

A new German Shepherd Dog Club founded in Germany: Schäferhundverein SV-2000

It's no secret: in its country of origin, in Germany, up to today there was only one club for the German shepherd dog: the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV). And this club has problems: number of registered puppies is going down dramatically just as the number of members does. Since years the only news from the club are that they go to court to quarrel with their members. The last scandal was the voting out of the breedwarden Dr. Helmut Raiser in 2003.

Number of registered GSD puppies

2006	2004	2002	2000	1998
16.908	19.874	20.352	20.872	27.834

(Source: VDH, (German Kennel Club))

No mutual interests in the SV

The club is divided: On the one hand are breeders and sire owners who are interested to show their dogs and sell them (outside of Germany), on the other hand there is the majority who trains their dogs and enjoys their performance or breeds the German Shepherd as a utility dog. The latter group is not interested in politics and posts, they are not in power. The club is dominated by judges, whose interest is more or less economical.

The last president who had a vision about the future of the German Shepherd was Peter Meßler (President of the SV from 1998 to 2002), who died in 2006. During his presidency he soon knew that the delegates to the general assembly that he could rely on to support and propose motions to install breeding programs to improve the health and working abilities of the German Shepherd was the opposition. A group around Dr. Helmut Raiser proved their competence - but never gained majority.



The founding members (from left to right): Gerd Fern, Werner Zabel, Eugen Ecker, Harald Röttgen, Dr. Helmut Raiser, Gaby Raiser, Anette Fern.

As a last attempt to change things for good, Ursula Zabel ran for president of the club in December 2006. A third of the votes was given to her - the majority decided to stick to the economic politics of today's president Wolfgang Henke and the director of the club, Clemens Lux.

A new club was founded in summer 2007

Consequently in summer 2007 a new club for German Shepherds was founded. The Schäferhundverein SV-2000 recently started their website www.sv-2000.de to inform about their club and their goals. So far the information is only available in German; a translation into English is planned.

Definition of a utility dog (Opening sentence)

The utility dog is a highly performing working dog. Due to its drive qualities and its constitution man can train and use it for different purposes.

What is new in the SV-2000?



The Schäferhundverein SV-2000 considers itself the heir of the thoughts of Max von Stephanitz.

The new club concentrates on the utility dog German Shepherd. Their basic principles are documented in the definition of a utility dog and the preamble of the club.

Knowing that the achievement of a Schutzhund 1 title is very difficult today, the start into breeding is fairly easy in the new club. All individuals have to be documented at a Talentsichtung (Talent inspection) at the age of twelve months the earliest. If there is no reason that excludes the dog from breeding such as hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, hanging ears or missing testicles, etc. the dog is after this allowed for one mating.

A Schutzhund title, a Körung (there are three up to the age of eight years) or participation in a championship will all provide more matings respectively litters to the dog.

When the dog has a certain number of progenies (70 to 100, the exact number still has to be discussed) these have (to a certain percentage, probably 50%) to be shown at a Talentsichtung, the health scores are evaluated and then the dog might not be allowed for further breeding - or he is allowed more matings and later on: breeding forever!

For this reason and to facilitate the exchange with other countries an artificial insemination is allowed.

All administration is supposed to be handled online. The programming of the website with an online-breed register, online-payment etc. is supposed to be finished by the end of 2008.

The centres of activity für Talentsichtung, Schutzhund trials and Körung will be five competence centres (CC) throughout Germany, the first one will be established in 2008 near Goettingen. In 2008 Dr. Helmut Raiser will get together with the future leaders of the CC, harmonize

training methods and train them to judge a dog in a Talentsichtung. In 2009 the five first CC are supposed to start working.

In any country outside Germany a CC can be established.

The founders of the Schäferhundverein SV-2000

Dr. Helmut Raiser is responsible for as well performance as breeding. This position shows his meaning for the club, he is the spirit and the motor.

The chairman is Eugen Ecker, well-known breeder "von der Fasanerie". At his side is the second chairman Werner Zabel ("von der Schafbachmühle"). Responsible for the website is Gerd Fern, an ambitious dog handler, Gaby Raiser takes care of the finances.

As soon as the website offers a form for membership, which is planned for the beginning of February at the latest, the club will grow.



A new club was founded in Germany, focussing on the utility characteristics of the German Shepherd.

Preamble

Article 1

The Schäferhundverein SV-2000 e.V. understands itself as the heir of the thought of the founder Max von Stephanitz: The German shepherd dog is to be bred as a versatile utility dog.

Article 2

Defined characteristics of a utility dog are indispensable and to be preserved.

Article 3

Tasks and objectives of the breeding of a utility dog have to be brought in line with the outer condition.

Article 4

Constant and further training as well as realisation of the scientific progress in breeding- and training methods are essential and serve the preservation of the German shepherd as a utility dog.

Article 5

All breed influencing measures have to take into account the complete range offered by the standard. The breadth of the genetic pool builds the basic of our breeding; it needs to be preserved.

Article 6

For all breed influencing measures the transparent and objective documentation of the utility dog characteristics of the individual is essential.

Article 7

The creative potential of competitive interests serves the commonly shared objective. The mutual acceptance presupposes communication structures, which make it possible, to recognize and solve common problems.

Article 8

The top position of the German shepherd as a utility dog is to be demonstrated at the International German Championship of the Schäferhundverein SV-2000 e.V..

Article 9

The achievements of the dog handlers have to be acknowledged according to their meaning for the preservation of the German Shepherd Dog as a cultural good.

Article 10

Training is practical animal protection, it orientates itself at the functionality of the dog and at the ethical principles of humans handling an animal.