

## Editorial

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### Dear reader,

While writing these lines, I am still basking in the almost euphoric glow of the WUSV IPO World Championships that were held alongside the DSH World Cup for Agility and Obedience for the first time between October 5th-9th, 2016, in Meppen. Without going into too much detail, as I'm sure you'll enjoy reading our reports in the magazine, it remains to be said that this event was simply extraordinary in all respects, and it has never had such as positive impact before. That is all down to some perfect organization. Nowadays, large events like the WUSV World Championships are more akin to a German Shepherd festival. Associated events such as introducing personality tests, an academic event, workshops for those who may be interested in the breed and regional advertising campaigns are all part of the whole. Also presenting our sports, such as agility and obedience, show off our breed in the best possible light. They are the perfect opportunity for us to share our concerns, interests and dogs with people who are not part of our society. It is my understanding that this was remarkably successful in Meppen.

In Meppen, we experienced sport spanning all three disciplines: IPO, agility and obedience. And everything was to the highest standard, with teams and judges alike performing to their best. While not forgetting the perfect conditions. We could feel the atmosphere was incredibly positive from the very beginning – typified by fairness and mutual acceptance, even between competing teams. Our dogs' ability to bring people together and work together could be seen at every turn; support was offered across borders in the event of problems, and there was mutual respect for each other's performances. You could almost go as far as saying that small-time global politics took a back seat behind our deep and meaningful thoughts for German Shepherds. As part of this event, we had an opportunity to make a clear statement against any kind of racism, particularly since our guest of honor's, George Foreman, attendance would be emphatically shared throughout the world. I would like to openly thank George Foreman for his decades of support in all our matters. He lets us make the most of his popularity as a global star so that we can use it to reach our common goal for German Shepherds.

After being in office for a year and a half, I have learnt that our breed continues to be widely accepted and loved on an international scale – and this is possibly increasing more than ever. As our international friends are so clearly aligned with our German standards, it wasn't a problem – in fact, it was called for by the International German Shepherd Society – to introduce a global standard at short notice. This standard was not only accepted by all WUSV member countries, but also led to positive recognition and equal commitment. We can see how widely our breed is accepted on a global scale, how much enthusiasm there is for our dogs and how much people identify with them.

To summarize, after this event, I can say that I believe our breed's international situation is decidedly positive and I am optimistic for the future. That is one side of the coin. In my next editorial piece, I will allow myself to be a little more critical of our national situation, writing under the title of: „Querdurch und mittendurch“ (Getting to the bottom of it).

Best wishes,

Heinrich Meßler