



WUSV Generalsekretariat, Steinere Furt 71, 86167 Augsburg/ Germany

## Circular Letter to all WUSV Member Organizations

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Extension Number: 15

## Cooperation FCI – WUSV

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As you all know, the WUSV Board of Directors is currently having fruitful discussions with the FCI. Both cynological world organizations are aware of their responsibilities in terms of worldwide cynology. Thus, they have to ensure that a constructive, content based, and long-lasting cooperation is guaranteed.

One vital requirement for this existential and necessary step is the strict compliance with the respective regulations, i.e. of the FCI and the WUSV. This is basically self-explanatory, and the presidents of both organizations explicitly agreed upon this basic requirement in terms of a future approach during their first meeting in this respect.

Please allow me to point out that the FCI on the occasion of their General Annual Assembly in Brussels in 2018 made a change to their statutes in terms of § 11 which was modified in a fashion that offered the WUSV a chance to resume talks – a concession that was very much appreciated.

### Article 11 – Cooperating Partner - English

- 11.1. Cooperating Partnership is open to every organisation or legal entity sharing or willing to support the aim of the Association and that has entered into a special Cooperation Agreement which specifies the relation of the Cooperating Partner with the Association. This Cooperation Agreement – minus the provisions with commercial orientation- shall be published by the Association. The Association may only recognise international breed club organisations (i) promoting pedigree dogs, respecting the official FCI standards of the breed(s) they represent, and (ii) recognising as their members only the national breed clubs which are affiliated to the national canine organisation of their country, Member of the Association. The Member from the country of origin of the breed(s) must give its final approval on this recognition. Breeds whose country of origin is not part of the Association's Membership are exempted from this final approval.
- 11.2. Amongst others, the Cooperating Partners have the right:
  - a) to nominate one (1) contact person and to notify the Association of that contact person's name in writing;
  - b) to exercise all specific rights which are granted to them as laid down in the special



Cooperation Agreement which they entered into with the Association.

11.3. Cooperating Partners have the following duties:

- a) to comply with the special Cooperation Agreement which they entered into with the Association;
- b) to not offend the Association or any of its Members and Contract Partners maliciously, publicly and officially.

As you will have noticed the above mentioned article is fully compatible with the WUSV Statutes. By the same token, we need to consider the fact that the implementation within the WUSV has not yet been completed at large, and this is – no doubt – the next step we need to comply with.

In terms of “All-Breed Clubs” § 8, paragraph 4 b of the WUSV Statutes the following was stipulated:

#### **§ 8 – Obtaining Membership**

...

(4) Excluded from membership are the following parties:

...

- b) Kennel Clubs and associations covering all, or several breeds,

...

As a matter of fact, a couple of exceptions do still exist which are based on historical developments and on the geopolitical situation in a couple of WUSV member countries. Therefore, the adaption towards the defined policy needs to be implemented now.

A further issue is § 7, paragraph 1 as follows:

#### **§ 7 – Members**

- (1) Within the WUSV the principle of *One Member Organization per Member Country* shall apply. Id est., only one organization from a particular country which is exclusively dedicated to the breeding and training of German Shepherd Dogs can be admitted for membership. This especially applies for associations and clubs that have already been recognized by their national cynological association. The statutes and regulations of the relevant Kennel Club do not conflict with a membership within the WUSV, unless those statutes and regulations are inconsistent with the statute and regulations of the WUSV. Membership within the WUSV is limited to non-profit organizations only.

...

It should be noted that the regulations of a couple of individual Kennel Clubs (NCO) do indeed allow for membership of clubs that cover several specific breeds. This might entail considerable potential for conflict with regard to further negotiations.

The situation as described above is current practice in a couple of WUSV Member Organisations and in the majority of cases this gives cause for upheavals, suspensions, blockades and non-recognition of pedigrees and trial- or breed evaluations that challenge and counteract the statutory objectives of the WUSV.



And it is most unfortunate that this kind of conflict is fought at the expense of our active members in the countries that are affected by this situation. This is not in the best of interest of the German Shepherd Breed and the WUSV.

In such a case the clubs affected should aspire for the foundation of a common umbrella organization that shall exercise the membership rights within the WUSV. The details in this respect are to be taken care of at national and internal level. It goes without saying that the WUSV is at any time available to provide support or mediation if needed.

§ 12, paragraph 1, items 5 and 8 of the WUSV Statutes provide for the following:

#### **§ 12 – Duties of Member Organizations**

(1) The member organizations are to comply with the commitments below:

...

5. All member organizations of the WUSV are obliged to serve all friends and aficionados of the German Shepherd Dog within their national sphere of activities, and to allow them to benefit from the potential and activities of their organization.

In case of two or more WUSV member organizations within one country, each organization is obliged to admit members of the respective other organizations in this country to their events, unless the member in question is subject to a suspension procedure.

...

8. Ideally, the WUSV member organizations shall recognize the results of examinations, breeding valuations, certificates, and/ or breed surveys as issued by the other member organizations.

...

The regulations as quoted above require for mutual recognition – at least within the WUSV Organisation.

For the future to come we will ensure the compliance with those stipulations and in case of non-compliance sanctions can no longer be avoided.

The objective of the negotiations is – from our point of view – the implementation of the WUSV Breeding Programm in accordance with the worldwide Harmonisation Programm. In order to succeed in this respect it is of vital importance to seek communication with the national Kennel Clubs and to make common efforts in order to provide for feasible solutions.

According to the FCI Statutes the breeding activities for the individual breeds are subject to the scope of responsibility of the national Kennel Clubs. The WUSV Board of Directors are aware that in exceptional cases of some Kennel Organizations the FCI requirements are not fully complied with. Therefore, we would like to point out that the International Breeding Rules of the FCI <sup>1</sup> are fully compatible with the WUSV regulations for breeding.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.fci.be/en/Breeding-42.html>



We kindly ask the WUSV Member Clubs to enter into a constructive dialogue with the national Kennel Clubs, and – if required – point out to their respective regulations.

The WUSV Member Clubs which are not affiliated to the national FCI Organizations need to be encouraged to enter talks and eventually work on the foundation of a common umbrella organization. The necessary arrangements with the FCI clubs shall be provided for at local level.

Thus, it is of crucial importance to join the national Kennel Clubs for talks. The deadline for the finalization shall be September 15th, 2019. Once this date has expired the respective arbitration commissions with representatives from the FCI and WUSV will be involved in the negotiation talks.

Please be aware that the WUSV Member Clubs are committed to comply with the WUSV Breeding Programm and the WUSV Statutes.

We are aware that you – as far as you are affected – are facing a huge challenge, now. But it is essential that we continue our talks with the FCI and obtain the agreement that we need. Under consideration of international cynological aspects this is indispensable for all parties involved.

We wish you the best of luck for the endeavor ahead of you.

With best regards

Professor Dr. Heinrich Meßler

WUSV Präsident

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