



July 2023

Dear WUSV-Member Clubs,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On June 02nd, this year I was elected President to the *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.* and thus, I now also hold the honourable office of WUSV President – a challenge I am very much looking forward to. Today, I would like to use this opportunity to digitally present myself to you. Many of you might have already met me during the past years in my position as SV Press Officer on the occasion of the *SV-Bundessiegerzuchtschau* – the annual BSZ Conformation Show. The personal encounter with people from all over the world – after all, the WUSV consists of 99 clubs in 91 countries – has always been very special to me and made me realize the enormous importance and popularity of our breed all over the globe.

My work as SV Press Officer allowed me in many ways to positively work on the progress of the SV in general and the breed in particular. After having held this very interesting office for eight years, I decided to take a further step forward and increase my range of options to promote the future develop of the SV. For that reason, I ran for the highest office in our organization on the occasion of this year's *SV-Bundesversammlung* – the SV Federal Assembly – and I am overjoyed about my election.

For almost thirty years I have been a member to the SV and held a variety of offices during the years – such as deputy trial warden of a local chapter, ID officer, club secretary or press officer for a national group, of which I am the chairperson today. Being involved in all these different fields allowed me to familiarize myself with the club activities from scratch. I always attached great importance to being close to the club events, the dogs, and the people – since all this taken together shapes our organisation. So, it was a rather matter of course to complete a training for trial judges in the year 2011 and later on for rescue dog judges. In the year 2020 I was appointed as character test judge. A distance course in the field of homeopathy and psychology for animals made the picture complete. The health and wellbeing of our breed is my highest priority – this objective is not only reflected in the SV Statutes and regulations, but also an integral part of the WUSV Breeding Program which will take final effect in the year 2025.

I am married, mother of two grown up daughters and a grandmother, too. Our home is a cosy place – not only for the two-legged family members – but also for many pets. For the time being a German Shepherd Dog, a teckel, chickens, sheep, geese, and several bee colonies feel at home with us. My husband and I live in the county of Schleswig-Holstein in the high north of Germany. For more than thirty years we have been running a garden and landscape construction business. In a couple of months, I will retire from my active work life and fully dedicate myself to the office as SV/WUSV President.

My highest objective will be the wellbeing of our breed, in particular in terms of health issues and the appearance of our dogs as defined in the breed standard which is closely associated with the image of the German Shepherd Dog and the public perception of the breed.



I should like to mention that some hurdles will have to be overcome. It is my deepest ambition to find the needed solutions in a common effort with all parties involved. But if we focus on the welfare of the German Shepherd Dog breed, I am sure that we will succeed.

A friendly and amicable cooperation of our worldwide community is of crucial importance for us. We all serve as a role model, for instance during the international events of the WUSV – the two World Championships IP & UNIVERSAL – and in particular on the BSZ in Nuremberg, where dogs not only from Germany but from all over the world have been shown for many decades – we show the world how people from all walks of life, different religions and ideology share their passion that unites them all side by side. The common objective is the key to this kind of peaceful coexistence. I am looking forward to many pleasant encounters with you – on the Monday after the BSZ 2023 I will get the chance to present myself in person to the delegates of your countries and I am tremendously looking forward to that day.

Please allow me to use my greetings to the WUSV member clubs to give thanks to Professor Dr Heinrich Meßler who held the office of SV/ WUSV President for the past eight years.

After many years of dedicated work for our two organisations there will now be more room and time again for his personal fields of interest and for his family who had to make do without him many times when his travels for the WUSV took him all over the world. With all my heart, I wish him the very best for his future.

Thank you very much for your attention and I look forward to meeting you again in Nuremberg.

With kindest wishes and truly yours,

Roswitha Dannenberg
SV/ WUSV-President