

Editorial



Dear Readers,

In the last issue of our SV Magazine, I wrote that it's OUR birthday! The German Shepherd and its club are 125 years old.

On 22 April 2024, the founder of the German Shepherd breed and *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.*, Rittmeister Max von Stephanitz, was commemorated with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Trinitatis Cemetery in Dresden. I encouraged you to use the 125th birthday as a welcome occasion to simply draw closer together as one big SV family, and that is exactly what happened on 22 April 2024. German Shepherd enthusiasts from Germany and abroad gathered for the wreath-laying ceremony and the cosy get-together that followed. I'm sure the Rittmeister would have enjoyed the harmony and togetherness. Several four-legged friends were also at his grave to pay their respects. One had the impression that they were aware of the special significance of this place.

The breeding objective formulated by Max von Stephanitz 125 years ago still applies today: 'Breeding German Shepherds means breeding working dogs.' For me personally, it was a very special moment to honour the first SV President. As the person who determines the fate of our club today, I promised him in my thoughts that I would protect his life's work and do everything in my power to ensure that it is secure for the future.

My special thanks go to everyone who made this day so special! In particular, I would like to thank the Board of the Saxony Federal Group, the Dresden Local Group, my fellow SV Board members who were present, and the SV Headquarters for their excellent preparation and support during the ceremony.

We would like to continue celebrating our 125th anniversary with you. Together, let's make 2024 the Year of the German Shepherd. This wonderful breed deserves to be back in the spotlight.

And what else happened? In short, lots of politics! Politics is often used to create a negative atmosphere. My determined way of changing things for the good of our club apparently frightens some people. Without going into detail, I can assure you that I will continue to pursue a path that benefits our German Shepherds unwaveringly. My aim is clearly defined: the German Shepherd must become popular again. This fantastic dog needs to be freed from public criticism. Our breeders need to find more people interested in their puppies, or else breeding will continue to decline. Changes are needed to prevent this, and it is our duty to initiate them. This applies to both breeding and training. The SV Board, especially the functionaries and their committees, are called upon to tackle the known problems. Let us remember: 'The secret of being able to is wanting to.' So it is up to us to change direction. Let's start now. As SV President, I am moving forward with vigour, and I am delighted with each and every one of you who support me. I look forward to this year with confidence and to meeting you at one of our events.

Yours sincerely,

Roswitha Dannenberg,
SV President