

## Editorial



Pedigree status within the SV/WUSV – A sign of quality or a lottery ticket?

## Dear friends of the German Shepherd,

In my capacity as President of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V. and President of the Weltorganisation (WUSV), I am confronted by – and responsible for dealing with – all of the problems facing the German Shepherd on a daily basis. Unfortunately, however, I find myself most frequently having to deal with outrageous accusations concerning the health of our breed with nothing to back them up. This is something that evidently needs to be cleared up once and for all. Let me start by saying that the influence of the SV and the WUSV extends to no more than 20 percent of the world's population of German Shepherds through their associated societies. It goes without saying that we, as the parent society, can only be responsible for the things we are able to influence in our favor.

As a result of existing contracts between the individual globally recognized umbrella organizations and the WUSV, we are obliged to take on dogs from their breeding books into our breeding books provided they meet specific criteria. Under the rules of these umbrella organizations, however, it is unfortunately the case that German Shepherds may be bred that do not fully live up to our high quality requirements. It is precisely with the current global harmonization phase in mind that we will be speaking to our partners in these associations. In addition to these partners, there are also a large number of unregistered organizations and even private individuals who issue pedigree statuses that contradict any cynological ethics and only consider economic interests. Forcing these purely profit-oriented organizations out of the market is something that all decent pedigree dog breeding societies should take responsibility for. Last but not least – and this surely accounts for more than half of all “German Shepherds” around the world – there are the dogs that look like German Shepherds but don't have anything that comes close to a pedigree certificate. As far as these last two groups are concerned, we are not able to accept responsibility in any way.



This edition's cover photo was taken by Sylvia Krause at the Bundessiegerprüfung in Oberhausen and depicts Marc Christine, winner of the BSP for 2017.

When it comes to quality criteria, I would like to refer to the joints study that was published in the previous edition of the SV magazine. Our more attentive readers will certainly have picked up on the fact that this is a closed study, which is largely free from specific manipulations. It clearly demonstrates that 95 percent of all dogs involved in the study yielded HD results within the permissible range for the breed. Even in the elbow area, this figure is still 89 percent. In comparison with current, barely differentiated work carried out by any arbitrary collectives, we can see that the results within the SV/WUSV organization are clearly better than those from the unqualified collectives referred to above.

This all just goes to show that our pedigree status really is a mark of quality – even when it comes to joints. I would also like to take this opportunity to point out that the “still permitted” evaluation is in no way indicative of a definite disease of the hip joint (arthrosis) in old age. These dogs continue to participate in sport well into their later years. This highly ambiguous nomenclature was introduced on the back of long-term considerations relating to controlled breeding. In a bid to further objectify these important contexts, an extended study is planned in which the course of disease in joint disorders (arthrosis) is presented depending on the initial diagnosis over a dog's lifetime. I would also like to thank the authors of this study for pointing out that tests and statements about our breed are being marketed in the described gray area in terms of aspects that are not exclusively cynological, which definitely still require some scientific objectification.

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler,  
SV President  
WUSV President



Look out for details and further information online:  
[www.wds2017.de](http://www.wds2017.de)