



Supreme Authority of the Canine World

Jim Engel

There has been an ongoing and escalating FCI vendetta against the international German Shepherd community, the SV and the WUSV, which ultimately led to the emasculation and repudiation of the FCI in the Euro courts.

This is of epic importance, a paradigm shift that will reverberate for decades to come.

Those not familiar with the terminology and recent history would do well to review this: [Here](#) and also [Glossary](#)

Contents

Click to go to the page

Emergence of the Establishment	3
Double Edged Sword	5
Irreconcilable Differences	6
Mexican Standoff: FCI Smoking Gun	7
Others in the Cross Hairs	9
Spain	10
USA	10
Whatever Happened to Frans Jansen?	11
Paradigm Change	11
Background and Reference	13

Over recent years there has been an ongoing, relentlessly escalating and increasingly acrimonious struggle between the FCI and the WUSV. In December of 2019 this came to a head when the FCI promulgated an edict forbidding the SV from sending judges to non FCI affiliated WUSV clubs such as USCA and those in Spain and Mexico. From the beginning years of the American working dog movement, in the late 1970s, these SV judges took on roles far beyond awarding scores and titles, they were our teachers, our mentors.

This is a crisis in that sharing these senior judges has always been the primary means by which the SV, representing the nation of origin, sought to share the heritage of von Stephanitz, to bring unity to German Shepherd affairs, particularly breeding, worldwide. This FCI vendetta was from the beginning self-serving, mean spirited and meant to eradicate SV influence beyond Germany, to destroy any sort of independent international breed community. There is no other way to say it.

Had this edict stood the viability of the breed, a century old heritage, would have been in the most serious jeopardy. This is a very complex topic with a convoluted history and enormous future ramifications, which is reflected in the length and depth of this presentation. Einstein famously commented that "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler." Please excuse the complexity, for if I knew how to make it simpler but still comprehensive I would most certainly have done so.

Let us begin by introducing the players:

- The FCI, **Federation Cynologique Internationale** or in English *International Canine Federation* is the predominant international canine organization encompassing most of the world's nations with the major exceptions of England, Canada and the United States, which are not members but have comprehensive cooperative agreements.
- The SV, **Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde** or in English *Club for German Shepherd's Dogs* The GSD mother club in Germany, founded in 1899.

- The WUSV, **World Union of German Shepherd Clubs**, is an association of 96 national clubs in 89 countries intended to unify the breed in terms of adherence to a common standard as applied in Germany, provide venues for international confirmation and working competition, represent the breed before various national and international political entities and provide educational opportunities and guidance. Founded in 1975.

Know that the SV is not just another member WUSV club, a first among equals if you will, but rather stands above and in control of the WUSV through which they strive to exert hegemony over worldwide breed affairs through the client member clubs. The president of the SV is automatically the president of the WUSV.

The FCI was created by European kennel clubs early in the twentieth century for service and clerical functions with no charter to limit or impede these clubs, to serve rather than to rule. But over the next century the grasping FCI bureaucrats relentlessly sought control and power, eventually coming to see themselves as the ostensible "Supreme Authority of the Canine World." This is a serious problem.

The establishment of breed specific aggregations of national breed clubs, beginning in the 1970s, such as the WUSV and the FMBB for the Malinois, seriously complicated and destabilized world canine affairs. The FCI establishment perceived these unions as a potentially serious threat because of the implicit if not overtly expressed objective of the SV to evolve a single international German Shepherd registry under their auspices as the putative heirs of von Stephanitz. This had the potential to divert enormous revenue streams from the various national registries, such as the AKC in America and St. Hubert in Belgium. Even if this were not the intention of the SV, even if they were to swear an oath to play nice for all time, the FCI, and AKC for that matter, would regard the WUSV as an existential threat to their very existence, for if the German Shepherds were to be emancipated, which breeds would follow? Conflicts of interest at this level ultimately escalate to active conflicts and some sort of contested resolution.

In a normal, stable hierarchy each entity is a client of a single higher level authority and may have any number of clients of its own. The chain of command and authority is clear. No employee can prosper trying to serve two bosses. No dog can serve two masters without conflict and confusion. "Dotted line" relationships pose the potential for problems. But when one entity has two rather than one solid line relationship the potential for conflict is far more serious. Both upper level entities will expect compliance in all matters which will inevitably create mutually exclusive demands on the unfortunate client of two masters. This is the nature of the ongoing FCI/WUSV conflict. It is a very serious problem.

Conceptually this fragmented canine world was to consist of one national breed club per nation, each owing allegiance to and in compliance with the policies and regulations of both the FCI in general administrative matters and the WUSV for breed specific affairs, with cooperative agreements in place to definitively delineate areas of influence and authority. But in the real world cooperative agreements turn out to be little more effective than a band aid on cancer: mutually exclusive requirements, conflicts of interest and endemic strife are inevitable.

In reality situations inevitably arise, or are created for political purposes, that are ambiguous as to authority leaving the breed club potentially in transgression against one or the other. Furthermore there are for historical and political reasons nations with several national clubs—such as Mexico,

Spain and the United States—greatly increasing the potential for conflict and confusion. Mexico and Spain have seen long term WUSV clubs expelled from the FCI establishment and replaced with a more or less privately run stalking horse under tight control of the establishment parasites for their own nefarious purposes, often little more than a front for tawdry commercial exploitation.

In the United States in the late 1970s the GSDCA was a prosperous and well established AKC club with an existing WUSV affiliation. Problems emerged because the AKC was virulently opposed to any sort of activity involving dogs biting people, and issued an ultimatum forbidding any sort of Schutzhund association. This ostracizing by the American establishment led to the founding of USCA to support the incipient Schutzhund movement. USCA sought WUSV affiliation in order to gain credibility and access to SV judges. Although the GSDCA/USCA relationship was to be more or less hostile over the next forty years a much more congenial spirit prevails today. FCI conflict arises because USCA prosperity and success poses a threat and thus makes them a prime target for the ongoing vendetta.

Shared authority is inherently unstable because neither higher party will willingly relinquish power and will await, or precipitate, circumstances or ambiguities as opportunities to grasp the upper hand. The FCI perceived such an opportunity in the vulnerability of unaffiliated WUSV clubs, such as those in Mexico and Spain, dependent on SV judges.

In December of 2019 this precipitated a crisis when the FCI promulgated an edict forbidding SV sharing conformation and performance judges with non FCI affiliated WUSV clubs such as USCA and those in Spain and Mexico. In doing this they were fully cognizant that they would be in flagrant violation of Euro trade law, but they were nevertheless impudent enough to withhold judges as a means of forcing WUSV abandonment of long term clubs in favor of their stalking horses, run by insiders seeking power and the opportunity to systematically plunder. They had come to believe their own lies, cultivated the illusion of omnipotence, perceived of themselves as beyond legal repercussions for even the most flagrant violations of law and normal standards of decent behavior. The clerks had become dictators.

This turn of events was an existential threat to the viability of the WUSV, for had this ban stood they would have been reduced to little more than an empty shell, an ineffectual publicity office. In response WUSV president Dr. Heinrich Messler and leaders of USCA and the Spanish club appealed to the European courts on the grounds of restraint of trade. In early 2020 they decisively prevailed: USCA and the WUSV were vindicated and empowered and the FCI was admonished for pervasive conspiracy to restrain trade. Although low level strife will likely continue the WUSV and other breed aggregations now have the clearly established legal right to pursue their legitimate interests free of FCI harassment and interference. The vendetta has been crushed.

This is of enormous significance both in the short term in that USCA and other independent clubs now have free access to international resources unimpeded by vindictive FCI interference and in the long term because the grasping FCI bureaucrats have been put firmly in their place, humiliated and reined in. This has been covered extensively [Here](#) and [Here](#).

Emergence of the Establishment

The ongoing decline of the purebred dog worldwide in terms of registration statistics, respect, vigor, resilience and real world utility has

been palpable for a quarter century. The brand is broken or nearly so. Most of our AKC hunting dogs are pathetic caricatures while the serious breeders and trainers have sought alternate registries, particularly the UKC.



The principal cause of this pervasive decline is the corruption of the unfettered, self-perpetuating elites controlling the AKC, the FCI and the various other national affiliates such as the VDH and St. Hubert. Those with boots on the ground—the working trainers and breeders whose labor of love is the real foundation of these utilitarian breeds—have been rendered voiceless and devoid of real influence, have been systematically subjugated, plundered and abused like medieval serfs stifled by the *Ancien Régime*.

The underlying mechanism of this decline is quite simple, for it is but yet another manifestation of the age old principle that when power persists in limited hands and is propagated from generation to generation, as in the European nobility and most canine bureaucracies, it ultimately corrupts. Or more briefly, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. This adage has a long history with many variants, the prominent contemporary attribution being to the British historian Lord Acton in regard to the Catholic Church. The common thread is the tendency for such corruption to emerge over long tenure with an ever increasing lack of transparency, passive resistance to oversight and control by an increasingly elite cabal.

The FCI is thus a deeply flawed institution—much like the Catholic Church—with a pervasive lack of transparency and all real power remaining in the hands of a closed, self-perpetuating elite. In order for this existential threat to the purebred brand to be understood and mitigated it is necessary to examine the history and structure in some detail, provide a mechanism for real control and influence in the hands of those with boots on the ground and purge the arrogant and self-aggrandizing bureaucrats, which would be most of them in high places.

Let us begin at the beginning by examining their self-perception:

FCI Mission statement

The FEDERATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) is the **supreme authority of the canine culture worldwide**. The FCI is responsible for safeguarding canine health and international dog activities to enhance the relations between dogs and humans. Established in 1911 the FCI includes 94 members and contract partners (one member per country). Each member issues their own pedigrees and train highly qualified judges. The FCI makes sure that the pedigrees and judges are mutually recognized by all the FCI members, contract partners and any person involved in their domestic canine scene.

This claim of supreme authority is of course stunningly arrogant and is the crux of the crisis. But as preamble let us take note of the phrase "any person involved in their domestic canine scene" which is an overt claim to authority over all of us involved in canine activities even in the most tangential way. The implication is clearly that those participating in and particularly those perpetuating entities outside of FCI auspices are trouble making dissidents which need to be at least purged and preferably punished so as to serve as a warning to those inclined to disobedience. Historically

this is eerily similar to the Catholic Church throughout much of its history, and others with substantial secular power, where the solution is sooner or later something akin to the Inquisition.

In the early years the need for unified national kennel clubs and a formal international structure was driven by the practical realities of the day. In general business transactions were by cash in person or by mail and thus beyond the local community difficult, time consuming and expensive. International transactions were even more complicated by differences in language, distance, border restrictions, banking arrangements and currency exchange.

Typically but particularly in Belgium there were multiple competing national registries, prominently including St. Huber which because of eventual FCI affiliation became predominant and Club Belge, at the time very strong and more working oriented, which while now a shadow of its former self still exists. It was not especially unusual to see Belgian Bouvier des Flandres pedigrees with several registration numbers; sometimes French as well as Belgian. This was a veritable tower of Babel which needed a framework of structure and control. In Germany the strong leadership of von Stephanitz, a man of social substance and personal wealth, provided from the beginning through the SV a unified German Shepherd community which does much to explain the prosperity and dominance of this breed over the next century.

Double Edged Sword

As the national kennel clubs and the FCI evolved over time the fly in the ointment was the corrupting influence of personal power. Many onerous dictatorships emerge to meet real needs and remedy real oppression, as for instance that of Fidel Castro in Cuba or Mao in China, but cling to ever expanding power because they do not trust the people they came to save, and because of the love of personal power. Thus it is with the FCI, which played an important and necessary role early in the twentieth century where there was a need for stability and order in the emerging purebred world. A rational, reliable way of preserving pedigree information and maintaining registration was needed on both a national basis and internationally to facilitate the transfer of records when dogs migrated to different nations.

Thus the emergence of the FCI with a single kennel club per nation—such as the VDH in Germany, Raad van Beheer in the Netherlands or St. Hubert in Belgium—did much to bring order out of chaos, for two principal reasons:

- It provided a critical international mechanism for the conduct of business in terms of registration transfer, international exchange of judges, universal conformation standards and uniform trial rules.
- FCI membership bestowed enormous credibility and power on its member clubs, which thus came to have overwhelming advantage in terms of prestige and practical administrative service. Other national clubs, such as Club Belge, withered and died or were severely marginalized. This eliminated the confusion and inefficiency of multiple clubs, but created institutions which tended to arrogance and elitism.

Thus this cut both ways in that while it streamlined clerical, legal and business related tasks the gradually assumed power was an enormously

corrupting influence. Most if not all of these national and breed specific clubs were strongly show oriented, with the working community increasingly marginalized.

Thus what began as an apolitical service for clerical and ancillary international services gradually escalated in their self-serving minds to the illusion of supreme authority. In this way they have gone far beyond their original charter to provide service and ease the process of international intercourse for the good of all concerned to become a cabal of conniving, predatory politicians, which is the root of the crises we face today.

FCI overreach is rising to the surface now because USCA, NVBK, KNPV and a few others are prospering and thus increasingly threatening. The breeding lines of the NVBK especially and also the KNPV are in ascent and may well provide the salvation of working dogs; USCA is well placed to play a similar role in America. The ascent of the Malinois on German sport fields, including one complete winning German team in the FCI IPO championship, is based largely on this outside NVBK breeding, a lesson that none of the parties, including the SV, can afford to ignore.



Irreconcilable Differences

The relationship between the FCI and international aggregations of breed specific associations, such as the WUSV, is particularly fraught, for no matter how intricate the formal agreements and the smiling faces presented to the world the relationship is akin to a hypothetical marriage of two men to five women—where no one could ever be truly satisfied or secure—which is of course why such arrangements remain hypothetical. No strong dog can serve two masters.

While the FCI perceives itself as the supreme authority of the canine world the SV, as the erstwhile legitimate heirs of von Stephanitz, see themselves as rightfully entitled to wield universal control over the evolution and maintenance of the German Shepherd in terms of conformation standards, breeding prerequisites, judge certification and registration formalities. No matter how much lipstick you smear on this pig these are mutually irreconcilable differences.

In some Utopian netherworld there could perhaps be a single national breed club per nation, envisioned as living in subservient harmony under the hegemony of both the WUSV and the FCI. On the surface it makes all of the sense in the world for there to be a single Boxer or Rottweiler club in America or Spain, just as all Ford or Volkswagen dealerships represent a unified supply and support chain; nobody experiencing a break down on the road wants to try and figure out which Ford dealer is the right one to deal with his particular Ford; Ford should mean Ford in every context, just as there should in the ideal be only one Boxer or Doberman entity per nation.

The obvious example of the difficulty in obtaining national breed unity is the United States, where the GSDCA, existent for more than a century and in earlier generations prosperous, has coexisted with USCA, now numerically superior and in ascent for forty years. Both are WUSV members which while historically antagonistic have in recent years evolved a more cooperative relationship. The historical virulent animosity of the AKC, of which GSDCA is a member, to protection sport and service has greatly complicated relationships. Thus there is no obvious path to unity short of the collapse of

either the GSDCA or USCA or a unification of the two, highly unlikely given the current state of affairs. As long as the USCA membership remains so much larger than the AKC club it could only be a matter of USCA absorbing the GSDCA. What would be to the advantage for either party?

Thus, mostly for historical reasons, the ideal of a single national breed club has proven elusive in the real world. A deep seated sense of national sovereignty and cohesiveness inevitably resists the overweening control by foreign mother countries down to the level of permissible training equipment on local fields and dictating who can and cannot serve as judge. The exit of Great Britain from the European Union is a compelling contemporary example; there is deep seated resentment in many English minds and hearts to having their laws, customs and economy micro managed by entrenched bureaucrats in Brussels with their own agendas.

The international canine world as it exists today, as a result of European court decisions, such as the one forcing RSV2000 recognition and the recent decision definitively establishing the right of the SV and USCA to share judges and forge other relationships is indeed a double edged sword, on the one hand intervening in FCI manipulation of the German Shepherd world for their own nefarious purposes but on the other creating the potential for the confusion of numerous small, weak and competing national breed clubs none of which serve their community well.

Mexican Standoff: FCI Smoking Gun

Perhaps the most egregious instance of pervasive FCI corruption has been the ongoing Mexican scandal featuring the expulsion of the well-established Mexican German Shepherd club. The perpetrator of this atrocity is a certain Jose Payro, whose title is president of the Mexican national kennel club but whose actual role is dictator of the Mexican canine establishment.

The primary conspirators include:

- Jose Luis Payro, President FCM (Canófila Federation Mexicana), President FCI Americas and Caribbean Section, Mexico
- Juan Luis Gutierrez, Manager FCM, Mexico
- Rafael de Santiago, former FCI President, Puerto Rico
- Tamas Jakkel, FCI President, Hungary
- Yves De Clercq, FCI Executive Director, Belgium

The flash point of this conspiracy has been the ongoing and escalating scandal in the Mexican canine community, centering on two mutually hostile German Shepherd clubs:

Club Canófilo Mexicano de Pastor Alemán (CCMPA), founded in 1952, is the long standing original Mexican GSD breed club and well established member of the WUSV community. Although until very recently there was on the part of senior officers serious and long standing improper awarding of certificates and abuse of office, and connivance in profiteering with FCM officers, today it is by all appearances upright, respectable, legitimate and reasonably transparent.

The other Mexican club is the recently (2019) conjured up **Unión Mexicana del Pastor Alemán (UMPA)**, which can be described as secretive, mysterious and opaque. Searching the internet, perusing the web pages and making email inquiries fails to yield any information on the UMPA officers,

affiliated breed clubs, history, founding date, membership, constitution and bylaws or any of the other normally public information. It is, however, affiliated with Federación Canófila Mexicana, FCM (Mexican national FCI kennel club), which is peculiar in and of itself.

Interestingly enough, the only email address I was able to find for UMPA (info@fcm.mx) is also the address for FCM. Apparently Mr. Payro likes to run all of his operations—supposedly nonprofit and otherwise—from one place.

UMPA is in reality little more than a squalid commercial front for the promotion of private agendas and commercial breeding, the plaything of a couple of dilators, Jose Payro and Juan Gutierrez, who take perverse pleasure in mocking the SV establishment by awarding their own private Sieger and Siegerin titles as essentially publicity stunts without any international authorization or respect for the heritage.

When you brush away all of the distractions and minor players you finally bring into focus Jose Payro, who as President of the FCI Americas and Caribbean Section, president of the FCM, the perpetrator of UMPA and a predominant Mexican commercial dog merchant you come to the crux of the matter. The conflict of interest, the reach into the FCI hierarchy and the cash flow are truly stunning.

The Time Line:

- 1952 CCMPA founded and becomes a member of FCM
- 1974 CCMPA becomes a charter member of WUSV
- 2008 CCMPA expelled from FCM by Jose Payro acting as FCM president
- 2015 Heinrich Messler replaces Henke as SV president.
- 2017 WUSV / FCI agreement terminated by FCI at Payro's instigation.
- 2019 Tamas Jakkel replaces Rafael de Santiago as FCI president.
- 2019 UMPA is created by Jose Payro as a member of FCM
(UMPA was never a member of WUSV)
- 2019 Nov 20 Payro email to Messler with FCI conditions for agreement
- 2019 Dec FCI at the instigation of Payro with the backing of Jakkel forbids SV judges going to CCMPA and other non FCI clubs such as USCA.—
Thus CCMPA can get judges neither from FCM or SV and is more or less dead in the water.
Result: Mr. Payro has what he wants, a lock on the Mexican GSD market.
- 2020 March: European court rules restraint of trade, allows SV judges to CCMPA, USCA and all others, severely reprimanding the FCI and breathing life back into CCMPA.

The repeated references to "instigation of Payro" require explanation. The FCI is a one nation, one vote institution, which means that Nicaragua with a little more than 200 yearly purebred registrations has the exact same vote as France with 230,000. Mr. Payro, as president of the FCI Americas and Caribbean Section, is a very important and influential man in the small central and south American nations, where they are not quite sure whether such an important person ranks just above or just below god in the overall canine scheme of things. More to the point, while the German Shepherd has been the most numerous breed in the world for decades, and the SV the most influential breed club internationally as well as in Germany, they have relatively limited influence over the single VDH vote.

When Tamas Jakkel began to think about how important and respected he would become were he to be elected FCI president it would be the most natural thing in the world for it to come up in conversation with his old friend Payro, who would be reminded of possible future events that would contribute to his personal happiness and wealth. Being from Chicago it is not the least bit difficult to see where this is going; and several European acquaintances who are in a position to know indicate that this is much more than likely.

While the immediate prelude to the clash between the WUSV and FCI was the ongoing corruption of the Mexican canine establishment the underlying compelling factor was the increasing influence of the WUSV in German Shepherd affairs around the world, particularly among non FCI national clubs such as USCA. These relationships, now beyond FCI reach, are increasingly regarded by the insiders as renegade, which was ultimately what led to the termination of the existing cooperative agreement with the WUSV. The FCI insiders perceived imminent loss of control—and their plush places in the canine world—and were striking out in desperation.

Thus, as we have seen, in late 2019 this escalated to the ban on SV judges going to external foreign clubs, such as USCA, CCMPA and others. Apparently the FCI had the expectation, or at the least hope, that the Germans would go belly up, and at first it looked like their wicked gambit was going to succeed as the SV office sent out a directive to WUSV clubs throughout the world halting foreign SV judge service as of January 1, 2020. But this backfired big time two days later when WUSV president Heinrich Messler, who had been in the hospital and thus out of the loop, vigorously repudiated this acceptance and initiated ultimately successful legal action.

This was to have been the moment of triumph for the FCI General Committee where they would have inflicted the *coup de grâce* once and for all. But sometimes you do reap what you sow: as events played out the result was the infliction of enormous damage to FCI power, profitability, prestige and reputation for rectitude. Things can never be the same, try as they might they are not going to put this genie back in the bottle.

Corruption of this sort, pervasive and of long standing, permeates and infects far beyond the individuals and issues directly involved here. FCI officers knowingly and willfully created an all pervasive environment forcing kennel clubs around the world to adhere to regulations which were egregious violations of competition law and contrary to normal decent behavior. This has, for instance, been the cause of intervention of the Spanish government in the affairs of the Spanish FCI member organization, which presents serious problems in terms of the public perception of fair play and rectitude.

Others in the Cross Hairs

Although this Mexican saga is particularly egregious, it is far from unique in that many other WUSV members were threatened with imminent consequences:

- United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USA)
- German Shepherd Schutzhund Club of Canada (Canada)
- Club Canofilo Mexicano de Pastor Aleman, A.C (Mexico)
- Korean Kennel Club (Korea)
- Bulgarischer Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (Bulgaria)
- Magyarorszagi Nemet Juhaszkutya Klub (Hungary)
- National German Shepherd Working Dog Association GSA (Ireland)

- WGSDDA (Australia)
- Societe du Chien de Berger Allemand (Lebanon)
- German Shepherd Dog Club of Egypt (Egypt)
- Deutsche Schäferhunde Rasse und Sport Verein (Turkey)
- Kuwait K9 Association (KK9A) (Kuwait)
- Real C.E.P.P.A. (Spain)
- Zentralclub für Deutsche Schäferhunde der Ukraine (Ukraine)
- Verband der Vereine des Deutschen Schäferhundes Japan (JPDS) (Japan)
- German Shepherd Dog Federation of the Philippines. (Philippines)
- Pastor Alemão Clube de Portugal. (PACP) (Portugal)
- Cyprus German Shepherd Club (Cyprus)
- GSD Association of Mongolia (Mongolia)
- German Shepherd Dog Owners Association Malaysia (Malaysia)
- German Shepherd Dog Advisory Council (New Zealand)

Spain

The situation in Spain is very similar to that in Mexico, that is a deeply corrupt FCI national club, RSCE (Real Sociedad Canina de Espana) has been set up as a stalking horse in opposition to a long standing legitimate breed club in order to retain national German Shepherd affairs in the hands of quasi commercial marketing operations and opportunistic dog politicians.

Thus there are now two German Shepherd clubs in Spain, one a WUSV member and the other affiliated with RSCE, the Spanish FCI member club:

- Real CEPPA is the 40 year original Spanish GSD club and staunch WUSV supporter with about 1600 members
- SECPA is a recent upstart in collaboration with RSCE. SECPA has repeatedly sought WUSV membership in place of CEPPA, making the argument that only they have recognition and support of the FCI in Spain. No more than 150 members

Unfortunately RSCE allows the registration of virtually anything that can walk as a German Shepherd, even by nonmembers. SECPA supports and encourages RSCE in their refusal to recognize anything from CEPPA, such as judges or titles and refusal to allow CEPPA dogs participation in RSCE activities. This behavior stands in the way of SECPA WUSV membership.

Spain is thus yet another nation where a predatory, money motivated canine establishment has been thwarted by court decisions enabling the SV to send judges wherever they deem appropriate without FCI interference.

[More information](#)

USA

In America USCA is a strong, resilient organization with a mature college of world class performance judges and thus was in a bit less immediate danger. Since the AKC, CKC and British KC are cooperating non-member organizations with the FCI and thus for these purposes "under the umbrella," according to the original FCI ban GSDCA could have borrowed SV judges but USCA would have been denied.

But since both USCA and GSDCA are WUSV members in good standing had it proven necessary it would have been relatively straightforward to bring in under GSDCA auspices judges that for all practical purposes would serve USCA as well as GSDCA members, especially in that many Americans are dual members. Depending on leadership attitudes this would have either brought USCA and GSDCA much closer together or caused a serious conflict. This was a serious issue for the international community as a whole in that

lack of American unity would have been a wedge threatening the viability of the WUSV.

Whatever Happened to Frans Jansen?

Over the years an internet search on the FCI would yield seemingly plausible results provided in a superficial pretense of openness. Of particular interest was the Utility Dog Commission, responsible for the IPO program, which included a listing of officers and some 34 delegates of various FCI nations, complete with email addresses.

This made possible occasional interchanges with delegates or former delegates, and a disquieting pattern emerged: in reality the delegates seldom if ever met, had very little real influence or even timely information, routinely being informed after the fact of actions taken by a mysterious Executive Committee.

Over the years the Utility Dog Committee president Frans Jansen, of the Netherlands, had taken on an increasingly prominent role speaking for the FCI with apparent authority and escalating confidence. But then in early 2019 his stock, at least in American eyes, plummeted as it became apparent that many of his statements were in fact bald-faced lies.

Suddenly in mid-2019 this all went dark: Jansen seemed to evaporate from the face of the earth and all meaningful content, including delegate listings, had been stripped from the web page. This commission was in reality a complete fabrication maintained for propaganda purposes by the FCI spin doctors. (The last known listing is here: [FCI Utility Dog Commission, 2018](#))

This FCI bureaucracy is particularly foggy and opaque with feckless flunkies such as Jansen more or less free to strut and speak—as if they had actual knowledge or real authority—with essentially no oversight. The General Committee—the insiders with real power—were focused on the ornamental dogs and had very little interest in working dog affairs.

All of this changed when the Mexican standoff took center stage. Suddenly withholding SV performance judges became a seemingly potent political weapon, to be wielded by the big boys who had taken sudden interest in working dog affairs.

Paradigm Change

The December 2019 FCI ban on international sharing of SV judges beyond the FCI umbrella was a shot heard round the world intended to eradicate WUSV influence and power once and for all. With the arguable exception of two world wars this was in many ways the most serious threat yet to the integrity of the breed, the legacy of the founders. Twenty one WUSV clubs were in imminent jeopardy. For the SV this was a moment of truth.

As mentioned previously disaster was averted two days later, just before Christmas, when Dr. Messler repudiated SV acceptance of the ban and in conjunction with the Spanish and American WUSV leaders appealed to the European courts on the grounds of illegal restraint of trade. They prevailed, delivering an irrevocable hammer blow to FCI hegemony. It is impossible to overstate the long term importance of this for the entire world canine community; it was and is a paradigm change in every sense of the word.

This reigning in and emasculation of the FCI will result in a period of flux and stress as the various organizations seek to refine and stabilize

relationships. If this proceeds in a rational and orderly manner with good will and seeking of mutual accommodation then the beneficiaries will for once be those with the boots on the ground, the rank and file of trainers and breeders.

The FCI is deeply entrenched, of long standing and enormously influential. It has very little concern for the vitality of our utility breeds and a strong tendency to focus on ornamental dogs and marginalize working dog affairs. It is at core enormously corrupt. In order for the purebred world order to retain viability they must be purged and reformed, or perhaps eradicated, in order to rebuild on virgin soil. Refurbishment within the context of the current regime would seem to be very unlikely.

Jim Engel, Marengo, Copyright December 2020, Rev 12/26/2020

Background and Reference

[Decline and Fall of the House of von Stephanitz](#)

[Who Owns the House of von Stephanitz?](#)

[German Shepherd Police Service Legacy](#)

[Working Dog Organizations: Structure and Ongoing Conflict](#)

[Glossary](#)

[German Shepherd Police Dog Heritage Repudiated](#)

[SV Abandons Work Test for Breeding](#)

[AWDF, Stillborn American Elite](#)

[Supreme Authority of the Canine World](#)

[Emergence of a new Canine World Order](#)

[American Consequences of the WUSV Vindication](#)

[The Way Forward](#)

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[Legacy Lost, the Other Breeds](#)

[Temperament or Character Testing](#)

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[Schutzhund America](#)

[Ongoing FCI / WUSV Strife](#)

Much more historical detail can be found in my police dog book:

[The Police Dog: Evolution, History and Service](#)

Conacts & References

There is some obscure terminology which I generally try to avoid but which does come up from time to time:

NCO National Canine Organization