

Editorial

Dear Readers,



In 2015, the SV Board provisionally appointed me to the position of National Herding Inspector as the successor to Wilfried Scheld, who departed from us after a short illness and yet so surprisingly. I have had to learn to walk in his very big shoes. However, this has been made very easy for me by the great support of the main club's management and its employees. But what has always excited me about the herding events was the camaraderie that really came from the heart. For some shepherds, the weekend of National Performance Herding was their only holiday and they had been looking forward to it all year. Friendships were cultivated with all the families, because everyone was always present and the herding events were like a big family reunion. Unfortunately, outside influence doesn't stop here either. Selective *Hochzucht* breeders have their dogs trained as herding dogs in order to go on to occupy good spots at the main breeding show in the herding dog categories. And after that, you never see those dogs in herding again. This does not serve herding dog breeding in any way. Unfortunately, I have not found a satisfactory solution.

But herding is still worth the effort and commitment, for the sake of tradition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who support herding – be it in the local groups, state groups or the responsible organisation of the Federal Performance Herding. You wouldn't believe how difficult it has become or what hurdles you have to overcome sometimes to put on a Federal Performance Herding. Animal welfare is increasingly influencing this event. The veterinary authorities specify what we have to do. With the high number of participants, we need two herds of equal value, which need to be herded well. And that is really difficult, because many shepherds nowadays have to use enclosures so that they can run their businesses efficiently. Otherwise, all of their many side tasks cannot be done. Another problem is to give everyone the same chance of finding an even herding area for three days. Finally, a local group is needed to organise the event, although this has been a minor problem so far. This is a mammoth task for the smallest area within SV. But it is also the most traditional area and the basis of our club. So, it's essential to hold on to it.

Unfortunately, due to family and personal reasons, I cannot continue as the herding representative. This step was incredibly difficult for me to take. I would be very reassured and pleased if the person proposed by the shepherds and myself were chosen. Because shepherds need someone who is wholeheartedly behind the cause, always has an open ear for them and appreciates tradition. I would now like to say goodbye and thank all SV members, shepherds, officials, my colleagues on the board and especially our managing director and his team for their great support. I wish my successor the best of luck and, of course, I am available to provide advice and assistance if needed.

Yours truly,
Jürgen Henzler,
SV Herding Dog Representative