

Editorial

Dear German Shepherd Enthusiasts,



I hope that you and your families are all in the best of health. Spring is traditionally the start of the season for our annual events. This year, unfortunately, that is not the case. We have endured the first weeks of the coronavirus, which has spread globally at a scale that none of us would have wanted or been able to imagine in our worst fears. Every day, almost every hour these days, we have been receiving news about steadily growing numbers of infected persons, and victims who have lost the fight against the virus and the disease. Government orders and measures restrict our everyday life and translate into deep intrusions into our lives with family, friends and social life in general. In particular, life in our club has almost come to a standstill: events have had to be cancelled, practices cannot take place etc. Even everyday things like maintaining our club facilities are only possible under clearly more difficult conditions.

In the long years of my membership, I cannot remember the club and its members having had to go through a similar situation. All of the measures of the past few weeks have the common goal of slowing down and stopping the spread of corona infection among the population. We are experiencing measures for the protection of everyone, and they are slowly starting to take effect. Unfortunately, according to experts, the pandemic has not yet reached its peak. So we will have to prepare for the fact that a loosening of the current measures is not to be expected in the coming weeks, and, if there is any relief, it will go hand in hand with other accompanying measures. A return to normal life is not yet in sight, and we, the SV board, will have to make decisions in the near future that I feel are the most difficult ones that can be the responsibility of a chairman and the entire board, as they may mean fundamental cuts for the club, its members and our common hobby.

Even though these times are not easy, and many of our fellow citizens and our members have existential concerns regarding their health, jobs and the time after the crisis, we at SV will stand together as a community in solidarity and overcome these times of crisis too. And then we will once again do what has enriched and made our lives valuable thus far: breeding, training and sport with the German Shepherd. The light at the end of the tunnel may yet appear distant to us, but I am confident that in the not too distant future, we will once again be able to fill our club, our local groups and all our activities that are so dear and important to us with life. Until then, it is important that we take care of ourselves and others, protect one another and, in general, maintain confidence in a better future.

There will be a time after corona, and I look forward to seeing you all healthy and safe again.

Yours truly,

Professor Dr. Heinrich Meßler