



## STATUTES OF THE MAIN ASSOCIATION

amended 2016

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## **I. General regulations**

### **s. 1 Name, Headquarters, area of operations and financial year**

- (1) The Association bears the name Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV), abbreviated as SV. It is registered in the Register of Associations at the District Court of Augsburg.
- (2) The Headquarters of the Association is Augsburg.
- (3) The area of operations is primarily the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- (4) The financial year corresponds to the calendar year.

### **s. 2 Neutrality**

- (1) The Association is politically and ideologically neutral.

### **s. 3 Objective and tasks**

- (1) The SV determines the standard of the German Shepherd breed; it has supreme authority over the breed registry, the maintenance of the breed registry and the appendix registry.
- (2) Its objective and tasks are, in particular:
  - a) to breed a working dog according to the provisions of the breed standard;
  - b) to manage, monitor and promote the race and the training of the German Shepherd as a working dog, which is used around the world as a friend and helper of people, and is thereby especially suitable as a protection dog for private individuals, service dog for public authorities, rescue dog, herding dog, guard dog, guide dog for those with disabilities, and family dog;
  - c) to preserve, strengthen and consolidate the useful characteristics of the German Shepherd and improve its physical performance and endurance;
  - d) to support breeding and genetic research, the treatment and communication of scientific questions; the teaching of training, feeding and dog keeping; and disease control;
  - e) to promote the sporting, cultural and physical activity of SV members through the systematic training of German Shepherds for the applications provided by the Statutes;

- f) educational work and advertising activity for the breed, in particular as regards its wide range of possible uses;
- g) to generate large-scale popular interest in the German Shepherd, its breeding and its training;
- h) to promote and educate on questions relating to breeding, training, rearing and keeping;
- i) sporting activity with dogs;
- j) to train and admit judges in all areas;
- k) to promote youth work;
- l) to submit expert opinions and provide information to authorities and other institutions both in and outside the country;
- m) to cultivate relationships with public authorities which use service dogs;
- n) to promote the objectives of animal protection.

- (3) The Association fulfils its tasks in compliance with animal protection law.

### **s. 4 Responsibilities and legal foundation**

- (1) The legal foundations of the Association's activity derive from the Main Association's Statutes, as well as the Legal and Procedural Regulations, business regulations, breeding regulations, Statutes of the Federal Groups and Statutes of the Local Groups, which are all components of these Statutes of the Main Association.
- (2) Moreover, the SV regulates its own area of business by way of its bodies' regulations and decisions. For this purpose, it issues, in particular, the:
  - a) breed survey regulations,
  - b) conformation show regulations,
  - c) examination regulations,
  - d) competition examination regulations for sporting activity with dogs,
  - e) judges' regulations,
  - f) shepherding regulations,

g) award regulations for honours.

These regulations have the same effect as the Statutes.

(3) The SV fulfils its statutory tasks, in particular, by:

- a) determining the breed characteristics;
- b) maintaining and publishing the Breed Registry for German Shepherds (SZ) and the appendix registry as well as the breed survey book;
- c) publishing the SV Magazine;
- d) monitoring breeding, rearing, keeping and training;
- e) establishing and carrying out a breed survey;
- f) conducting its own and assisting in other recognised breeding events;
- g) conducting its own and assisting in other recognised training events, including shepherding;
- h) conducting its own and assisting in other recognised youth events;
- i) conducting its own and assisting in other recognised sporting events with dogs;
- j) training and admitting expert judges and breed survey masters;
- k) establishing and carrying out a procedure for microchip identification;
- l) advising in legal and liability matters – to the extent permitted by law;
- m) awarding badges of honour;
- n) maintaining a performance book for non-pedigree and mixed-breed dogs.

(4) The national assembly may transfer further tasks to the Association's organs. For larger subject areas, this should occur by way of a regulation.

(5) The regulations, rules of implementation, decisions and resolutions of the SV organs enacted in accordance with subsection 2 are binding in these areas of responsibility for the Federal Groups, Local Groups and members. The Fe-

deral Groups and Local Groups guarantee this by adhering to their duties in accordance with s. 12 (1) of the Statutes.

## s. 5 Subgroups

(1) To fulfil its statutory tasks, the Association forms the following subgroups:

a) Federal Groups (FG) both in and outside the country, which are made up of the Local Groups. The number and boundaries are determined by the Main Association.

b) Local Groups (LG):

In principle, only one Local Group should exist in any one place. In special cases, several Local Groups in one place may be recognised by the Board of the SV in agreement with the responsible Federal Group.

c) Every member inside the country is assigned to the Federal Group responsible for his or her Local Group when joining the SV. He or she is not required to join a Local Group. In the case of members who do not belong to a Local Group, Federal Group affiliation is determined by the member's primary place of residence. In the case of double membership, Federal Group affiliation is determined by the member's primary place of residence.

d) The subgroups bear the following designations:

da) For Federal Groups:

Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e. V.  
Landesgruppe

.....  
Headquarters

.....  
db) For Local Groups:  
Ortsgruppe

.....  
Headquarters

.....  
im Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV)  
e. V.

Other designations are not permitted.

Federal Groups and Local Groups require the recognition of the Main Association.

- (2) a) The Federal Groups and Local Groups are not Associations with legal capacity. The group Statutes designated in s. 4 (1), which are components of the Main Association's Statutes, apply to them. The Main Association assumes no liability for obligations of the subgroups.
- b) Exceptions may be made by the Main Association for foreign Federal Groups.
- (3) In justified cases, the request of a Local Group to be registered in its local register of associations may be granted. This requires prior written consent from the Main Association. This consent is conditional; in particular, it is dependent on the Local Group in question implementing the model Statutes for Local Groups specified by the SV, the Local Group in question proving orderly administration and treasury management, the recommendation of responsible Federal Group, and other provisions stipulated by the SV. Modifications to the model Statutes require the consent of the Main Association. Modifications by the SV to the prescribed model Statutes for Local Groups must be adopted and registered in the register of associations within an appropriate period of time.

The Local Groups registered in the register of associations are obligated on their own initiative to submit to the Association at three-year intervals an uncertified extract from the register of associations including revisions made to the Statutes since the last submission of an extract from the register. Moreover, Headquarters may request further documents at any time.

- (4) Where good cause exists, the Main Association may request a Local Group to induce its deletion from the register.
- (5) Withdrawal of recognition and management reshuffle in Local Groups

a) Withdrawal of recognition:

The Main Association may, upon the request of the responsible Federal Group, withdraw the recognition of the Local Group as a subgroup of the Main Association, if the internal relations of the Local Group are dysfunctional and if, even after intervention by the responsible Federal Group, no change has taken place or is to be expected. This also applies to Local Groups which no longer fulfil their statutory tasks due to low membership numbers or other circumstances.

- b) In the case of withdrawal of recognition of the Local Group as a subgroup of the Main Association, two-thirds of the assets of the Local Group are to be transferred to the Main Association.

The Federal Group may select members to serve provisionally on the Board of the Local Group if members of the Board resign, do not carry out their functions or are prevented from carrying out their Board functions. In each case, a by-election or re-election is to be carried out within a period of no longer than six months.

## s. 6 Non-profit status

### -Preliminary remarks-

*The model taxation Statutes for non-profits provided by the tax authorities are required to be adopted verbatim into the Statutes. They use the legal entity term corporation, although what is meant is the Federal Group.*

- (1) The Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e. V., headquartered in Augsburg, pursues objectives that are exclusively and directly for the public benefit within the meaning of the 'Tax-privileged objectives' clause of the German Fiscal Code. The objective of the corporation is the promotion of animal breeding and dog sport. The statutory objective is realised, in particular, by breeding a working dog in accordance with the breed standards; supporting breeding and genetic research; submitting expert opinions and providing information to authorities and other institutions both in and outside the country; sporting activity with dogs; promote the sporting, cultural and physical activity of SV members through the systematic training of German Shepherds for the applications provided by the Statutes; as well as other purposes and tasks listed in s. 3.
- (2) The corporation is non-profit; it does not primarily peruse its own economic interests.
- (3) Funds of the corporation may only be used for its statutory objectives. The members shall not receive any share of profits or any other allowance from the funds of the SV.
- (4) No individual may benefit from expenses not related to the objective of the corporation or from disproportionately high allowances.

## II. Membership

### s. 7 Members

- (1) Any individual may become an ordinary member, with no restriction on age. This also applies to those whose official or usual place of residence is located outside the country.
- (2) Legal entities, public authorities, federations or other corporations may join the Association as ordinary members. They are represented by their legal or expressly designated representatives.
- (3) Honorary members are members who have rendered exceptional services for the benefit of the German Shepherd. They are appointed by the National Assembly upon proposal by the Board.

### s. 8 Acquisition of membership

- (1) The basis for admission is a written application to the Headquarters of the Association. The application must contain a main place of residence (postal address). In the case of persons lacking full legal capacity, the application of admission must be approved through the signature of their legal representative.
- (2) The application of admission is binding for the applicant. In the case of admission, the applicant is required to pay the admission fee and the contribution according to s. 10 of the Statutes. The Board of the Main Association decides on the application of admission at its own discretion. A rejection may be made without giving any reasons.
- (3) The admission of membership is confirmed by sending a membership card and a request for payment.
- (4) The Main Association shall inform the Federal Group and Local Group responsible for each new member of all new admissions.
- (5) The following persons are excluded from acquiring membership:
  - a) commercial dog dealers and brokers,
  - b) persons who are members of cynological associations which do not belong to the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH) or the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), or who are members of a competing breeding association for the same breed, regardless of

whether this association is recognised by the VDH.

### s. 9 Termination of membership

- (1) Membership in the SV terminates in cases of:
  - a) death,
  - b) expulsion,
  - c) deletion from the membership list,
  - d) withdrawal (cancellation),
  - e) dissolution of the Association.
- (2) As of the effective date of termination, all membership rights, as well as benefits for spouses and family members living in the same household according to s. 10(3), terminate. This does not affect any obligations arising before the termination of membership, in particular, the payment of overdue contributions.
- (3) Withdrawal may only be declared with effect at the end of a calendar year. The declaration of withdrawal must be addressed personally and in written form by way of registered letter to the Headquarters of the SV, and must have been received, at the latest, by 30 September of that year. Should this deadline not be met, membership and the obligation to pay contributions shall continue for the following year. Declarations of withdrawal for more than one member in a single letter are not permitted, and invalid. In the case of persons without full legal capacity, the declaration of withdrawal must be validated by way of the signature of a legal representative as well. The SV cannot accept cancellations made without observing the deadline.
- (4) Expulsion of a member is to be carried out according to the provisions of the Statutes and the Legal and Procedural Regulations.
- (5) Members are deleted from the membership list:
  - a) if the payment of their contributions and other demands has been denied, in particular, fees for the Breed Registry Office, any fines imposed, event participation fees, costs and fines incurred by internal court proceedings in accordance with s. 10 (5) and (6);
  - b) in the case of membership in a cynological association which does not belong to the VDH or the FCI, or membership in a com-



peting breeding association for the same breed, regardless of whether this association is recognised by the VDH;

c) in the case of commercial activity as a dog dealer or broker.

(6) The Main Association shall inform the Federal Group and responsible Local Group of the termination of membership.

#### **s. 10 Financing and payment of contributions**

(1) The SV finances its business activities using the contributions and admission fees of its members, as well as fees for services of all kinds.

(2) Members must pay yearly contributions. The amount of these contributions is determined by the national assembly upon proposal of the Board. The contribution for the year of admission is calculated proportionately starting with the month of admission.

(3) Canine officers, shepherds, severely disabled persons, seniors aged 65 and up, youths, students and those participating in federal voluntary service pay a reduced contribution. Spouses and family members living in the same household pay a reduced contribution as long as they renounce their subscription to the magazine. Honorary members of the Association are not required to pay a contribution. Members paying by direct debit, or those who have paid their contribution for the following year by 30 November at the latest, shall receive a discount on their yearly membership contribution to be determined by the National Assembly upon proposal by the Board.

(4) In addition to the yearly contribution, members must pay an admission fee. The amount of this fee is determined by the National Assembly upon proposal of the Board.

(5) In the case of non-payment of money owed to the Association, a payment reminder will be issued by Headquarters.

(6) In the case of non-payment after a payment reminder has been issued, an additional reminder will be issued including the resulting fees. Should this reminder not result in payment, including that of the resulting fees, the member shall be considered to have refused to pay the contribution.

The obligation to pay remains. Outstanding claims will be asserted by recourse to legal action. For all contribution and other claims of

the SV, the court of jurisdiction and place of performance is that of the SV's Headquarters.

(7) The membership contribution is made up of:

a) The proportion due to the Federal Group, the amount of which is determined by the national assembly upon proposal of the Board;

b) The fees for the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen and other cynological organisations, which is determined by the national assembly upon proposal of the Board;

c) Magazine subscription and delivery fees: Family membership does not include the magazine subscription. Members whose official or usual place of residence is outside the country must pay the actual costs of magazine delivery on top of the usual fee.

(8) The amount of the contribution, the admission fee and the period of payment shall be published in the SV Magazine.

#### **s. 11 Rights of members**

(1) All members have the same rights. They are not entitled to any of the Association's assets. This also applies when membership has terminated in accordance with the provisions above. Exceptions are governed by the Statutes.

(2) Every member is entitled to participate in the assemblies of his or her Local Group, to contribute to the formation of resolutions and to exercise his or her statutory voting right, as well as to submit motions for resolutions. Motions to the Federal Groups and the Main Association may only be submitted by the relevant local or Federal Group, respectively.

(3) Members who do not belong to any Local Group may apply directly to the relevant Federal Group. However, these members are not entitled to any rights to submit motions or active suffrage in the Federal Assembly of the relevant Federal Group.

(4) Any member may be elected to any office in the SV or its subgroups, as long as no statutory impediments prevent him or her from doing so.

(5) Every member is entitled to use all facilities provided by the SV. Facilities of a Local Group are only available to the members of that Local Group, or their guests to whom the Local Group has permitted access or use.

## **s. 12 Obligations of members**

### **(1) The members are obligateded:**

1. to recognise and follow the Statutes, regulations and rules of implementation as amended, as well as decisions and resolutions of the SV's organs;
2. to breed German Shepherds only in accordance with the Association's breeding regulations, and to register them only in the Breed Registry for German Shepherds (SZ) maintained by the SV;
3. in publications and notifications, to state only those training titles, ratings and awards recognised by the SV;
4. to respect the provisions issued regarding the keeping of the breed registry and appendix registry;
5. to provide information to the Breed Registry Office;
6. to participate actively only in cynological events recognised and supported by the SV, and to recognise only advertised awards and prizes, i.e. only those prizes in and outside the country which are recognised by the SV;
7. to make payments on time;
8. to receive the SV Magazine, to the extent that the Statutes do not specify any other regulation;
9. to inform Headquarters of any change of main residence;
10. to declare complaints and accusations against other members of the Association only in a spirit of comradery, and not outside of the SV and in assemblies;
11. when transferring ownership of dogs, to give the purchaser the original breed certificate of authenticity or registration certificate (appendix registry), recording the change of ownership, and to report this to Headquarters; in all instances, when breeding a female dog, to issue a breeding certificate and to report every act of breeding to Headquarters;
12. to comply with requests and summons of the Association court and to provide it with truthful information upon request.

- (2) With regard to their solely or jointly owned German Shepherds, members (owners) bear full responsibility, independently of other parties, for fulfilling all obligations in accordance with subsection (1), paragraphs 1. to 5. and paragraphs 10. to 11. In this, they are liable to the SV. In the case of a violation of these obligations, the owner of the German Shepherd, by way of which a violation is committed, shall be made accountable as provided by the Statutes and regulations in accordance with s. 12 (1) 1. in connection with the Legal and Procedural Regulations.

## **III. Organs of the Association and their tasks**

### **s. 13 Organs of the Association**

The organs of the Association are:

1. the National Assembly,
2. the Board,
3. the Managing Director,
4. the legal organs:
  - a) the National Court
  - b) the Association courts
  - c) the Honorary Committee of Judges

### **s. 14 Members' Assembly/National Assembly**

- (1) The SV shall hold an annual National Assembly in the period from mid-May to mid-June. This members' assembly, designated as the National Assembly, is an assembly of delegates,
- (2) The National Assembly consists of:
  - a) the voting members:
    - aa) the Board
    - ab) the delegates:

Delegates consist of the Chairs of the Federal Groups by the power of their office, as well as the delegates elected by the Federal Groups. The number of delegates is determined according to membership numbers on 1 January of the current calendar year, which is to be made binding by Headquarters by 15 January of the current year.

The Chair of the Federal Group is included in the total number. The delegates are to be elected annually. Their names must be recorded. In the case that a member of the National Board occupies a mandate as a Federal Group delegate, this mandate to represent the interests of the members of the Federal Groups in the National Assembly shall be transferred to the Federal Group's appointed replacement delegate. The Federal Groups must elect a sufficient number of replacement delegates to account for possible impediments. The mandate terminates should the delegate leave the Federal Group.

b) the non-voting members:

ba) the Managing Director,

bb) the auditors

bc) the Herding Working Dog Representative,

bd) the SV Representative for Special Dog Training,

be) the SV Sport Representative,

bf) the SV Spokesperson,

bg) the honorary members of the National Assembly. These are SV members who are especially experienced and deserving in the areas of breeding, training or Association administration, who are appointed permanently by the National Assembly upon proposal by the Board. For every 25,000 total members, one person may be appointed.

(3) Individuals from academia and public life, as well as partner organisations and associations may be invited by the Board to the National Assembly, as well as to presentations and welcoming addresses.

#### **s. 15 Responsibilities of the National Assembly**

(1) The National Assembly is responsible for all matters concerning the SV to the extent that these have not been transferred to other organs by the Statutes.

(2) The National Assembly is, in particular, responsible for the following matters of the Association:

a) receiving activity reports from the Board members, the Managing Director, the Her-

ding Working Dog Representative, the SV Representative for Special Dog Training, the SV Sport Representative, the SV Spokesperson;

b) auditing finances, the treasury and inventory;

c) the discharge of the Board;

d) passing and amending Statutes and regulations;

e) decision-making in asset matters of special importance;

f) electing the Board members;

g) appointing an Honorary Chair;

h) electing the Herding Working Dog Representative, the Representative for Special Dog Training, the SV Sport Representative and the SV Spokesperson;

i) electing the accountant and auditors;

j) electing the Chair and assessor of the Federal Court, the Association Courts and the head of the legal office;

k) handling motions and motions for urgent procedure, as well as deciding upon these;

l) determining the number and boundaries of the Federal Groups;

m) passing resolutions to dissolve the Association;

n) appointing deserving members as honorary members of the National Assembly according to s. 14 (2) bg) and appointing honorary members of the SV;

o) removing a Board member from office where good cause exists (§27 of the German Civil Code);

p) generally exempting Association members from regulatory measures in the sense of an amnesty upon the request of the Administrative and Financial Committee. Such a resolution requires a majority of two-thirds of the of the valid cast votes, and excludes the exempted individual from any and all claims for compensation.

q) in all other matters important to the SV.



- (3) The expenses of the National Assembly are borne as follows:

- a) to the extent that they are not delegates, the expenses for the Board and the members in accordance with s. 14 (2) b) are borne by the Main Association,
- b) the expenses for the delegates are borne by the Federal Groups.

**s. 16 Summoning the National Assembly**

- (1) The National Assembly may be summoned by the Board in written form with at least three weeks' notice and simultaneous publication of the agenda. Compliance with this term of notice is calculated based on the date of posting.
- (2) Motions must be received by Headquarters by 10 March of the calendar year. These motions must be justified in written form.
- (3) Those entitled to submit motions are the Board, the Federal Groups on the basis of resolutions of the National Assembly in question, the committees, the Herding Working Dog Representative, the SV Representative for Special Dog Training, the SV Sport Representative, the SV Spokesperson and the Managing Director.
- (4) The Board and the committees are furthermore entitled to submit motions up to four weeks before the National Assembly. All motions must be justified in written form.
- (5) Motions for urgent procedure can be submitted by any member of the National Assembly.

**s. 17 Decision-making procedure and ability of the National Assembly**

- (1) The National Assembly is led by the President or his or her Deputy according to the provisions of the General Rules of Procedure.
- (2) The Assembly has the ability to pass resolutions when at least half of the voting members are present.
- (3) The National Assembly's discussion of the agenda must be recorded on audio equipment. These recordings must be kept for five years and made available for inspection to the delegates of the National Assembly involved in cases of doubt.
- (4) The written records of session reports are determined by the General Rules of Procedure.

- (5) The resolutions and other important results of the sessions of the National Assembly must be published and archived in the SV Magazine and on the website as soon as possible.

**s. 18 Additional summoning of the National Assembly**

- (1) In addition to the obligatory Assembly stipulated by s. 14, the Board may summon a National Assembly if necessary. The Board is entitled to contribute agenda topics requested by delegates to National Assemblies.
- (2) Moreover, effective as of 1 January 2011, a National Assembly should only be summoned when a large number of important questions or statute amendments justify it.
- (3) The composition, summoning, agenda and procedure are governed by the regulations in s. 14-17 of the Statutes.

**s. 19 Board**

- (1) Composition of the Board:

The Board is composed of six members:

1. President,
2. Vice-President,
3. Association Breed Inspector,
4. Association Training Inspector,
5. Association Finance Inspector,
6. Association Youth Inspector.

- (2) The representation of the SV is the responsibility of the Board.
- (3) Representatives in the sense of § 26 of the German Civil Code are the six Board members. Two Board members each hold the position of legal representative.
- (4) The Board may pass its own rules of procedure.
- (5) The National Assembly may appoint a deserving President with years of experience as an Honorary President, with a seat and an advisory capacity on the Board.

## **s. 20 Responsibilities of the Board**

- (1) The Board is responsible for the management of the SV and fulfilling the tasks transferred to it by the National Assembly.
- (2) The Board is responsible, in particular, for
  - a) representing the SV in all legal and other important matters,
  - b) monitoring the management of Headquarters,
  - c) administering the Association's assets,
  - d) the Board may in individual cases independently decide on the disposal of the Association's assets up to an amount of €130,000.00. Internally, higher disposals of the Association's assets require the consent of the Administrative and Financial Committee.  
  
Paying running administrative expenses, all expenses listed in the current financial plan and financing events.
  - e) leading committees,
  - f) confirming the election of Board members of the Federal Groups,
  - g) awarding all prizes offered by the SV,
  - h) handling all matters related to breeding, training, breed survey and examination, to the extent that these matters are not the responsibility of other organs as stipulated by the Statutes or the Legal and Procedural Regulations.
- (3) The SV Board is the responsible decision-making body in the sense of Item 1. General Section – Performance Judges – of the VDH Examination Regulations.
- (4) The Board is the issuer of the SV Magazine. Its editor is chosen by the Board from amongst the Board's members.

## **s. 21 Election and term of office of the Board**

- (1) The Board is elected by the National Assembly from amongst the members of the SV. Only members who have belonged to the association for at least five years may be elected. A member of the Board must be reliable and personally suitable. This must be demonstrated with a police check no older than three months. If

such a police check cannot be submitted to the National Assembly, it must be submitted to SV Headquarters within four weeks. Should this not occur, or should the police check contain entries, the mandate shall be terminated effective immediately.

- (2) The election of the Board members takes place at the last National Assembly of the last year of the four-year term of office. Re-election is allowed. The Board remains in office until the next election.
- (3) Should a board member resign during his or her term of office, a by-election must be held in the National Assembly until the expiry of the term of office of the current Board. Until the by-election is held, the Board is entitled to select an SV member as a provisional replacement for the resigned Board member.

## **s. 22 Meetings and decisions of the Board**

- (1) The Board makes decisions in meetings which are called by the Chair, or if he or she is prevented from doing so, by his or her Deputy. These meetings should be called with two weeks' notice, accompanied by the session's agenda.
- (2) The Board has a quorum when more than half of the Board members are present. Decisions are taken by the majority of the valid votes cast; in the event of a tie, the tie is broken by the vote of the Chair, or in his or her absence, the vote of his or her Deputy.
- (3) The Board can make decisions outside of Board meetings by means of a written procedure, if no Board member is opposed.

## **s. 23 Managing Director, Headquarters**

- (1) The Association maintains a Headquarters in order to carry out its tasks. Leadership is the responsibility of the Managing Director, or, should he or she be impeded, his or her permanent representative. Business must be carried out under consideration of the Statutes, the resolutions of the National Assembly and those of the Board.
- (2) The Managing Director is an employee of the Association. His or her appointment or dismissal is the responsibility of the Board. Other details are specified by his or her contract of employment.
- (3) The Managing Director is responsible for the processing of all business transactions, the implementation of decisions and implementation

provisions and the announcement of decisions and news of the Association. He or she leads Headquarters, the Breed Registry Office, Breed Survey Office and Finance Department. In this area, he represents the Board both in and out of court, and holds the position of a special representative in the sense of § 30 of the German Civil Code. Other tasks may be transferred to the Managing Director.

- (4) The Managing Director participates in all meetings of the Board, the committees and the National Assembly in an advisory capacity.

#### **s. 24 Accounting and auditing**

- (1) Ongoing financial transactions are handled by the Finance Department of Headquarters. It is bound by the Statutes, instructions and decisions of the Board and of the National Assembly.
- (2) Headquarters prepares the annual accounts in cooperation with the Association Finance Inspector.
- (3) Within three months, at the latest, of the end of a financial year, the annual accounts must be prepared. The annual accounts must be audited with the involvement of accounting by a licensed auditor. The auditor must prepare a report on the annual accounts, the income and expenses and state of assets, and explain all substantial items of account. The report must be provided with a closing statement by the auditor. The statement must indicate whether the annual accounts and bookkeeping were kept in an orderly manner, or whether complaints emerged. On this basis, the two members of the SV chosen as internal auditors must deliver their opinion as to whether, after the audit, they agree with or raise any objections to the submitted annual accounts, taking into consideration expenses and the use of income.
- (4) The annual accounts must be submitted and clarified in the form of a consolidated balance sheet with profit and loss statement, with the auditor's report and the statement of the internal auditors, to the National Assembly. The state of the Association's must be accounted for.
- (5) The annual accounts must be approved by the National Assembly. The selection of the auditor and the two internal auditors is made by the National Assembly for the current fiscal year. The internal auditors must be elected from amongst the members. The Board members are not entitled to vote on the choice of the external auditor.

## **IV. Committees, representatives**

### **s. 25 Committees, representatives and their responsibilities**

- (1) The committees and representatives act in an advisory capacity in all matters assigned to them, to the extent that no other regulation has been made. Furthermore, they prepare draft resolutions for the National Assembly. As a rule, one session is held per fiscal year; if necessary, further sessions may be called.
- (2) To fulfil the statutory tasks, the following committees shall be formed:
  - 1. Administrative and Financial Committee (VWA):
    - a) The Administrative and Financial Committee is responsible for all financial, organisational and administrative matters, to the extent that these are not explicitly assigned to the National Assembly.
    - b) The financial plan drawn up by the Board is decided upon by the Administrative and Financial Committee.
    - c) The members of the Committee are the Board members, the respective chairs of the Federal Groups, the Herding Working Dog Representative, the SV Spokesperson, the SV Sport Representative and the Representative for Special Dog Training.
    - d) Sessions are led by the President.
  - 2. Breeding Committee (ZA):
    - a) The Breeding Committee is responsible for matters of breeding and breed survey, judging at breeding events (exhibitions and inspections), the training and activity of breed survey masters, breeding judges, breeding inspectors and identification representatives.
    - b) The members of the Breeding Committee are the respective breeding inspectors of the Federal Groups and the Association Breeding Inspector. The Association Breeding Inspector is the chair and leads the sessions.

3. Training Committee (AA):
    - a) The Training Committee is responsible for matters of training and examination, dog sport, judging in performance events and the training and activity of the performance judges, training helpers and training inspectors.
    - b) The members of the Training Committee are the respective training inspectors of the Federal Groups, the Association Training Inspector and the representatives of public authorities which use service dogs. The Association Training Inspector is the chair and leads the sessions.
  4. Youth Committee (JA):
    - a) The Committee is responsible for all matters of youth service, to the extent that these have not been assigned to other committees.
    - b) The members of the Committee are the respective youth inspectors of the Federal Groups and the Association Youth Inspector. The Association Youth Inspector is the chair and leads the sessions.
  5. Sport Committee (SpA):
    - a) The Committee is responsible for all matters of sport, to the extent that these have not been assigned to other committees.
    - b) The members of the Committee are the respective sport representatives of the Federal Groups and the SV Sport Representative. The Sport Representative is the chair and leads the sessions:
  6. Public Relations Committee:
    - a) The Committee is responsible for all matters of our Association's public relations, to the extent that these have not been assigned to other committees.
    - b) The members of the Committee are the respective Federal Group press officers, a member of the SV Board and, in an advisory capacity, SV Headquarters. The SV Press Officer is the chair and leads the sessions.
  7. The Herding Dog Representative is responsible in matters pertaining to herding.
  8. The SV Representative for Special Dog Training is responsible in matters pertaining to rescue dogs.
  - (3) The committee members are obligated to participate in committee meetings. Should they be unable to do so, a representative must be appointed by the Federal Groups.
- ## V. Association judiciary
- ### s. 26 Legal and Procedural Regulations
- (1) To guarantee its charitable efforts and preserve its internal and external order, the SV takes measures against members and holders of office who are guilty of acting in violation of the Statutes, Regulations and objectives of the SV and its subgroups. Further details are governed by the Legal and Procedural Regulations, which form a part of the Statutes in accordance with s. 4 (1).
  - (2) The Court may only be appealed to when all administrative entities and legal organs, which in accordance with the Statutes and the Legal and Procedural Regulations can be called upon to clarify and rule in disputes, have reached their final decision in the matter, and in accordance with the Statutes and the Legal and Procedural Regulations of the SV, no other entity can be appealed to.
  - (3) The Court can only be appealed to with at least four weeks' notice after the delivery of a judgment of the Association Court or National Court.
- ### s. 27 Legal Office
- (1) The Legal Office advises the Board of the Main Association and the boards of the subgroups in all legal matters. Legal counselling of individual members is not permitted.
  - (2) Other responsibilities are determined by the Legal and Procedural Regulations.
  - (3) The Head of the Legal Office is elected by the National Assembly upon proposal by the National Assembly. The election takes place every four years in the National Assembly following that of the election of the SV Board.
  - (4) He or she can be dismissed by the National Assembly where good cause exists.
  - (5) He or she is bound to the decisions of the Board and, on his or her behalf, also to the instructions of the Managing Director.

- (6) The Head of the Legal Office is authorised to empower professionally suitable individuals to represent him or her in all matters included in his or her responsibilities.

## **VI. Other provisions**

### **s. 28 Offices, reimbursement of expenses, liability, employee salaries**

- (1) All offices held in the SV are, in principle, voluntary posts.
- (2) Expenses incurred by activity for the Association are reimbursed. For certain Association activities stipulated by the Administrative and Financial Committee, an additional daily allowance is granted. The amount is determined by the Administrative and Financial Committee upon proposal by the Board.
- (3) For damages of the SV or its subgroups caused by holders of office or representatives while carrying out their duties, these individuals are only liable to the extent that in so doing, they wilfully committed a violation of criminal law or wilfully acted to the disadvantage of the injured parties.

Holders of office and representatives are compensated for third-party compensation claims against damages caused by the holder of office or representative while carrying out their duties, unless the holder of office or representative wilfully committed a violation of criminal law or wilfully acted to the disadvantage of the injured parties.

- (4) The salaries of the Association's employees and the amount of the expenses to be reimbursed are determined by the Board.

### **s. 29 Amendments to Statutes and regulations**

- (1) Amendments to the Statutes and regulations are passed by the National Assembly with a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast. The decision-making process is carried out in the National Assembly. A written vote is not permitted.
- (2) Statute amendments come into effect at the time of registration in the association register.
- (3) Amendments to regulations which are components of the statutes come into effect at the time of registration in the association register. Other regulations come into effect at the time the decision is passed by the National Assembly.

- (4) Amendments to the Statutes and regulations must be published in the SV Magazine.

- (5) Amendments to the objective of the Association may only be decided upon by a four-fifths majority of the valid votes cast in the National Assembly.

### **s. 30 Dissolution of the Association**

- (1) The dissolution of the Association may only be decided upon by a National Assembly convened for that specific purpose. The Assembly must be summoned at least three months in advance. The decision to dissolve the Association requires the presence of at least two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly. Should the National Assembly convened not have a quorum, another National Assembly must be summoned within four weeks. The second National Assembly must take place no earlier than two and no later than four months after this time.
- (2) The newly summoned National Assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of members of the National Assembly present. This must be indicated in the invitation.
- (3) The National Assembly of the Main Association must be proceeded by deliberations and resolutions in all Federal Groups.
- (4) The National Assembly decides upon dissolution with a three-fourths majority of all valid votes cast.
- (5) In the case of the dissolution or abolition of the Corporation or the cessation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the Corporation shall revert to the Federal Republic of Germany, which must use them directly and exclusively for charitable, benevolent or religious purposes.



*Resolved by the Board, Owners and Advisory Committee in February 1946, amended: Board and Advisory Committee Meetings Schwetzingen, on 26 February 1949, Cologne on 5 April 1952, Würzburg on 4/5 December 1954, Munich on 21 April 1956, Augsburg on 27 April 1958 and 8 April 1962, Düsseldorf on 14 September 1962, Kassel on 10 October 1964, Augsburg on 11 April 1965 and 2 April 1967, Written vote August 1968, Hannover, 7 December 1968, Augsburg, April 1971, Written vote July 1971 and January 1972 Augsburg, 9 April 1972 and 8 April 1973, Written vote June 1973, Augsburg 1/2 April 1978, 28/29 March 1981, 27/28 March 1982, 26/27 March 1983, 31 March/1 April 1984, 30/31 March 1985, 5/6 April 1986, 28/29 March 1987, Alzey, 4 December 1987, Augsburg 26/27 March 1988, 24/25 March 1990, 23/24 March 1991, Members' Assembly Schauenburg 28/29 March 1992, Rotenburg 27/28 March 1993, 28/29 May 1994, Rotenburg*

*3/4 December 1994, Revised version resolved by the Members' Assembly Rotenburg 20/21 May 1995, amended: Members' Assembly Rotenburg 18/19 May 1996, modified Members' Assembly Leipzig 23/24 May 1998, amended Members' Assembly Kassel 29/30 May 1999, amended Members' Assembly Koblenz 20/21 May 2000, amended Members' Assembly Arnshagen 26/27 May 2001, amended Members' Assembly Stuttgart 29/30 June 2001, amended Members' Assembly Hennef/Sieg 25./26. Mai 2002, amended Members' Assembly Augsburg 24/25 May 2003, amended Members' Assembly Augsburg 8/9 May 2004, amended Members' Assembly Augsburg 21/22 May 2005, amended Members' Assembly Kassel 20/21 May 2006, amended Members' Assembly Meschede 2/3 June 2007, amended Members' Assembly Kassel 31 Mai/1 June 2008, amended Members' Assembly Kassel 6/7 June 2009, amended Members' Assembly Paderborn 29/30 May 2010, amended Members' Assembly Paderborn 4/5 December 2010, amended Members' Assembly Bad Arolsen 28/29 May 2011, amended Members' Assembly Paderborn, 9/10 June 2012, amended Members' Assembly Paderborn, 25/26 May 2013, amended Members' Assembly Paderborn, 24/25 May 2014, amended Members' Assembly Lahnstein, 29-31 May 2015, amended Members' Assembly Paderborn 21-22 May 2016*

*Registered under VR Au 1/5 neu 15 April 1946 / 20 May 1949 / December 1954 / 9 August 1956 / 9 April 1959 / Augsburg District Court-Register Court 19 September 1962 – Hamburg District Court - 69 VR 6522 9 March 1965 / 13 August 1965 / 15 June 1967 / 26 September 1968, 24 April 1969 / 11 February 1972 / 19 November 1973 / 29 July 1975 / 28 July 1978 / 28 October 1981 / 23 November 1982 / 1 March 1983 / 20 September 1983 / 18 July 1984 / 15 October 1985 / 28 July 1986 / 5 September 1988 / 25 April 1991 / 25 February 1993 / 24 January 1994 / 28 March 1995 / 3 September 1996 / 19 August 1999 / 11 May 2000 / 28 September 2001 / 26 March 2002 / 18 October 2004 / 28 September 2006 / 2 August 2007 / 14 October 2008 / 7 October 2009 / 6 October 2010 / 21 March 2011 / 5 August 2011 / 11 September 2012 / 8 October 2013 / 6 August 2014 / 22 September 2015 / 18 August 2016*

**In case of doubt regarding the interpretation of the wording of the SV statutes as translated into English, the German version automatically applies as registered with the registration court in Augsburg under registration number VR15.**

**Augsburg District Court Register of Associations 15**

# STATUTES OF THE FEDERAL GROUPS

amended 2016

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## **I. General regulations**

### **s. 1 Name, Headquarters, area of operations and financial year**

- (1) The Federal Groups (FG) bear the name:
- (2) Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V., Landesgruppe  
.....  
Headquarters  
.....
- (3) The Headquarters of each Federal Group is the place of residence of its Chair.
- (4) The financial year corresponds to the calendar year.
- (5) The Federal Group is the supra-regional subgroup of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.
- (6) The Federal Group oversees the Local Groups belonging to it.
- (7) Members who do not belong to any Local Group may apply directly to the relevant Federal Group in all Association matters.

### **s. 2 Objective and tasks**

- (1) The objective of the Federal Group is to promote the Association's tasks in accordance with s. 3 of the Statutes of the Main Association, within the Federal Group's scope, in particular:
  - a) to breed a working dog according to the provisions of the breed standard;
  - b) to manage, monitor and promote the race and the training of the German Shephard as a working dog, which is used around the world as a friend and helper of people, and is thereby especially suitable as a protection dog for private individuals, service dog for public authorities, rescue dog, herding dog, guard dog, guide dog for those with disabilities, and family dog;
  - c) to preserve, strengthen and consolidate the useful characteristics of the German Shephard and improve its physical performance and endurance;

- d) to support breeding and genetic research, the treatment and communication of scientific questions; the teaching of training, feeding and dog keeping; and disease control;
- e) to promote the sporting, cultural and physical activity of SV members through the systematic training of German Shepherds for the applications provided by the Statutes;
- f) educational work and advertising activity for the breed, in particular as regards its wide range of possible uses;
- g) to generate large-scale popular interest in the German Shepherd, its breeding and its training;
- h) to promote and educate on questions relating to breeding, training, rearing and keeping;
- i) sporting activity with dogs;
- j) to support the events of the Local Groups;
- k) to cultivate relationships with public authorities in the Federal Groups which use service dogs;
- l) to promote youth work.

### **s. 3 Responsibilities**

- (1) The Federal Group fulfils its statutory tasks, in particular, by holding annual events at the federal-group level in all areas of the Association:
  - a) carrying out a Federal Group breeding show;
  - b) carrying out a Federal Group elimination examination;
  - c) carrying out a Federal Group tracking dog examination;
  - d) carrying out Federal Group youth events;
  - e) carrying out functionary conferences;
  - f) if applicable, carrying out Federal Group performance shepherding event;
  - g) if applicable, carrying out sporting competitions.

#### s. 4 Financing

- (1) The Federal Group receives from the Main Association a proportion of the contributions of members in that Federal Group's area. The amount is determined by the National Assembly upon proposal by the Board of the Main Association.
- (2) Each Federal Group is entitled to levy fees from the Local Groups its area in order to fulfil the tasks for which it is responsible.

#### s. 5 Non-profit status

##### **-Preliminary remarks-**

*The model taxation Statutes for non-profits provided by the tax authorities are required to be adopted verbatim into the Statutes. They use the legal entity term corporation, although what is meant is the Federal Group.*

- (1) The Federal Group  
.....  
headquartered in  
.....  
pursues objectives that are exclusively and directly for the public benefit within the meaning of the 'Tax-privileged objectives' clause of the German Fiscal Code. The objective of the corporation is the promotion of animal breeding and dog sport. The statutory objective is realised, in particular, by breeding a working dog in accordance with the breed standards supporting breeding and genetic research, dealing with scientific questions, promoting sporting activity with the dog and thereby the physical fitness of the Association's members, as well as the other objectives and tasks stipulated in s. 2.
- (2) The corporation is non-profit; it does not primarily peruse its own economic interests.
- (3) Funds of the corporation may only be used for its statutory objectives. The members shall not receive any share of profits or any other allowance from the funds of the corporation.
- (4) No individual may benefit from expenses not related to the objective of the corporation or from disproportionately high allowances.

## II. Organs of the Federal Group and their Tasks

#### s. 6 Organs of the Federal Group

The organs of the Federal Group are:

1. the Federal Assembly,
2. the Board.

#### s. 7 Members' Assembly / Federal Assembly

- (1) The Federal Group shall hold an annual Federal Assembly in month of February, or at the latest, in the first week of March. The submission deadline of 10 March must be complied with. This members' assembly, designated as the Federal Assembly, is an assembly of delegates. The Local Groups must be informed of the date of the assembly by, at the latest, 30 November of the previous calendar year.
- (2) The Federal Assembly consists of:
  - a) the Board;
  - b) the delegates elected by the Local Groups according to s. 13 g) of the Local Group Statutes.
- (3) The members of the Board of the Main Association may participate in the Federal Assembly in an advisory capacity.

#### s. 8 Responsibilities of the Federal Assembly

- (1) The Federal Assembly is responsible for all matters concerning the Federal Groups, to the extent that these have not been transferred to other organs by the Statutes.
- (2) The Federal Assembly is, in particular, responsible for the following matters of the Association:
  - a) receiving the activity reports of the Board members;
  - b) auditing finances, the treasury and inventory;
  - c) the discharge of the Board;
  - d) decisions in asset matters of especial importance, in particular, the approval of legal transactions with goodwill of more than €10,000.00;
  - e) electing Board members;

- f) electing the auditors;
- g) electing the delegates for the annual National Assembly of the Main Association;
- h) appointing an Honorary Chair;
- i) handling motions and motions for urgent procedure, as well as deciding upon these;
- j) determining levies according to s. 4, subsection 2;
- k) removing a Board member from office where good cause exists (§ 27 of the German Civil Code) with a two-thirds majority;
- l) in all other matters important to the Federal Group.

- (3) When electing delegates in accordance with subsection 2, paragraph g), one delegate is allocated to represent every 700 SV members of the Federal Group. The number of delegates is determined according to membership numbers on 1 January of the current calendar year, which is to be made binding by Headquarters by 15 January of the current year.

The first Chair of a Federal Group is always a delegate by the power of his or her office, and is included in the total number.

The other delegates are to be elected annually. The mandate of the delegates is non-transferable. The Federal Groups must elect a sufficient number of replacement delegates to account for possible impediments. The mandate terminates should the delegate leave the Federal Group.

The delegates and replacement delegates are elected by ballot. Each eligible voter may elect, at most, the same number of candidates as the number of elected delegates sent by the Federal Group to the National Assembly. It is not permissible to cumulate votes in one candidate. Those candidates who poll the most votes are elected as delegates. The candidates not elected become replacement delegates according to the order of the election results. If less than two replacement delegates are elected, additional replacement delegates must be elected in an additional ballot.

The Federal Group is obligated to inform the Headquarters of the Main Association of the elected delegates in writing by 15 March of the year of the election at the latest.

## **s. 9 Summoning the Federal Assembly**

- (1) The Federal Assembly may be summoned by the Board in written form with at least two weeks' notice and simultaneous publication of the agenda. Motions must be itemised in the agenda. A written invitation via email is also possible, to the extent that the Local Group possesses an email address and has given its consent to the Federal Group.

Compliance with this term of notice is calculated based on the date of posting or the sent date of the email. Invitations and agendas are to be sent to the Chairs of the Local Groups to be forwarded to the individual delegates.

- (2) The Board of the Federal Group and the Local Groups may submit written motions to the Board for additions to the agenda up to three weeks before the start of the Federal Assembly. These motions must be justified.

## **s. 10 Decision-making procedure and ability of the Federal Assembly**

- (1) The Federal Assembly is led by the President or his or her Deputy in the case of impediment.
- (2) Decisions are to be made according to the provisions of the General Rules of Procedure.
- (3) The Federal Assembly has a quorum when at least half of the elected delegates are present.

Should there be no quorum, the Board is obligated to summon a second Federal Assembly with the same agenda within four weeks. This assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of delegates who appear. This must be indicated in the invitation.

- (4) Whoever obtains more than half of the valid votes cast is elected a member of the Board. Further details of the election procedure are stipulated by the Rules of Procedure.
- (5) All elections require confirmation by the Main Association.
- (6) Minutes must be taken of all decisions of the Federal Assembly, which must be signed by the person taking the minutes and the Chair.



- (7) Those entitled to present motions, vote and run for office are the Board members of the Federal Groups and the elected delegates of the Local Groups, to the extent that these Statutes do not make any other provision. Any SV member may be elected in the Federal Group responsible for him or her.
- s. 11 Additional summoning of the Federal Assembly**
- (1) In addition to the obligatory assembly stipulated by s. 7, the Board may, if required, summon Federal Assemblies. The Board is entitled to introduce additional items to the agenda of Federal Assemblies requested by delegates.
- (2) Apart from this, a Federal Assembly should only be summoned when a large number of important questions justifies it.
- (3) The provisions of s. 7-10 of the Statutes apply to the composition, summoning, agenda and procedure.
- s. 12 Board**
- (1) The Board consists of:
1. the Chair
  2. the Breeding Inspector,
  3. the Training Inspector,
  4. the Youth Inspector,
  5. the Record Keeper,
  6. the Treasurer.
  7. In case of need, a Deputy Chair, Shepherding Inspector, Deputy Training Inspector, Representative for Special Dog Training, Sport Representative and up to two observers may be elected to the Board with a seat on the Board and a vote.
- Should the Federal Assembly elect no Deputy Chair, the Board shall elect a Deputy from amongst its numbers.
- (2) Each member may assume only one position on the Board.
- (3) By way of a resolution of the Federal Assembly, an Honorary Chair may be elected to the Board with a seat on the Board and a vote.
- (4) The Board members must allocate their tasks internally.
- (5) The Board members are representatives in the sense of § 26 of the German Civil Code. Two Board members together occupy the position of legal representative at any time.
- (6) Their power of representation is limited in that
- a) legal transactions with goodwill of over €3,000.00 require the approval of the Board; the Board may authorise the Chair to carry out legal transactions with goodwill of up to €3,000.00;
  - b) legal transactions with goodwill of over €10,000.00 require the approval of the Federal Assembly;
  - c) the Board is at all times only entitled to incur liabilities in the amount of the assets of the Federal Group. Any contracts into which it enters must contain the condition that at all times, only the Federal Group is liable, and only with its Group's assets.
- s. 13 Responsibilities of the Board**
- (1) The Board is responsible for the management of the Federal Group and fulfilling the tasks transferred to it by the Federal Assembly.
- (2) The Board is responsible, in particular, for:
- a) preparing and summoning the Federal Assembly, as well as drafting its agenda,
  - b) carrying out resolutions of the Federal Assembly;
  - c) drafting annual accounts and financial reporting;
  - d) deciding upon legal transactions with goodwill of between €3,000.00 and €10,000.00.
- s. 14 Election and term of office of the Board**
- (1) The members of the Board are elected at the regular Federal Assembly in accordance with s. 8 (2) e). The term of office is four years. The term of office decreases or increases by the amount of time dependant on the actual scheduling of the Federal Assembly.

The Board remains in office until the following election. This point in time is determined by the respective successor's consent to being elected according to s. 12 (10) of the Rules of Procedure.

Each Board member must be elected separately. Only individuals who have been members of the Main Association for at least four years may be elected as Board members. Re-election is permitted.

- (2) If a member of the Board withdraws before his or her term of office is up, his or her function will be assumed by another Board member until the next Federal Assembly. This has no effect on s. 14, subsection 3.
- (3) The Board is, however, entitled to fill the Board position with a suitable member of the Federal Group. In the next Federal Assembly, a successor must be elected by the Federal Assembly for the remainder of the term of office.

#### **s. 15 Meetings and decisions of the Board**

- (1) The Board makes decisions in meetings which are called and led by the Chair, or if he or she is prevented from doing so, by his or her Deputy. These meetings should be called with two weeks' notice, accompanied by the session's agenda.
- (2) The Board has a quorum when more than half of the Board members are present. Decisions are taken by the majority of the votes cast; in the event of a tie, the tie is broken by the vote of the Chair, or in his or her absence, the vote of his or her Deputy.
- (3) The Board can make decisions outside of Board meetings by means of a written procedure, if no Board member is opposed.

### **III. Association judiciary**

#### **s. 16 Legal and Procedural Regulations**

- (1) The Board works towards ensuring behaviour in a spirit of comradery among Local Groups and members. It should settle disputes.
- (2) Should a settlement of disputes not be possible, any subsequent action shall be guided by the Procedural Regulations of the Main Association.

#### **s. 17 Legal Office**

- (1) The Legal Office advises the Boards of the subgroups in all legal matters. Legal counselling of individual members is not permitted.

### **IV. Other provisions**

#### **s. 18 Offices, reimbursement of expenses and liability**

- (1) All offices held in the SV are, in principle, voluntary posts.
- (2) Expenses incurred by activity for the Association are reimbursed. An appropriate compensation for the activity of the Board can be granted. This compensation may not exceed the amount for tax-exempt reimbursements stipulated by § 3 no. 26 of the German Income Tax Act as amended (volunteer flat rate),
- (3) For damages of the SV or its subgroups caused by holders of office or representatives while carrying out their duties, these individuals are only liable to the extent that in so doing, they wilfully committed a violation of criminal law or wilfully acted to the disadvantage of the injured parties.

Holders of office and representatives are compensated for third-party compensation claims against damages caused by the holder of office or representative while carrying out their duties, unless the holder of office or representative wilfully committed a violation of criminal law or wilfully acted to the disadvantage of the injured parties.

#### **s. 19 Dissolution of the Federal Group**

- (1) The dissolution of the Federal Group is decided upon by the Main Association after prior consultation with the Federal Group.
- (2) The Chair and the Deputy are together authorised liquidators, to the extent that the Main Association does not decide anything to the contrary.
- (3) Assets existing at the close of liquidation are accorded to the Main Association, which must use them directly and exclusively for the tax-privileged purposes named in the Statutes.

#### s. 19a Dissolution of the charitable Federal Group

##### -Preliminary remarks-

*Tax regulations demand that the model taxation Statutes provided by the tax authorities be adopted verbatim into the Statutes of the Federal Groups. Moreover, they specify the use of terminology whereby the assets of the Federal Group must in certain cases be used for 'charitable, benevolent or religious purposes'. Even though this terminology must be adopted, it should be observed that even in these cases, these assets are not to be used for any benevolent or religious purposes, but for those purposes which correspond to the objectives of the SV. It should also be observed that what is meant by the term corporation is the Federal Group.*

- (1) s. 19 subsections 1 to 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (2) In the case of the dissolution or abolition of the Corporation or the cessation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the Corporation shall revert to the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V., headquartered in Augsburg, registered in the Association Register of the Augsburg District Court under VR 15, which must use them directly and exclusively for charitable, benevolent or religious purposes.

#### s. 20 Final provisions

- (1) In addition to these Statutes, the Statutes of the Main Association shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (2) A registration of the Federal Group in the Association Register is not permitted.

The Statutes above has been decided by the Members' Assembly

to .....

on .....

Signature of the Board:

.....

Chair:

.....

Breeding Inspector:

.....

Training Inspector:

.....

Place and date

**In case of doubt regarding the interpretation of the wording of the SV statutes as translated into English, the German version automatically applies as registered with the registration court in Augsburg under registration number VR15.**

# STATUTES OF THE LOCAL GROUPS

amended 2016

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## **I. General regulations**

### **s. 1 Name, Headquarters and financial year**

- (1) The Local Group bears the name:  
  
Ortsgruppe .....  
  
im Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.
- (2) The Headquarters of the Local Group is  
  
.....
- (3) The financial year of the Local Group corresponds to the calendar year.
- (4) The Local Group is the regional subgroup of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V.
- (5) The Local Groups registered in the register of associations are obligated to submit at three-year intervals an uncertified extract from the register of associations including revisions made to the Statutes since the last submission of an extract from the register. Moreover, Headquarters may request further documents at any time.

### **s. 2 Objective and tasks**

- (1) The objective of the Local Groups is to carry out the tasks of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde within the Local Group's regional scope, in particular:
  - a) to breed a working dog according to the provisions of the breed standard;
  - b) to manage, monitor and promote the race and the training of the German Shepherd as a working dog, which is used around the world as a friend and helper of people, and is thereby especially suitable as a protection dog for private individuals, service dog for public authorities, rescue dog, herding dog, guard dog, guide dog for those with disabilities, and family dog;
  - c) to preserve, strengthen and consolidate the useful characteristics of the German Shepherd and improve its physical performance and endurance;
  - d) to support breeding and genetic research, the treatment and communication of scientific questions; the teaching of training, feeding and dog keeping; and disease control;

- e) to promote the sporting activity and thereby the physical activity of Association members through the systematic training of German Shepherds for the applications provided by the Statutes;
- f) educational work and advertising activity for the breed, in particular as regards its wide range of possible uses;
- g) to generate large-scale popular interest in the German Shepherd, its breeding and its training;
- h) to promote and educate on questions relating to breeding, training, rearing and keeping;
- i) sporting activity with dogs;
- j) to promote youth work;
- k) to promote the objectives of animal protection.

- (2) Local Groups are not permitted to become members of any other cynological association or federation. The habitual transfer of their facilities to other cynological associations or federations, which must belong to the VDH, requires the consent of the SV Board, after consultation with the responsible Federal Group.

- (3) The Local Group fulfils its tasks in compliance with animal protection law.

### **s. 3 Responsibilities**

- (1) The Local Group fulfils its statutory tasks, in particular, by:
  - a) promoting and educating on the topics of breeding, training, rearing and keeping;
  - b) establishing training grounds and sport facilities;
  - c) carrying out regular training days and practice sessions,
  - d) holding breeding shows;
  - e) holding performance examinations;
  - f) carrying out sporting competitions;
  - g) establishing youth groups;
  - h) holding youth events;



- i) putting together a specialist library, in particular, collecting the breeding and breed survey books, which are to be made available annually for a fee.

#### s. 4 Non-profit status

##### -Preliminary remarks-

*The model taxation Statutes for non-profits provided by the tax authorities are required to be adopted verbatim into the Statutes. They use the legal entity term corporation, although what is meant is the Local Group.*

- (1) The Local Group

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headquartered in

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pursues objectives that are exclusively and directly for the public benefit within the meaning of the 'Tax-privileged objectives' clause of the German Fiscal Code. The objective of the corporation is the promotion of animal breeding and dog sport. The statutory objective is realised, in particular, by establishing training grounds and sport facilities, as well as by promoting sporting practice and performance with the dog.

- (2) The corporation is non-profit; it does not primarily peruse its own economic interests.
- (3) Funds of the corporation may only be used for its statutory objectives. The members shall not receive any share of profits or any other allowance from the funds of the Local Group.
- (4) No individual may benefit from expenses not related to the objective of the corporation or from disproportionately high allowances.

## II. Membership

#### s. 5 Members

- (1) Any individual may become a member of the Local Group, with no restriction on age.
- (2) Legal entities, public authorities, federations or other corporations may join the Local Group as ordinary members. They are represented by their legal or expressly designated representatives.

- (3) Only those who are already members of the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V. may become members of a Local Group, or if membership in the Main Association is applied for at the same time as membership in the Local Group.

#### s. 6 Acquisition of membership

- (1) The prerequisite for acquiring membership in the Local Group is a written application of admission to the Board, including submission of the membership card, or simultaneous application for membership in the Main Association.

In the case of persons lacking full legal capacity, the application of admission must be approved through the signature of their legal representative.

The application of admission is binding for the applicant.

- (2) The Board decides on the application of admission at its own discretion. In the case of a rejection of the application, it is not obligated to provide the applicant with reasons.
- (3) A Local Group may reject the admission of an applicant if he or she is already a member of another Local Group.

#### s. 7 Termination of membership

- (1) Membership in the SV terminates in cases of:
  - a) death,
  - b) withdrawal,
  - c) expulsion,
  - d) deletion from the membership list,
  - e) cancellation in accordance with subsection 4,
  - f) dissolution of the Local Group.

As of the effective date of termination, all membership rights terminate. This does not affect any obligations arising before the termination of membership, in particular, the payment of overdue contributions.

- (2) Expulsion from the Main Association results in simultaneous expulsion from the Local Group.

- (3) Withdrawal may only be declared with effect at the end of a calendar year. The declaration of withdrawal must be addressed personally and in written form. The declaration of withdrawal must have been received, at the latest, by 30 September of that year; otherwise, membership and the obligation to pay contributions shall continue for the following year. In the case of persons without full legal capacity, the declaration of withdrawal must be validated by way of the signature of a legal representative.

The Local Group cannot accept cancellations made without observing the deadline.

- (4) Members are obligated to report double membership the Board of a Local Group may cancel the membership of any member who simultaneously possesses membership in another local group within one year of receiving this information. The member must be informed of this intent to cancel membership in writing four weeks before notice of cancellation is given. In the case of termination of double membership, and the expiration of the one-year term of notice after the Board becomes aware of the double membership, a cancellation is no longer permitted. This does not affect the cancellation periods.
- (5) A member may be deleted from the membership list through a decision by the Board, if despite two writing warnings, he or she continues to be in arrears in the payment of his or her annual membership contribution.

Deletion may occur, at the earliest, two months after the second warning is sent; this warning must include the threat of deletion from the membership list.

- (6) Expulsion of a member is to be carried out according to the provisions of the Legal and Procedural Regulations of the SV.

#### **s. 8 Financing and payment of contributions**

- (1) The membership contribution for the Local Group is determined at the Annual General Meeting.
- (2) The membership contribution for the Local Group must be paid independently of the membership contribution for the Main Association.
- (3) The Local Group is, moreover, entitled to demand an admission fee. Its amount is determined at the Annual General Meeting.

- (4) The membership contribution and admission fee may, however, not exceed triple the amount of the contribution for the Main Association valid at the time the former amounts are determined.

- (5) The annual membership contribution is due for payment on 31 May of the calendar year, at the latest, to the extent that no other due date has been stipulated at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **s. 9 Rights of members**

- (1) All members have the same rights.
- (2) Every member is entitled to use all facilities of the Local Group within the scope of the Regulations of Use, to participate in Association events and to engage in activities on Association property under consideration of its statutory objectives. Facilities of a Local Group are only available to the members of that Local Group, or their guests to whom the Local Group has permitted access or use.
- (3) Every member has the right to submit motions to the Members' Assembly.

#### **s. 10 Responsibilities of the members**

- (1) All members have the same responsibilities.
- (2) Within the scope of their activities in the Local Group, the members must observe the regulations of the Association, facility and regulations of use as enacted by the Board.
- (3) Every Local Group is moreover entitled to compel any Local Group member to complete work for the construction, maintenance and operation of Association facilities, and to stipulate a compensatory payment in the case of non-fulfilment. This requires a resolution by the Annual General Meeting; the number of hours may not exceed 15 hours per year, and the compensatory payment may not exceed €150.00 per year.

### III. Organs of the Local Group and their tasks

#### s. 11 Organs of the Local Group

The organs of the Local Group are:

1. the Members' Assembly,
2. the Board,
3. the Representatives in the sense of § 23 of the German Civil Code.

#### s. 12 Members' Assembly/Annual General Meeting

- (1) At the end of each Association year, a Members' Assembly takes place in December or January as an Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting must take place at least four weeks before the respective Federal Assembly.
- (2) Other Members' Assemblies should be held at regular intervals.

#### s. 13 Responsibilities of the Annual General Meeting

- (1) The Annual General Meeting is responsible for all matters concerning the Local Group, to the extent that these have not been transferred to other organs by the Statutes. The Annual General Meeting is, in particular, responsible for:
  - a) receiving the activity reports of the Board members;
  - b) auditing finances, the treasury and inventory;
  - c) the discharge of the Board;
  - d) determining the membership contributions, their due dates and the admission fees;
  - e) electing the Board members;
  - f) electing the auditors;
  - g) electing the delegates for the Federal Assembly. For every 20 members of a Local Group, one delegate must be appointed. The number of delegates is determined according to membership numbers on 1 January of the year in which the Delegate Assembly takes place. Only members of the SV are members of the Local Group in the sense of this election procedure.

The delegates are to be elected annually. Their names must be recorded and reported without delay to the Federal Group no later than three weeks prior to the Federal Assembly. The delegate's mandate is non-transferrable. To account for possible impediments, the Local Group must elect a sufficient number of replacement delegates. The mandate terminates should the delegate leave the Local Group.

A member may be elected as a delegate for only one Local Group.

The delegates and replacement delegates are elected by ballot. Each eligible voter may elect, at most, the same number of candidates as the number of elected delegates sent by the Local Group to the Federal Assembly. It is not permissible to cumulate votes in one candidate. Those candidates who poll the most votes are elected as delegates. The candidates not elected become replacement delegates according to the order of the election results. If less than two replacement delegates are elected, additional replacement delegates must be elected in an additional ballot.

- h) appointing Honorary Chairs and honorary members;
- i) decisions in asset matters of special importance, in particular, the decisions regarding individual legal transactions with goodwill of more than €3,000;
- j) handling motions from members, as well as deciding upon these.

#### s. 14 Summoning the Annual General Meeting/Members' Assembly

- (1) Members' Assemblies are summoned by the Board in written form with at least two weeks' notice and simultaneous publication of the agenda.

A written invitation via email is also possible, to the extent that the member possesses an email address, has declared his or her written consent to the Local Group and confirms receipt of the email to the sender. Compliance with the term of notice is calculated based on the date of posting or the sent date of the email.

The invitation is considered to be received by the members once it has been sent to the last address/email address disclosed by the member to the Local Group.

- (2) The agenda may be expanded upon proposal by a member.
- (3) Informal invitations may be made to briefings where no resolutions are passed.

**s. 15 Decision-making procedure and ability of the Members' Assembly**

- (1) The Members' Assemblies are led by the Chair or his or her Deputy in the case of impediment.

During elections, for the duration of the electoral process and the preceding discussions, the leadership of the Assembly must be transferred to an election officer determined by the Members' Assembly.

- (2) The Leader of the Assembly may order a roll-call vote on motions. The vote must be secret if one-third of the voting members present make such an application.
- (3) The Members' Assembly has a quorum when at least one-quarter of all Associations members are present. Should there be no quorum, the Board is obligated to summon a second Members' Assembly with the same agenda within four weeks. This assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of members who appear. This must be indicated in the invitation.
- (4) The Members' Assembly passes resolutions by simple majority of the valid votes cast, to the extent that the Statutes do not stipulate any other majorities. Abstention and invalid votes are not taken into account.
- (5) For the dismissal of Board members where good reason exists, a two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast is required. Such a vote may only take place in an Annual General Meeting or extraordinary Members' Assembly.
- (6) Whoever obtains more than half of the valid votes cast is elected a member of the Board. Further details of the election procedure are stipulated by the Rules of Procedure.
- (7) All elections require confirmation by the Federal Group.
- (8) Minutes must be taken of all decisions of the Members' Assembly, which must be signed by the person taking the minutes and the Chair.
- (9) Only members of the Local Group who are also members of the Main Association are entitled to present motions, vote and run for office.

- (10) Young people over the age of 16 are entitled to vote and run for office. These young people, however, may not be elected as Chair, Deputy Chair or Treasurer. In the case of the election of such a young person to the Board, a written declaration of consent by his or her legal representative is required.

Young people over the age of 14 are entitled to vote in the election of the Youth Inspector.

**s. 16 Extraordinary Members' Assembly**

- (1) An extraordinary Members' Assembly must be summoned in writing by the Board if the interest of the Association requires one. The Board is entitled to introduce items proposed by members to the agenda of extraordinary Members' Assemblies. For the summoning of an extraordinary Members' Assembly, a period of notice of two weeks applies.
- (2) The Main Association and the Federal Groups may issue invitations to Assemblies and Meetings, and their representatives have the right to participate in Assemblies and Meetings in an advisory capacity. The Legal Office may be invited to Assemblies. It may accept invitations on its own discretion, and participate in an advisory capacity.

**s. 17 Board**

- (1) The Board consists of:
  - 1. the Chair,
  - 2. the Deputy Chair,
  - 3. the Breeding Inspector,
  - 4. the Training Inspector,
  - 5. the Youth Inspector,
  - 6. the Record Keeper,
  - 7. the Treasurer.
  - 8. A Representative for Special Dog Training, a Sport Representative and up to two observers, may, if necessary, be elected with a seat and a vote.

- (2) Only members with a relevant valid licence may be elected to the offices of Breeding or Training Inspector or their Deputies, Representative for Special Dog Training or Sport Representative. Holders of office elected before 1 June 2009 shall remain in office until reappointments are made for their licensed Board positions.

Election to one of the abovementioned licenses offices is only possible if the person elected, before accepting his or her election, vows to obtain the licence within his or her term of office.

- (3) If necessary, Deputies for the Breeding Inspector and Training Inspector may be elected to the Board with a seat and a vote.
- (4) A member may occupy a maximum of two Board positions at any time, but it is not permitted for both positions to have representative functions (s. 17 (7)). The Board must, however, consist of at least five different people.
- (5) By a resolution of the Members' Assembly, an Honorary Chair may be appointed to the Board in an advisory capacity.
- (6) The Board members must allocate their tasks internally.
- (7) The representatives in the sense of § 26 of the German Civil Code are the Deputy Chair and the Treasurer. Two of these Board members each hold the position of legal representative in external relations (joint representation). In internal relations, management authority is limited, in that
  - a) the Deputy Chair may only become active in the case that the Chair is impeded, and the Treasurer may only become active in the case that the Chair or Deputy Chair is impeded, to the extent that the Board members have not enacted a business allocation plan which stipulates otherwise;
  - b) the approval of the Board is required for legal transactions with goodwill of over €1,200.00. The board may authorise the Chair or his or her representative in the sense of s. 17 (7) a) to carry out legal transactions with goodwill of up to €1,200.00;
  - c) the approval of the Members' Assembly is required for legal transactions with goodwill of over €3,000.00;

- d) the Board is only entitled to incur liabilities of up to the value of the Local Group's assets.

- (8) In future contracts, the condition must be included that only the Local Group is liable, and only with its Group's assets.

#### **s. 18 Responsibilities of the Board**

- (1) The Board is responsible for the management of the Local Group and fulfilling the tasks transferred to it by the Federal Assembly and the Members' Assemblies.
- (2) It is responsible, in particular, for:
  - a) preparing and summoning the Members' Assembly;
  - b) carrying out resolutions of the Members' Assembly;
  - c) drafting annual accounts and financial reporting;
  - d) deciding upon legal transactions with goodwill of between €1,200.00 and €3,000.00; for legal transactions with goodwill of more than €3,000.00, the Members' Assembly is responsible;
  - e) enacting regulations of use and facility regulations;
  - f) decisions regarding the deletion of members from the membership list.
- (3) The Board continues to be a legal organ within the scope stipulated by the Legal and Procedural Regulations of the SV.

#### **s. 19 Election and term of office of the Board**

- (1) The members of the Board are elected at the regular Annual General Meeting in accordance with s. 12 (1). The term of office is three years. The term of office decreases or increases by the amount of time dependant on the actual scheduling of the Federal Assembly.

The Board remains in office until the following election. This point in time is determined by the respective successor's consent to being elected according to s. 12 (10) of the Rules of Procedure.

The General Rules of Procedure apply to the elections.



- (2) If a member of the Board withdraws during his or her term of office, his or her function will be assumed by another Board member until the next Annual General Meeting or extraordinary Members' Assembly. This has no effect on s. 19, subsection 3.
- (3) The Board is, however, entitled to fill the Board position with a suitable member of the Local Group until the next Annual General Meeting. In the next Annual General Meeting, a successor must be elected for the remainder of the term of office.
- (4) The Federal Group may select members to serve provisionally on the Board of the Local Group if members of the Board resign, do not carry out their functions or are prevented from carrying out their Board functions. In each case, a by-election or re-election is to be carried out within a period of no longer than six months.

#### **s. 20 Meetings and decisions of the Board**

- (1) The Board makes decisions in meetings which are called by the Chair, or if he or she is prevented from doing so, by his or her Deputy. The agenda does not need to be announced. These meetings should be called with one week's notice.
- (2) The Board has a quorum when more than half of the Board members are present.  
  
Decisions are taken by the majority of the valid votes cast; in the event of a tie, the tie is broken by the vote of the Chair, or in his or her absence, the vote of his or her Deputy.
- (3) The Board can make decisions outside of Board meetings by means of a written procedure, if no Board member is opposed.

#### **s. 21 Legal and Procedural Regulations**

- (1) The Board works towards ensuring behaviour in a spirit of comradery among Local Groups and members. It should settle disputes.
- (2) Should a settlement of disputes not be possible, any subsequent action shall be guided by the Procedural Regulations of the Main Association.

#### **s. 22 Legal Office**

- (1) The Legal Office advises the Boards of the subgroups in all legal matters. Legal counselling of individual members is not permitted.

### **V. Other provisions**

#### **s. 23 Offices and liability**

- (1) All offices held in the Local Group are, in principle, voluntary posts. Expenses incurred by activity for the Association are reimbursed. An appropriate compensation for the activity of the Board and the functionaries of the Local Group may only be granted through a resolution of the General Annual Meeting by a secret ballot. A separate vote must be held for each Board position. These resolutions are only valid temporarily, until the next Board election, for a maximum of three years. Compensation may not exceed the amount for tax-exempt reimbursements stipulated by § 3 no. 26 of the German Income Tax Act as amended (volunteer flat rate).
- (2) For damages of the SV or its subgroups caused by holders of office or representatives while carrying out their duties, these individuals are only liable to the extent that in so doing, they wilfully committed a violation of criminal law or wilfully acted to the disadvantage of the injured parties.

Holders of office and representatives are compensated for third-party compensation claims against damages caused by the holder of office or representative while carrying out their duties, unless the holder of office or representative wilfully committed a violation of criminal law or wilfully acted to the disadvantage of the injured parties.

#### **s. 24 Dissolution of the Local Group**

- (1) The dissolution of the Local Group may be decided upon by the members only in a Members' Assembly with a three-quarters majority of the valid votes cast.
- (2) To the extent that the Members' Association does not decide anything to the contrary, the Chair and the Deputy are together authorised liquidators.
- (3) Should an ordinary liquidation not take place, one will be carried out by the responsible Federal Group. The Federal Group is entitled to audit the assets of the Local Group. For this purpose, it must be granted access to all of the Local Group's documents.
- (4) The liquidators are obligated to transfer any surplus remaining after the settlement of all of the Local Group's liabilities to the Main Association

#### **s. 24a Dissolution of the charitable Local Group**

##### **-Preliminary remarks-**

*Tax regulations demand that the model taxation Statutes provided by the tax authorities be adopted verbatim into the Statutes of the Local Groups. Moreover, they specify the use of terminology whereby the assets of the Local Group must in certain cases be used for 'charitable, benevolent or religious purposes'. Even though this terminology must be adopted, it should be observed that even in these cases, these assets are not to be used for any benevolent or religious purposes, but for those purposes which correspond to the objectives of the SV. It should also be observed that what is meant by the term corporation is the Local Group.*

- (1) s. 24 subsections 1 to 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (2) In the case of the dissolution or abolition of the Corporation or the cessation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the Corporation shall revert to the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e.V., headquartered in Augsburg, registered in the Association Register of the Augsburg District Court under VR 15, which must use them directly and exclusively for charitable, benevolent or religious purposes.

#### **s. 25 Withdrawal of recognition of the Local Group**

- (1) The Main Association may, upon request by the Federal Group, withdraw its recognition of the Local Group as a subgroup of the Main Association if the internal relations of the Local Group are dysfunctional and if, even after intervention by the responsible Federal Group, no change has taken place or is to be expected. This also applies to Local Groups which no longer fulfil their statutory tasks due to low membership numbers or other circumstances.
- (2) In the case of withdrawal of recognition of the Local Group as a subgroup of the Main Association, the Board is obligated to draw up a statement of assets. In the event of a surplus, two-thirds of the assets of the Local Group are to be transferred to the Main Association. The Federal Group is entitled to audit the assets of the Local Group. For this purpose, it must be granted access to all of the Local Group's documents.

- (3) For the transfer of 2/3 of the surplus to the Main Association in the event of a withdrawal of recognition of the Local Group as a subgroup of the Main Association, s. 24, subsection (4) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

**s. 26 Final provision**

In cases of differences of opinion in the interpretation of the Statutes, the Statutes of the Main Association and those of the Federal Group are to be taken into account.

The recognition of the Statutes above has been resolved by the Members' Assembly

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**Signature of the Board:**

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Chair:

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Deputy Chair:

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Breeding Inspector:

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Training Inspector:

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Place and date

(only for newly established Local Groups):

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**Confirmed:**

Place and date:

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Federal Group:

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Signature:

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**Confirmed for the Main Association:**

Augsburg, on the

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Signature:

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**In case of doubt regarding the interpretation of the wording of the SV statutes as translated into English, the German version automatically applies as registered with the registration court in Augsburg under registration number VR15.**