



THE BLAZE

Having Fun with Our Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Swissy family,

As I start my new term as President of the GGGSMDC, I want to thank the incoming slate of officers and directors for volunteering their time and efforts to keep our club thriving and successful - there are some new names and faces, and I'm eagerly looking forward to working with all of you. I, also, particularly want to offer my gratitude and thanks to those of you who will be leaving the board and to all the wonderful members who volunteered, both monetarily and with their time, to make 2016 an outstanding year.

Our goal for this year is FUN, FUN, FUN!! And it looks like 2017 is getting off to a fabulous start. Your club is in the process of planning many activities for you and your Swissys of all ages.....but putting these events together takes volunteers, so please consider offering your time for various positions so we can continue to offer these activities. To help us come up with events of interest to everyone, the Board of Directors will be sending out a survey that I would ask all of you please to take a moment to fill out.....we need your comments and ideas regarding what you would like to see more or less of - this is YOUR club, and this is the time to let us know what you want.

I know that it isn't possible for everyone to attend every event, but do keep your eye on the calendar, and try to join us whenever possible - and remember, these are family events, so bring everyone along.....the more the merrier!!

Looking forward to a great 2017!!!

Forever Swissys,
Toni Killpatrick

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

Two Weight Pulls-one at the GSMDCA Western Regional

AKC Herding Instinct Test

Three Pack Hikes-SoCal, Mammoth, Lower Lake, CA

Gunnar Memorial CGC Test in Modesto (April)

Swiss Dog Day Afternoon-July at Ft. Mason

End of Summer Party in Sonoma, Sept. 23-24

GSMDCA Western Regional in Pleasanton, Oct. 20-22

with Weight Pull, four shows, Swissy Costume Contest and other educational experiences

AKC Farm Dog Certification Test

For all above and for a list of dog shows in Northern and Southern California, check the Calendar on our web page:

<http://www.goldengategsmdc.com/events.html>

CONTENTS

1 Calendar, President's Letter	7 Specialty Photo Booth	13 The Apple Litter	19-20 Swissy Christmas
2 Officers, Objectives	8 Audible vs Edible	14 Seniors	21 Look at Us
3 End of Summer Party	9 Dogs See with Noses!	15 Senior Christmas Litter	22 Atopic Dermatitis
4 Specialty-Conformation	10 Gunnar	16 Congratulations	23 Setting Up a Pet Trust
5 Specialty Weight Pull	11 Simi Valley Parade	17 Homemade Pill Pockets	24 A Little Humor
6 Specialty Activities	12 New GGGSMDC Swissys	18 Swissys & Their Peeps	25 Gotta Love this Breed

Officers, Board Members and Committees

President: Toni Killpatrick

Vice President: Erin Stammer

Secretary: Linda Ridenour

Treasurer: Julie Vonada

Board Members:

Leslie Bryson

Carol Bamsch

Lisa England

Paula Robles

Monika McNamara

Membership: Susan Robinson

Public Relations:

Ways and Means: Lisa England

Awards and Trophies: Erin Stammer and Toni Killpatrick

Social Events: The Board and per event committee lead

Calendar: Donna Zetterquist

Show Events: The Board

Working Events: Heidi Steenstra and Kelly Stover

Newsletter: Susan Robinson

Website: Rob Blits

Raffle: Julie Vonada and Toni Killpatrick

Hospitality: The Board and per event committee lead



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.

END OF SUMMER PARTY IN SONOMA



Good eats, wine, friends, seasoned with rollicking Swissies and vineyard walk.



and...our first weight pull in years.



Freddie pulled 974 pounds in his first weight pull!

2016 GSMDCA WESTERN REGIONAL REGIONAL SPECIALTY Weekend

Photos courtesy of Leslie Bryson, who invites you to view the entire "GGGSMDC in Pleasanton" gallery on <https://focuspointimages.com/> and select your favorites for free.

The GSMDCA Western Regional Specialty Show



It was a huge entry!



The trophies were awesome-Thanks, Erin!



Best of Breed-Norman



Dirty Harry's kids earned him "Stud Dog."



Lily raked in some loot.

Some memories of the GGSMDC Weight Pull



The Weight Pull Team and the beautiful trophies



Camille and Arbor



Alan, Brig and Lisa



Jim and Shay



Carol and Maya



Kelly and Mia



Carol and Maya



Troy and Blumen



Andrea and Murdoch



Debbie and Dexter

Photos courtesy of Leslie Bryson, who invites you to view the entire "GGGSMDC in Pleasanton" gallery on <https://focuspointimages.com/> and select your favorites for free.

More Specialty Weekend Activities

Julie Vonada and Jim Franklin set up a practice agility course for us to try.



We had a Barn Hunt, too. Thanks, Laurie Cowhig of Redwood Ratters. <http://www.redwoodratters.com/>



Western Sierra BMDC Sponsored Draft Trials, which several entered.



Others did Rally and Obedience.

Dixie won for Rally and Fredrick won the Obedience, go team Vonada!



Photos courtesy of Leslie Bryson, who invites you view the entire "GGGSMDC in Pleasanton" gallery on <https://focuspointimages.com/> and select your favorites for free.

The HUMANS had some fun, too!



The Photo Gallery



It always bring out the Wild West in us.



Which one of these documents a kidnapping in progress?



Let us gamble (have a raffle) and eat cake!

Photos courtesy of Leslie Bryson, who invites you view the entire "GGGSMDC in Pleasanton" gallery on <https://focuspointimages.com/> and select your favorites for free.

Audible Versus Edible: Which Type of Reward Does Your Dog Prefer? Nancy Kay, DVM

Which does your dog prefer, a yummy treat or verbal praise from you? Does your answer differ between the dogs in your household? A team of researchers took it upon themselves to answer this basic question- do dogs prefer food or praise? Their [results](#), published in *Social Cognitive And Affective Neuroscience*, evaluated 15 dogs of various breeds. Prior to the study, the dogs were trained to lie very still within an operating MRI machine while having their brains imaged (no easy feat!) in order to avoid any effects of sedation or anesthesia.

Part one of the study

MRI scans of the dogs' brains were performed while they were exposed to various stimuli. The researchers paid special attention to the ventral caudate portion of the brain, the area most active in response to rewards.

The dogs were presented with three different objects: a toy car (associated with verbal praise), a toy horse (associated with a food reward), and a hairbrush (associated with nothing). Compared to the control group (the dogs presented with the hairbrush), the dogs presented with the toy car or toy horse demonstrated significantly more activation within the caudate portions of their brains. Roughly equal or greater brain activation to the car (praise) versus the horse (food) was observed in 13 of the 15 dogs.

Part two of the study

This phase mimicked part one, except that the expected praise accompanying presentation of the toy car was withheld during some of the trials. Dogs who valued the social reward more than a food treat during part one of this study showed the greatest difference in brain activation between receipt of versus withholding of the expected praise.

Part three of the study

This phase took place outside of the MRI scanner. The researchers challenged the dogs with a simple Y-shaped maze. Released at the "bottom" of the Y, the dogs had the choice of traveling to either a bowl of treats or their owners where praise was doled out. Most of the dogs chose their owners. The degree of brain activation previously demonstrated in response to the stimuli turned out to be an accurate predictor of which way the dogs would travel in the Y maze.

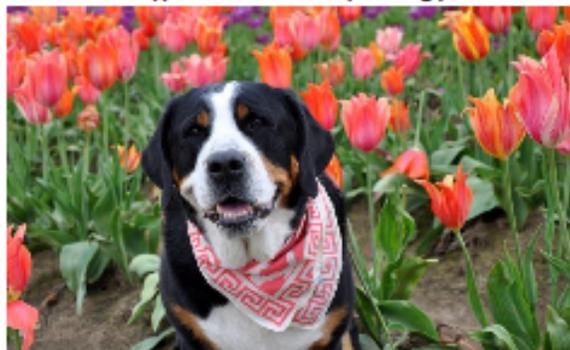
Conclusions

We all know that dogs are super-social creatures. We also know that some are profoundly food oriented. Interestingly, 13 of the 15 dogs in this study demonstrated roughly equal or greater brain activation to the expectation of praise than they did with expectation of a food reward.

While this is interesting stuff to think about with our own dogs, the more practical application may be with working dogs. Those who place higher value on praise may be better suited for therapy/assistance dog/service dog roles. By contrast, a food-motivated dog might be a great choice for a search and rescue role.

Given the preponderance of obesity in our canine pet population, I love that this study emphasizes the point that many (if not most) of our dogs can thrive on receiving praise and social interaction for good behavior or a job well done. Food treats are not the best or only reward option, either in terms of our dogs' brains or their waistlines!

Which type of reward does your dog prefer?



Gypsy-Photo by Allison Allen

HOW DO DOGS SEE WITH THEIR NOSES?

Click Here  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7fXa2Occ_U



Philo



Boone and Cruiser



Nameless



Zelda Swissie



Bruno



Apple Blossom's Gunnar CGC
March 2, 2005 – November 1, 2016



Over the years, each dog that came to live with us was special in its own way and abundantly loved, but Gunnar just captured our hearts. He came to stay with us at the age of 1 ½ when he was looking for his “forever” home and we are so grateful to his breeder, Cindy Meyerson, for allowing us to love him for 10+ incredible years and to Nancy & Randall Glenn for introducing us to the breed.

Gunnar was a huge rambunctious ball of joy that brightened our lives and all those with whom he came in contact. He was always ready for an adventure and had an uncanny ability to be the first one in the Jeep as soon as the keys were rattled. He was a happy, enthusiastic traveler and wonderful ambassador for his breed, making friends wherever he went. He loved to swim, lie in the warm sun on his favorite pillow and bark at the lawnmower – which is something I wanted to do, too, when it was time to mow! He ate as many hibiscus petals (vet approved) as he could get away with and loved to snuggle up by the fireplace; but most of all, he just wanted to be near. He was happiest sitting at (or more likely on) our feet, resting his chin on a knee or going “sunny side up” for all those mandatory belly rubs.

In February of 2015 Gunnar developed stiffness and discomfort in his neck along with an uneven gait. We immediately took him to UC Davis for a complete workup including genetic testing, ultrasounds and MRI's, which lead to a diagnosis of spinal cord atrophy related to bony overgrowth in his neck. Surgery was not advised so we began a medication regimen coupled with acupuncture, massage, laser therapy and water treadmill sessions 2-3 times each week, which helped him immensely. Ever the easygoing gentleman and trooper that he was, he made many new friends and was a happy camper at each and every appointment, much to the delight of doctors and staff. We continued therapy for a year and a half, but his strength started to decline until he could no longer get up on his own and we knew that things would not improve. He was very much a loving, loyal and beautiful boy to the end, but his body was no longer capable. His favorite vet came to our home and Gunnar went to sleep on his big pillow being hugged tightly by both of us and eating as many of his beloved hibiscus petals as he wanted - no limits this time.

We miss the sound of his tail thumping against the wall with excitement each time we got his leash, the eager barks he would let out when dad came driving around the corner on his way home from work and the happy BAROOOO's of greeting for anyone that rang our doorbell. We could go on and on about all the things that endeared him to us, but most of all we will miss his gentle and steadfast presence, the feeling of safety in a home he protected (even if it was just with licks and tail wags) and his unconditional love. We loved him deeply, but always got back ten-fold what we gave. He was a unique and irreplaceable spirit that enriched our lives, and for that we will be forever grateful.

Run and play, big boy...we love you.

Michael & Janette DeGrendele



Our Southern California contingent got together on September 17th at the
SIMI VALLEY DAYS PARADE

organized by Lisa England, with a repeat performance next September.

Come on down!



We celebrate our new Swissys with a hearty GGGSM Club WELCOME!



**Wildest Dream Precious Treasure for Me "Ella"
Joanne Schottinger**



**Weber and Sora
Joel Freisch**



**Lady Stanley is very busy playing with, watching over, and cleaning up after her 4 human siblings
Nick (15), Louisa (11), Nate (10), and Abby Jo (9). Jenny Lynn**



Rodeo GSMD's Highlander-Holly/Jeff Webb

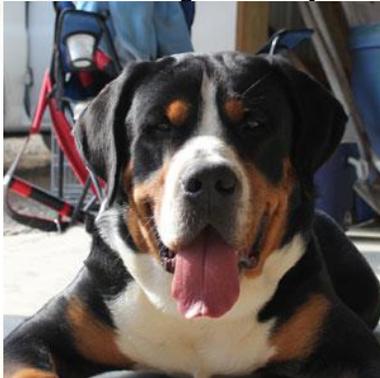


Kallie is Cherished Climb to the Top-Jenni/Casey Allen

CopperVines' Apple Themed Litter!

Whelped: March 23, 2016

Sire: Cherished Regal Rolls Royce, Royce



Dam: Alpinez Rose Gold, Arbor



Coppervines' How Do You Like Them Apples? "Gunter" Now lives with the Baker Family in Vista, California.



Coppervines' Don't Upset the Cherished Apple Cart, "Crimson" Now lives with the LaPlane Family in Michigan.



Coppervines' Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree, "Sonoma" Stayed with Arbor and Camille Sybert in Carlsbad, California.

Took Best Puppy at the Western Regional Specialty 10.22.16 and Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes 10.23.16





12 year old Annie Oakley is an Elka Daughter and Riley's mom. She lives in New Mexico with Justin and Jenn. Reba (Treensea's Sure Better for Alki) is 10 and still acts like a puppy. She lives in Felton CA with Shelly (King) and John Schuur.

Celebrating our **SENIOR SWISSYS**



Sadie lives in Arvada, CO with Brenda and Todd Kreischel, and brother Slugger. She'll be 12 on March 26. Sergeant, 11.5 yrs, lives in Morgan Hill, CA with Jeff & Lucinda Lawson. From French parents—very debonair!



Trekker lives in Anacortes WA with Rob and Marie Blits. He's 8.5, born 3/25/08. GCHG Cornerstone's Cool Hand Luke, CGC, RN, CD, is a real Cinco de Mayo fun lover. This is him celebrating his ninth birthday last spring. (Owner Joanne Schottinger says that Luke passed on 12/23/16.)

The **Christmas Litter** DOB 12/11/06

Sire: MBISS, UKC, CKC, AKC, INT'L CH. Derby's Warlock of Whispering Pine, CGC, TT, HIT,TDI

Dam: Ch. Whispering Pine Talulah



Such cute puppies! 8 out of 9 are still alive and kicking.



Calvin



Daisy



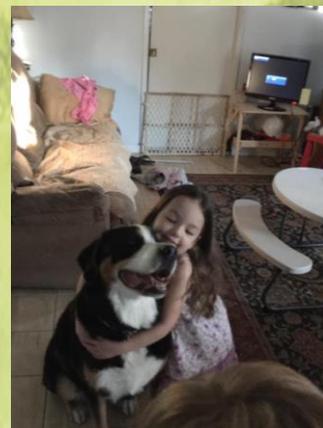
Nik



Carly "Star"



Comet



Odin



Sebastian



CONGRATULATIONS!



Maya is now GCH Fire Dance An Affair to Remember RN (also International GCH). Maya and Carol Bamsch also placed Top 13 in the Owner Handler Series for 2016. They were 1st place at Nationals in their first Novice Rally with a score of 93. Carol's daughter asked if she had the right dog!



Fredrick's obedience score was the top score for the weekend. He only was signed up for one day! This was his second leg. Julie and Freddie are going to try to finish his obedience title at the Fresno show!

Dixie finished her Rally Novice and ended up getting top score for the weekend!



At the specialty Murdoch got his 4th leg for his WWD (weight pull title) and scored most weight pulled. Now he's Grand Sieger BIS INTL CH / AM CH Rodeo's All About Murdoch A Soldier Of Fortune, RN, THDN, CGCA, CGCU, NWPD, WWD!

In November, he earned his first leg toward his BN (Barnhunt Novice).

Owners Holly and Jeff Webb announce two new titles this quarter for Echo, CH Snowy Mountain's Echo RN ROM.

Echo is a new "Register of Merit" ROM for producing five champions: Vito, Katie, Norman, Ivy, Kuda.

She is also a new "Rally Novice" RN.





Homemade Dog Pill Pockets



Homemade Dog Pill Pockets

Do you have a pup that bulks at taking his pills? **Homemade Dog Pill Treats** might be just the solution for your dog, too! I have tried crushing pills, mixing them into raw hamburger, massaging them down their throat, etc. Regardless of what I do, it's always a battle. My dog has to take huge joint pills and it's no fun trying to get them into her stomach. I messed around with a few recipes and found a combo that works great to disguise pills (they are really big and need to be broken in half) – my dog is so happy to have a treat she doesn't usually notice the medicine tucked within. Luckily, these are very easily converted to organic, and gluten free with a few simple substitutions for those that need it--use rice flour, and organic peanut butter to make them even healthier for your dog. You can buy these at the pets store for about 4 times the price and who knows what additives, preservatives, and artificial flavorings are mixed in there. Feel good knowing what you are giving your pet, and if you want you can even sneak in a little more good stuff by substituting some of the flour for ground flax seed. Make up a batch of these, and try them out on your furbaby.

Homemade Dog Pill Treats Ingredients:

- ¼ cup plus 1 Tbsp. flour
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 2 Tbsp. creamy peanut butter
- Ground flax seed (optional)

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and stir until thoroughly mixed and smooth.

Depending on what kind of peanut butter and flour you used, you may need to add more or less flour. The consistency should be fairly dry, but able to mix together and hold a shape.

Divide "dough" into balls. This batch makes about a dozen on average- depending on the size of your dog and the pills themselves, you can make them smaller or larger.

Use a pencil to poke a hole in the center, rotate to enlarge hole.

Shape around the end of the eraser to elongate the pockets and make them longer.

Place them in an airtight container and store in refrigerator.

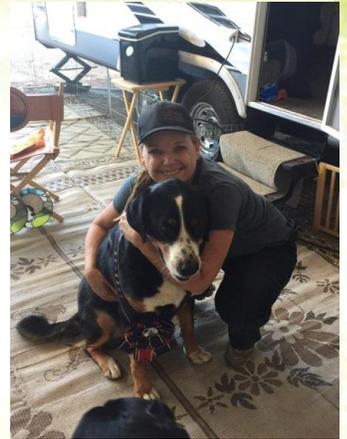
Swissys and Their Peeps



Koda Lehman and Nate



Andrea and Murdoch



Julie and Dixie



Eric and Cody



Kelly and Sophie



Veronika, baby and Bentley



Rob, Marie and Trekker



Daisy and Jennifer

“You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and the dog will give you a look that says, ‘Wow, you’re right! I never would’ve thought of that!’” —[Dave Barry](#)

“A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.” —[Robert Benchley](#)

அ தயிததது CHRISTMAS



Murdoch

??

Blumen



GSMD Christmas Tree



Dexter



Koda and Kallie



Kallie



Dixie



Kona, Mojo and Santa

More A SWISS CHRISTMAS

Summer 2017

VOL. FIVE ISSUE #3



Zeeva and Draven



Nash and Nexpa in Orlando



Freddie and Dixie



Sluggler in Christmas Snow



Harley Rose



Murdoch's Christmas Bone



Holly and Nexpa



We're in disguise—can you guess who?

LOOK AT US!



Velvet Brown



Harley Rose-Shoe Thief



Bruno Grocery Shopping



Swissy Lineup



Heidi in her new backyard



Kait



Murray, Fredrick and Dixie



Sergeant kissing his pal



Daisy



Nash (Photo by Allison Allen)



Does your fur baby constantly bite and lick his paws? If you answered yes, you're not alone. I can tell you this from personal experience. Lately, every time I turn around, I hear my dog gnawing away at her paw-pads and munching on her nails. As a concerned pet parent, I always want to make sure she is comfortable and healthy. I'm sure you do too! To help comfort your dog, though, you must first figure out *why* she is chowing down on her tootsies.

WHY IS MY DOG CHEWING HIS PAWS?

The most common cause of dogs constantly chewing their paws and nails is atopy or atopic dermatitis. Simply put ... allergies!

WHAT IS ATOPIC DERMATITIS?

Atopic Dermatitis is a chronic skin condition brought on by an inflammatory response from inhaled (atopy) environmental exposure to allergens. A dog will chew and lick to try and relieve their itchy skin. It is a chronic skin disorder and it is genetic. Atopic dermatitis usually occurs in the first few years of life, somewhere between a few months old and 6 years of age. The condition can come and go, but it almost always comes back.

WHAT CAUSES IT?

The most common causes are due to molds, grasses, pollen, and dust mites. Just as a human can inhale allergens, so can little fido. Humans normally exhibit itchy eyes, runny noses, and respiratory symptoms, while dogs most often have symptoms of itchy paws, face, or ears.

SYMPTOMS

- Chronic Biting and licking paws due to itching
- Red and inflamed paw pads from excessive licking and chewing
- Brown saliva stains on paw pads due to excessive licking
- Scratching
- Shaking head and ears – ears can itch and/or become infected
- Runny nose and watery eyes can be present, but less frequently
- Be alert for any odors, open wounds, or skin breakdown from the excessive licking and chewing. These can be signs of infection and will need to be looked at by the vet.

Diagnosing allergies can be tricky. Your vet can do skin tests and blood tests to identify what your pup is allergic to. Depending on the severity, he may want to treat with steroids or antihistamines. Whether you want to go that route or not (*I'll talk about natural treatments in just a minute*), it's always a good idea to let your vet know what's going on with your pup. With atopic dermatitis, you want to make sure that your pooch doesn't wind up with a bacterial or yeast infection. So a trip to the vet is definitely warranted.

NATURAL TREATMENTS TO TRY

Of course, the first thing to do if you know the cause would be to remove the trigger. But since environmental causes are not that easy to remove, your best bet is to try and limit exposure.

- Consider putting a tee-shirt on your fur baby. It will put a barrier between his skin and the environment. Remember to wash and change it daily to remove lingering pollens.
- When your pooch comes in from the outside, wipe him down with a damp cloth to remove surface pollen. Wipe the face, paws, , underside of the belly, underarms, groin, tail and anal/genital areas. These are the areas most prone to contact exposure while walking your pup.
- Rinse your dog's paws after an outing. I do this in the summer months before bed every night when my pups allergies act up and she gets instant relief. I just run her little paws under cool water for a few minutes while massaging her feet and paw-pads. Then I dry her off with a towel. She curls up in the bed and happily goes to sleep. Total relief – no biting or licking those little tootsies.
- Give your dog a **bath**, but not more than every couple of weeks. You don't want to dry his/her skin out. Bathing usually gives symptomatic relief and removes pollens from the skin. Use gentle formulas, hypoallergenic formulas, or a soothing oatmeal shampoo. Studies have shown that Omega-3 fatty acids may relieve atopic dermatitis. Speak to your vet about increasing fatty acids in your pup's diet and possibly using an Omega-3 fatty acid supplement.
- Keep your carpets vacuumed, linens washed and changed to keep dust mites to a minimum.
- If you have an air filter, use it to help reduce airborne allergens within the home.

Good luck!

Setting Up a Trust for Your Pet by Nancy Kay, DVM

A dear friend of mine just entered hospice care. After a courageous battle, she is finally surrendering to ovarian cancer. In a conversation shared yesterday, she told me that she wants her beloved horse Partner to go to one of our mutual friends along with her truck and trailer and money to take care of him for the rest of his life. When asked if all of this was in writing (my hope was that all of this was already recorded in a notarized legal document), she responded with, "No."

So, while I'm now aware of my friend's intentions for her horse, there's no guarantee that her wishes will be carried out when all is said and done. She is concerned that her husband might not be happy with her plan (he doesn't know about it yet, nor does she want him to). I'm in the process of contacting my friend's attorney to see if he is available to talk with her and prepare an appropriate document. In all honesty, I'm afraid that we are running out of time. I've typed something up myself that my friend can sign today with hopes that this will suffice in terms of carrying out her wishes.

My friend's situation is not unique. Who the heck knows if we will predecease our pets? Just as for our children, having certainty about how our animals will be cared for after we pass away not only protects them, but also has the potential to provide us with tremendous peace of mind. Setting up a legal trust is the best way to make all of this happen.

What is a pet trust?

A pet trust is a legal arrangement that provides for an animal's care and maintenance in the event of the pet guardian's disability or death. The "grantor" (called the "settlor" or "trustor" in some states) is the person who creates the trust. A "trustee" is designated and holds property such as cash "in trust" for the benefit of the pet. Payments to a designated caregiver(s) are made on a regular basis.

Rules and regulations

It's now possible to make provisions for a pet through a trust in all 50 states. Minnesota was the last hold out and, earlier this year, became the final state to pass legislation approving pet trusts.

Rules pertaining to pet trusts vary from state to state. In most cases the trust terminates when the animal passes away or after 21 years, whichever occurs first. While this works well for most dogs and cats, it has the potential to be problematic for animals with longer life expectancies such as horses and parrots. Some states allow a pet trust to continue past the 21-year term if the animal remains alive. After the pet passes away, any remaining funds are typically distributed amongst heirs as directed by the terms of the trust.

Trust details

When crafting a trust, think about who you might want to care for your pets if you are no longer able to, and then talk to that person(s). Better to check out the viability of your plan in advance than surprise your friend or relative with such news after you are gone. While not necessary for the intended caregiver to sign off on the legal document, it is certainly wise to know in advance that you have their buy in.

Instruction within the trust can be very specific, including as much detail about your pet's care as you like. For example, you might specify preferred types of food, favorite toys, sleeping arrangements, exercise regimens, and the number of veterinary visits per year. Consider specifying how much veterinary intervention you would want should illness arise. Details about care of your pet's remains following their death can be included.

Think about how much money would be needed to properly care for your pets and how the funds should be distributed to the caregiver(s). Remember to factor in funds for grooming, boarding, and veterinary costs.

Lastly, identify your pets within the trust with as much detail as possible. In addition to their names include details such as breed, size, identifying markings and microchip numbers. Consider including photographs.

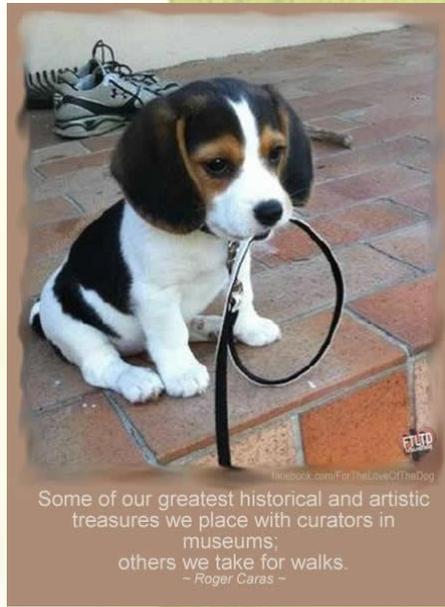
Making a trust happen

If you don't already have a trust prepared for your pets, I encourage you to make this a priority. Ideally, enlist the help of an attorney who specializes in estate planning. If this isn't feasible, type up a document (as I am doing today for my friend) and sign and date it. It might be a good idea to also have the document signed by a witness or two. I suspect there are on line templates one can follow as well.

Performing such "grown up tasks" isn't much fun, and it's certainly no fun to think about someone else caring for your beloved animals someday. Nonetheless, I encourage you to get a trust prepared for your pets. Guaranteed, after doing so, you will feel some peace of mind having provided this true expression of love for your animals.



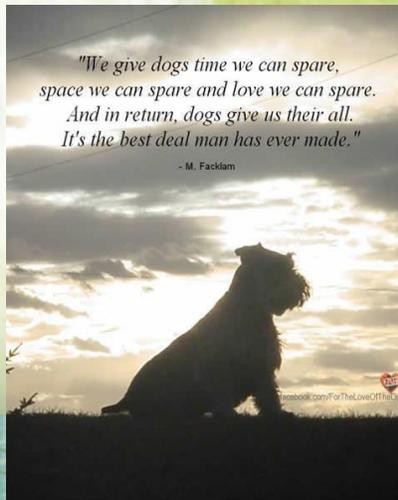
Axel



Cody



Murray



Charlie

YOU'VE JUST GOTTA LOVE THIS BREED!



He's (Norman) looking at me (Sunny).



Murdoch Carting



Koda Lehman swipes Frosty's stick



Come by sometime to see me.



Let's go out on a date.

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

(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