

## **WUSV World Championship UNIVERSAL 2022**

Everybody was very happy when Austria proposed to host this year's WUSV World Championship UNIVERSAL 2022.

After a little up-hill struggle, in January 2022 the final approval was given. The event was organized in Schwanenstadt, a perfect venue for that purpose. There was only little time for preparation since the competition was already scheduled for the month of June – six months in terms of preparatory work is indeed not a very long time!

As for every event, a pre-registration was carried out with the objective to find out the number of countries which intended to participate in the event. The figures looked very promising at first – 73 handlers from 16 countries signed up for the event.

However, when the final registrations were received, participation boiled down to a mere and disappointing 40 participants from eleven countries. Pre-registrations serve the purpose of allowing the hosting organization a realistic picture of the number of participants that can be expected. At times – these data are of decisive importance when it comes to the decision whether the event is to be held at all, or even needs to be cancelled again.

Of course, we are glad about every registration – but I kindly ask all WUSV member countries to handle those data with a little more caution. It goes without saying that we of course understand cases of force majeure which make it impossible for some countries to travel.

The financial realization of the organization of such an event requires a reliable source of income. Maybe – in the future to come – a combination of Championships might have possibilities to further ensure the staging of the WUSV international events. My proposal is a combination out of WUSV World Championships IP and Championships for **Special Dogs** as well as a combination out of WUSV World Championships UNIVERSAL and World Championship Agility plus Obedience. I trust that we all give this some consideration and then verify the details accordingly.

But let us get back the event dated June 24<sup>th</sup>, to June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in Schwanenstadt. In short – a very suitable venue and a super organization. My respect for that great achievement. Many thanks to all the volunteers, but in particular to the head of organization, Mr. Wolfgang Hafner, and to the manageress of the secretariat, Ms Claudia Strasser. Congratulations for the success and thank you very much again.

At a personal level and in general, I used to doubt the success of the WUSV World Championship UNIVERSAL. However, the year 2022 changed my attitude toward the event and I noticed a considerable qualitative improvement in comparison with the years before. And this applies for both sections of the event, trial, and show.

Very good results could be obtained in the field of trial for dogs from the show line. The dogs from the performance line became much better in terms of the anatomy and many of them obtained highest qualifications in the field of show. The hunt for the most versatile German Shepherd Dog seems to have paid off well.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my appreciation for the many technical workers. All were at the right place at the right time and thus made it possible for the participants to achieve a great performance in Schwanenstadt/ Austria and to have a good time.

And we enjoyed the enormous hospitality of the *Österreichischen Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SVÖ)*.

I already wish the Swiss Organization – the *Schweizerischer Schäferhunde Club (SC)* – the best of luck for the WUSV World Championship UNIVERSAL 2023 and hope to meet you all there.

Head Judge, Toine Jonkers