



Christmas Letter 2016

Dear Friends of the German Shepherd Dog:

Another year has gone again to which I look back with great joy. The German Shepherd Dog world has turned out to be as varicolored, lively, and full of surprises as always. There were a lot of happy moments to celebrate by which I mean the many events - last but not least the WUSV World Championship and the WUSV Universal Competition that the mother country of the breed was honored to host in 2016.

Many projects could be tackled such as the establishment of the panel of continental directors which has not yet been fully finalized but is in its final stages and I am sure it will be to the benefit of our breed since it is next to mandatory to combine our forces and put the yields of sometime even a life-time in terms of expertise and knowledgeability to good use for our common cause. The first meeting of the continental directors assigned so far was held in Modena/ Italy in June this year and the cooperation looks rather promising.

The questions pending in terms of judges abroad was addressed on the occasion of the annual general meeting of the SV in May 2016 with the most positive outcome we could have hoped for and once again it was proved that common sense has prevailed within the many different groups of people that our worldwide organization consists of - and speaking frankly - within the many different fields of interest that our worldwide organization time and time again successfully unites.

This year's WUSV Annual General Meeting which was held once again in Nuremberg has also turned out to be a tremendous success since the WUSV statutes could be finalized and amended were appropriate. With pride, did we watch how the three clubs in Japan successfully worked on the completion of a cooperation agreement to the very best and advantage of our breed and formed a new union - the Association of the Clubs for German Shepherd Dogs in Japan (JPDS). New organizations such as Iran and Kuwait joined the worldwide network of the WUSV and were happily welcomed by the delegates of the assembly. I kindly ask everybody to support our new "family members". However, where there is light there is also darkness and with regret we realized that there was no other option but to terminate the long-term membership of the Sociedade Brasileira Caes Pastores Alemaes in Brazil. And as always in life a couple of issues could not be coped with

to the satisfaction of the parties affected but on the other hand we shall never do everything in one year's time but also leave some challenge to be tackled for the year to come.

So, this year, my agenda has been rather comprehensive and I feel that we are on a good way towards results from which we will all benefit at the end of the day. Together with my team I dared a new approach towards many issues that concern us all and more than once I called things by their right name with the aim of putting things straight and clear, where required.

It was only recently that I travelled to Mexico City in November 2016 where the FCI hosted an impressive and very successful congress in cooperation with both COAPA and the WUSV. The focus of this event was clearly based on health issues - one of the most imminent and crucial concerns regarding our breed and on which we will have to continue our common efforts in the years to come. We owe special thanks to the FCI, in particular to Rafael de Santiago and to Dr. Luis Payró, and of course to their entire team, and everybody else who made the congress happen.

Let me use this special time of the year to wish you and your beloved ones a very happy seasonal holiday with quality time to spend together, but also for reflection upon the year that is now coming to an end. I wish you time for recreation to gather the energy that you will for sure need to comply with all the challenges and endeavors that the year 2017 hopefully will present us with.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to all of you!

Very truly yours,

Professor Dr. Heinrich Meßler
WUSV & SV President