



GOLDEN GATE
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

May 10

**Spring Meeting at Muirwood Community
Park, Pleasanton**

Swiss Dog Day—Summer at Ft. Mason

September

End of Summer Weekend in Sonoma

October

**GGGSMD C Specialty at Del Valle,
October 18-19th in Pleasanton, CA**

“In the Works:”

**Pat Hastings “Structure” Seminar
Therapy Dog Workshop**

Pack Hikes

Walk ‘n’ Talks

THE BLAZE

Having Fun with Our Swiss Mountain Dogs

LETTER TO OUR GGGSMDC MEMBERS

Our **April Independent Specialty** in Merced was tons of fun. We loved meeting new members, several Swissys from Southern California, and some prospective new families.

In early spring, Tom Easterly, Petra, and herding judge Debbie Pollard held a **Herding Instinct Workshop** for our interested members. Everyone said they learned SO much!

It is way past **Membership Dues time**...If you want to remain on the club roles and receive your BLAZE Newsletter, make sure you are paid up by April 30. If there is no way you can attend at least one meeting a year, think about an Associate Membership.

On May 10th, we'll have our **Annual Spring Meeting at Muirwood Park in Pleasanton**. There is a wonderful dog park there, and we'll need as many as possible at the meeting to vote in our new By Laws. The theme is Hawaiian, so break out those bright, flowered shirts!

Check out our website! On our [Interesting Links](#) page, Rob has added a link to a service that provides Reviews of Health Insurance for Pets. If you're struggling in deciding which health insurance to obtain for your pet, this link may help you gather the information you need. There's much more to catch your eye on this links page.

It's the time of the year to watch out for ticks, foxtails, snakes and other of Nature's critters. Be watchful as you play with your Swissys. See past issues of the BLAZE for more information on these three pests.

We are hoping to see you on May 10th! (see page 18.)

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Officers, Board Members and Committees

President: [Nancy Glenn](#)

Vice President: [Toni Killpatrick](#)

Secretary: [Susan Robinson](#)

Treasurer: [Donna Zetterquist](#)

Board Members:

[Sara Donaldson](#)

[Rob Blits](#)

[Maria Jensen](#)

[Carol Bamsch](#)

Membership: [Toni Killpatrick](#)

Public Relations: [Toni Killpatrick](#)

Ways and Means: [Carol Hightower](#)

Awards and Trophies: [Toni Killpatrick](#) [Heidi Steenstra](#) [Maria Jensen](#)

Social Events:

[Carol Hightower](#) [Donna Zetterquist](#) [Sara Donaldson](#) [Linda Ridenour](#)

Show Events: [The Board](#)

Working Events: [Nancy Glenn](#)

Newsletter: [Susan Robinson](#)

Website: [Rob Blits](#)

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.

GGGSMD Club General Meeting on May 5, 2014

President Nancy Glenn called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The following members were present: Susan Robinson, Carol Bamsch, Leslie Bryson, Jim and Deanna Carter, Maria Jensen, Donna Zetterquist, Julie Vonada, Woutje Swets, Veronika Denisova, Armen Mamulyen, Don and Sue Bush, Heidi Steenstra, Paula Robles, Erin Stammer, Toni and Lyle Killpatrick, Rob and Marie Blits, Nancy and Randall Glenn. Visitors introduced themselves.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the Annual Meeting on 12/15/13 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report (attached): Donna Zetterquist stated that our checking account balance is \$4634.37 and savings is \$150.85. The Budget Committee met and determined it needs a history of expenditures in order to do a budget proposal at year end. Our \$315.00 insurance premium was renewed on February 12th.

Membership Report: Toni Killpatrick announced 84 members in good standing. We proposed and elected new members: Katie Alpert/Carlos Hernandez, Justin Bautista (Jackson), Veronika Denisova/Armen Mamulyan (Bentley), Jonathan/Julie Gleason (Olaf), Ron/Rhonda Jennings (Roscoe), Natalie/Cameron Schmidt (Mitsy), Erin/ Marty Talley.

Activities: We participated in the Golden Gate Kennel Club Benched Show (January 27-28), held a Walk n' Talk in Tilden Park on March 23, held a Herding Workshop with Judge Debbie Pollard on March 29.

Coming up: Saturday, April 12, The Davis Veterinary Student Assn Meet the Breed Picnic
 Sunday, April 13-Morris Animal Foundation K-9 Cancer Walk in Los Gatos.
 Saturday, May 10-Club Picnic- in Pleasanton
 August 1 through September 30-Coffee Fundraiser
 October 17 through 19-Western Regional Specialty at Del Valle (Pleasanton) "Spaghetti Roundup"

Ways and Means: Heidi Steenstra announced the coffee fundraiser, which will run from August 1 through September 30. We will sell four flavors of Black Dog Coffee Traders coffee. We are having a contest for two flavors of coffee. Send your dog's (high resolution) photo to hcsteenstra@gmail.com for a chance to have him/her on the coffee. 50% of proceeds go to our club and 5% to the AKC Cancer Fund.

Heidi asked all of us to send her names of businesses who can donate clothing, wine, dog supplies, and other raffle items.

By Laws Revision: The Board has worked on revising our By Laws to bring them current with 21st century ways of operating. We are a 501c7 "mutual benefit" corporation, which means we cannot get tax write offs for donations. The changes include:

- Expand our territory to larger than the Greater San Francisco area, now that we are the only club in California and most of our members are from outside the AKC boundaries. (California law says we can meet anywhere.)
- Meet four times a year rather than six.

After discussion of these items, Rob Blits moved to adopt the revisions and Toni Killpatrick seconded. The changes were approved unanimously. Rob will examine the attendance roster and see if we have a quorum. Everyone thanked Rob and Marie Blits for their expertise and time in researching the legalities, and Toni presented them a beautiful travel journal. The By Law changes are conditional, pending resolution of the two above mentioned issues with AKC.

2014 GSMDCA Western Regional: Toni Killpatrick circulated a sign up sheet for volunteers and showed the trophies for the event, hand carved Swisssys. If you win at this Specialty tonight, you donate toward that trophy next time around.

Rob Blits asked everyone to nix the Golden Gate Recreational Area anti-dog plan, which limits off leash walking in most of the areas in which we hold our Walk 'n' Talks (Fort Funston, Ocean Beach and Crissy Fields, etc.)

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Submitted by Susan Robinson, Secretary.

Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

Treasurer's Report

April 5, 2014

As of April 1, the Wells Fargo bank statement shows the following balances:

Checking:	\$4634.37
Savings:	\$150.85

Items of Interest:

The Budget Committee (Rob Blits, Linda Ridenour & Donna Zetterquist) met in January to draft a budget for the calendar year. Amounts discussed were just estimates, and not very useful, until we have a history of tracking income & expenses in the following categories: Membership, Ways & Means, Hospitality, Raffle & Auction, Donations, Trophies and Shows (Specialty/Supported Entry). By the end of this year, with the experience of two more specialties, we should have a budget that will be made available to our club members.

Our club insurance was renewed on February 12 for \$315.00

On January 8, there was a deposit of \$1429.50

On February 18, there was a deposit of \$545.00

We have one outstanding check in the amount of **\$81.00**

\$472.00 collected so far for the next deposit includes:

\$262.00 for the Merced BBQ

\$90.00 for three new memberships

\$90.00 for Merced RV Parking

\$30.00 for 2014 Specialty trophy fund

Pending PayPal transfers in the amount of **\$1,152.57** include payments for membership renewals, the Merced BBQ and RV Parking.

A detailed account of income and expenses for the Merced show will be available for the next report.

Respectfully submitted by
Donna Zetterquist,
GGGSMDC Treasurer

Aria



Zen Bunny



Simon Rosebrook





GGGSMDC Independent Specialty

Merced, CA April 5-6, 2014



Our 2014 Independent Specialty on April 5th, 2014, was a terrific success!!!
I know everyone who attended enjoyed themselves immensely.

Congratulations to all of the winners. Sorry, I don't have all the results from that night to post at this time, but Paula Robles and Jake (GCH.Ch. Fireside's The Chase) won our 7th Independent Specialty, Best in Show Specialty. Congratulations!!!! Thank you to Judge Carolyn Alexander, who had her hands full, choosing from 22 Swissys.

Our BBQ was superb!!! Chefs Linda and Doug Ridenour outdid themselves. Thank you both so much for all your hard work putting this together. And of course, our Raffle team was top of the line again. Heidi Steenstra, Erin Stammer and Paula Robles really know how to put the items together and make everything look fabulous. Our corral was full with 15 RV rigs. We partied together for two straight days.

On another positive note, I want to share some very nice compliments that I have been receiving. Several folks from other breeds commented on how nice it was to see the camaraderie amongst the competitors in our breed. They said it was so refreshing to see the support and good sportsmanship our club members displayed towards each other. This also came from an AKC judge.

I would personally like to thank the club for dedicating the 7th Independent Specialty to Maria Jensen's and our boy Roy, NBIS, MBISS Ch. Tree N sea's Lupine Serenade. It was such an honor.

Don't forget to check out the club's website for Rob Blits' photo coverage of all the fun.

<http://goldengategsmdc.com/news.html>

Next time, make it a point to join us. **DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN**
Toni Killpatrick, Vice-President

GGGSMDC Independent Specialty Photos

Merced, CA April 5-6, 2014



Jake won Best In Show Specialty



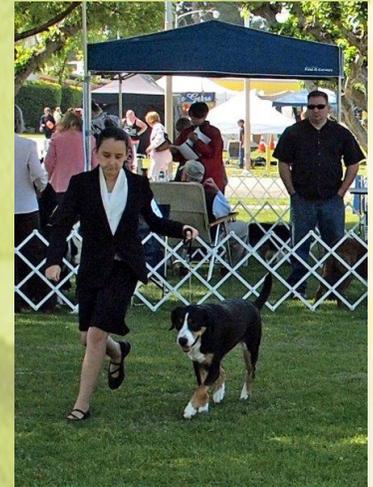
Riley (Stud Dog) and his kids



Veronika, Armen and Bentley



Heidi and her boys had a great weekend!



Our youngest handler, Emily Cox



Dinnertime fun!



Leslie-Hamish in the Merced Sun Star



Woutje and Comet

For more, click on:

<http://goldengategsmdc.com/news.html>

MARCH 23, 2014
GGGSMDC SEA VIEW TRAIL HIKE-TILDEN PARK
WALK 'N' TALK LED BY TREKKER, ROB AND MARIE BLITS

The length of the hike is 3.14 miles, and the total elevation gain is 452 ft.



Derek, Shy Philo and Anne



Debbie and Dexter



Jeff, Max and Joanne



Not so shy Philo



Jason, Kona, Mogo, Hilary and Brayden



Ramsey



Thanks, Rob, Marie and Trekker for another fabulous hiking day!

<http://goldengategsmdc.com/galleries/20140323TildenHike>

GGGSMDC 2014
FUNDRAISER

Two of the coffee labels already feature our Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Banner and Roy.
We need two more poster dogs, and will accept photos until the end of June.
They must be portrait orientation and high resolution. Send them to hcsteenstra@gmail.com.
The coffee people will select the winners.



GGGSMDC FUNDRAISER

Try our outstanding Breed, High Drive & Seasonal Blends!

Black Dog Coffee Traders is dedicated to selling expertly roasted coffee blends from the best coffee regions in the world and celebrating the canines we share our lives with. **50%** of profits will be donated to the Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club **5%** of profits will be donated to the AKC Canine Health Foundation in the name of the GGGSMDC..

Enjoy the artistry of our labels!!

Fundraiser will run from **August 1 thru Sept 30, 2014**. To purchase please go to:
stores.blackdogcoffeetraders.com
and click on "Fundraisers" then go to **2014 GGGSMDC Fundraiser**.
We will have **coffee and posters** (as well as custom posters) available!






stores.blackdogcoffeetraders.com ~ 208.546.5070

**How fun would it be to give
GOLDEN GATE GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG COFFEE BLENDS
for Christmas?**

This fundraiser will run from August 2014 through September 2014.

During that time, we can order straight from the Black Dog website.

50% of the profits will come straight to the Club.

5% will go to AKC Health in our Club's name.

Please forward this to all your dog friends, family, co-workers, asking them to help out.

Add this to your Facebook page.

This is a win for the Club as well as cancer research.

SAVE THE DATE! We are holding our
GSMDCA Western Regional SPECIALTY

on Saturday, October 18, 2014,
at the Dell Valle Club Dog Show in Pleasanton, California.

Come and join the fun, show or support your GSMD friends.
There will be group camping, a Western Spaghetti Feed, photo booth, Meet the Breed Booth,
Raffle prizes and Auction

2014 Specialty Trophy Sponsorship
Trophy donations will be added to our Trophy Fund.

Please mail trophy donation checks to Toni Killpatrick, payable to GGGSMDC and indicate which category you are sponsoring, or, Pay via PayPal on the www.gggsmdc.com

GGGSMDC Specialty Trophies
C/O TONI KILLPATRICK
3207 Triangle Park Rd.
Mariposa, CA 95338-9636

Hopefully, the many beautiful trophies that are being offered will entice many of you to come out and “play” with our dogs and us. If you cannot possibly come, please support us with a trophy donation, in any case. Thank you! We greatly appreciate your participation

*The Raffle Committee is seeking donations.
If you have an item that you would like to donate,
please contact Heidi Steenstra, 760-709-1051
or hcsteenstra@gmail.com.*



Maria Jensen-Puppy



Erin Stammer-Grand Champion



Woutje Swets-Veteran

**Donna Zetterquist announces
The Fire Dance SECOND HONEYMOON LITTER**

Born January 11, 2014

**Mom and Dad went on a Second Honeymoon,
and look what happened nine weeks later!**



**Int'l CH/Am GCH Calypso Roy's Geneva V Maxamillion
aka Geneva
CH Painted Mtn's Reconnaissance, JHD
aka Recon**



**Fire Dance An Affair To Remember ("Maya")
Carol Bamsch and Patrick Bever (Pat, Matt and Rachel not shown)**



**Fire Dance Play It Again Sam ("Olaf")
Jonathan and Julie Gleason and Daughter Maddie**



**Fire Dance Second Time Around ("Rosco")
Ron & Rhonda Jennings and Daughter Renae**



**Fire Dance Not My First Rodeo ("Cody")
Eric and Bridgette Neblett and Eric's Mom Joni Nay**



**Fire Dance Same Time Next Year ("Mitzi")
Cameron and Natalie Schmidt and Ava and Oliver**



DID YOU HEAR THE HAPPY-ENDING STORY of BRODIE and ELLIE?

This is a true story, something that happened this February.

ORIGINAL FACEBOOK POST

This is a desperate plea for help. Two of our own GGGSMDC Swissys were stolen right out of their Salinas back yard on Wednesday morning. Please share this information with your vet and any pet stores or rescues in your area. URGENT!

I'm heartsick to have to share this with you but I received a phone call from my husband Wednesday morning at 10. He said he had to go home for something and when he got there both dogs were missing. There was no trace of them. Our dogs have never wandered off. We have spent the last 2 2 1/2 days searching everywhere for them. We have spoken to all the neighbors, people in the vineyards and at the wineries. No one has seen them. We called all the shelters, SPCA, and the vets in Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad and King City. We have handed out fliers to everyone, even the police dept. We have posted on Facebook and Craigslist. We have no idea what to do next. Can you please pass on the info to our club members/families? It's important that the word gets out to as many people as possible. We are so worried; we just love our dogs so much. I just can't understand this at all! We will be out tomorrow again passing out and posting fliers. I'm so worried about Brodie, he is our baby! I have attached some pics of 2 year old Brodie and Ellie. Ellie is 7 years old and has one blue and one brown eye. Brodie is the top two photos and Ellie is below. Both dogs are micro chipped.

We did send the note out to our club and put it on the [Facebook GSMD Page](#). Here are some of the responses:

- I hope they are found soon! my pups got out the other day because the strong winds broke my gate latch, I was sooo very lucky my neighbors were around to grab them before they got into traffic. I will share your post, praying for a good outcome. (Englewood, CO)
- I'll be sending prayers that your babies are returned safely. I've shared the information with family and friends in CA and NV. Fingers crossed it helps. (Las Vegas)
- Have you called the microchip company/s? A lot of times they have networks they alert. There are also a few FB K9 amber alert groups. Remember that through the shelter network they might be called Bernese mixes or Rottweiler mixes, so don't just call asking if they have picked up Swissys. (Oklahoma City)
- There is a Facebook group called Lost Dogs California <https://www.facebook.com/lostdogscalifornia> Another place to try http://www.k9pi.com/lost_dog_recovery_tips.html I emailed the info to a friend who works at Animal Control in California to see if they can pass it around.
- Also see if there is someone in the area that does trialing, might be able to track if they were led away
- We did an online notice and message that went to all the vet hospitals in a 100 mile radius. So awful to lose a dog, which we all know is NOT just a dog. (Pennsylvania)
- If you see them, call the police and say you've found some stolen property and probably the thief who stole them. Check with the neighbors to see if any of them have surveillance cameras. Be sure to file a police report... property worth = cost of purchase plus. Document it. It is important to put up a flyer in your own yard... so your neighbors know who has lost a dog(s)! (Indianapolis, IN)
- **UPDATE: THEY ARE FOUND! Safe and sound. (Someone dropped them off.)**
- Awesome. We've been talking about this, and are happy that we have our yard and entrances covered by secure video DVR. Compared to the cost of a dog (just talking money here, I know they're priceless), a simple system is less than a moderate vet bill. I recommend it to everyone. (Davis, CA)

It is absolutely wonderful to see how supportive our Swissy community is!



Morris Animal Foundation K9 Cancer Walk Los Gatos, CA April 13, 2014



Donna and Dirty Harry



Our Team Captain Rob Blits



Lyle and Toni Killpatrick with Luna



The Caplans and Rosie



Linda, Doug and Murray Ridenour



Swissys on the Move



In the last BLAZE, Team Captain Rob Blits invited members to do a Walk 'n' Talk with Trekker, Marie and him at the Morris Foundation K-9 Cancer Walk on April 13 in Los Gatos. His goal was to raise \$500 for Cancer Research. Wow—members certainly responded with a very positive YES!

At last count, we raised \$2665.00!

Find more photos of the event by clicking on

<http://goldengategsmdc.com/galleries/20140413K9CancerWlk/index.html#1>

Why You Should Take Your Urban Puppy to Socials After Just One Set of Shots

By Jeff Stallings, CPDT-KA

A few months back I attended a “Dangerous Dog Conference” at the University of California/Davis, during which Dr. Bonnie Beaver, former president of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, highlighted a study on the risk of partially-vaccinated puppies contracting parvovirus at indoor puppy socials. The result?

Puppies with just the first set of shots attending puppy socials are at no greater risk of parvovirus infection than those not attending socials. During the study of 1,012 puppies:

- None of the 15 puppies that contracted parvovirus had attended puppy socials
- None of the puppies that attended socials contracted parvovirus

This UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine study dovetails perfectly with the standard of care recommended by the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB), which unequivocally encourages puppies to begin socialization classes as early as 7-8 weeks of age and seven days after the first set of vaccines.

It is important to note that structured puppy socials, run by a variety of training and daycare facilities and other pet-related businesses, take place indoors on non-porous surfaces with immediate cleansing of any “accidents” with an antimicrobial solution. Porous surfaces, such as soil, sand and, in particular, dog parks, must be avoided until full vaccination!

Some veterinarians, shelters and breeders continue to unwisely advise new owners to wait until after the final set of shots to allow their puppy to interact with others, by which time the socialization period has closed, precluding their best shot at acquiring lifelong dog-on-dog social skills. Such under-socialization can result in behavior problems, fear and aggression, which are the primary reasons for relinquishment and euthanasia in pet dogs.

I do not take lightly that I may be asking you to reject your particular veterinarian’s counsel, but the recommendation that puppies begin socials before full vaccination is supported by the AVSAB as well as the American Veterinary Medical Association, the ASCPA and other dog health and behavior experts.

Puppy socialization classes do not guarantee that any given dog won’t develop fear or aggression later in life and neither are all under-socialized puppies antisocial. In utero experiences, early nutrition and the first weeks with the mother and siblings also play key roles in behavior and disposition. But there is no dispute that having rich and varied social experiences in the first three months of life improves the odds of a raising a balanced, confident dog.

Why is the socialization window so short?

At the risk of stating the obvious, puppies develop much faster than their human baby counterparts: Puppies walk beautifully at three weeks; babies not so well until after a year. This acceleration affects cognitive function as well, which develops rapidly during a short socialization period that forms the framework for the puppy’s future social functioning. A strong foundation built from a rich set of early experiences gives the puppy more context in which to evaluate and react to future stimuli in the environment, including people and other dogs.

The true socialization period for puppies—during which they readily incorporate new experiences into their developing worldviews that directly affect lifelong behavior—lasts from weeks 3 to 12. That’s it. Since most puppies remain with their mother and littermates for seven weeks (that’s a whole other blog post), this means new owners have just four weeks to make sure their puppy has ample opportunity to learn that there are many sorts of people and types of dogs in this world.

Think of your puppy's brain during these 28 days as a sponge, supple and ready to absorb and incorporate new experiences. Weeks 8 through 12 are called the "second socialization period", the first having been the prior seven weeks with the mother and siblings. This is absolutely the most profoundly important period in your dog's life. Her brain is wired to absorb new experiences far more rapidly than any subsequent period, and she learns not only to accept being around people and other dogs, but also to enjoy and seek out these experiences.

Learning a new language

While not a perfect analogy, a puppy's openness to learning social skills is similar to the way young children learn new languages effortlessly. Studies have shown that children younger than seven years old easily pick up new languages because their brains are wired to readily incorporate the words, grammar and structure of multiple languages. Like the puppy socialization period that ends at 12 weeks, this window closes for children around seven years old, after which language acquisition becomes far more difficult. You can place a 6-year old child in a Mandarin immersion class for a year and she will come out fluent in the language but if I were to attend the same class, I would likely still be struggling with the basics.

The analogy continues in that my Mandarin would improve over time as I became more familiar and comfortable with the language, but I would never be as fluent as my toddler counterpart. Likewise, dogs without the advantage of a rich socialization period can learn to thrive in social situations, but it will take a great deal more time and effort and have a lower chance of success.

For dogs, being comfortable with and understanding our manmade world is a life-long process but the critical socialization period only comes along once.

Socialization...but to what?

The reason I titled this article "*why you must take your urban puppy to socials after one set of shots*" is that if your puppy is not destined for an urban life but rather, say, the life of a farm dog, socialization to lots of people and dogs is not as important. If your pup's life will be devoted to managing livestock, this second socialization period would be the ideal time for him to hang out a bit with sheep, goats, cows, tractors, turbines and the like.

But 80% of Americans live in urban areas rather than farms, and since more of us have dogs in our homes than ever before, it behooves us to structure our puppy's socialization period to take this into account. Our sheepherder probably doesn't need to learn how to cope with city parks bursting at the seams with dogs. But if you live in an urban area and plan to take your (fully vaccinated) dog to parks, beaches and other dog-friendly areas, you'd best start teaching him early that there are lots of dogs of all sorts in this world. To do this, indoor puppy socials before 16 weeks of age are your best bet.

Puppy socials are just one part of a well thought out socialization plan (I recommend 7-10 socials at three distinct locations from weeks 8 – 16) but they form the cornerstone and have the additional advantage of being viable before all vaccinations are complete per the aforementioned recommendations of the ASVAB. In addition to the socials, a widely-accepted goal is for a puppy to meet 100 people during these same four weeks, including babies, children, elderly folks, men, women, all races, sizes and shapes. (Make sure a few bearded men in baseball hats gently approach and give your pup a treat!)

One caveat here is that these puppy socials and people-meet-and-greets must be positive experiences, not too overwhelming and not too scary. The actual ASVAB statement reads:

The primary and most important time for puppy socialization is the first three months of life. During this time puppies should be exposed to as many new people, animals, stimuli and environments as can be achieved safely and without causing over-stimulation manifested as excessive fear, withdrawal or avoidance behavior.

So while you are your pup's guardian in these situations and must avoid overly frightening situations (an unruly, much larger puppy, for instance) you must also allow your puppy to venture forth into the mayhem at their own pace. Sometimes a shy puppy will hang back for the first few events, and then become the social butterfly.

Otis emerges on the world stage

My dog Otis was of this ilk as a young puppy, shy and unsure of herself. She had been fostered in a rural area of eastern California, so the sights and sounds of San Francisco were initially overwhelming. At her first puppy social, she hung out under my chair and observed the other puppies playing; I did not coddle or overprotect her. By her second social she was venturing forth, playing for a few minutes, then retreating to her safe place under my chair. By her third social, she was actively seeking out playmates and practicing adult communication behaviors, which is the ultimate goal of these events.

Since Otis was by nature somewhat fearful, I have no doubt that had she not had the chance to come out of her shell among other puppies and to learn and practice social skills, she would be a fearful dog today, potentially aggressively so. Instead she has superb communication skills and is particularly adept at enticing other dogs to play and chase her. She remains cautious around novel stimuli (a strange stack of wood on our street or a kite hitting the beach nearby), but she is most definitely not fearful. Puppy socials made all the difference.

Had I only taken Otis to that first puppy social (the one in which she hung out under my chair, overwhelmed and frightened) it almost certainly would have backfired. She would have learned that being around other dogs was an unpleasant experience to be avoided. She might have become aggressive in trying to keep them away, like the multitude of dogs that have learned to snarl, snap, lunge and bark to keep other dogs from approaching. Instead, by giving Otis numerous opportunities to slowly learn to how to play, she became a world-class communicator.

I bring this up primarily because I recently took a call from the owner of a 6-month old puppy whose veterinarian had advised to avoid all contact with other dogs until fully vaccinated. In this particular puppy's case, this meant no contact until 17 weeks. With clearance from their veterinarian, the pup finally attended one social, now five weeks past the end of the second socialization period, and it did not go well. The puppy was terrified, so they never went back. Now this young dog's single point of reference is that new dogs are scary. She trembles in fear whenever in the presence of other dogs, unsure of how to act or react. A desensitization/counter-condition program will take months or years and will never be as effective as if that puppy had been taken to numerous socials while her brain was configured to learn and cope.

Don't let time pass you by

In the UC Davis study, none of the puppies taken to socials contracted parvo but 15 not taken did. This is not surprising: new owners who are conscientious enough to know about the advantages of early (and safe!) socialization are also knowledgeable enough to avoid taking under-vaccinated pups to dog parks, where the risk of contracting the virus is high.

Conversely, people unaware of puppy socials are more likely to take puppies to places they should not be until after full vaccination, including dog parks, beaches and other porous surfaces likely to harbor parvovirus-infected feces.

I hope this article sheds some light not only on the advantages of socialization, but also on how such a program can begin early enough to make a real difference in the lives of dogs. In part because the safety and benefits of early socialization are well documented, most urban and suburban areas of the country now have access to indoor puppy socials that require just the first set of shots. This bodes well for the health and well being of future generations of man's best friend.

Thanks to Steve Ginocchio and Maria Jensen for bringing this article to our attention.

Swissy Time!



Angus and Mollie in new harnesses



Gracie and Kate



Lilli and Kalani Lock



Maria Jensen's Illusion



Roxy Palladino on Chaise



Maria's Al Roy-9 months



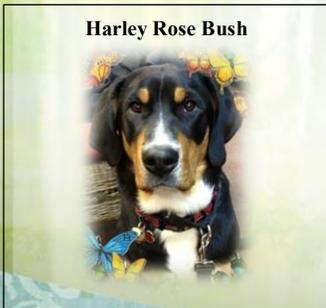
Sergeant Lawson



Fredrick and Dixie Vonada



Ledley, Somerset and Tristan Turner



Harley Rose Bush



Mitzi Schmidt

**San Mateo and Oakland Kennel Clubs Results
VALLEJO, CA**

Thursday, March 20

Merlin, WINNERS DOG 2 pts. (new Champion)
Dirty Harry, RESERVE WINNERS DOG
Jake, BEST OF BREED
Enzo, SELECT

Friday, March 21

Dirty Harry, WINNERS DOG 1 pt
Oz, RESERVE WINNERS DOG
Merlin, BEST OF BREED, 2 Grand Champion pts
Enzo, SELECT

SATURDAY, March 22

Dirty Harry, WINNERS DOG, "new Champion"
Rolo, RESERVE WINNERS DOG
Aria, WINNERS BITCH
Dirty Harry, BEST OF WINNERS & BEST OF BREED 5 pt
major
Aria, BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX
Enzo, SELECT (New Grand Champion)

Sunday, March 23

Rolo, WINNERS DOG 2pts
Oz, RESERVE WINNERS DOG
Dirty Harry, BEST OF BREED
Enzo, SELECT



Charles and Aria



Maureen and Rolo



Paula and Jake



Wade and Ramsey



Line Up: Heidi, Erin, Toni, Charles, Paula



Jefrey and Fredrick-brothers

**Dogs need to sniff the ground; it's how they keep abreast of current events.
The ground is a giant dog newspaper,
containing all kinds of late-breaking dog news items, which, if they are especially urgent,
are often continued into the next yard.**

Dave Barry

Let's Play with the Dogs!

Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

Tropical Picnic in the Park
May 10, 2014, 11:00 am
Muirwood Community Park
4701 Muirwood Dr, Pleasanton

Potluck Party and Club Meeting

The club will provide wraps and water and, of course, it wouldn't be a tropical party without the wading pools and flamingoes.

Please bring your preferred beverage and a dish to share. Some suggestions:

- Coleslaw
- Salad
- Cut fruit
- Appetizers
- Dessert

Please come and vote on our revised by-laws. We need a quorum to vote "YES" before we can submit our revisions to AKC.

Please RSVP to Donna ASAP:
dzetter@gmail.com



Simon



Olaf Gleason



Angus and Mollie in Vineyard



Kate



Lilli Lock



Bentley



From Michele Slate



Fredrick and Dixie



Zelda Swissy



King

The Top Ten Toxins of 2013 by Nancy Kay, DVM ©



My tail is between my legs. I am a week late with this blog post. It was meant to time out in conjunction with National Poison Prevention Week which happens to have just ended! Here is some belated, but hopefully interesting and useful information gleaned from the call logs of the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#). Here is their list of the top ten pet toxins in 2013. They are ranked below based on call volume.

- 1. Prescription human medications:** The Animal Poison Control Center received a whopping 27,673 calls regarding exposure to human medications in 2013. The three categories of drugs most commonly implicated included heart medications (including blood pressure pills), antidepressants, and pain medications (opioids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications). Honestly, I'm surprised that medicinal marijuana wasn't a front-runner on this list!
- 2. Insecticides:** More than half of the calls pertaining to insecticides involved cats. I certainly know from experience, that many people unwittingly apply "canine only" insecticides to their kitties, thinking that one size fits all. The important lesson here is to always carefully and thoroughly read the product label before applying an insecticide to any living creature.
- 3. Over-the-counter human medications:** This group of drugs included acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen, and some herbal and nutraceutical products such as fish oil and joint supplements. I can't even begin to count the number of dogs I've treated over the years for gastrointestinal upset and/or kidney failure caused by ibuprofen. Remember, just because it's good for us doesn't mean it's good for our pets.
- 4. Household products:** The toxins reported ranged from fire logs to cleaning products. Some of the chemicals are corrosive to the gastrointestinal tract. Other products are capable of causing an obstruction if swallowed.
- 5. People food:** The biggies here are onions, garlic, grapes, raisins, and the sugar substitute, xylitol. These food products have the potential to cause kidney failure (grapes and raisins), gastrointestinal upset and damage to red blood cells (onions and garlic), and dangerously low blood sugar levels (xylitol).
- 6. Veterinary products and medications:** These products are often flavored in order to make for a more palatable pilling process. The more delectable the medication, the more likely the animal is to eat as many tablets as possible when inadvertently allowed access to the entire bottle. The containers may be childproof, but they're certainly not resistant to the gnashing and mashing of canine jowls.
- 7. Chocolate:** I'm not sure why this was not included as a "people food". It's certainly one of my favorites! Methylxanthine is the substance in chocolate that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, tremoring, elevation in heart rate, and even seizures. The darker/purer the chocolate is, the greater the potential for toxicity. The lesson here- always be selfish with your chocolate!
- 8. Rodenticides:** These are poisons intended to kill mice and rats. In many cases of accidental pet exposure, the people involved either had no idea how their pet could have been exposed, or they felt certain that there was no way their pet could have accessed the product where it was placed. Pets are pretty darned clever at getting to such tasty stuff. Depending on the type of poison, rodenticide toxicity can present as internal bleeding, seizures, or kidney failure. Here's the bottom line. If you share your home with a pet, do not use a rodenticide anywhere on your premise. Let your kitties and your terriers do the mousing.
- 9. Plants:** Lilies are the major culprits here. When ingested, they are capable of causing an abrupt onset of kidney failure. The outcome can be favorable, but only with really aggressive therapy that sometimes includes dialysis. Spare yourself this heartache- get rid of any lilies in your yard, and don't bring any lily containing bouquets or plants into the house. Kitties just love to nibble on them.
- 10. Lawn and Garden Products:** What dog doesn't love what fertilizers contain- bone meal, manure from all kinds of critters, and, sometimes, even some dried blood. Dogs that eat enough of the stuff will develop some rip roaring gastrointestinal symptoms, and potentially even an obstruction.

With record temperatures around the country, it is important to keep your dogs in mind when it comes to keeping cool. Here are Cesar's Top 10 Tips for beating the summer heat!

- 1.) Exercise your dog early in the morning or late at night.** Since these are the cooler parts of the day, this will make the walk more comfortable for both you and your dog. I am a believer in vigorous **exercise** for healthy dogs, but this is the time of year to back off on exercise intensity.
- 2.) Use doggie boots.** You can find these at your local pet supply store. If you can't walk your dog during the early and later hours of the day, this is a good way of protecting him. Heat rises from the ground, especially on surfaces like cement and asphalt, and dogs absorb and release heat through their feet. Just like boots prevent the dog from absorbing the cold in the winter, they also isolate heat.
- 3.) Watch for signs of dehydration.** Dogs can't sweat. They cool off by panting, so an overheated dog will drool excessively. It will become lethargic, its eyes will be bloodshot, and it may appear a little pale. If you lift its skin, it will take longer than usual for the skin to fall back into place.
- 4.) Keep your dog hydrated!** Different dogs have different needs when battling the heat. Keep in mind that darker coats absorb more heat than lighter coats. Also, overweight dogs are at higher risk for dehydration. Carry a bottle of water when going on a walk with your dog. Better yet have your dog carry it for you in a backpack or a vest! The water in the bottles will keep the dog cooler and also give the dog a sense of purpose.
- 5.) Find innovative ways to cool your dog.** Don't have air conditioning? No problem! Find a spot in the shade and set up a kiddie pool. Lay down a wet towel for your dog to lie on. Or simply set up a fan in front of a pan of ice. At the Dog Psychology Center, we have sprinklers that spray the dogs with a gentle mist of water.
- 6.) Dogs cool from the bottom up.** Make sure to spray the paws and stomach, not just the top of the dog, when spraying it with water. A wet towel does more good on the bottom of your dog than when laid on the top of its coat.
- 7.) Let your dog dig!** Your dog may resort to finding his own way to avoid the heat. Dogs in nature dig their dens not out of frustration but to find food, hide, give birth—or keep cool! If it's possible, locate a shady area where it's okay for your dog to dig.
- 8.) Let your dog check the weather.** Dogs don't have the Weather Channel, so they don't know why they are being denied a long walk for the day. Allow your dog to step outside and feel for itself that it is too hot, too wet, or too cold to go on a long walk. Instinctually, the dog will understand that it has to shorten its walk, or simply come back inside where it's safe.
- 9.) Never leave your dog in a parked car.** The car retains more heat than an open area, even if it is in the shade. Plus, a dog may get overexcited in the car due to passersby or panic from claustrophobia, making dehydration more likely. On longer trips, make sure you have water for the dog and keep the AC running.
- 10.) Use hot weather as an excuse to swim more often!** The best activity you can do in summertime or hot weather is swimming. Instead of walking the dog, take the dog on a swim! If you hold on and allow your dog to take you around the pool, it becomes a powerful bonding experience for the two of you, similar to the walk.



RAINBOW BRIDGE

"ROY"

10/02/05 - 03/13/14



2012 Nationals

On March 13, 2014, Roy (NBIS, MBISS CH TreeNSea Lupine Serenade, HIT) affectionately known to his many friends and family as 'Roy Boy,' went to the Rainbow Bridge. He died peacefully in my arms with my husband Lyle and his friend Dr. Eileen Bissmeyer at his side, having succumbed to the cancer that he so valiantly fought over the past 2 ½ years. At around 4 pm on his last day, Roy looked up at me, as if to say, "It's time, Mom." I placed a blanket on the ground in his kennel and laid down next to him, telling him it was OK to go - that I would be OK, and at 6:30 pm, my beautiful boy went to the Rainbow Bridge, with our blessings.



2009 Nationals



2013 GSMDCA Western Regional



April 2013



Rest well, Roy Boy.

I am deeply grateful to Maria Jensen for breeding our magnificent dog.

Hot Spots Dr. Kay, DVM

Reference the term “hot spot” these days and one thinks about a point of Internet access. Not so for veterinarians who reserve the term “hot spot” for a common skin problem capable of causing canine misery, particularly in the spring and summer when allergies and fleas make a comeback from their winter dormancy.

Acute Moist Dermatitis

The more technical name for a hot spot is “acute moist dermatitis”, a localized skin eruption that appears very quickly (sometimes in a matter of hours), hence the term “acute”. “Moist” is included in the description because, invariably the sores are wet and messy. Lastly “dermatitis” refers to inflammation of the skin.

What causes them?

Technically speaking, the cause of a hot spot is whatever incites the initial skin irritation, such as a fleabite, trauma to the skin, or allergies. Truth be told, it is the dog’s incessant licking, biting and scratching in response to the irritation that actually creates the hot spot. This self-trauma begets more inflammation which begets more self-trauma- a classic vicious cycle.

For the dog, the end result of all that scratching, licking, and chewing is a cesspool of bacteria, damaged skin and pus hidden beneath a wet covering of densely matted fur. The person discovering the hot spot is invariably surprised because of the seemingly sudden onset and camouflage beneath the hair coat. For unknown reason, Golden Retrievers and Saint Bernards are particularly predisposed to developing hot spots.

Treatment

While successful treatment of most hot spots requires help from a veterinarian, milder cases can be successfully managed at home. The key is to clip the hair away from the site of inflammation. Bacteria thrive in a moist environment and, until the hair is removed, the hot spot will remain wet and actively inflamed. For some dogs, the hot spot is so painful that sedation is required for the clipping process (always surprising given that, left to his or her own devices, the dog will aggressively scratch, lick and chew at the site). Invariably, the clipping reveals a skin sore far larger and uglier than what was imagined when the site was covered by hair. If you are performing this step at home, please stick with clippers only. Attempting to get the job done with scissors on a wiggly, painful dog is an accident waiting to happen (now the vet must treat a laceration in addition to a hot spot).

Once the site is clipped it should be gently cleansed with an antibacterial product. It’s often not possible to remove all of the crusting and debris during the first go round and the cleansing must be repeated a couple of times daily. Following cleansing, the area should be gently dried with a towel or hair dryer set at a medium or cool temperature.

Clipping and cleaning are all that is necessary for very mild hot spots. More severely affected dogs should receive oral or injectable antibiotics to eliminate the bacterial infection. Antibiotic ointments applied directly to the site are usually avoided, as they tend to keep the healing site too moist.

Antihistamines and/or cortisone may be prescribed in order to “cool off” the inflammatory process and/or treat any underlying allergy.

If fleas are a factor, flea control products are recommended for use on the individual with the hot spot as well as all of the other dogs and cats in the household.

Lastly, it is super-important to put an end to the self-trauma. This usually involves use of an Elizabethan collar (the “cone of shame”) and careful supervision for the first several days.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW

CHAMPIONS!



CH Whispering Pine Aloha Kailani aka Abby, a Reba X Tucker pup,
(4-5-14 Yosemite Kennel Club-Merced)
 Owners Deanne and James Carter- finished with 4 majors in 4 dog shows.



CH Northwoods Dab of Magic aka Merlin
(3-20-14 Vallejo)
 By Trout Creek's On A Roll - CH Northwoods Mountain Bluebelle RN
 Owner Heidi Steenstra



CH Fire Dance Sudden Impact aka Dirty Harry
(3-22-14 in Oakland)
 By CH Painted Mtn's Reconnaissance –
 GCH Calypso Roy's Geneva V Maxamillion.
 Owners: Donna Zetterquist & Antoinette Killpatrick



CH Fireside's the Chase aka Jake
(8-24-13 at Mensona)
 By CH Rippling Waters Havelock Key CDX NAP AJP -
 Sawmill's She's A Sure Shot!
 Owner: Paula Robles



Northwoods Daddy-O Enzo aka Enzo
(8-25-13 Mensona)
 By Trout Creek's On A Roll - CH Northwoods Mountain Bluebelle RN.
 Owner: Erin Stammer

**THE SATURDAY
EVENING POST**



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

Toni Killpatrick



INFORMATIONAL SITES to VISIT

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2210909824/>

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America

<http://www.gsmdca.org/>

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Forums

<http://greaterswissdotcom.com/forum/>

Golden Gate GSMD Facebook Page

[Click here](#)

Visit our club website:

www.goldengategsmdc.com/