



Dear Readers,

Once you are holding this SV Magazine in your hands, the National Champions' Breeding Show in Nuremberg will already be history. I would like to thank all the staff at the Head Office and the entire organising team for their preparations, which have been difficult at times.

Yes, the number of entries and demonstrations has decreased compared to last year. It's easy enough, as so often, to focus on these negatives. I doubt whether the ongoing badmouthing by some internet activists, sometimes even escalating to the level of agitation, will help our club through this difficult situation, which has already been described by the President.

As far as the number of entries and demonstrations is concerned, this is a logical consequence of declining breeding numbers. I have written about it several times: if we want to win back public acceptance, we have to breed a healthy, social dog without exaggerations. Again and again, those responsible were accused of doing nothing. Now, something has been done, and already there has been a huge outcry.

The over-angulated, unstable hindquarters are currently causing us great problems in terms of public perception, but also with animal welfare authorities. As those responsible, we have to take countermeasures in order not to expose ourselves to the criticism of defect breeding. This can only be done gradually and cannot be remedied overnight.

When looking at the stride sequence of our dogs' hindquarters, we must not confuse the unstable hindquarters and corresponding stride sequence with a tight stride sequence from stable hindquarters. This is exactly what is being done on the internet at the moment. Currently, paparazzi are showing up at the breeding shows, taking photos by hook or by crook, with the sole aim of catching a dog which, from their amateurish point of view, is not up to standard in the hindquarters. These photos are then posted alongside comments in the well-known groups on the internet using fake accounts. Often, these people are driven by frustration over what they see as unsatisfactory evaluations of their own dogs. By their own admission, they only want to serve the breed and the club, but the effect they are having is exactly the opposite.

Perhaps each individual should think about what they post publicly and whether to do so, and whether their post will actually help the club in its current difficult situation. I have said several times, also publicly, that we are world champions in badmouthing both our own dogs and the association.

Yours truly,

Bernd Weber,

SV Association Head of Breeding