



Dear Members and Readers,

By the time you receive this issue of the SV Magazine, Christmas will be just around the corner and we will all be looking forward to a more leisurely pace. Some of you will be making the final preparations for the festive season and possibly the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say **thank you** from the bottom of my heart. **Thank you** for your solidarity and cooperation over the past year. **Thank you** for your commitment and support of our club and our German Shepherds.

We have had a very special year. We celebrated SV's 125th birthday. It started with a wreath-laying ceremony at the grave of Rittmeister Max von Stephanitz. Our SV events had placed a special focus on our anniversary.

WUSV also had a big year, celebrating its 50th anniversary. On this occasion, we had the privilege of enjoying the WUSV IP & Agility World Championships in our own country.

It was a relief for the German Shepherd world when it was decided in September that SV and WUSV would continue on their joint path into the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the delegates to the SV National Assembly 2024 from the bottom of my heart. You placed your trust in the SV Board by giving us the power to decide on a possible withdrawal from WUSV. Contrary to the prophecies of doom, we have not betrayed that trust. After a great deal of hard work, we were able to reach an agreement. A historic situation that will hopefully never happen again!

The Augsburg State Court ruled in our favour in the case brought by four people against *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.* All four plaintiffs later withdrew their appeal, ending a completely unnecessary showdown.

Unexpectedly, the managing director resigned and was no longer available to us from the summer. Since then I have been in Augsburg every other week. An excellent solution has now been found for his successor. This provides impressive evidence that every crisis is an opportunity.

There was a lot of unrest about the Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance and the Animal Welfare Act. Dog breeding and dog sports have their backs to the wall because of excessive and sometimes unclear requirements. For almost all dog breeds, characteristics meant to constitute 'breeding causing pain, suffering or harm' have been defined, which are hard to understand based on common sense alone. The primary goal of the VDH and its member clubs is to educate the public.

I was elected to the VDH Board in September. I am very grateful for the trust placed in me. Working together instead of against each other is the motto!

SV has set an example in animal welfare by introducing doping controls at the BSZ/World Championship for German Shepherds and the BSP IGP & Agility. These are also planned for other SV events in the future.

After this brief review, we will now bring the eventful year 2024 to a close. On behalf of the entire SV Board, I would like to wish you, your families, friends and four-legged friends

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

May you enjoy the festive season and have a great start to the New Year. May 2025 bring us all happiness, health and a positive development of our hobby.

Best wishes on behalf of the SV Board.

Yours truly,

Roswitha Dannenberg
SV and WUSV President