

Dear Readers,



Germany is the home of the German Shepherd. Captain von Stephanitz laid down binding guidelines, and *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.* established them as FCI standard no. 166. The basis for the various fields of activity as a sporting dog, family dog, service dog, rescue dog, therapy dog, guide dog for the blind and herding dog should thus be implemented uniformly.

Due to geographical circumstances or historical events, these standards were not adhered to in some countries. Those responsible at SV recognised this unfortunate situation and founded EUSV in 1968 together with Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Italy, the UK, Austria, Switzerland and former Czechoslovakia.

In 1974, EUSV became WUSV (International Union for German Shepherds) and currently has a proud membership of 96 clubs. The declared aim: a uniform breed standard, harmonisation of points of view and the assessment of German Shepherds in breeding and performance, clarification of unanswered questions about breeding, training, rearing and keeping, and the fight against hereditary diseases. However, this open wording was not binding.

With the WUSV Breeding Programme unanimously introduced by the WUSV General Assembly in 2019, a uniform set of rules was created for the German Shepherd worldwide, which is one of its kind in cynology.

Consequently, the next step is the introduction of a worldwide database. In the WUSV Breeding Regulations, it is explicitly stated that the member clubs are obliged to send a digital extract of the national breed registry to WUSV in order to transfer the data to SV-DOxS. This international database forms the basis for meaningful, breeding-relevant scientific analysis and breeding value estimations (e.g.: HD, ED, size heredity, fertility analysis etc.).

SV has created an optimal basis with SV-DOxS, and with the following conditions, the system can be extended, and the origin of data can be verified:

- HD/ED assessments only on the basis of evaluation centres certified by Prof. Tellhelm
- Results of performance tests, breeding assessments and breed surveys only from SV or WUSV judges
- Breed registry numbers of the country of origin

After the generous transition period, all WUSV members are obliged to implement the WUSV Breeding Regulations by 1 January 2025. Logically, only dogs that have been bred according to the three-tier WUSV Breeding Regulations (Basic, Advanced or Premium) may be included in the database. Unfortunately, there are extreme reservations in SV towards this expansion, as the seriousness of the information is doubted. I hope that we will find solutions in the ongoing discussions in order to reduce SV's fears on the one hand and on the other hand to be able to cover the needs of German Shepherd enthusiasts worldwide.

SV unconditionally approved the WUSV Breeding Regulations at its Delegates' Assembly in 2019 and at the WUSV General Assembly in 2019. It would certainly not be conducive and not in the spirit of the WUSV founders if SV and WUSV each kept separate databases.

I appeal to the board and the SV breed registry to take responsibility for the German Shepherd all over the world and to agree to justifiable solutions.

Yours truly,

René Rudin, Vice-President of WUSV