

Editorial

Dear Readers,



When you hold this issue of the SV Magazine in your hands, 2020 will already be drawing to a close. Behind us lie difficult and turbulent months that have led to more or less major changes for everyone in their private and professional lives. But activity in our hobby has also been considerably reduced at all club levels, and at times even brought to a standstill. The changes will become particularly obvious in the December issue of the SV Magazine, where the usual reports and pictures of our club's main events will all be missing. On the other hand, these times have also shown that we can strike out in many new directions. One example is that, with manageable group sizes, meetings can be held effectively and without difficulty via video conference. This saves time and money, and effective decisions can also be made by voting in writing. The Act to Mitigate the Consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic of 30 March 2020 provides the legal basis for this.

At the end of October, the main association presented alternatives for action for the federal and local groups. Due to the significant increase in the number of infections since the beginning of October and the partial lockdown in November, it unfortunately seems likely that we will also have to resort to this type of communication and decision-making in the coming year. Or that we may have to rely on it if we are required to restrict our club activities once again. Let us hope that we are on the much-vaunted path back to a new normality.

The breeding disposition test (ZAP) issue was discussed in detail, especially in the October issue of the SV Magazine. I consider this newly created possibility to be inherently highly sensible and interesting, as with simpler technological means, it enables especially new members to achieve a qualification with their dogs and thus to have a sense of achievement. Owners of several dogs will also be able to obtain breeding permission for their dogs themselves within a reasonable amount of time.

However, the current version of the working part of the ZAP suffers, in my very personal opinion, from several structural flaws, which ultimately lead to the fact that the ZAP plays almost no role in current practice.

- The ZAP, in conjunction with breed surveys, must allow for equal opportunities with the IGP on the breeding show side. There were several motions to the 2020 National Assembly on this topic, which could not be discussed and voted on due to coronavirus.
- It is incomprehensible that a ZAP (working part) can only be repeated twice and, in addition, discontinuation after completion of a portion of the work, even if the dog is proven to be ill, is considered a valid attempt, whereas an IGP can be repeated as often as desired.
- There is no reason why the AD test needs to be taken before the working part of the ZAP.
- It is not obvious to me why the ZAP (working part) can only be taken by a small number of, so to speak, hand-picked judges. This deprives many local groups of the opportunity to integrate a ZAP into their local group test, which in any case is often only equipped with a relatively small number of dogs.

I hope you have a relaxing upcoming Christmas season. Wear a mask, keep your distance and stay healthy.

Yours truly,

Richard Brauch, Association Head of Finance