Dear Friends of the German Shepherd,

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I have never found it as difficult to start the Christmas editorial of our SV Magazine as I did this year.

While the reports of our main SV club events are usually eagerly awaited by our members, this year, with a few exceptions, we are going to have to do without them.

Not only do inexplicable hostilities, wars, natural disasters and famines dominate the news, but since the beginning of this year the world has been ruled by a small virus: Covid-19.

This coronavirus has not only totally changed our private, social and business lives; it has also brought our club life to a virtual standstill. Events were cancelled and training opportunities limited. Personal meetings and get-togethers have been scaled down and loneliness is spreading among many older people.

And this loneliness fuels fear: existential fear, fear about daily care, fear for our families and ultimately fear about our own mortality...

But gratitude is also spreading: not only thanks to the many selfless people who are praised in the media every day, but also thanks to our members who have supported all the decisions of the SV Board and have volunteered to support our association in many areas. Thanks to the staff at the head office and to our colleagues on the SV Board.

But thanks also to our German Shepherds who, with their incomparable nature, help us to forget this pandemic for a few hours and one of which will even move into the White House soon.

At the end of my remarks, all that remains is for me to wish you a blessed Christmas in the company of your loved ones.

Get through this hard time so that all our hopes for a healthy and happy 2021 may come true.

That is what I wish with all my heart.

Yours truly,

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Meßler President of SV and WUSV