



**Dear Readers,**

Christmas time has a special charm. We get to unwind, and everyone enjoys this atmospheric time in their own way. It also brings back childhood memories. A festively decorated living room, a sparkling Christmas tree. And the wonderful smell of cinnamon and Christmas spices.

Many SV local groups get together to bring the year to a close at this time. This is a good opportunity to review the past and make plans for the new year. What could be better than doing so in the company of like-minded people?

The time has also come for SV to set the course for 2024 and initiate necessary changes. Ultimately, it is important to show you, dear readers, that things are changing for the benefit of everyone.

As SV President, it is my duty to steer the fortunes of our association and manage it to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am always aware of this great responsibility and the hopes placed in me. A lot has happened in the few months I have been in office. I will maintain this approach and break new ground wherever necessary. You will soon be able to read about the activities of all SV Board members in our annual reports.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you in advance about one of my plans. It is my wish to have doping checks at SV main club events in future. I am currently in dialogue with our umbrella association VDH (Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen e.V.), which has been carrying out doping checks at its events for years. At SV, we are called upon to act both with regard to the ever-increasing focus on animal welfare and to ensure equal opportunities for participants. Animal welfare and the health of our dogs are the top priority and concern of us all.

We look back on a year full of unrest and war in parts of the world, characterised by harrowing reports and images. When worries and hardships arise in the hobby sector, they seem comparatively small. And yet they still weigh on us, because for most of us, this is far more than just a hobby. The German Shepherd, whether in breeding, sport and/or as a family dog, is a philosophy of life.

Dear members, let us now immerse ourselves in the holiday season and put everyday problems to one side for a moment. We need to gather our strength so that we can then start 2024 with confidence. A special year in which our SV celebrates its 125th birthday. Together, let's make it a good year, and perhaps even the best one yet.

With this in mind, I wish you and all two- and four-legged friends who are dear and important to you a peaceful Christmas. May your hearts be filled with love, courage, hope and confidence at Christmas and in the New Year.

On behalf of all members of the SV Board  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a good start to a healthy and happy 2024.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Roswitha Dannenberg,  
SV President**