



## Editorial

### Dear Reader,

When the society's founders established the Society for German Shepherd Dogs in 1899, they certainly did not know of the difficult times that lay ahead. One thing is for certain though: During both World Wars and the Great Depression, the SV's stakeholders showed great foresight and the necessary visionary thinking to adapt and shape the society to the challenges of the time, and to further develop it. One thing was always at the heart of the matter: the concept of a working dog. And history has shown us this. The German Shepherd has proven time and again that no other breed can offer man the same service. During the war years, they were used as medical service dogs, guard dogs and messenger dogs, they were then used as guide dogs by those injured at war, and – as must not be forgotten in history – these dogs were also used by the Nazi regime as propaganda, without Cavalry Captain von Stephanitz or his heirs being able to prevent this from happening. Astrid Osten has written about this very exciting period in our society's history in this edition, covering the years from 1899 to 1949 (page 24).

It goes without saying that our breed is still bringing excitement in the here and now. And one of the reasons for this is that the German Shepherd within the SV can score points with its variations within the three coat colors. In her article starting on page 8, Nancy Herms explains what actually influences a dog's coat color and also gives us an idea of this diversity by including some beautiful photographs.

This edition is once more focusing on a different canine focal point. In his piece entitled "The maternal family", Helmut Buß will explain the potential behind a suitable breeding bitch if you are wanting to breed yourself. The SV will soon launch a pilot project dealing with this matter, and you can read more about it on page 42. As always, there are plenty of articles for you to dive into!

On that note, I hope you thoroughly enjoy reading the new SV magazine.

Best wishes,

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Meßler,  
SV and WUSV President



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