

Dear Readers,



By the time you hold this issue of the SV Magazine in your hands, Christmas will be just around the corner. For many of us, the time has come to gather with our family and end 2022 in peace and contemplation. We will reflect on the past, try to separate the important from the unimportant and seek strength and ideas for our plans for the new year. Because 2023 will begin in just a few days.

This year, too, many things unfortunately turned out differently than expected. While we had the justified hope that the pandemic restrictions would ease or disappear entirely, we were confronted with the shocking outbreak of a war within Europe, which profoundly affects our lives in general, but also our life within the club. Until 24 February, the majority of us would certainly have thought it impossible that such an uncivilised and inhuman thing could happen in the first place. Deep down, we are all once again aware of a potential threat. Allow me to quote John F. Kennedy: 'Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind.'

At this point, I would like to thank the numerous members of SV and WUSV who have helped to alleviate the immeasurable suffering in Ukraine through energetic support, donations of money and goods – and also by personally welcoming those affected and those fleeing. After the inevitable restrictions caused by the pandemic, we are now confronted with man-made restrictions – and tragedies not seen in Europe for almost 80 years. In addition to these immeasurable human dramas of those directly affected, which we deeply regret, there are also foreseeable restrictions on our hobby with our four-legged friends: limitations in mobility, communications and dog keeping brought on by inflation cast an ominous shadow and may limit the freedom we require to pursue our hobby. It is thanks to the ambition and commitment of our German Shepherd enthusiasts that this has not yet happened to any discernible extent. I hope that we will be able to continue on this path and withstand the strain. Regardless of these less than pleasing conditions, when I look at *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.*, I see a lot of light in comparison to the previous year:

Once again we succeeded in putting on a series of top-class events: starting with the SV Qualification Test for the WUSV World Championship Universal (Paderborn), the German Youth and Junior Championship (Kalchreuth), the FCI Federal Qualification SV (Langenberg), the SV Rally Obedience Championship (Merseburg), the SV IGP and Agility Federal Champions' Test (Karlsruhe), the SV National Performance Herding and Breeding Show (Eimke), the SV National Champions' Breeding Show (Nuremberg), the SV Agility Championship and National League Finals (Kassel), the SV National Champions' Test for Special Dogs & International Championship/SV German Championship for Special Dogs (Bamemohl), the SV Obedience Championship and SV National Champions' Test in Obedience (Ulm-Pfuhl) up to the SV National Tracking Dog Test (Stralsund). We have experienced dog sport and breeding shows at the very highest level.

I would like to congratulate all the volunteers and participants of our main association events, which were so successful this year.

The WUSV World Championships Universal & IP, the showdown with the best dog sportspeople in the world, demonstrated that we have strong dog handlers in our ranks who are among the world's best with their German Shepherds. The World Champion title was won by Nico Kertzinger with his home-bred Nitra. In the end, Team Germany was Vice World Champion in the team classification. A great success! At this point I would also like to thank my WUSV colleagues from Denmark, who organised this exceptional event with bravura.

I would also like to congratulate all participants of our other main association events who were successful this year. We should and must continue in this spirit. There is no reason to rest on our laurels just because the current conditions leave room for improvement. Regardless of these successes, important key figures for our club can be improved. Both in terms of membership numbers and litter numbers, we have potential that I believe has not yet been sufficiently exploited. Therefore, ideas, conviction and enthusiasm are needed to navigate the breed and thus SV back into calm waters. This is what I wish for us at SV for 2023.

At the end of the year, I would like to thank all those who have been committed to *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.*, not out of self-interest, but out of solidarity with the club, out of conviction for working dogs and out of passion for the breed.

And finally, also to all those who show with their German Shepherds, on and off the training ground and in and outside our club, what the breed that we love so much is capable of. With the firm wish that the global political situation described above returns to normal in the course of the next year, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and much fun and success with your four-legged friends in 2023.

Yours truly,

Prof. Dr. Heinrich Meßler,  
SV and WUSV President