



Dear Readers,

At the end of May of this year, the new SV board was elected at the National Assembly, where the vast majority of incumbent board members were re-elected. At this point I would like to take the opportunity to thank the departing board members Klaus Waltrich and Lothar Quoll for their constructive work over the last four years. I myself was re-elected with a clear majority. Of course, I was proud, but at the same time my re-election means that the members of SV have given me the task of continuing to devote my strength and time to Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.

In retrospect, I believe that over the past four years we have managed to make some positive changes in terms of performance in our association. Even though the statistics speak a different language and I cannot and will not argue away the declining numbers of tests, the loss of members and

the dissolution of local groups, I am confident that we will succeed in maintaining or creating a positive mood among our SV members. However, this requires the active cooperation of all those responsible, both at the national level, at the level of the federal groups and at the local group level. The welfare of our association must take absolute precedence over the personal feelings of individuals.

There are many things in my area of responsibility that I 'took care of' during my last term in office, and of course I will continue to do so. Whether it be the type of training future SV judges will receive or the intensity of test oversight. The new FCI test regulations came into force on 1 January 2019. These are international, globally valid test regulations, which were created over several years of work by a commission put together by the FCI. Parts of their structure and content differ significantly from the previous VDH test regulations. Within the VDH Working Dogs Committee, which the VDH board appointed me chairman of last year, amendments and implementing provisions were passed for the new test regulations, which were forwarded on to the authorised associations in order to ensure a uniform level of information. SV members were also, and continue to be, informed by articles in the SV Magazine, VDH circulars and the publications on the SV homepage.

Within the Training Committee, to which all federal group heads of training belong, we have been dealing intensively with subjects such as the 'unification of SV performance judging methods at supra-regional events' and will present our final result in a timely manner. It will then be submitted first to judges and then of course to all members for their information. Personally, I think that when it comes to judging methods at major events, we need to find a way which, for one thing of course, ensures a ranking of participants according to their performance, but also provides every single dog handler with a feeling of motivation and incentive after an delivering an average performance. Anyone who has qualified for an LG elimination round is already a winner, and this of course also applies to the participants at the national events.

At the time of publication of the SV Magazine, this year's National Champions' Test is already in full swing. I am pleased that we have the opportunity to hold this event in LG 19 for the first time, and I am very confident that we have made a very good decision by choosing Halle as our venue.

Yours truly,
Wilfried Tautz, Association Head of Training