

Josef Fertig WAFDAL President

Report of the President on the 14th meeting in Bratislava

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Members of the Board, Dear Delegates,

I would like to welcome you to the 14th meeting of WAFDAL delegates, here in Bratislava, Slovakia. In addition to the delegates, I warmly welcome the guests and associated members.

At the last meeting of the delegates in Saarbrücken, Germany, the hosting of the next meeting was assigned to Slovakia, headed by the first chairman of the Slovak club, Oleg Fintora. Anyone who has ever planned and organized such an event knows how much work it is. In consultation with the secretary, Ms. Ursula Voitle, the planning considerations were closely supervised. It was a challenge to find an appointment that made it possible to hold two more international exhibitions on the same date in addition to the WAFDAL show. It was also important to find a suitable hotel that is reasonably priced and in a convenient location so the exhibition grounds can be reached easily. I would like to sincerely thank all those not mentioned for their outstanding commitment.

We are pleased about the registration numbers for the three shows on August 16./17. and 18th. Judge for the WAFDAL-Show on 16.08. is Dr. Mijo Fury from Croatia. The judges for the two international shows are: on 17.08. Mrs. Ludmilla Fintorova and on 18.08. Mrs. Iveta Vojtekova; both ladies are from Slovakia.

In the past year 2018, the activities of the board for the WAFDAL were affected by illness. Almost all members of the board. Ursula Voitle, Liliane De Ridder, Jürgen Herbst and also myself had to deal with our health. All the more I am glad that this difficult phase is over. It is with great regret that I have to inform you that some of the aforementioned have announced to step down from the board. These are Ursula Voitle, Liliane De Ridder and also Gerd Herbst. With the end of this meeting, they will leave their offices. How many countless hours the departing board members have worked for WAFDAL can only be guessed; I would like to highlight at this point the work of Ursula Voitle as secretary. For many years she has made a name for herself in this capacity like no other person on the board. Her achievements cannot be honoured enough. Thank you for years of volunteer work. I hope that today some members will be ready to re-occupy the posts. A continuation of the WAFDAL in these difficult times is in danger, but desirable despite all the problems. I would like to sincerely ask the departing board members to support the successors with their wealth of experience, especially in the start-up phase I trust in their commitment. It is with great regret that I also have to announce the resignation of Milivoje Urosevic as President of the Commission for Health and Breeding. He has made large scientific progress on the development of different size parameters over many years. You can read his report on the extensive data collection on the WAFDAL website.

With regard to the current state of our organization, allow me to compare it to current European politics, for it is also clear that the common interests are weakening and individual interests of some members are dominating. It would be nice for the WAFDAL to return to its original meaning, the way the founders intended in 1978. More than 40 years of fruitful contacts and cooperation of the international associations for our Dalmatian dogs must not have been in vain!

We have waived the collection of membership fees for the year 2019. It can not be that we receive contributions from the members and that these revenues are not counteracted by corresponding services by the sub-committees.

With the beginning of the presidency of the WAFDAL in Prague in 2015 the presidium agreed that up to the meeting in Germany 2017 the re-recognition of the WAFDAL by the FCI should be of utmost importance. This wish can only be realized if the umbrella organization of the country of Croatia, HKS (Hrvatski kinoloski Savez) acts in a supportive capacity. The first chairperson of the ÖDAC, Margot Nemecek, was able to establish important contacts with Boris Spoljaric and Dr. Ing. Milicoje Urosevic. Already in Tulln in 2016, we discussed in length how the re-recognition by the FCI could be achieved.

The umbrella organization in Croatia, the HKS, had received the approval of President Branko Sare and HKS Secretary General, Bojan Matakovic, given the green light. Unfortunately our legitimate hopes have been dashed. The WAFDAL still finds no support from the HKS in order to subsequently achieve the FCI's re-recognition of the WAFDAL. In this context, I asked once, for example, at five German pedigree dog clubs how their agreements with the VDH have been formulated almost congruently. Cooperation agreements have been made between FCI and the VDH for the boxers, Pinscher and Schnauzer, for the German shepherd dogs, for

Rottweiler and Deutsch Drahthaar. I simply can not understand why the Croatian umbrella organization HKS, despite the cautious promises of President Sare and his managing director Dr. Matakovic, can not reach a cooperation agreement with the FCI. It is incomprehensible to me why the Croatian umbrella organization for its Croatian breed, the Dalmatians does not engage in a cooperation agreement with the FCI. I would like to know, which reasons speak against it. The HKS would seem to have a vested interest in Dalmatian clubs being connected worldwide through the WAFDAL, to promote the breeding of healthy, nature-strong dogs and to support each other in this endeavor. Without the FCI's recognition, the WAFDAL will be of no importance to its affiliates in the countries (currently there are 18) and I can understand why the interest of WAFDAL members is waning, and in part also leads to members leaving the organisation. Nevertheless, we should not give up hope and stay in contact with the HKS officials in order to finally reach a turnaround for a cooperation agreement with the FCI. It would certainly also be helpful if the authors of the current breeding standard from Croatia supported us. In addition, the internationally active special judges from the WAFDAL could also campaign for the WAFDAL. All of us here in the room should now find additional ways and means to work together to ensure the survival of our WAFDAL.