

## Editorial



### Dear Reader,

even the SV cannot escape from the process of globalization, by which I'm referring to the international interdependence between all spheres of the economy and human coexistence. The Internet in particular, in fact, has seen a real boom in cross-border communication processes. As far as the WUSV societies are concerned, we have seen an increase in our international publicity that ten years ago would have been inconceivable, as well as media coverage relating to German Shepherds from around the world. With this in mind, the requirements surrounding breeding and supra-regional control make for interesting reading in a must-read article by Reiner Voltz on page 32.

Within the scope of the paradigm shift and changing times as international interest is on the rise, the WUSV – as the umbrella organization of the international member societies – has set itself the task of adapting to the world as we know it today. This includes unifying and formally simplifying the guidelines surrounding both the harmonization of breeding and activities involving the German Shepherd on a global scale. Having already been democratically accepted at the WUSV's general assembly, the matrix for the harmonization of breeding within the WUSV is now being presented to the general public as a reliable resource for the very first time.

Of course, implementing this requires a huge amount of outlay, not to mention plenty of energy. On the other hand, it does provide the opportunity to harmonize, organize, and analyze activities surrounding the German Shepherd around the globe. What's more, as far as the "WUSV pedigree book" is concerned, it is now possible for dogs the world over with a proven pedigree to participate in examinations immediately and in breeding activities in the short term thanks to this counterpart register.



The cover photo for this edition was taken in 2016 by Andrée Fleenner.

Instead of seeing the globalization or harmonization aspects of the planned process, a small number of critics consider it to be denationalization because of the SV's supposed loss of power and meaning within the framework of the global organization. In actual fact, precisely the opposite is the case. With Germany's statutory provisions and directives firmly in mind, the coming years are set to see us authoritatively harmonize and elevate the requirements for our animals on a global scale. Furthermore, it is even going to be possible to expand our databases that have been around for decades in the areas of health and identity, and use these for all German Shepherds worldwide. This approach really is a first for the canine world, making it sure to increase the reputation and prevalence of our breed on an international level.

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler,  
SV President



**SHOW AND SAVE:** The SV will support your registration to show your dog at the World Dog Show. What's more, SV members can now benefit from a simplified registration process! Read more on page 51.