

Editorial



Dear Reader,

this year's SV German National Herding Trials will be taking place in Gersthofen (national committee 15) from September 15–17. It's probably just a coincidence that this event falls right between our two biggest SV events – the SV Bundessiegerschau, which will be held in Ulm between August 31 and September 3, and the SV Bundessiegerprüfung IPO and Agility, which will be taking place in Oberhausen three weeks later between September 22 and 24.

Dating way back to the origins of the German Shepherd, herding is the very lifeblood of our breed. We should never forget that these beloved dogs of ours were developed and planned – you would probably even say “designed” these days – by a cavalry captain to include the functional aspects of a shepherd dog. In actual fact, the exceptional success story of our breed can be traced right back to this ingenious development plan. No matter where they are put to use, a reasonable, balanced anatomy is required to promote the most efficient range of movement, while strong mental characteristics and first-rate social skills are essential for any cooperation with humans.

In this latest edition of the SV magazine, you will find an article that takes a look at the professional profile of the shepherd and his dogs in today's society. We would like to thank Roswitha Dannenberg and the Smietana family for this incredibly interesting insight into the modern world of sheep farming and herding as we know it today. There are many aspects in this regard that were first addressed by the founders of our breed more than 100 years ago. On the other hand, there are also a number of current studies that document the complexity and responsibility of animal husbandry and agriculture in a modern society. As for me, I was most impressed by the fact that our dogs are still going about the same day-to-day duties as they did back then over a century ago. This is something they would certainly not be able to do if they were overbred specifically for their anatomical or mental characteristics. The spokespeople for these types of stocks should be made aware of this fact most of all. This article goes some way to providing this opportunity, as would paying a visit to the event in Gersthofen. I was also very impressed with the shepherd's answer to the question regarding what qualities a shepherd should possess: “You have to be just like a shepherd dog, essentially, displaying independence, endurance, resilience, and – as we are people, after all – a certain sense of idealism.” I couldn't have put it better myself.



The photograph featured on the cover page of the SV magazine's August edition was taken by Roswitha Dannenberg.

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler,
SV President



WORLD DOG SHOW

LEIPZIG 2017

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www.wds2017.de