

Dear Readers,

At around the same time as the publication of the SV Zeitung, the Federal Meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May is being convened in Paderborn. We are dealing with the first AGM of the new Executive Board. The Agenda is a volume of 31 DIN-A4- pages with a further 100 pages of attachments. A tremendous workload for the 82 delegates.

After the prevalent points of the Agenda, such as the reports of the department chairmen, and the approval of the actions of the Executive board, as well as the necessary adaptation of the Regulations and Statutes, some decisions on guidelines are to be made.

So there was, first of all, the composition of the three chambers of the Federal Courts, each with one Chairman, two Counsellors and altogether four Reserve Counsellors. The new regulations for legal proceedings come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017. Through these we hope for improved transparency and quicker settlement of claims. The Regional Groups have the opportunity to recommend suitable candidates from their circles for the composition of the courts.

A mile stone in the history of the SV and the WUSV, is the foreseeable first time endorsement by the Federal Meeting, of the WUSV – Statutes. These were as is well known, in contradiction to their own contents, never ratified by the SV- General Meeting, so that we shall hopefully, for the first time on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May this year, be in possession of legally valid WUSV Constitution. Also important in this connection, is the amendment to the Judging Regulations. Here the opportunity is given to interested foreign judges who are already in possession of accreditation, in their home land club, to align themselves to the German Standard through the seminars and targeted adjustment exercises. The same goes for the so called former “WUSV-Judges” who by definition of course, never existed. Within the framework of the new Judging Regulation, it must however at this point again be clearly stated, that the SV Foreign Judges can award the relevant gradings only outside Germany. The prominent position of the German Judges is in no way called into question or assailed. Here, standardization is being strived for now.

In this connection it seems important to advise that an application be lodged in accordance with Para 4 RVO (Suspension Of Office) in the case of a proven violation of one of the points 1 to 6, of para 4 RVO (Duties of Judges), in the event of an internal club disciplinary action being initiated. In these circumstances the judging licence is under suspension with immediate effect until the completion of the regulatory procedure.

A ground breaking innovation is presented with the implementation of the Character Test. I have elaborated on my position in a previous editorial. At that time I had drawn attention to the fact that with the current method of gaining permission for breeding, that is through the IPO, it requires a considerable formality and personal cost and effort, with only minimal reference to the quality of dog.

In years of work the best thinking heads in the Verein have pondered the manner in which a new way can be implemented. At this time I would like to thank all those involved. As the end result of these activities, we now stand at the constitutional acceptance of the Character Test and its implementation in the Judging Rules.

It is not only that we would open the door for a formal, simplified permission for breeding in Germany with the added module of the ZTP ie. ZVP (Breed Suitability Test or Breed Inherent Character Test). It is also a major aspect that for the first time ever, we have with the Character Test, worldwide, that is abroad as well within the frame of the WUSV, a tool in our hands, to ascertain the basic character traits of the dog. This would be a logical basal prerequisite for a world wide Breed Registry Book to be aspired to later.

The character testing and the medium term introduction linked to this, of the breeding permission over the ZVT (Breed Inherent Character Test) i.e. ZTP (Breed Suitability Test) is also seen as an excellent tool long term, in order to address the problem of Trials-manipulations. Due to the formal simplification whilst maintaining the demands on the quality of the dog, there will again be many who are interested in breeding taking on the challenge and present their dogs. A breed specific "Breed Suitability Test" will most likely lead to success medium term for the Verein.

A further aspect towards the prevention of trials manipulation, is the planned publication of participants in Tests before the respective event, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017. Within the frame of the SV-DOxS dog data bank, an effective tool will be created here, to increase transparency of the individual tests and trials organisation. That would just have to make sense of every active SV- Member.

With best regards,  
Signed Heinrich Meßler

HGR, June 2016