

Cynology under difficult conditions (2)

Dear Readers,



At the beginning of the year, hope was taking root inside me that our club life would return to normal as the pandemic seemed to be levelling off. Two new, unexpected factors are preventing that. Firstly, the invasion of Ukraine is affecting our club life in that inflation and fuel prices are disrupting mobility and activities as well as international contacts. We are left only with the hope that this scenario, which is unspeakable in every respect, will be brought to an end soon through sensible action. At this point I would like to thank the numerous initiatives from our association that have made it possible to help our friends from Ukraine and their four-legged companions in many ways. Secondly, since 1 January 2022, the implementation of the German Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance has made our usual club life more difficult. Some parts of this ordinance are incomprehensible, not only to experts and those affected.

Without going into detail on individual specific requirements, it is our duty to point out to the public that the implementation of individual sections of the ordinance in its current form will lead to undesirable effects for both people and dogs. The decisive weak point in the implementation of individual provisions is the fact that official checks can only be carried out within the framework of organised dog breeding. Only organised clubs can be approached and checked at events requiring registration. In contrast to irresponsible breeders, the statutory objective of precisely these clubs and associations is quality control. This concerns the all-important criteria of animal welfare, health, mentality, social behaviour and predictability of appearance. These criteria are firmly anchored in our statutes and are implemented as stringently as possible by SV and within WUSV. Decades of experience and documentation that attest to this are available. Our expertise in the areas mentioned, with complete documentation, should be brought into the committees in order to substantiate the discussion about the Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance. The requirements to be implemented by law, which do not all make sense, will further push back responsible, organised breeders, dog sport and fans in the controlled clubs. The beneficiaries will be the so-called dog mafia, which has been flooding the European dog market with puppies for decades, more or less unchecked and beyond any legal control.

At this point, I would like to explicitly point out that only about 10 per cent of the German dog population comes from controlled/controllable breeding. I would like to inform you that we at SV have offered the responsible political bodies to actively participate and contribute to a revision of the Animal Welfare Ordinance, which is to be demanded. In summary, I would like to say that the current situation with the, in some cases, extreme requirements of the veterinary authorities inhibits purebred dog breeding in a disproportionate and incomprehensible way. The winners are the large-scale dog breeders from abroad, who, in contrast to the demanding requirements to which breeders in VDH-affiliated purebred breeding associations are held, are not subject to any control.

In connection with the ongoing events concerning the Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance, the VDH office sent out an appeal on 10 May 2022 to sign a petition initiated by the VDH entitled 'Against the disproportionate implementation of the Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance' <https://chng.it/SzC4cMyw8Y>. We at SV support this and have already informed our committees and all OG boards via the head office. I ask you, in the interest of the German Shepherd, organised purebred dog breeding, dog sport and cynology in general, to participate in this petition in order to prevent distortions that affect approximately 10 million dogs and their owners in Germany.

Every vote counts!

Yours truly,

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Meßler
President of SV and WUSV