

Winter 2005

The Greater Swiss Mountain Mail

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Swissy-Sitting CO-OP Specialty

Alison Burns, Editor
376 Kingbird Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

The Greater Swiss Mountain Mail is a publication of the GSMDCR. Any opinions expressed should be regarded solely as those of the original author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the GSMDCR, the Club's Officers or Directors, or the Editor

Happy New Year!!!!

There have been a few "goings on" amongst the membership in the last few months. In October the club had a membership meeting at Carolyn's house *a little bit off the highway*. There were humans and Swissies of all ages. Calling motions was a challenge amongst the Barroohs that indicated a desire to run into the river.

In December the members met at a South Denver Dog Park for some fun with new Members and play in the snow.

With all of the new puppies and members, it seems fitting to remind everyone of how to love our Swissies. Below are the headers, please see "Articles" on <http://www.greaterswiss.com/> for the complete story...

21 Ways to Love Your Swissy

by Dori Likevich

1. UNDERSTAND THE BREED
2. CRATE TRAIN YOUR SWISSY
3. TEACH YOUR SWISSY BITE INHIBITION
4. CUDDLE, DON'T *CODDLE* YOUR SWISSY
5. SOCIALIZE YOUR SWISSY
6. TAKE YOUR SWISSY TO PUPPY KINDERGARTEN CLASS
7. KEEP YOUR SWISSY OBEDIENCE TRAINED
8. TEACH YOUR SWISSY TO 'WAIT'
9. TEACH YOUR SWISSY TO 'HEEL'
10. TEACH YOUR SWISSY THE 'RECALL'
11. TEACH YOUR SWISSY THE 'DOWN-STAY'
12. BE CONSISTENT
13. MAKE A COMMAND SOUND LIKE A COMMAND
14. BE REALISTIC
15. PRACTICE THE 3 P'S - PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE AND PRAISE
16. LET YOUR SWISSY EARN HIS KEEP
17. BE YOUR SWISSY'S PACK LEADER
18. TEACH YOUR SWISSY TO PLAY NICELY
19. WORK THAT BODY!
20. LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE
21. MAKE YOUR SWISSY A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY

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GSMDCR Membership Meeting

Nancy Levine - Recording Secretary Pro-tem

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF THE ROCKIES
Meeting held in Loveland, CO - home of Carolynn Wamsley
Minutes of the 10/03/04 Membership Meeting

Club Members Present: Carolynn Wamsley, Todd & Sandi Snyder, Alison Burns, Veronica Kern, Scott & Barb Poulson, Nancy Levine, Teri Goldberg, Andrew & Heather Stephenitch

Meeting was opened at 12:15 PM by Carolynn Wamsley.

President's Report - The Story of "Stone Soup" - Moral: With everyone contributing what they can, a greater good is achieved.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer's report stated that the balance as of 09-30-04 is \$4955.80.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: (Sandi Snyder)

Welcome new members - Stephen and Heather Stephenitch

New Committees being formed:

Health: Nancy Levine & Veronica Kern

Working: Jon Krauss

Social: Heather Stephenitch

Media/Breed Awareness: Alison Burns & Sandi Snyder

Show: No one has signed up yet

Unfinished Business:

It was moved (Alison Burns) and seconded (Todd Snyder) for the GSMDCR to put on a Regional Specialty in conjunction with the National Specialty to be held in Snowmass Colorado September 2006. Votes: 8 yes, 0 no

New Business:

1) Alison Burns has created a Swissy Calendar she has offered to the club to use as a fund-raiser. It was moved (Nancy Levine) and seconded (Veronica Kerns) that the club adopt the calendar. Approx. cost would be \$20-\$25. Votes: 9 yes, 0 no

2) New Club Business cards where presented to Club members present

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

PROGRAM: Presented By Therapy Dogs, Inc. www.therapydogs.com

Guest speakers Stacy Schultz-Bisset and Carolyn Turberville - discussed Therapy Dog work and how to get started. Two Swissies where temperament tested and passed their first leg to becoming Certified Therapy Dogs.

UPDATES:

Calendar Update - Calendars were shipped all over the states, including ALASKA, to Swissy owners and lovers!

There are still some left, so if you are interested send an email to ali.burns@comcast.net

What is New with the Members?

The GSMDCR welcomes the following new members:

Stephen and Heather Stephenitch from Aurora joined the club with Ruben, their 18-month-old lap dog. Since becoming members at the club meeting in October, they were instantly put to work! Thank you Heather for signing up to coordinate club activities. The Fall Fling was a success with Swissies young and old, big and small - and members new and old. We also look forward to the Picnic in February.



Jon Krauss from Aurora also joined the club in parallel to becoming a new Swissy Human! John has CedarCove's Jacksonville - "Truman". He is interested in Obedience, Carting and Pack Hiking. You will also find an article earlier in the newsletter from John. Truman can be seen on weekends attending puppy kindergarten after a morning romping around the park with the big Swissies.

Phil and Lilli Almon from Castle Rock have also recently joined the club with their six-month-old Derby's Great Inga - "Inga". The Almon's, along with their two sons and Jack Russell, are interested in conformation and obedience. Look for Inga in the ring soon...as well as the local parks.



THE SWISS PUP EXPERIENCE

Jon Krauss

Finding a great dog really begins with finding a great breeder. Breeding a puppy and especially a Swiss puppy takes so much time and investment on behalf of the breeder. It is a patient process finding the right dog and making sure that you have the healthiest bitch, and is ready for breeding. There is a high cost of vet bills, ultrasound, high quality dog food, not to mention the time it will take the breeder to whelp the puppies. The breeder is the key to have the emotional and instinctive abilities to give the pups there strong start in life. The puppies start out so small and vulnerable to cold temperatures and viruses. It is imperative to prepare for the pregnancy as well as the whelping and finally lactation period where the mother teaches the puppies all the rules to becoming a big powerful dog.

When I took home my Swiss pup I thought that I was very well prepared, I had been planning this for months. I had just finished signing the contracts with my breeder and had all my questions answered, and was full of information. I must have had too much information for I was in a hurry to get my Swiss socialized. On the second day on taking my pup home I took him to a dog park. This is an obvious mistake to me now, but at the time I really had forgotten all the reasons of why I should not do this. The most obvious to me now is that the puppy needs time to adjust to the new environment that he was in. There are so many new viruses that the puppy is already being exposed to in just the new place alone. It is essential that the new puppy not be exposed to the viruses that are in the parks until at least the next eight weeks in the new home of the puppy. "The puppy is not ready to be exposed to a host of viruses namely the Parvo virus. The virus is a close relative of feline distemper. The virus is extremely hardy and survives for long period outside its host. The virus will live in the environment up to 6 months and survives winter nicely under a blanket of snow. Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) is the only disinfecting agent." The Swiss pup will pick up anything especially toilet paper and eat it. Any dog will for that matter. I carry a small bag of dog food in my coat pocket and offer the puppy a quick alternative. It is nearly impossible to take the object out of the puppy's mouth before he swallows it. If you have this quick treat available you can usually trade it out. The veterinarian suggests not taking the Swissy out until the series of vaccinations are completed.

Choosing a veterinarian was not nearly as difficult as I tried to make it. This decision really came down to finding the best emergency service in close proximity to where I live. Really each veterinarian office is going to charge about the same for routine visits. The decision for me was a matter of thinking of emergency situations like the gastric bloat that this breed is prone to. Gastric bloat is an emergency that time is of the essence. The quicker you can get to the veterinarian the better the outcome falls in the Swiss's favor. Unless you are ready to take the emergency procedures on yourself, so proximity to a 24-hour emergency hospital was a deciding factor.

Potty training a Swissy is a whole other experience, not one that I was wholly prepared for. One must really consider that the Swiss breeds drinks more water than a lot of other breeds. What goes in does come out. If you love clean carpets and a spotless house more than you love dogs you may want to really consider what you're in for. This is a breed who loves to be indoors on the carpet at your feet and close to a warm fireplace. It takes considerable patience and clean up in regards to this puppy. You will probably need to give this puppy at least four months to have enough bladder control before you can expect any real progress. Look at your house closely to determine how you are going to clean up after this puppy. Punishing the puppy for these accidents is not an option. Kennel training is the best way to get the dog to hold it in for a short period of time as his/her bladder is adjusting to not relieving all over your carpet.

Training your Swiss: I had been in a long training period with some other dogs. I found that finding a puppy kindergarten was still extremely useful to the puppy and the owner. There are still so many new techniques to learn from taking a new class in a different environment, and a different trainer. It is good to have a trainer evaluate the puppy, and the owner. This is my first Swissy and the dog has different responses than other dogs I had. You can find a puppy training class at your local Pet Smart, or your local parks and recreation. The classes are fun and will make a world of difference in the relationship that you foster early on for the rest of your dogs life.

Bibliography

Quote Veterinary Information Services (Internet Search) 01/08/1999

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

Club of the Rockies

2005 Membership Renewal

NOTE: If you are upgrading from an Associate membership, you will need sponsorship from a club member. Please contact Sandi for details.

(check one)

Household Membership
\$32.00

Individual Membership
\$20.00

Associate Membership
\$18.00

.....
Membership is for the year 2005
Voting privileges apply to Household
and Individual Memberships only.

*Please complete this form and
enclose along with a check
payable to*

GSMDCR

and send it to:

Sandi Snyder
P.O. Box 987
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Information for your name and address

Member's Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make sure these are the best number and e-mail address to reach you regarding club business.

Children's Names and Ages: _____

GSMD AKC Name: _____

Call Name: _____ Whelp Date: _____

Sex: _____ Breeder: _____

AKC Registration Number: _____

PRINT NAME: _____	SIGNATURE: _____
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GSMDCR - Club Officers and Members

Carolynn Wamsley - President

Todd Snyder - Vice President

Corresponding Secretary - Teri Goldberg

Recording Secretary - Harry Austin

Treasurer - Alison Burns

Directors: Veronica Kern & Don Dickenson

Almon	Phil and Lilli	Castle Rock	CO	palmon@mcdinvest.com
Antiporda	Art & Michele	Aurora	CO	artandmich@comcast.net
Austin	Harry Austin & Patricia LaVallee	Salt Lake City	UT	harryaustin_490@msn.com
Bauman	Renata Bauman & Nick Rosen	Denver	CO	rkbauman@aol.com
Beer	Anne & Henry	Boulder	CO	abeer@csd.net
Black	Robin	Littleton	CO	dcblack5@aol.com
Brown	Terry & Bev	Lakewood	CO	Calypso8127@cs.com
Burns	Alison Burns & John Woods	Highlands Ranch	CO	alison@lucent.com
Claxton	Jeff & Kim	Aurora	CO	mcentprs@covad.net
Dickenson	Don Dickenson & Cheryl Skoty-Dickenson	Englewood	CO	ddickens@du.edu
Duffy	Connie Duffy & Mike Mercier	Englewood	CO	dconnie9@comcast.net
Dyer	Ross & Sally	Steamboat Springs	CO	rdyer@aeriosdirect.com
Fuller	Ken	Los Alamos	NM	krfuller@losalamos-nm.com
Garvey	Jane & Michael	Alpharetta	GA	janegarvey@adelphia.net
Gilpatrick	Doug	Santa Fe	NM	svelte@zianet.com
Goldberg	Teri & Paul	Evergreen	CO	damon@frii.com
Karlinski	Suzy & Andy	Snowmass Village	CO	karlinski@comcast.net
Keener	Ryan & Cindy	Loveland	CO	coloradokeeners@hotmail.com
Kern	Veronica	Frederick	CO	veronicakern@yahoo.com
Krauss	Jon	Aurora	CO	jonric_777@yahoo.com
Lange	Karen	Wheat Ridge	CO	kmgl@coswissy.com
Levine	Nancy	Denver	CO	nancy@nancyalevine.com
Luster	Keri	Englewood	CO	
Miller	Mary Margaret and Todd	Alva	OK	mmmgsmd62@yahoo.com
Northam	Emily	Palmer	AK	enorsmith@yahoo.com
Peterson-Lipscomb	Deba	McKinney	TX	debapeterson@aol.com
Poulson	Scott & Barb	Littleton	CO	bmp@peakpeak.com
Price	Lori	Washington	DC	jotunheimLP@verizon.net
Ruote	Mark & Chris	Wheat Ridge	CO	mckruote@comcast.net
Shuler	Paula Shuler & Joe Schaap	Longmont	CO	pshuler@mac.com
Skoty	Ron & Nancy	Englewood	CO	none
Snyder	Todd & Sandi	Castle Rock	CO	Todd@Swissy.com
Stephenitch	Heather and Andy	Aurora	CO	hbsmall@comcast.net
Stinebaugh	Senesa	Fort Collins	CO	senesa@msn.com
Wamsley	Carolynn	Loveland	CO	cnmngri@aol.com
Williamson	Mary	Steamboat Springs	CO	chuckw@springsips.com
Wilson	Jay	Boulder	CO	minidocjay@earthlink.net

Swissy Tracks – Snowshoeing with Dogs

Breckenridge Old Mining Trails

By Alison Burns

Location: Breckenridge, CO

Round Trip: 2.6 miles

Elevation Range: 10,330 to 10,680

We live in the Rocky Mountains with an abundance of winter activities at our doorstep. Not all activities can involve our four-legged friends though, and, as much as we want to get out and romp in the snow – so do they! Snowshoeing is a great way to get out there with our dogs and families. There are numerous trails and “closed” roads available to us all throughout the state, both on and off leash.

John and I ventured out to Breckenridge to explore some great off-leash trails earlier this season. We came across an old mining area with a 3-mile round trip trail that was a blast. The trail leads out to the Sally Barber Mine, and the vistas are wonderful. There is also a dirt road (not apparent under the snow) that offers an 8-mile round trip hike that we have done in the summer, but seemed more than we needed for the first snowshoe of the season ☺

If you chose to take the longer route, stop about 1-mile into the road to visit two Bernese Mountain dogs that live in one of the few houses you pass along the way. You will find them very friendly and willing to play with the dogs and lean on the humans.

There are a few really good books on the Colorado Snowshoe trails, but “Snowshoeing Colorado” (sold at REI) lists whether dogs are allowed off-lead, on-lead or not at all. They are also good about the elevation and mileage so you can plan appropriate to you and your dog’s readiness.



Eldora ski area also offers some great groomed trails that are shared with cross-country skiers. The Hesse Road and Lost Lake trails are nice and flat, and are at a lower elevation. Even though the trail is groomed, there is usually fresh snow to add to the challenge. As with most trails, the dogs will soon find the deep stuff to romp in...

As with hiking in the warmer months, remember to bring plenty of water for yourself and the dogs. After the trek, head into the local town for a nice snack and wandering around with the dogs. A tired dog is very well behaved and it becomes a great socializing day!

Watch for a club sponsored adventure later this season! If you can hike, you can snowshoe. REI and other sporting centers offer rentals as well – and this is a great way to determine if this is an activity you would like to pursue.

Upcoming Events

Sunday February 20th the club will be organizing a picnic in the early afternoon at a local Denver Park - stay tuned for a separate e-mailing or contact Heather Stephenitch at hbsmall@comcast.net for details

The Rocky Mountain Cluster

National Western Complex

Denver, CO

Friday February 18th - Monday February 21st

Four All Breed Dog Shows, Obedience Trials, Four Rally Trials, and Four Agility Trials

Show Closes 02/02/05

Saturday February 29th at 2:00PM "Meet the Breed" Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

Terry-All Kennel Club

Brighton, CO

Saturday April 16th - Sunday April 17th

Conformation and Obedience Trials

Show Closes 03/30/05

International Dog Show

March 19-20, 2005

Super Weekend - 4 Shows / 2 Days

Island Grove Regional Park; Greeley, CO

Visit www.iabca.com for details

Draft Test

April 23, 2005

BMDC of the Rockies (Bernese Mountain Dog Club)

Haney Park; Littleton, CO

Contact Lou Tucker (303) 791-4425 / btldog@msn.com for details

HOLD THESE DATES!!!

The 3rd Annual GSMDCR Hike - Snowmass Village, Colorado

August 26-28, 2005

The countdown is on to the 2006 GSMDCA National Specialty. In a little over a year the Rocky Mountains will be full of swissies. Come join us for a test run (well, walk really)

Visit gsmdcr.org for details



The 2006 National Specialty Show - Snowmass Village, Colorado

September 5-10, 2006

Visit gsmdcr.org for details coming soon

Do you have a trip planned? Family coming to visit?
Need to get your Swissy around their "own kind" for Socialization?

Now is the time to join the GSMDCR Swiss-sitters!

If you are interested in joining a group of owners who are willing to watch each other's dogs, please contact Alison Burns (ali.burns@comcast.net)

We all realize it is best to leave your precious pup with someone who knows the breed, knows your dog, and knows a good vet even. We all feel better when we are able to take a vacation and NOT have to leave our dog at a kennel. If we can "rotate" with each other, we will all feel better when we have to leave our pups behind!

Remember - Swissies love to be with their own kind!

