

## Editorial

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Dear Readers,

In this editorial, I would like to draw your attention to an initiative that came together in January 2023 to campaign for the preservation of our working dogs. You may have come across K9andSports on social media. This initiative, which I joined as an ambassador in April 2023 and which I support wholeheartedly, advocates, among other things, for cooperation between authorities that keep service dogs and breeding and sporting associations. The aim is to come together again with authorities and the scientific community and to secure and promote the preservation of working dogs. For me, this also means

that our organisation must once again clearly advocate the training and selection of working dogs, including in IGP and *Schutzhund*.

The events and reports from our neighbours in Austria about a truly terrible bite accident resulting in death are probably still very well remembered by all of you.

The resulting initiative to ban *Schutzhund* for dog sport enthusiasts, service dog handlers and authorities shows us how quickly our sport can fall into disrepute. False information is being spread about the training and aims of *Schutzhund* sport. Unfortunately, such misinformation is absorbed very quickly and lingers in the minds of the public. This is why proactive education is currently more important than ever for us.

At *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.*, we have been very cautious in recent years when it comes to providing information about training and, specifically, *Schutzhund*. Hardly any *Schutzhund* photos have been published. There is no need for people to see German Shepherds biting into the handler's sleeve. There is no need for photos of them with 'bared teeth' and 'completely twisted bodies', but there is a need for normal *Schutzhund* photos of situations that can be seen day after day on our training grounds. No further attempts were made to explain the reasons behind *Schutzhund* sport. However, the breeding of working dogs only works when the animals used are selected in a reasonable way. Regardless of their intended use/application for breeding and setting our breeding objectives, it only works with reasonable selection.

That is why the SV Board has decided to support and promote this initiative. The days of going it alone are over. It is time for all pedigree dog breeding organisations, dog sport enthusiasts and breeders to stand together and try to explain and defend our hobby and our sport.

In this issue, you will be introduced to K9andSports, and I would be delighted if you, as members and breeders, would join us in standing up for the German Shepherd and for the future of the breed and the club.

Yours truly,

Daniele Strazzeri,  
SV Vice President