



## Editorial

### Dear Reader,

The German Shepherd is a fantastic animal and a wonderful companion. You know this, dear members, as well as I do. There is hardly any other breed where their suitability for family life is so well combined with working dog characteristics. The German Shepherd illustrates just how wonderful and particularly wide-ranging its talents are when working as a service dog for the police or customs officers.

Following a demanding training phase, the dogs work alongside officials, acting as guardians, rescuers and helpers, and are used to scare criminals. And when thinking about narcotics or explosive tracker dogs in particular, their brilliant noses still surpass technology of any kind. In this edition of the SV magazine, we would therefore like to introduce you to the German Shepherd Dog, which has now become a hero thanks to their courageous efforts. We will also be taking a look behind the training scenes and looking at the different ways in which the dogs are used (page 8).

Furthermore, starting on page 26 of this edition, you will also find an in-depth specialist piece on "The normal hindquarters of the German Shepherd Dog". In his article, WUSV Continental Director Louis C. Donald writes about the physical and anatomical requirements for the breed's movement. These can be derived from the breed standard we all know. Louis C. Donald demonstrates clearly and with a great deal of knowledge why the quality of the hindquarters is so important for the breed's working-dog characteristics. This is an important contribution that serves as a guiding principle for us as a breed and breeding society.

It goes without saying that we will also be shining a spotlight on the SV itself. Authors Astrid Osten and Society Breeding Director Lothar Quoll have been researching how the society changed between 1949 and 1974, and also came across some exciting pictures of the time (page 54). Particularly valuable!

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler,  
SV and WUSV President



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