**EARNING AND AWARDING SERVICE HONOR MEDALS**

Most LV America members are aware of the handler sport medals that can be obtained by successfully participating in trials and earning titles on their dogs.  Medals can be earned from both our umbrella parent organization, the dhv (Deutsche Hundesportverband), and also from the German Kennel Club, the VDH (Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen).  Information regarding these Handler medals and how to earn them is to be found elsewhere in this Handbook, along with the proper form to use.

There are other medals that can be awarded to members of LV America.  These are medals that are awarded for service to the organization, whether at the club, KG or LV levels.  These are medals for the people who do all the work organizing the club as officers, serve in the capacity of trial chairman for trials, build the jump and wall, haul the equipment, help with training and so on.  They are for the people who go on to become KG and LV officers, take on the job of hosting a Nationals, train helpers, go out to new clubs to help them start their training programs, etc.  In other words, these are the medals for the people whose involvement in the sport goes beyond the everyday training of their own dogs for titles.  The medals are awarded in a specific fashion by both DVG and the VDH and are earned in a specific order.

Applications for these medals have a specific protocol that must be followed and applications for  worthy individuals can be made by the following:

**a) For individual club members by the President of the club;**

**b) For the President of a member club within a Kreisgruppe and for members of a Kreisgruppe Board (except for the KG President) by the KG President;**

**c) For the President of a Kreisgruppe and for members of the LV Board (except for the LV President) by the LV President;**

**d) For the President of the LV (as a member of the DVG Board) by the DVG President.  In this case, the DVG Executive Board decides upon the awarding of the medal.**

The term, "Verdienst", basically means "service", and simply being a long time member of the organization doesn't make a member eligible for any service or honor medals.  There are pins awarded to long time members simply for remaining members that come at 10, 25, 40, 50, 60 and 75 years, and anyone who remains a member for many years will automatically receive these.

The following service, or honor, medals can be earned:

**Service Honor Pins (DVG)**

1) Verdienstnadel (Service Pin)

2) Goldene Ehrennadel (Gold Honor Pin)

3) Goldene Ehrennade mit Kranz (Gold Honor Pin w/Wreath)

4) Große Verbandsehrennadel (Grand Organization Honor Pin)

5) Große Verbandsehrennadel mit Kranz (Grand Organization Honor Pin w/Wreath)

(In the case of numbers 4 and 5, these cannot be applied for at either the club or KG level, only at the LV level or higher.)

**Service Honor Pins (VDH)**

1) Silberne Ehrennadel (Silver Honor Pin)

2) Goldene Ehrennadel (Gold Honor Pin)

3) Goldene Ehrennadel mit Kranz (Gold Honor Pin w/Wreath)

4) Goldene Ehrennadel mit Kranz und Brillant (Gold Honor Pin w/Wreath & Diamond)

The basis for issuing the **DVG** pins and making the application for them is as follows:

a) **Verdienstnadel** -- This is the first service honor pin that can be awarded to a member and application for this pin can only be made after 5 full years of membership upon proof of special service to the club or organization.

b) **Goldene Ehrennadel --** This award can be applied for after 15 years of membership upon proof of special service to the club/organization and only after the member has previously been awarded the VDH medal in silver (Silberne Ehrennadel)

c) **Goldene Ehrennadel mit Kranz** -- Three years after being awarded the DVG Goldene Ehrennadel and after receiving the VDH Gold Medal (VDH Goldene Ehrennadel), a member is eligible to receive this award.  This pin can only be awarded with proof of special service to the organization in the sense of dedication by the person to whom the pin is being awarded, not for personal gain, but rather for the good of the club and/or KG, LV, organization, etc.

d) **Große Verbandsehrennadel** -- Awarding of this pin occurs upon recommendation of the responsible LV President to the DVG Executive Board when the person to whom the pin is to be given has realized 30 years of exceptional service to the organization.  Detailed reasons for presenting the award are to be given and the member must already have received the VDH Gold Medal with Wreath.

e) **Große Verbandsehrennadel mit Kranz** -- This award occurs upon recommendation of the DVG President to the DVG Executive Board when the person to whom the pin is to be awarded has performed exceptional service to the organization and holds the Große Verbandsehrennadel.

For the highest honor pin, especially stringent standards are to be applied.  There are to be no more than 15 people honored with this pin.

 The basis for awarding of the **VDH** honor pins and making application for them is as follows:

a) **Silberne VDH-Ehrennadel mit Urkunde** (VDH Silver Honor Pin with Certificate) -- This pin can only be awarded after a minimum membership of 5 years in a VDH member organization.  Within DVG, it can only be issued after the recipient has already been awarded the DVG Verdienstnadel.

b) **Goldene VDH-Ehrennadel mit Urkunde** (VDH Gold Honor Pin with Certificate) -- A continuous membership of a minimum of 15 years within a VDH member organization is required before this pin can be awarded to a member.  Awarding this pin to a member requires that the member has provided many years of service to the organization by serving on club/KG/LV Boards, organizing and participating in trials, doing special service for the organization, etc.

c) **Goldene VDH-Ehrennadel mit Kranz und Urkunde** (VDH Gold Honor Pin with Wreath and Certificate) -- This pin can only be awarded to a member after a minimum of 25 years continuous membership in a VDH member organization.  The member to be so honored must have performed prominently within dog activities, or especially, have rendered decades of service within the dog world, and must have previously received the DVG Gold Honor Pin with Wreath.

d) **Goldene VDH-Ehrennadel mit Kranz und Brillant und Urkunde** (VDH Gold Honor Pin with Wreath and Diamond and Certificate) -- This highest award of distinction is bestowed through resolution of the VDH Executive Board for extraordinary service only to such persons who through their service have had great influence upon the dog world.   No more than 10 living people may hold this award at any time.

In addition to the above regulations, the following prerequisites are binding within DVG:

**1) Awarding of the VDH Silver Medal requires that the DVG Verdienstnadel first be earned.**

**2) Awarding of the VDH Gold Medal requires that the DVG Gold Honor Pin first has been previously received.**

**3) Awarding of the VDH Gold Medal with Wreath requires that the DVG Gold Honor Pin with wreath has been previously awarded.**

**4) Awarding of the VDH Gold Medal with Wreath and Diamond is subject exclusively to the determination of the VDH Board.**

In requesting the VDH honor awards, keep in mind that the above regulations are to be followed precisely and before requesting the VDH honor awards, the respective interim DVG awards must be earned.

This is the order for the awards:

**1. DVG -- Verdienstnadel**

**2. VDH -- Silver Honor Pin**

**3. DVG Gold Honor Pin**

**4. VDH Gold Honor Pin**

**5. DVG Gold Honor Pin with Wreath**

**6. VDH Gold Honor Pin with Wreath**

**IMPORTANT NOTE WHEN APPLYING FOR EITHER VDH OR DVG HONOR PINS:**

**ALL APPLICATIONS FOR HONOR PINS ARE TO BE SENT ONLY TO THE DVG OFFICE.  THE DVG OFFICE MUST VERIFY THE INFORMATION ON THE FORM BEFORE ANY HONOR PINS CAN BE ISSUED.  DO NOT SEND APPLICATION TO THE ADDRESS ON THE APPLICATION FORM INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS SECTION.**

**AFTER ALL SIGNATURES OF APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF MERIT ARE OBTAINED, SEND THE APPLICATION TO:**

**DVG HAUPTGESCHÄEFTSSTELLE**

**Postfach 6006**

**44517 Luenen,**

**Germany**

**KEY FOR DETERMINING PREVIOUSLY EARNED HONOR PINS**

Each year sometime in early December, the president of each member club as well as the president and secretary of each Kreisgruppe, receives a printout from the DVG office in Germany.  This printout contains the names of all of the members of the club for the present calendar year, including all of those who may have joined in mid-year.  Beside the names of anyone for whom a cancellation form has been turned in by the club, there is an asterisk.

But besides this information, there are, under some members' names, additional numbers.  These numbers give specific information about these members, such as to which clubs the member has previously belonged, and, more importantly, which Handler or Honor medals the member has previously received.

The following is the example given on the key page distributed by the DVG office:

**(Club Nr.)**         **(Membership #)**            **(Member's Name)**         **(DOB)**      **Eintritt in den (Admission**

**MV-Nr.                  Mg.-Nr.                                Mitglied (Member)             Geb.-Dat.    jetzigen MV  (into this club)**

01-1-01             0025639                       Mustermann, Herbert     15.12.50           01.10.85

**01-2-03             59-84\***

\*This number sequence means that from 1959 through 1984, Herr Mustermann belonged to member club 01-2-03.  Earlier membership periods will only be listed if there has been no break in membership.  In other words, a member has gone directly from one club to another without period of time during which he/she held no membership in a DVG club.

**If there are additional lines under a member's name and numbers appear as shown below:**

**1          2          21        [ =        Verleihungsschlüssel (Awards Key)]**

**69        70        74        [ =        Jahreszahl (Year)]**

**These have special significance and mean that Herr Mustermann received the DVG Verdienstnadel (1) in the 1969 (69), the VDH Silver Medal (2) in 1970 (70) and the VDH Grand Gold Handlers Medal (21) in 1974 (74).**

These end of the year printouts contain all of the information for every DVG member that is contained in the data base in the DVG office in Germany, insofar as club affiliation(s) are concerned, sport medals earned and honor medals awarded.  It is from these end of the year printouts that club presidents, KG presidents and the LV Board president can track the accomplishments of all of the members.  It is also how to determine, based upon the number of years of membership, for what honor medals a member might possible be eligible.

It is important to keep in mind above all that while the dhv and VDH Handler Sport Medals are available to all LV America members, based upon their efforts with their dogs and performances within trials at all levels, whether club, KG or LV, the Honor Medals have special significance.   These are to be requested for and issued to only those members who have made significant contributions to the organization, whether at the club, KG or LV levels.

One of the duties of the officers of the clubs, the KG's and the LV is to recognize those members who put forth effort above and beyond everyday participation in the sport in order to preserve and promote the sport and the organization.  One of the ways in which this can be accomplished is for the appropriate officers to apply for honor pins for those deserving members and award them with ceremonies befitting the importance of the occasion.

**KEY TO AWARDS AS SHOWN ON END OF THE YEAR PRINTOUTS**

(It's a little confusing as to why there are different numbers after the number 20 in the first column as opposed to the sequential numbering in the second column.  However, both columns of numbers are being included, though the one with the most significance is the second column of numbers, which are related to the specific pins or medals awarded.)

**Pos.     Nr.                   Award**

1          1                      DVG-Verdienstnadel

2          2                      VDH Silver Honor Pin

3          3                      DVG Gold Honor Pin

4          4                      VDH Gold Honor Pin

5          5                      DVG Gold Honor Pin with Wreath

6          6                      VDH Gold Honor Pin with Wreath

7          7                      DVG Grand Organization Honor Pin

8          8                      DVG Grand Organization Honor Pin with Wreath

9          9                      VDH Gold Honor Pin with Wreath and Diamond

10        10                    Patron of the Dog Sport

11        11                    Honor Member

12        12                    10 Year DVG Jubilee Pin

13        13                    25 Year DVG Jubilee Pin

14        14                    40 Year DVG Jubilee Pin

15        15                    50 Year DVG Jubilee Pin

16        16                    60 Year DVG Jubilee Pin

17        17                    75 Year DVG Jubilee Pin

18        18                    VDH Handler Sport Medal in Bronze

19        19                    VDH Handler Sport Medal in Silver

20        20                    VDH Handler Sport Medal in Gold

1          21                    VDH Handler Grand Sport Medal

2          22                    VDH Handler Grand Sport Medal with Wreath

3          23                    dhv Handler Performance Medal in Bronze

4          24                    dhv Handler Performance Medal in Silver

5          25                    dhv Handler Performance Medal in Gold

6          26                    dhv Handler Performance Medal in Gold with Wreath

7          27                    Medal for Successful Commitment to the Dog

8          28                    DVG Youth Sport Award

9          29                    dhv Gold Performance Pin with Wreath 2

10        30                    dhv Gold Performance Pin with Wreath 3

11        31                    dhv Gold Performance Pin with Wreath 4

12        32                    dhv Gold Performance Pin with Wreath 5

There is an additional page included with this key that simply lists all of the LV's and KG's by number.  The numbers for LV America are the LV is number 11; number 1 Kreisgruppe is the Midwest Region; number 2 Kreisgruppe is KG North; number 3 Kreisgruppe is the Southeast Region; and number 4 Kreisgruppe is the Western Region.

[Click here for the form](http://dvg-america.com/forms/HONOR_MEDAL_Form.pdf) which is only to be used to apply for the Honor Pins.

**One important note: If applying specifically for DVG Honor Pins, as opposed to VDH Honor Pins, use the same form, simply crossing out VDH and replacing it with DVG.  Since all applications are to be sent to the DVG office, the office will understand the proper pin to be issued.**