

Editorial



Dear Readers,

In this issue's editorial, I have the pleasure of addressing you as the newly elected SV Vice-President. The new SV Board has been in office for just under two months and has difficult tasks ahead of it. Because it's not only the Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance, which has been in force since January 2022, that is still causing us breeders and dog handlers a great deal of uncertainty, especially at major events. We have still yet to succeed in finding uniform regulations for our events with the various veterinary offices. This causes us enormous difficulties when it comes to planning as well as finding event organisers. This will be one of the most important tasks for the newly elected Board and for the Head Office. To prevent us from having to act alone, there have already been initial talks

with the Board of the VDH. Fortunately, the SV and the VDH have resumed talks and agree to work more closely and together again in the future. The VDH Board has already given a first positive sign in this respect: since 11 July 2023, an SV representative, myself in this case, has again been included on the VDH's Working Dog Committee.

We also have other tasks to deal with in the near future, such as our cooperation with the FCI. Here, initial talks need to be held soon in order to clarify the disagreements that have arisen in the past.

Unfortunately, we also have bigger challenges ahead of us within our association. For example, our puppy numbers are not in the desired range. More and more breeders, especially smaller ones, are reporting increasing problems with puppy sales. We have to analyse this and try to change it.

From my point of view, the German Shepherd, bred in our club, needs to have a higher degree of public presence. Because for something to be attractive, it needs to be seen. As you can see, dear readers, these are only a few of the issues we have to overcome, but they are essential for the future of our club. Therefore, my plea to all members, breeders, dog handlers and officers is: we can only solve our problems if we move in the right direction and work on them together. Individuals cannot make a difference on their own; we have to try to find common ways to advance our breed and our association once again.

I am convinced that we can make a difference by taking small steps. We just have to start. I hope that you continue to have a great deal of fun with your dogs as part of our club activities.

Yours truly,

Daniele Strazzeri
SV Vice President