

Editorial



Dear Reader,

By the time you will be holding this edition of the SV gazette in your hands, Christmas will be approaching rapidly. The time has now come for many to find themselves surrounded by their families and letting the year draw to a peaceful conclusion. The time has also come to gather strength for projects coming up in the new year, which will begin in just a few days.

Looking at the Society for German Shepherd Dogs (SV), there is a lot of light but some shade too. We have once again succeeded in putting on yet more incredible events. We have experienced dog sport and breed shows of the highest level. And the WUSV World Championships, a showdown between the world's best sportspeople, demonstrated that we have strong handlers among our ranks and together with their German Shepherds are among the best in the world. Sabrina Höfer narrowly missed out on the WUSV World Championship title in a heart-stopping final. Nevertheless, "Team Germany" were Vice World Champions in both the individual and team classifications in the end. A huge success! I would like to take this opportunity to again thank my WUSV colleagues from Denmark who organized this superlative event brilliantly. I would also like to congratulate all participants who were successful at our main society events this year.

However, there is no reason to rest on one's laurels. Key figures are still not satisfactory in any way for our society. Both in terms of membership numbers and litter numbers, we find ourselves in a situation that can only be described as precarious. We therefore need ideas, conviction and enthusiasm to steer the breed and the SV back into calm waters. This is what I hope we achieve in 2019.



The cover photo for this edition was taken by SV member Martina Mauersberger and features the puppy "Fenrir vom treuen Kamerad".

We have just recently proved that the SV can impress – at the Hund & Pferd trade fair in November, which was held at the same time as the VDH breed winners' exhibition. The way in which the Society for German Shepherd Dogs (SV) presented itself was exemplary and classy. Everyone involved demonstrated great zeal and passion to the cause, while remaining professional and without showing vanity. We were able to share our love of the German Shepherd breed with visitors. The impeccable SV stand was well attended at all times and a popular meeting point in Dortmund's Westfalenhallen. And visitors were astonished – truly astonished – by the range of activities you can undertake with a German Shepherd, but also by the variety of training, sporting and volunteering opportunities our society offers. We made our mark in this way, which does us good as the SV and ensures that people will remember us after visiting a trade fair, and get involved with us and the breed.

Therefore, as the year draws to a close, I would like to thank all those who support the Society for German Shepherd Dogs (SV), not out of self-interest but out of solidarity with the society, out of conviction for working dogs and out of passion for the breed. And to all those who, even away from the training field with their four-legged companions, demonstrate everything about our breed and for which we stand up.

Best wishes,

Prof. Heinrich Meßler
WUSV and SV President

... and don't forget: 2019 membership fees

As the year draws to a close, we would like to remind you that your membership fees are now due. For more information, see page 6.