

## Editorial



### Dear Reader,

In November, we're taking a look back at the three biggest events of the year: the Bundesiegerzuchtschau in Ulm, the IPO & Agility Bundessiegerprüfung in Oberhausen and the WUSV World Championships, which were held in Tilburg in the Netherlands to mark the 100th anniversary of the Dutch Society for German Shepherd Dogs.

In a world where the term superlative is, to my mind, overused, I must admit that these events were perfectly organized and hosted. I am assuming that such a high standard of organization and execution has now been reached that it could hardly be topped. I would like to take this opportunity to express my warmest thanks to all the event organizers and volunteers at these three events. We just have to hope that, in light of these high standards, potential applicants don't shy away from bidding to host one of these large-scale events. Each of the disciplines held at the German Bundessiegerzuchtschau and the WUSV World Championships are regarded internationally and represent an absolute high point in the society's year. Thousands of visitors from around the world spare neither trouble nor expense to participate in these events. This is where the SV family meets and where "German Shepherdship" is celebrated. Globally speaking, there is no event for a specific breed that could even be roughly compared with the quantity and quality of these events. Based on this reason alone, it is accepted internationally that the SV and WUSV play a leading role in championing matters relating to German Shepherds. For the SV and WUSV, there is also a responsibility to set identical international standards for these competitions and to continue to expand them.



This edition's cover features "Debby vom Eisernen Kreuz", the winner of the 2017 WUSV World Championships held in Tilburg and photographed by Guus Kersemakers ([www.segusoda.nl](http://www.segusoda.nl))

This has already been implemented in relation to the breeding process and while the WUSV harmonization program is still in its infancy, it has generally been accepted around the world. Similar efforts must be made to harmonize IPO as the differing regulations in individual member countries give rise to differing training methods and results, which lead to further distortions. In relation to sports with dogs, it seems we need to urgently consider the necessary rules that both match and accommodate our breed.

This is something the society must think about. The same requirements must be set in all countries and for all dogs, regardless of the relevant national legal situation or higher-level rules.

When faced with this confusing and conflicting situation, the breed's homeland must keep a firm grasp on everything surrounding German Shepherds in general, and the harmonization process in particular. Only in this way is it possible to implement the necessary rules for the good of our breed on a global scale and in a timely manner. It goes without saying that this is the responsibility of the SV and the WUSV to protect the breed and the legacy of Cavalry Captain von Stephanitz.

We will build on this aspiration and also continue to provide consistent representation in relation to any incidental aspirations that have been made by certain umbrella organizations.

Best wishes,

Prof. Dr. med. Heinrich Meßler  
SV/WUSV President

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