



Dear Readers,

For the first time as President of SV, I have the pleasure of addressing you in an editorial. For a long while, the election of the new SV Board was a central topic among our members. The desire for change was palpable again and again. The die has now been cast, and I would like to say thank you for the trust you given me. It is fair to say that this marks a drastic change. The tenth president of SV is a woman. In my view, this is a clear indication that our club is ready for change. This change needs to be set in motion. Our SV is in worse shape than ever before.

Members are disappointed with the way things have gone in recent years. They have associated great hope with the election of each new president. And time and again they have been disappointed. That, at least, is the feedback that has reached me. Changing this was my motivation for running for the highest office in our association.

From my point of view, I bring to the table those things that are currently vital for the club's survival: determination, honesty, straightforwardness, empathy and respectful treatment of our SV members. And the most important thing of all: holding office without any personal interests, solely for the benefit of the German Shepherd. SV has often been described as a patient on a drip in intensive care. I share this opinion. For me it is a miracle, and thank God for miracles, that this terminally ill patient has managed to survive so far. They're still alive, for which I am deeply grateful, but for how much longer? We cannot afford any more mistakes in our treatment. From my point of view, this choice has decided whether and what chance our SV has of surviving and hopefully recovering step by step.

The current state is daunting to begin with. Who can be so insane as to claim that they can repair what is currently in ruins? In all modesty, but with a great confidence in my own and the new SV board's strength, I will say that together, we will do everything we can to achieve this goal. Our club, *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.*, is about to celebrate its 125th anniversary next year. It is necessary to make the German Shepherd, the greatest dog breed in the world, the focal point of the public's interest once again. To do so, we need to act with purpose, a clear strategy and a Board which collaborates unselfishly for the well-being of the German Shepherd and SV. Members turn away from our association disappointed. They feel that they are no longer being heard or understood. But what are we without our members? What have we been boasting about for ages? That's right: it's our number of members, which makes us the largest purebred dog breeding club in the world.

We still are, but for how long? If we want to keep things this way, action must be taken now. Doing so was my offer to the delegates of the SV National Assembly, being elected has now made it my task. It is time to put our money where our mouth is. This requires clear leadership and the absolute will of the new SV Board to work together as a team. If there is no change now, we will be burying the SV patient who has held out so bravely for so long. We will not be able to tackle all the construction areas at once. The following issues have priority: the effort to improve our relationships with the VDH and the FCI. I still get on well with them. I was sure that with a change in the position of SV President there would be a rapprochement.

The contact made after the National Assembly confirmed this. We have already had our first meeting. I sincerely thank the VDH Board for our pleasant exchange and look forward to future trustful cooperation.

Our next problem is the relationship with the FCI. When I hear the question in a meeting of whether we actually need an FCI stamp on our pedigrees, I shudder. Some people might not be interested, but I *do* need that stamp on my dogs' pedigrees. And I am sure most of our members do too. I can assure you that we will have a timely exchange here as well. WUSV is such a positive thing. It is a testimony to the popularity of our German Shepherd all over the world. My clear statement on the current situation is that the situation is out of control, and SV must reassert its claim to leadership. Germany is the motherland of the breed, without ifs, ands or buts. We need negotiating skills, but also the necessary sensitivity towards our sporting friends abroad, to find a sustainable solution for all to the current situation. The issue of animal welfare and the amended Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance require our attention. An animal welfare officer at SV is overdue. We have to position ourselves as an association. In IGP, we must not leave our members out in the cold. The traditional pillars of our association need to be protected. At the same time, the diversity of our German Shepherd in the newly added fields of activity as well as its suitability as a family dog must be emphasised. This diversity is the characteristic that makes our German Shepherd unique.

All examples show the great challenges that lie ahead of us. There is much to do. What is important is *that* we do it. I am ready. Let us set a new course for the future of our club. Credibly, powerfully, honestly and exclusively for the benefit of the DSH, the best dog in the world. Nothing else matters.

Yours truly,

Roswitha Dannenberg