

## *Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Kurzhaarfamily,*

*Christmas is right around the corner and the even more thought-provoking year of 2021 is slowly drawing to a close. Until recently, we were looking forward to a sociable, merry Christmas. In recent weeks, the fourth wave of the pandemic has created a dramatic situation in hospitals and intensive care units and, for the time being, dashed all hopes of normality.*

*The virus continues to divide our society. Of course, we miss the cherished encounters and events in an unclouded atmosphere. Nevertheless, it is hard to understand why some people are not willing to abstain from anything. More than ever, this is a time when we need to show solidarity. We often confuse opinion and hunch. Almost everyone has an opinion, but unfortunately some have no clue.*

*We as an association have been put to a very tough endurance test. In 2020, the Dr. Kleemann Test had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We had hoped to be able to make up for this in 2021. Neither the Dr. Kleemann Test nor the International Test IKP were held. In a survey, over 85% of club chairmen called for these tests to be cancelled.*

*One bright spot was that we were able to hold our breeding and performance tests, as well as our conformation shows, although we had to largely forego socializing at the awards ceremonies.*

*The JGHV held its this year's AGM on August 22nd in Verden near Bremen in an indoor riding hall in compliance to the corona regulations. Therefore, we planned to hold our AGM with elections in Bremen to allow participation at both events. Unfortunately, hygiene regulations changed at short notice, so that only the voting delegates were allowed to attend our AGM. Dennis Kramer and Marcel Krenz did not run for office again. Instead Rudolf Fisch was elected as Vice President and Hubertus Krieger and Dr. Karsten Schreiber as further board members.*

*These are not good times for cuddlers and pushers. Nonetheless, we can still cultivate our close unity, but it's the how that matters. Whatever comes, we as hunters are allowed to go out and we are free to do what we love: to go duck hunting with our most faithful hunting companions, our Deutsch- Kurzhaar, to search the small cover and encounter a hare or feathered game, to fulfill the remaining shooting stipulation, and much more. So let's look on the bright side. It doesn't always have to be the big horrido and being seen. There is often great pleasure in the small things.*

*From the small things I come to the big. Our breeders raised 1842 puppies in the breeding year 2020. This represents an increase of about 65% and the highest number so far this century. How is this to be evaluated? Should we break into shouts of jubilation or get wrinkles on our forehead? Growth is not a bad thing per se, yet it must be supervised closely and resulting consequences must be planned carefully.*

*Now it is time to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to all those who keep the flags flying high for us despite all the restrictions and cancelled events. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the members of the DK Presidium, the club chairmen and the officers in the clubs, the test directors, judges, hunting ground owners and DK handlers.*

*Hoping that the coming year 2022 will return to normality, the JGHV has planned its AGM again in Fulda, in the Maritim. Therefore, we would like to hold our AGM on March 19, 2022 in the Rhönresidence in Dipperz again.*

*I personally and in the name of the Presidium wish all friends and members of the Deutsch-Kurzhaar-Verband and World Union Deutsch-Kurzhaar a blessed Christmas and a good, and in particular a Corona free year 2022. Let's continue from our dog's point of view. They live in the here and now and find something good in every circumstance. No matter what, let's start the new year together full of elan and optimism.*

*Michael Hammerer*

Yours, Michael Hammerer

