

THE BLAZE



Having Fun with Our Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Happy New Year, members!

I am proud to be your new President and excited to work with our new slate of officers and board members to bring all of you a variety of activities and events!

Our club has flourished and grown into a successful organization that touches Swissy owners throughout all of California and beyond. Our events enable participants to learn and better their relationship with their dogs, and to set goals for future gains and accomplishments. It is my objective to build upon our past success and also implement some new traditions.

I look at 2018 as a building year, where we make the legacy of our club accessible to our future boards and Swissy owners from all across the nation. It is the intention of the board and me to offer all of you easy access to general Swissy information, club events and everything in between.

Our goal for this year is to build a **new website!!!** This will take some time, yet we are excited!! Stay tuned for information on our progress!

2018 will also bring **you** new opportunities! We are blessed to have members already working on future events we have never offered before. These members are excited to share their knowledge with all of you so, please, **join us!!!**

The Swiss Mountain dog is a very special breed and our club is a very special club; we are a Family. I am here for any of you who have questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, etc. I hope to see all of you at one or more of our gatherings and I thank you for electing me as your President!! Cheers to a GREAT year!!

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

- February 3** **FIRST DRAFT-Beginners**
- February 17** **FIRST DRAFT-Beginner/Intermediate**
- March 3** **FIRST DRAFT-Intermediate**
- March 17** **PACK HIKE in Ojai—10 miles**
- June 8-10** **WOOFSTOCK (Vallejo) General Mtg**
- July 29** **SWISS DOG DAY AFTERNOON**
at Fort Mason in SF
- August 4-5** **END OF SUMMER PARTY**
- Sept. 16-20** **GSMDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY**
in Farmington, UT
- October 19-21** **GSMDCA WESTERN REGIONAL**
SPECIALTY in Pleasanton

Our Board members are working on scheduling testing in these activities:

- Farm Dog Drafting**
- Canine Good Citizen (CGC)**
- Trick Dog Barn Hunt**



Erin and Enzo

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Officers, Board Members and Committees

President: Erin Stammer

Vice President: “Mac” Monika McNamara

Secretary: Jenni Allen

Treasurer: Julie Vonada

Board Members:

Leslie Bryson Carol Bamsch Lisa England

Paula Robles Toni Killpatrick

Membership: Susan Robinson

Ways and Means: Lisa England

Awards and Trophies: Erin Stammer

Herding: Carol Bamsch **Drafting:** Susan Robinson **Swiss Dog Day:** Carol Bamsch

End of Summer Party: Paula Robles **Pack Hikes:** Lisa England

Clinics & Titles: Julie Vonada

Calendar: Rob Blits

Show Events: Toni Killpatrick

Working Events:

Newsletter: Susan Robinson

Website: “Mac” Monika McNamara **Facebook:** Julie Vonada

Raffle: Julie Vonada **Coffee Fundraiser:** Heidi Steenstra

Hospitality: Linda Ridenour



The objectives of the club shall be:

To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural *qualities* to perfection.

To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs shall be judged.

To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows (obedience and agility trials, drafting and tracking tests).

To conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

To have FUN together with our Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs.

Golden Gate GSMDC Member Guidelines

The Guidelines were developed to educate all members; encourage good sportsmanship, a high spirit of cooperation, understanding and awareness, and to ensure the overall health and well being of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (GSMD) breed. As a means of promoting and fostering the highest standards among GSMD breeders, the Club encourages its breeders to voluntarily subscribe to Breeder Guidelines. Members should bear in mind that these are more than a set of rules and regulations; they are a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding, and that adherence to the spirit of these Guidelines is as important as adherence to its law.

1. Members shall be aware at all times that the Club exists to protect the breed and that these aims are to be uppermost in the minds of members in all their activities involving the breed.
2. Members will at all times, whether at home, traveling, at shows or at motels, display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect well upon the GGGSMDC and the breed. Members shall:
 - a. Be diligent in the handling of their dogs in public places and shall do so in such a manner as to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or another animal.
 - b. Recognize their responsibility to protect the name and reputation of the breed, and shall not allow their dogs to roam at large or become a public nuisance.
 - c. Refrain from unnecessary and destructive criticism of another's dog and from personal attacks upon fellow members.
3. Members are encouraged to remain in contact with their GSMD's breeder(s) for advice and to update him/her on its progress.
4. Members are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of more experienced owners and breeders who shall graciously assist them with any problems, and share, for the good of the breed, the benefits of his/her knowledge.
5. In all questions of conduct, whether or not addressed by these Guidelines, the individual member shall act solely in the best interest of the breed, and the membership as a whole shall willingly aid any fellow member in upholding these interests.
6. Members agree to educate the public and to honestly represent the breed at all times. This includes making sure interested persons are aware of all general and genetic health problems. Members asked about the current/future availability of puppies should refer the public to the Club's Corresponding Secretary or to the GGGSMDC Newsletter Editor.
7. Members shall not sell or give away any Greater Swiss Mountain Dog(s) for raffle prize purposes, or to any dog wholesaler, pet shops, other retailers, or laboratories (other than veterinary research facilities for the betterment of the breed).
8. If a member becomes aware of maltreatment, misuse or need for relocation of any GSMD, they will notify any or all of the following for resolution of the problem: the breeder (if known), a Club member actively involved in GSMD rescue, a member of the Board of Directors, or the correct authorities in their area.
9. All GSMDs owned by, or in the care of, members, shall be given a healthy environment, nutrition, training and proper veterinary care at all times including regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world. A member's dog shall not be treated in an inhumane manner or abused, nor may they be subjected to any conditions likely to endanger the animal's life. No member shall have more dogs than he/she has the facilities to adequately keep.
10. If a member intends to breed his/her dog or bitch, the Club recommends the future breeder subscribe to the Breeder Guidelines before the breeding takes place.
11. Members are advised that if they decide to breed GSMDs without signing the Breeder Guidelines, they will not be endorsed in the Breeder Referral List. Therefore, the Club strongly recommends that the breeder ensure, to the best of his/her ability, the good health, structure and temperament of the stud/dam.
12. It is suggested that members submit copies of individual AKC registration(s) to the Registrar of the Club for historical reference, including any photographs for inclusion in future historical documents such as the Years of the GSMD.
13. In the event of a GSMD death of unknown cause(s), it is recommended that an autopsy be performed and the results submitted (anonymously, if preferred) to the Chair of the Health Committee. Breeders of such dogs should inform the owners of the littermates.
14. Members agree to cooperate with all health surveys and other record requirements set up or conducted by the GGGSMDC.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE FUN!

Contact Jim Maxwell and show up this coming Saturday for Session #1-Beginners.
They provide the cart and harness and gently lead your dog through the steps.

YOUR SWISSY CAN PULL A CART!



Thanks to the [Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northern California](http://www.bmdcnc.org/), there is **FIRST DRAFT**, a series of three lessons in the Bay Area. They provide the carts and harnesses. For more information contact Jim Maxwell at drafting@NorCalBernese.org

Here is information about each of the three FIRST DRAFT classes. You can take one or all. Register ahead of time, if you can.

Session #1: <http://www.bmdcnc.org/.../feb-3th---draft-work-semina.html>

FIRST DRAFT - INTRODUCTION

An Introduction to Draft Work

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3rd 2018

Instructors: Larry Bohlig, Nick Hengeveld & Jim Maxwell

Location: Presidio of San Francisco

Session #2: <http://www.bmdcnc.org/.../feb-17th---draft-work-semin.html>

FIRST DRAFT - BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE

Next steps in becoming a successful Draft Team!

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17th 2018

Instructors: Larry Bohlig, Nick Hengeveld, & Jim Maxwell

Location: Dan Foley Park, Vallejo

Session #3: <http://www.bmdcnc.org/calendar-2/march-3rd---draft-work.html>

FIRST DRAFT - INTERMEDIATE

Fine tuning your Draft Teamwork!

SATURDAY MARCH 3rd 2018

Instructors: Larry Bohlig & Jim Maxwell

Location: T.B.D.

We are trying to coordinate this lesson at a training facility where we can also participate in Herding and/or Agility.

If this is of interest to you, please let us know!

AT THE SPECIALTY...WEIGHT PULL!



Brig 1230#



Arbor-Most Weight (1470#) and Most Weight per pound (17.7x)



Issie 830#

“Mac” MacNamara—Weight Pull Organizer



Fredrick 1150#



Brutus 990#



Bruno 750#



I did it, Mom!



Warming up for the weight pull-Sunny pulls Jennifer



You want me to do WHAT?

To see all the photos taken during the Western Regional Specialty weekend, go to www.focuspointimages.com
You'll see a photo of Hamish with "GGGSMD in Pleasanton." Click here.
Images can be downloaded at no charge.

OUR VETERANS JUST SHINED at **THE WESTERN REGIONAL SPECIALTY!**



Allison and Remy



Woutje and Comet



Annie and Quinn



Jennifer and Sunny



Leslie and Jubilee



Linda and Dixie



Tom and Petra



Troy and Blumen

THANK YOU to DIANA HAN, Photographer, NORCALBULLDOGGER@gmail.com

All of Our Beautiful Veterans at the **Western Regional Specialty**



WE HAVE **SPECIALTY** TRICK DOGS! (New AKC Title)



Alison and Drouhin



Jager DeGrendele (puppy)



Alan and Bauer (puppy)



Jim and Nakota



Mac and Billie Jean (puppy)



Tracy and Bruno

CONFORMATION-**WESTERN REGIONAL SPECIALTY** and DEL VALLE

At every show, we help each other learn to show our dogs. Today, it was Avery's turn to learn.



Then you show!



Justin Gets a New Champion Kiss



Kelly and Mia Get Best in Show Specialty (GSMDCA Western Regional)



Norman Gets BISS (GGGSMDC Designated Specialty)



Holly and Pixley Rivera-Sweepstakes Puppy



Nexpa-Best of Opposite Sex



Woutje and Comet-Veterans' Sweepstakes



Oh, the joy of it all!-Alison and Drouhin



Pixley Rivera-Winners Bitch

MORE EVENTS AT OUR OCTOBER 2017 WESTERN REGIONAL SPECIALTY/DEL VALLE DRAFTING

Lisa England and Kelly Stover gave a workshop on Drafting and members participated in the Bernese MD Draft Trials.



Kim



Luna Practicing



Echo earned her Novice Draft

HALLOWEEN PARADE



Murray and Jager



Little Bo Peep and her sheep



La Donald



[Click HERE to see the Halloween Parade.](#)

Thanks to Rob Blits.

SWISSYS LIKE TO CELEBRATE the HOLIDAYS



Cruiser and Boone



Boss, Slugger and Sadie



Ella



Pappi



Logan Crew



Koda

Fredrick



Hans and Heidi



Nexpa with Santa



Bruno



King



Murdoch



Georgia



Zen Pixie



Koda and Kallie Allen



Remy

Skunk Treatment—by Jonathan Harrison



Point 1 – total cost of what you need won't surpass \$5 so it's helpful to have already on hand.

Point 2 – what you need:

- a bucket
- a warm water source, most preferably outdoors
- a liter of hydrogen peroxide
- a cup of baking soda
- a good long squirt of dish soap
- a few cloths, a few towels • a strong leash if the dog isn't happy about bathing
- if you have a few spare seconds, with the dog secured, change into ragged clothing
- rubber gloves are handy but probably not required unless your skin is quite sensitive

Point 3 – what has to happen:

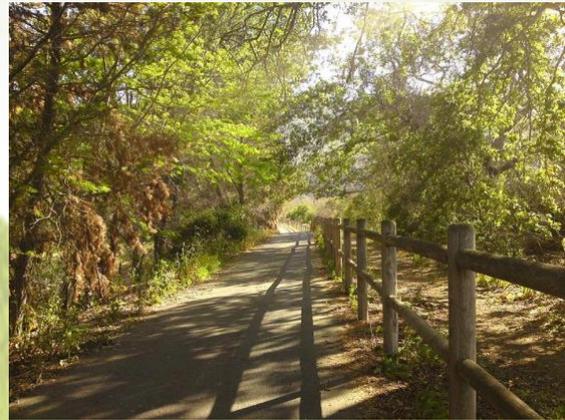
- act as quickly as possible after dog is skunked
- do not wash with plain water or even soap and water or any myth-based remedy
- in the bucket, add a liter of hydrogen peroxide, a cup of baking soda, a good long squirt of dish soap – note: no need to add any water, there is no need to dilute, you do not want to dilute this mixture
- apply methodically to all areas except eyes and nose and mouth; carefully apply around face if required, avoiding dog's eyes and nose and mouth; think about it as if doing one's own hair methodically massaging into every spot; use the edge of a cloth as a dabber for applying on the snout for example
- wait for a couple of minutes; not kidding, do not wash out right away, pet the dog, comfort the dog, massage the stuff in; (rinse well around the face right away though if worried that hydrogen peroxide got in the dog's eyes, nose, mouth)
- rinse very thoroughly with warm water after a couple of minutes
- repeat in spots if the odor is still strong in certain areas
- dry thoroughly particularly long-haired or dense undercoated dogs to avoid hot spots

Point 4 – afterwards and other:

- make sure to clean your clothes or at least rinse them as soon as possible – just because of the hydrogen peroxide
- the dog will most likely have a whiff of odor for a week or so, depending on the dose of skunk and on how well the cleaning was done; the odor may seem gone but seemingly reappear when the dog's fur is wet; it will simply disappear over time
- but when the dog didn't get hit in the face, and with a good cleaning, you might not even notice it at all thereafter
- you can't get the smell out of the dog's airways if sprayed right in the nose or mouth; that simply takes time
- if it's likely to happen on occasion, it's best to have the ingredients and instructions on-hand.

HAPPY TAILS PACK HIKE, OJAI WINE COUNTRY 2018

March 17, 2018



Hope you are able to join us on March 17, 2018, in beautiful Ojai, California, for a 10 mile pack hike.

For more information, please contact the hike coordinator, Lisa England lisa@silveroaksgmd.com or (805) 791-9277.

You can bring your Swissy for a short stroll on either day, just to see what a pack hike is about, how to prepare yourself and your dog for the hike, and how to pack.

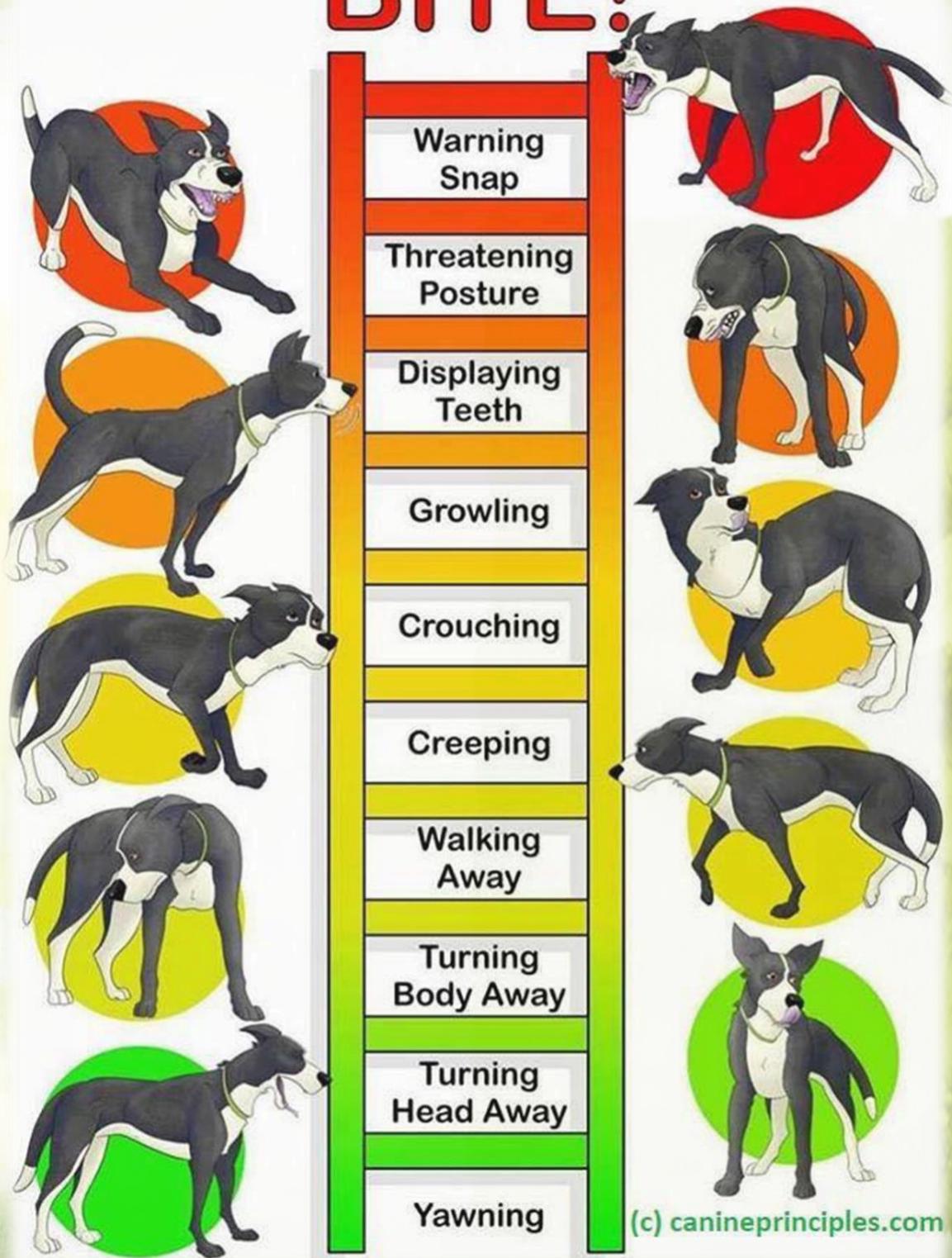
Come to meet more Swissies and some fun people!



Here are the groups that did last fall's Ojai Pack Hike and earned this fun patch.



BITE!



(c) canineprinciples.com

READ THE SIGNS!

Learn to read the signs, they are there. It is important to know how dogs “speak.” Take into consideration what the dog is trying to tell you with his/her body language. It is good to know this when you are walking your dog or at a dog park.

(Thanks to Carolyn Wamsley)



Bruno Schmoltd



Freddie & Grandpa's Dogs

SATIN BALLS

The following recipe was sent to Wellpet by Diana Carreon, R.N.C. It quickly became one of the most requested posts on Wellpet. This recipe is intended for adult dogs and should not be fed to puppies. Puppies, especially medium and large breeds, must be grown slowly and kept very lean to avoid skeletal problems (including hip dysplasia) in their adult lives.

Ingredients (Makes a lot to freeze. You can cut in half.)

- 10 pounds hamburger meat [the cheapest kind]
- 1 lg. box of Total cereal
- 1 lg. box oatmeal
- 1 jar of wheat germ
- 1 1/4 cup veg oil
- 1 1/4 cup of unsulfured molasses
- 10 raw eggs AND shells
- 10 envelopes of unflavored gelatin
- pinch of salt

Mix all ingredients together, much like you would a meatloaf. Divide into ten quart freezer bags and freeze. Thaw as needed and feed raw!

Uses: "The dogs stop all the itching and chewing at their coats/skin, their eyes get this bright look and the energy level goes out the roof." "I hide pills in them."

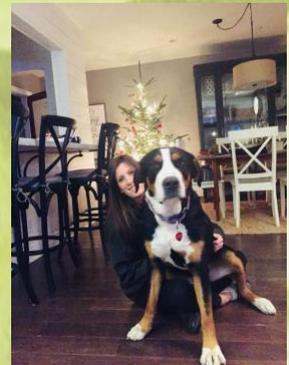
Comments

Per the information received after having the Satin Balls recipe checked by several vets/labs: Satin Balls is a total canine diet. It can be fed by itself or as a supplement, for however long you wish. My dogs have been on Satin Balls for over a year; the only time that I have fed it alone is when I had a sick dog needing to be built up or an underweight dog that I plan on showing.

I have been playing with the recipe. I now use the Knox Joint Gelatin instead of the plain Knox unflavored gelatin. Since this is high in Vitamin C and protein, and is good for the joints, it would be good for the dogs. They don't seem to mind the added flavor. I am also adding Flaxseed oil. They probably don't need the added oil, but so far, I have not seen it hurt anything.



Harley Rose



Lucy Bartak Springer



Roxy Palladino

WE HAVE PUPPIES!

BAUER ENGLAND 6/18/17



Pine Grove England's Hat Trick TKN is from Colorado Springs. Her papa is Ranger and mama Nike from Swiss Star. She is super smart, full of energy and a love bug!

LAIN LOUISE LOGAN-BORST (MEGAN LEWIS) 6/28/17



Blue Hill's Outta Your Vulcan Mind lives in Salt Lake City. She is a confident and fun addition to the pack.

Sire: GCHS Snowy Mountains Norman Invasion at Redrock NWPD WPD "Norman" Dam: Blue Hills The Bards of Ophelia "Zuri"

CAYENNE GRADIN 11/15/17



Liberty Run's Cayenne Pepper—She's Hot! Aka Cayenne

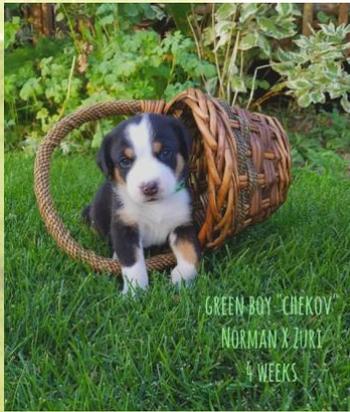
Her sire is GCH Liberty Run's Talladega Nights "Ricky Bobby" and dam is GCH Suma-Shadetree's Trump This "Tiara."

She came from Anna Wallace in Oklahoma. She is very energetic and loves to terrorize Draven.

She only wants to be held if she's tired and needs a nap; otherwise, no way. Already learning basic obedience. ♥

AND MORE PUPPIES...

HARRY TURNER 6/28/17



Blue Hills Give Her All She's Got

Sire: GCHS Snowy Mountains Norman Invasion at Redrock NWPD WPD "Norman"

Dam: Blue Hills The Bards of Ophelia "Zuri"

RECKON WOOD-STECKER 11/09/17



Aegis The Reckoning "Reckon"

Sire: MBISS GCH Snowy Mountains Norman Invasion at Redrock

Dam: MBISS GCH Aegis Say No More

Reckon is full of personality, smarts and the perfect Swissy swag. We have waited for 2 Years for an Aegis puppy and have always loved the Shea, Bowie and Blaze lines; we have all 3 in Reckon. He has big paws to fill but we are very excited to watch him grow.

WALTER CHING 11/09/17



Aegis "I'm Not Fake News"

Sire: MBISS GCH Snowy Mountains Norman Invasion at Redrock

Dam: MBISS GCH Aegis Say No More

We are just over the moon about adding Walter to our family. He has settled right in and adores his human sisters and know that big brother Remy will warm up to him soon enough.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Mike and Jager-First Show, First Win
BRUTUS-(Bruce Detore) Best of Winners today and a 5 point major!



Liberty Run's Journey of Zeeva RA CGCA TKN NDD CD

Kim and Zeeva with Judge Christopher Cornell after earning her CD title. Also, thanks to Judge Alvin Eng under whom Zeeva earned her second leg and FIRST PLACE on her second trial. A few weeks before, Zeeva passed her drafting test!



Introducing Kelly Stover's mother-daughter Novice Brace Draft dogs. Beautiful Sophie and sweet powerhouse pup Emmie knocked it out of the park at the Berner draft trial in Phoenix, Arizona, on their first trial as a brace team.

Emmie earned two more passes toward her advanced title.

Freddie (Julie Vonada) earned HIGH Points in Obedience at Pleasanton in October.

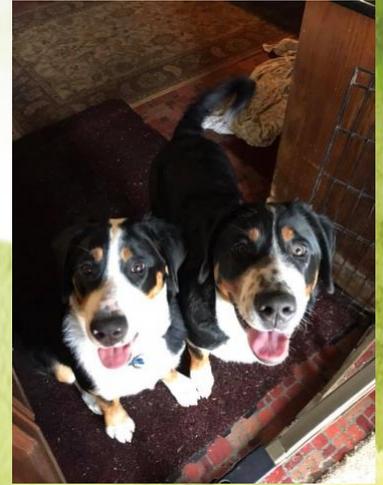
Swissies Are Such Social Animals



Heidi and Hans in Tahoe



Dexter and Cricket



Alta and Catcher



Kait and Her Cat



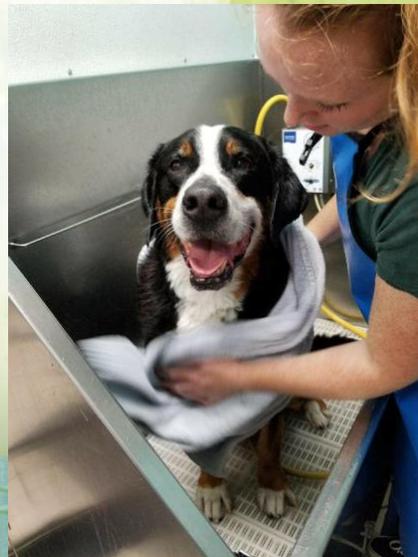
Norman, Lain Louise, Arya, Sunny Logan-Borst



Koda and Kallie Allen Hiking



Enzo and His BFF



Trekker and Alex Bathing



Tiller, Guen (Bev - Terry Brown) and Slugger Krieschel

Two of our own Golden Gate Swissies have died recently from complications caused by FCEs (fibrocartilaginous embolisms).

What to Do Immediately If Your Dog Has a “Spinal Cord Stroke” (FCE)

By Dr. Karen Becker

Story at-a-glance

- A fibrocartilaginous embolism (FCE) is a blockage in a blood vessel in the spinal cord. When such a blockage occurs, an area of the spinal cord dies.
- An FCE typically results from an injury to the spinal cord caused by jumping or landing awkwardly. Sometimes vigorous exercise can trigger it. Dog fights, rough play, and any sort of accidental trauma can also lead to an FCE.
- Fibrocartilaginous emboli are rarely seen in cats and occur most often in large and giant breed male dogs, and also miniature Schnauzers and Shelties between three and six years of age.
- Symptoms of an FCE can include sudden, severe pain followed by lessening pain after a short period; weakness; partial to full paralysis of a rear limb; and an uncoordinated gait.
- The recommended treatment for FCE is to begin aggressive physical therapy. Implementing an immediate rehabilitation program is your pet’s very best option for a full recovery and a second chance at life.

Today I’d like to discuss a condition called **fibrocartilaginous emboli**.

A fibrocartilaginous embolism, or FCE for short, is a blockage in a blood vessel in the spinal cord. It’s often referred to as a spinal cord stroke.

The vertebral column is made up of small bones called vertebrae that are joined together by intervertebral discs. The discs function as cushions between the vertebrae and allow the spine to flex. They are round in shape, fibrous on the outside, and contain a gel-like substance on the inside called the nucleus pulposus.

One of the jobs of the vertebral column is to protect the spinal cord inside it. The spinal cord is similar to a long cable of nerves that sends messages to and from the brain and regulates the body’s reflexes. The spinal cord is fed by a system of blood vessels.

What Causes a Fibrocartilaginous Embolism?

A fibrocartilaginous embolism occurs when a fragment of the nucleus pulposus inside an intervertebral disc escapes into the blood vessel of the spinal cord and causes an obstruction. This affected area of the spinal cord then dies.

Unfortunately, neurologic loss that occurs within the first 24 hours is usually permanent. The good news is the condition isn’t progressive. Any pain usually resolves within 12 to 24 hours. And with immediate treatment, primarily involving very intensive physical therapy, most dogs experience significant recovery.

An FCE typically results from an injury to the spinal cord often caused when a dog jumps or lands awkwardly. Sometimes vigorous exercise can do it. Dog fights, really rough play, or any sort of accidental trauma can also lead to an FCE.

Fibrocartilaginous emboli are rarely seen in cats and occur most often in large and giant breed male dogs, and also miniature Schnauzers and Shelties between three and six years of age. It's possible an underlying condition common in these breeds called hyperlipidemia, which is a high blood cholesterol level, could be a contributing factor in smaller dogs who acquire the condition.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

Signs of a fibrocartilaginous embolism usually appear suddenly and follow a period of exercise or what otherwise seems like a mild injury or trauma.

Symptoms can include sudden, severe pain that makes the dog cry or yelp, followed by lessening pain after a few minutes or hours; signs of weakness; partial to full paralysis of a rear limb; a wobbly or uncoordinated gait; and lack of a pain response after initial signs of painfulness, yet the dog still can't use his body normally.

There is no test currently available to absolutely confirm a diagnosis of FCE in a living animal. Your vet will first try to rule out other causes of sudden acute back pain and mobility problems. Other conditions to look for include intervertebral disc disease, a fracture, or a spinal tumor -- all of which can cause considerable pain.

If your pet is no longer in pain, that in itself can be indicative of an FCE. The vet may also take a sample of cerebrospinal fluid, and a sample of blood from the vessels inside the spinal cord may indicate the presence of some fragments of fibrocartilage.

The best imaging technique for a fibrocartilaginous embolism is the MRI, because it can distinguish between an obstruction (which is an embolism) and a compression or swelling of the spinal cord.

Treatment and Care of a Pet with FCE

The recommended treatment for FCE, even with animals with a poor prognosis due to swelling or decreased pain sensation, is to begin immediate and aggressive physical therapy.

Studies show that physiotherapy instituted immediately after diagnosis can have a major influence on recovery. This should include hydrotherapy (walking on an underwater treadmill), as well as acupuncture, laser therapy, neuromuscular electrical stimulation, range of motion exercises, massage, and supplements.

Supplements I recommend for FCE patients include B-vitamins; proteolytic enzymes (including bromelain to reduce systemic inflammation); NAC or N-acetylcysteine (an antioxidant that passes the blood-brain barrier, which can really help scavenge free radicals within the central nervous system); natural vitamin E (which is also an important antioxidant for neurologic health); SOD or superoxide dismutase (another important antioxidant for central nervous system well-being); and ALA or alpha-lipoic acid.

Aggressive treatment of this acute condition can be very rewarding. Implementing an immediate rehabilitation program is your pet's very best option for a full recovery and a second chance at life.

Read more from Dr. Karen Becker of Mercola Healthy Pets

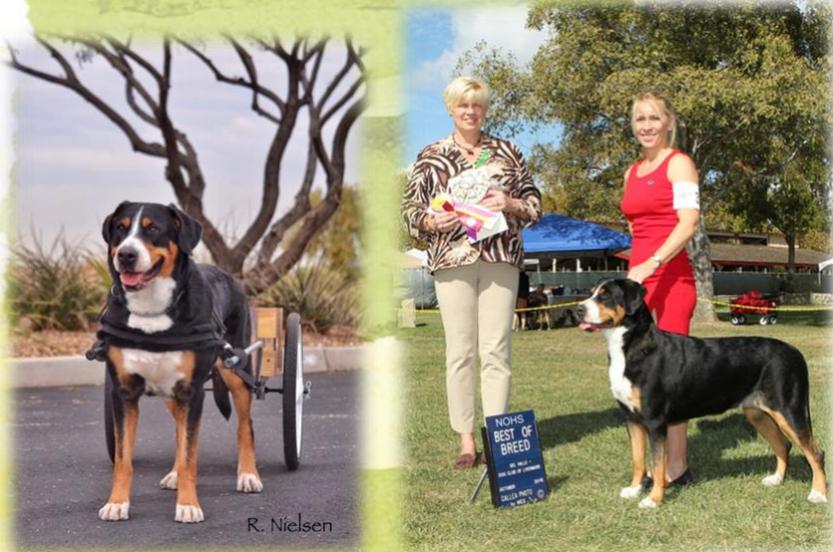
<https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/dr-karen-becker.aspx>

RAINBOW BRIDGE

JURA

Int Ch/GCH Alpinez Double Shot, CGC, BN, RN, CD, CS, CI, HITT "JURA"

6/13 -3 /17



Jura excelled at everything she did, in and out of the show ring. She achieved her Championship in three shows at 15 months old. She achieved her GCH in only 4 months at just five shows, with multiple Best of Breed wins. Her final debut in the show ring was in Pleasanton, where she took Home a huge Best of Breed win, following the footsteps of her father who took BOB that Friday and Saturday. That was a very special weekend, **as we hadn't planned** on showing her that weekend. Little did anyone know that would be her last time in the ring. She finished off 2016 in the Top 25, the 6th ranked bitch for year-end standings in breed points.

She also excelled in other areas, quickly obtaining her Beginner Novice, CD and Rally, titles which she loved, all but once taking a first or second place finish, giving her an invitation to Eukanuba and a 2nd place year end award by the GSMDCA.

Jura had also started working towards her Draft titles. In her first Carting Trial, not only did she take home a perfect score in Carting Started, but also in Carting Intermediate-twice-and took home the High In Test Trial Win that weekend. Unfortunately, being in season took her out of the Berner draft trial that weekend, but she certainly proved her ability and love for drafting.



R. Nielsen



JURA (continued)



In March of 2016, Jura and I headed to her first Herding Trial. She ran beautifully earlier in the week; she loved every minute working sheep. Upon arrival, Jura was showing major signs of paralysis in her back legs. We took her to the nearest orthopedic vet, with inconclusive findings and a recommendation for a neurologist visit on Monday. Over the course of the next two days, she was unable to use her rear legs and at home. After a ton of research, we had diagnosed her with a spinal embolism. After an MRI and examination by a neurologist, she was officially diagnosed with a spinal embolism or FCE.

The next two weeks were challenging, as she had lost urine and bowel control and had to be manually expressed every few hours. She began intense physical therapy at home and with a therapist. Just as she always had, Jura recovered quickly and each day she got better and regained strength. Two weeks after her first FCE, Jura had a second FCE. This one much worse and caused her right rear leg to be in extensor rigidity. We continued on with acupuncture, physical therapy, hydrotherapy, underwater treadmill. You name it, we did it. She even was the first dog ever in the US to undergo stem cell treatment for an FCE. Over the course of her 11-month journey, Jura had a team of nine vets from three different states providing treatments and care for her needs.

She continued to get stronger over the course of the next few months, but never regained urine or bowel control or the ability to bend her leg, which eventually resulted in an amputation. From November 2016 to March 2017, Jura presented with two additional perceived FCE's. **The last one resulting in the painful decision to say good bye.**

She will be remembered by the Wood/Stecker clan as a hardworking, fun loving goofball who loved road trips, sheep, food and, most of all, her family.



Most people have not heard of this condition, and even some vets have not. It's a rare condition, but after talking to a few vets, I find there is an increase of it in Mountain Dogs. I spoke to ten people who lost their Swisssies during that period we were dealing with Jura. To me, that's too many to consider rare. We banked Jura's DNA in the event it is ever needed for future studies on the condition.

Kristy Stecker 602-292-0858

RAINBOW BRIDGE

ZELDA SWISSIE



God bless [GSMD Rescue](#) and Pat Saxon, who decided Zelda Swissie should come to live in the Sierra Nevada foothills with us. Mike and Mia found Zelda in La Tuna Canyon, exhausted and bloody-pawed, built her a Facebook page—[Zelda Swissie](#)—took her to the vet, gave her a home, and advertised her rescue all over the Laguna Beach area. Eventually, we fostered Zelda, and fell head over heels in love with her spunky self. She got to stay with us in her forever home.

Zelda was a blue Swissy with the temperament to look straight into your eyes and heart. She loved Frosty Paws, the bed, hedgehogs, playing tug of war with King (and always winning because he gave in to her), snow, toilet paper, paper towels and anything on any counter. Her nature was to run. She and King would romp all over the mountains and end up so tired! She adored getting ready for pack hiking, and earned her first leg with Trekker in the Walnut Hills Open Space. She was so proud of herself.



On Thanksgiving of 2015 Zelda had her first *gran mal* seizure. Our amazing vet, UC Davis, [the Twitchy Swissy](#) Facebook page, and so many others advised us how to take the edge off her frequent episodes that left her blind and unable to walk after them. Still, she was happy, mischievous, and so loving. She left us on October 31, 2017, heartbroken but knowing that she loved us and we, her. Zelda Swissie was one of a kind. Run free at the ranch, little girl.

[Here is a slideshow, showing the sides of Zelda.](#)

[The song title says it all—she could climb a six-foot fence, no problem.](#)

[And, then, she'd be waiting at the front door.](#)

Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

“STUFF”

MEMBERSHIP Your renewal dues are DUE!

You should have, by now, received both an email with the details and a letter by USPO. Thanks to everyone who has paid by PayPal on our website. Thanks, too, to some members who, for a variety of reasons, cannot renew just now and let us know. We understand and welcome you back any time it works for you. Meanwhile, feel free to call us, join in activities, or be social, as you can.

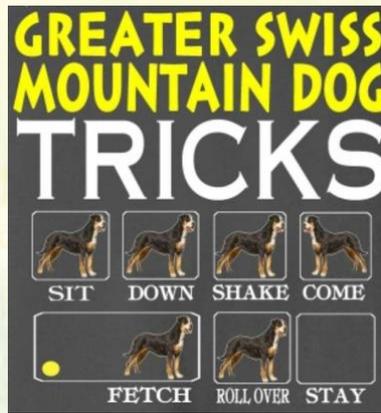
OCTOBER 2018 GSMDCA WESTERN REGIONAL

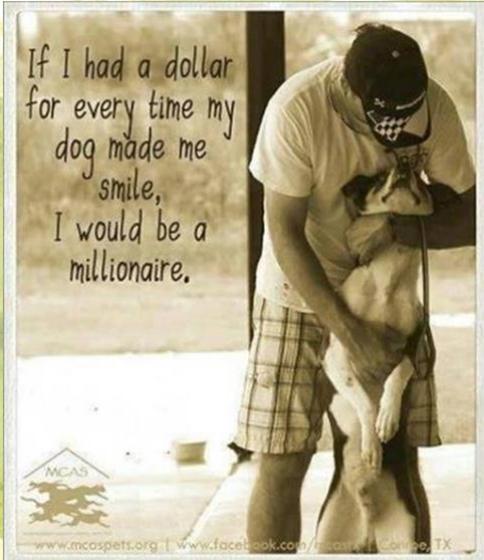
- **Dates** October 19, 20 and 21st, 2018.
- **Trophies** There will be awesome trophies for Conformation, Rally and Obedience! There will be working dog demos, educational events and weight pull, and of course the best food served! But we need your help to make it special! There is a sign up for the trophy donations. Please consider donating! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c45a8ac2da6f85-trophy1>
- **RV spots** We have rented the entire Pavilion for our Greater Swiss Mountain Dog fans, from October 18-24th! The Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club has reserved 40 RV/Tent camping spaces under a covered pavilion for Swissy family and friends! More details will follow! If you have questions please contact Toni Killpatrick at: skeeter1113@gmail.com



WAYS and MEANS

There are a few 2018 Calendars left at ½ off--\$10.00 + shipping. Contact [Lisa England](#).





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"Go home and let your dog lick your face. Dog saliva is the most effective antidepressant you can get without a prescription."



Him? No, he doesn't want a cookie. He says I can have two.

A FEW LAST PHOTOS...



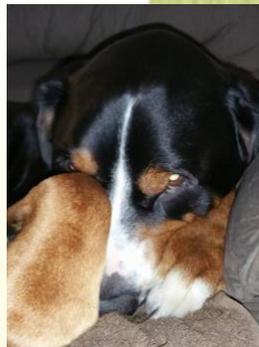
Melanie and Zen Pixie



Bauer by the Fire



Come, Murdoch! (He has great recall!)



Fagan Eyes



Bruno and Annie



Hans in First Snow



Freddie



Harley Rose



The England Pack



Jager-Plum Tuckered

SIGNS OF DOG SICKNESS



Signs start with a change in your pet's routine behavior and attitude.

Watch for:

- Decreased energy or activity level
- Changes in appetite or water intake
- Changes in behavior: hiding, refusing to play, becoming aggressive
- Vomiting, diarrhea or straining to urinate or defecate
- Poor coat quality, patchy hair loss or excessive scratching
- Weight loss
- Foul order coming from the mouth, ears or skin
- Abnormal whining or crying

Sadie



Koda Lehman



Boss walking his bone



INFORMATIONAL SITES to VISIT

(Click to get there.)

[Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Facebook](#)

[Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America:](#)

[Golden Gate GSMD Facebook Page](#)

Visit our club website:

www.goldengategsmdc.com/

On Facebook?--Have some fun with your photos.

[SWISSY UNO](#)



GOLDEN GATE

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB