registration, health and mentality checks, are only rarely obligatory and are often left at the discretion of special clubs.



This edition's cover photo was taken by Sylvia Krause at the 2017 Bundessiegerzuchtschau in Ulm.

We do not believe these circumstances can continue to be accepted under these conditions. For this reason, I would like to thank all WUSV member countries who unanimously agreed to adopt our German quality criteria on a global scale, and to document and implement them in stages in conjunction with existing international breed authenticity certificates. This is the next logical step that has arisen from our breed's constitutions and requirements within the WUSV. It should be noted that the necessary process to harmonize and subsequently fully implement these steps will require a significant amount of time, money and effort. The harmonization process that is already underway is unique in the history of cynology, and from a long term point of view, it will certainly strengthen and further our position as the largest and most recognized pedigree dog breeding society in the world.

I would ask all lovers of the German Shepherd at home and abroad to support this project.

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler,
SV President
WUSV President



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www.wds2017.de