

Dear Friends of the German Shepherd,



Coronavirus has been keeping us on our toes for almost two years now. This is true not only for our daily life, but especially for our activities with our German Shepherd friends.

There have been times when all of our club's activities came to a standstill. Then, they gradually increased again, with constant ups and downs. Interestingly enough, litter numbers within SV developed positively during this period.

Testing, sport and exhibition activities have really picked up again in the last few weeks and we are facing our first major event after the lockdown, the National Champions' Breeding Show in Nuremberg, at the beginning of next month. After that, the National Champions' Test in IGP & Agility in Meppen is coming up.

However, things are still not back to normal. Step by step, sometimes forwards, sometimes backwards, our activities with our dogs have to be adapted to the current situation.

Fortunately, widespread vaccination success is opening up opportunities for us to get back to normal in many areas.

Although it is still impossible to make reliable plans for major events. We were able to see this first hand during the Olympics in Tokyo. A possible fourth wave and the Delta variant continue to keep us on tenterhooks.

I'm all the happier that in view of the current situation, it is finally foreseeable, after two years, that we will be able to hold our big family reunions: the National Champions' Breeding Show in Nuremberg, the National Champions' Test in Meppen and the WUSV World Championships in Lerma, Spain.

At this point, I must offer my express thanks to our head office, the planning committees on site and all those many helpers and supporters who make these complex and, under the current conditions, difficult events possible for us dog enthusiasts. It goes without saying that all those responsible will continue optimising processes right up to the last day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to expressly thank the regional authorities and offices of the host cities of Nuremberg and Meppen, who always lent an ear, showed commitment to the needs of our club and were helpful in implementing our complex concepts.

You can imagine that with complicated procedures, such as those of a Champions' Show, Champions' Test or WUSV World Championship, extensive planning is necessary. Nuanced concepts have to be designed, analysed in detail by the responsible parties and the authorities and then have to be checked for plausibility.

We, our helpers, activists and friends on site have succeeded in this in an impressive way. Full of pride for what has been achieved so far, I would like to express my gratitude to all those involved. We must consider it a success that these events, which are so extraordinarily important for our association, can be held at all.

Under these difficult circumstances, it is incomprehensible to me that some incorrigible know-it-alls are still voicing criticism about the restrictions likely to be necessary in view of the pandemic.

It should be clear to everyone that we will not have the same normal procedures this year that we have been able to enjoy for decades. Restrictions have already been made in the areas of progeny groups and demonstrations. In particular, classical calling (double handling) will not be possible in the form practised so far. These are just a few points.

If it's the case this year that we have to go without the use of grass, the opening of short paths, excessive calling of dogs and the like, we should not forget that still, the impossible has virtually been made possible.

Accept the restrictions. After two years, enjoy the chance to participate in our family celebrations. Experience our dogs in all their applications. At the highest level.

Meet friends and old acquaintances and accept these manageable restrictions.

Unfortunately, extraordinary situations require extraordinary measures. I hope I'm not mistaken that we can get back to normal next year.

With this in mind, I ask you to strictly observe the following points:

Only believe and follow official information posted on the website. In the past days and weeks, information on the course of events has been disseminated on social media that has no factual basis and only serves to create uncertainty among members.

- If you have any questions, our head office is available at any time.
- Please make sure to observe all government regulations.
- Follow the instructions of the attendants and ring helpers.
- Undisciplined behaviour that breaches regulations can jeopardise the entire event.
- As an exhibitor, it is essential that you maintain ring discipline.
- Given the current situation, it will be possible to participate in the event via livestream.

Unfortunately, the total number of visitors is currently limited to 1,500, and this number of tickets is already sold out.

Depending on the situation at the time of the event, additional tickets may go on sale; however, these tickets must be personalised. We will inform you about this on the SV website.

Dear friends of the German Shepherd, we are all looking forward to our major events.

It's like a family celebration: when you haven't seen each other in a long time, the joy is all the greater.

I look forward to our family celebrations with you.

Yours truly,

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Meßler
President of SV and WUSV