



Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Members,

Another eventful year passed by, and I would like to use these last couple of days before the Seasonal Holidays to reflect upon the major stages of the past twelve months. After the first shock we all felt when the Corona pandemic took its course in 2020, we all looked for ways to keep our club activities going and many lessons were learned. Thus, we started into the year 2021 much better prepared and mostly knew how to respond to the challenges, cope with restrictions and how to find tailor-made solutions for problems pending.

We were most grateful when our major events, such as the BSZ Conformation Show in Nuremberg could be held despite all the restrictions and uncertainties that still prevailed. After all, the authorities could have cancelled the event at any given moment before and during the show. Everybody involved worked incessantly on the preparation and it was true optimism that carried us. The show was a great success, and also proof that we can achieve the presumably unachievable if we only want it. And so many of you came and took the trouble to travel to Germany from so many countries and thus ensured that the event maintained its international flair – even under Corona conditions. Please allow me to express my deep gratitude for this once more.

The same applies for the WUSV World Championship IP & Universal which were both held in the town of Lerma in Spain in November this year. This was a major accomplishment by our member club – the Real CEPPA – and my sincerest thanks go once again to everybody involved in the organization under the leadership of Mr. Rodrigo González Campuzano. And again, competitors from so many countries took the trouble and the risks of travelling to make this event happen. Another proof how strong our community is.

Very much to my regret, the WUSV General Annual Assembly needed to be cancelled six weeks before the event. For many reasons, it was not possible to have so many people gathering together, in particular in consideration of the only limited availability of tickets to the stadium. It would have been unreasonable to expect the delegates to come to Nuremberg for the assembly without being able to offer them tickets for the event itself.

The SV Federal Assembly was held in a digital fashion online this year – a novum and true experiment. We took the challenge despite the risk that the assembly would not go as smooth as expected – again in an attempt to show the world that a virus would not stop our work. The preparation and the event itself required enormous technical support and staff members at headquarters in Augsburg worked hard to make it happen. The delegates needed to be made familiar with the new technical requirements and in the end also this novum could be successfully finalized.

Therefore, I regret even more that we could not implement the same scheme for the WUSV General Annual Assembly but due to the fact that the assembly is held in three languages this would have been a very complex affair with unjustifiable expenses entailed.

The completed court proceedings against the FCI and its national kennel club in Germany have clearly confirmed our position. In both proceedings, the legal status of SV and WUSV was confirmed by the highest instance. Based on the present judgments, the free availability of judges worldwide is guaranteed. Of course, this does not apply for the fundamental recognition of judgments and evaluations of the individual organizations.

In the preliminary injunction proceedings initiated by the VDH against the SV, it was confirmed in our sense that the recognition and inclusion of dogs in the studbooks of SV and WUSV must also be carried out if they were not bred in an FCI club. Of course, provided that they meet our high SV/WUSV criteria.

To anyone who deals with the matter, it is clear that discrimination against a dog and the resulting disqualification cannot withstand judicial review only due to the fact that a dog is bred outside the FCI.

This is all the more true from the point of view that our dogs are subject to a globally unique SV/WUSV quality control according to our rules, which the FCI cannot or does not want to carry out in this complex form, which is even admitted by the organization.

The WUSV and the SV have done a great service to the breed and dog breeding as a whole.

It has finally been recognized by the Supreme Court that quality control takes precedence over protectionism and nepotism.

It is a particular pleasure for me, after some discussions in recent weeks, to be able to see that this opinion is now also prevailing among the progressive and serious forces of the FCI.

Not "closed shop", but quality management and quality control in cynology will be the future.

I am optimistic that now that the situation has been objectified by the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the necessary implementation of the formal legal framework conditions is imminent.

In this context, it must be clearly stated that there are also passages in our set of rules that cannot withstand judicial review on individual points, in particular in antitrust and competition law. Of course, in the coming months it will be our task to adapt our rules and regulations to applicable law.

Here some fundamental changes must be made, some of which have a drastic character. The Executive Board is facing a major trend-setting task here and will keep you informed about the state of affairs in the coming months.

We are also working on a new scheme for training courses for judges from abroad and look forward to resuming our activities in this respect next year again. You will be informed about details in due time.

A training scheme for character test judges abroad by the SV could be launched and was met by considerable interest. A major step forward.

We have not yet found a way for the training of breed survey judges abroad but with time a solution will be found in this respect as well.

Please allow me a little personal comment at this point where I rather wish to talk to you as the doctor who I still am. When you read my summary of this year's activities, please be aware that we could not have opened our gates for the main events if it had not been for the many people who were willing to get vaccinated and fight the pandemic.

I would like to encourage those of you who have not yet been vaccinated to reconsider your decision – provided that your health allows for it, but that goes without saying. Please do this for your own sake, your family, and your club fellows. We can beat this only together – be part of it!

After all, we do not wish to see our events cancelled again next year because of a new virus variant.

I would like to share the following story with you which is food for thought, and which you might enjoy reading at a quiet moment during the Seasonal Holidays.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy & healthy New Year 2022.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Dr Heinrich Meßler
WUSV President

Why Dogs Don't Live As Long As Humans – explained by a six-year old

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish wolfhound, named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa and their little boy Shane were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer.

I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog. Ron and Lisa told me that they thought it would be good for the six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few moments, Belker slipped away peacefully. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I had never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they learn how to live a good life – like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Share the wisdom!

