



2024 WINTER/SRING EDITION

THE BLAZE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN STATE
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JULIE VONADA

Well, I am back!

Due to unforeseen circumstances Mac had to resign as President, and according to our Bylaws, the VP (which was me) takes the President role. At the Board meeting we voted Lisa England in as VP, and Mike DeGrendele agreed to step up as Secretary. The directors spot that he held will stay vacant until 2025. We also changed many of the Chairs, which you will see listed in this Blaze.

In January the Board had an incredible meeting and we completed the Club's event calendar and budget! We are definitely hitting the ground running! In this Blaze you will see the list of the events, fun Swissy times ahead!

A few things I wanted to point out:

We agreed to reduce prices for the working events for all Club members! We also set aside money for social events in Southern and Northern California, but we need your help, what do you want to do? Please let any of the Board members know your ideas. We will not be hosting a Specialty this year, the Harvest Moon Dog Show where we normally host is the same dates as the National.

We held our second Scent Trial which was a complete success. We had 250 entries and our Club made \$2,250! I can't go without thanking the Club members that volunteered: Lisa England, Linda Ridenour, Carol Bever and Kim Gradin.

In February the board is going to start the planning of the events. Lisa, our Working Dog Chair, has been hard at work securing the working events! Now is the time if you want to see something, let us know!

Looking forward to a fun year!

Julie Vonada



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GSGSMDC 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*PENDING GSMDCA APPROVAL
CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
1/21/2024-SCENT TRIAL LODI, CA	LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAN A SWISSY SOCIAL/CLINIC IN YOUR HOMETOWN!!	3/9/24 SWISSY FUN DAY TRY RALLY & SCENTWORK ANAHEIM, CA 3/23 & 3/24/2024 BACK TO BACK PACK HIKE PRESCOTT, AZ
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
4/6 & 4/7/2024 FAST CAT TRIAL CERES, CA	5/4 & 5/5/2024 *WEIGHT PULL MODESTO, CA 5/18/2024 10 MILE PACK HIKE OJAI, CA	6/6-6/9/2024 SUPPORTED ENTRY WOOFSTOCK VALLEJO, CA
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAN A SWISSY SOCIAL/CLINIC IN YOUR HOMETOWN!!	8/22 - 8/25/2024 SUPPORTED ENTRY SANTA BARBARA, CA	9/2024 *DRAFTING TRIAL WILLIAMS, AZ MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
10/12-10/18/2024 GSMDCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY VERGENNES, VT 10/2024 SWISSY SOCIAL	11/2 & 11/3/2024 DRAFTING TRIAL NAPA, CA 11/2024 *10 MILE PACK HIKE NORCAL MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW	12/2024 WINE & WAG LOS OLIVOS MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



FASTCAT IS COMING TO TOWN!

The Golden State Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club is Super Excited to be hosting our First ever FastCat!



April 6th & 7th, 2024 @ Ceres River Bluff Regional Park
3761 E Hatch Blvd., Ceres, CA
95307

Want to give FastCat a try? Fun Runs will be offered (time permitting) \$10 per run

For more information visit website below.

<https://mailchi.mp/dogsportsamerica.com/gsgsmdc-update>



Boasts & Brags



SOLVEIG DID A GREAT JOB INDICATING TO ME WHERE THE HIDES WERE AT THE SCENTWORK TRIAL PUT ON BY THE GOLDEN STATE GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB IN LODI. WE QUALIFIED IN 3 OF THE 4 ELEMENTS IN NOVICE (BURIEDF, CONTAINERS, AND INTERIOR), AND CAME HOME WITH A 2ND IN NOVICE A BURIED, AND 4TH IN NOVICE A INTERIOR. WE WERE RANKED 6TH IN NOVICE A CONTAINERS. THIS IS OUR SECOND SCENTWORK TRIAL AND WE FIND IT PRETTY FUN. I THINK SOLVEIG REALLY ENJOYS IT. IT WAS A GREAT VENUE, THE RAIN STOPPED AND THE SUN EVEN CAME TO VISIT. BRAND NEW BENEbone IS WHAT SOLVEIG GETS FOR HER EFFORTS. ♥



Berkeley qualified to participate in AKC Rally National Competition in the Masters Class! Only 6 GSMD's qualified for 2023 (2 Master, 2 Intermediate. and 2 Novice)



They did it, new Rally Novice title.. 99 and 1st place out of 10 dogs! Congratulations to Andie & Dani!



Best of Winners for Rufio at the Fresno Show

Boasts & Brags



Congratulations to team Ruedi and Mike. Ruedi earned his CD and soon after passed his 3rd leg of Rally Avanced.



Rita earned her open dog draft title at the BMDCSC and a leg towards her Rally Intermediate in PS



Congratulations Hailee on earning your CGC



Jodi and Lima earning points in FastCat and having fun!

2024 GSGSMDC COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP-CHRISTINE MATA

WAYS & MEANS-JULIE VONADA

AWARDS & TROPHIES-ERIN STAMMER

WORKING CHAIR-LISA ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER/THE BLAZE-CHRISTINE MATA & LISA ENGLAND

WEBSITE-MIKE JACOBS

SOCIAL MEDIA-LISA ENGLAND & CHRISTINE MATA

NOMINATION CHAIR-ALLISON CHING

HOSPITALITY-THE BOARD AND PER EVENT COMMITTEE LEAD

NUTRITION-LISA ENGLAND, CHRISTINE MATA





Our upcoming approved pack hikes are listed below, for more information please contact hike coordinators.

March 23 & 24, 2024

Prescott, AZ

Lynx Lake Loop Trail

8 miles Back to Back

Hike Coordinator: Becky Reinke

dr36@yahoo.com



May 18, 2024

Ojai, CA

Ojai Valley Trail

10 miles 1 day

Hike Coordinator: Lisa England

lisa@silveroakgsmd.com

What's New

Swissy Tokens

The 2024 Board of Directors are committed to reducing the price for all Golden State Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Members for participating in hosted 'working' events. We are excluding conformation in this program. If we are unable to reduce the entry fees for hosted events, we created the Swissy Tokens to be given in lieu of the price reduction. The Board may also award these to Members for special occurrences.

The \$10 logo token can be used the same as cash for the Club's hosted events, raffles or meals.



VGS

Starting in January 2024

For members that earn a GSMDCA Versatility Title, we will be awarding a VGS collar tag. Please contact Julie Vonada for more information.



SWISSY FUN DAY



SATURDAY, APRIL 13
11:00

LEARN AND TRY
DRAFTING AND AKC RALLY

BRING YOUR LUNCH AND CHAIR,
THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE DESSERT

RSVP
TO:

VONADA@ATT.NET

CGC &
NOVICE TRICK DOG
TESTING

\$5 PER TEST FOR
GSGSMDC MEMBERS
\$25 NON-MEMBERS

FINLEY COMMUNITY PARK
2060 W. COLLEGE AVE SANTA ROSA

SPRING TIME TREATS

PUPSICLES

2 RIPE BANANAS

1/4 C CANNED PUMPKIN (NOT PIE FILLING)

OR

2 RIPE BANANAS

2 TBSP PEANUT BUTTER (NO ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS)

OR

**1/2 C BLUEBERRIES, STRAWBERRIES,
RASPBERRIES, OR BLACKBERRIES**

2-5 OUNCE CONTAINERS PLAIN YOGURT



POUR INTO MOLDS AND FREEZE



Applesauce Treats

1 cup unsweetened applesauce

1/4 cup natural creamy peanut butter

1/4 cup blueberries

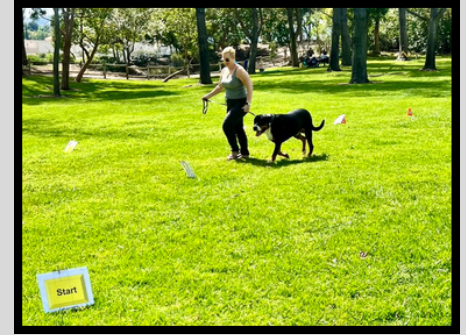
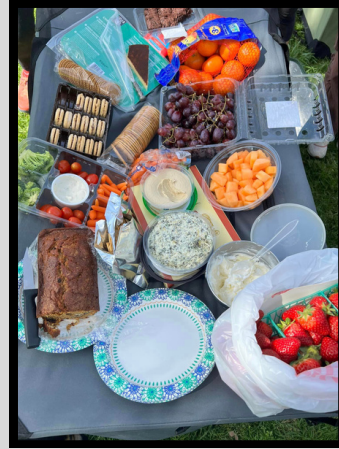
Instructions

Mix together the applesauce and peanut butter until smooth.

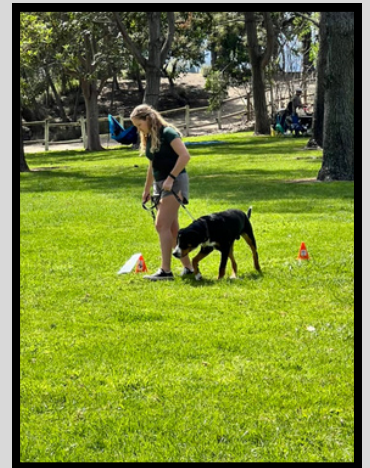
Add the blueberries and stir to combine. If your blueberries are on the large side, just put one or two in each mold. Then, spoon the mixture into silicone mold. Tap the tray on the counter a few times to get the mixture settled into the mold. This will

hopefully get rid of most of the air bubbles in the treats. Place the molds into the freezer and let sit for a couple of hours until set firm. Once firm, remove from the molds and store in the freezer in an airtight container.

SoCal Swissy Day!! Rally & Scent



A bunch of SoCal Swissies gathered for a rocking afternoon in Anaheim! The sun was shining, and they dove into rally and scent work like pros, with tails wagging and spirits soaring! Their humans brought goodies to share and fun was had by all!





ROUND 2!! SOCAL SWISSY RALLY & SCENT WORK!

Guess what?!?

You won't believe it! After the blast we had at the last shindig, we're hitting repeat! Get ready to dive into the world of Rally and

scent work with us at:

Yorba Regional Park
7600 E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim

Mark your calendars:
Saturday, 4/20, at 11 am

We'll be jazzing up the place with rally signs and a whiff-tastic scent setup.

Psst... rumor has it there's a tiny potluck in the cards for those craving extra fun!



CGC TESTING!!
GSGSMDC MEMBERS \$10 PER TEST
NON-MEMBERS \$20

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us..
Lisa England 805-791-9277
or Christine Mata 619-920-9080

WHAT DO YOU FEED YOUR SWISSIES?

Homemade

11%

Kibble

61%

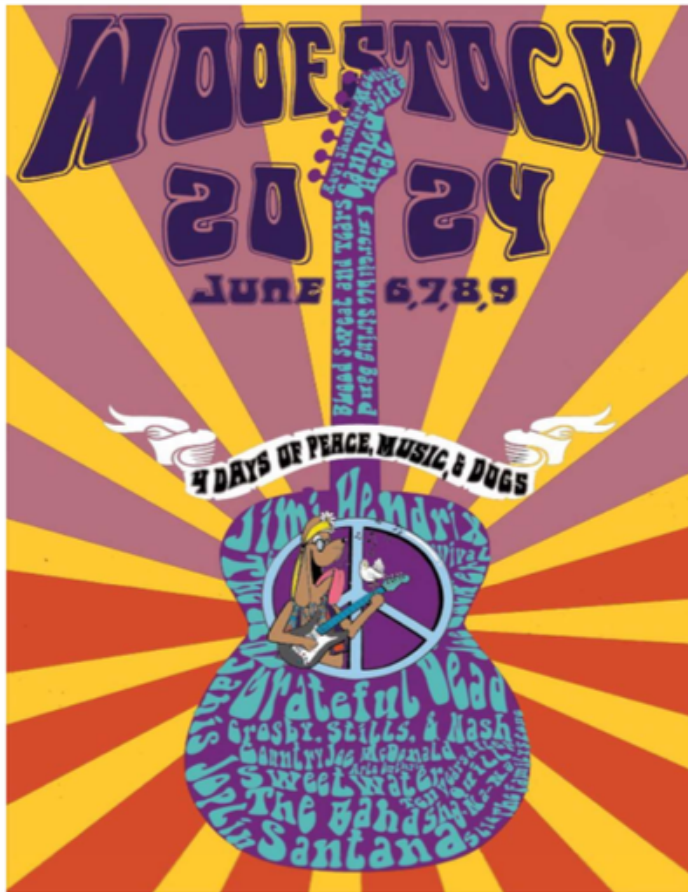
Raw

22%

Human Grade

6%

Recent Poll taken on social media.. are you surprised with the results? What do you feed your Swissy??
Send your comments to england25@sbcglobal.net



Golden State Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

Judges:

Thur: Robin Stansell

Fri: Cindy Stansell

Sat: Cheryl Paterson Supported

Sun: Marjorie Martorella

EARLY CLOSING DATE: May 15, 2024

Superintendent: MBF www.infodog.com

June 6, 7, 8, 9
Solano Co. Fairgrounds, Vallejo CA

Split BBE
Puppy/Adult

Pee Wee
Class

Saturday
Costume
Contest

Visit Our Boutique!

Saturday Thank You Party For Exhibitors!

To celebrate our final 4-day cluster, please join us Saturday during Groups for a special Thank You Party for the clubs and exhibitors who have supported us!



11 Independent Specialties on Wed.
31 Specialties - 81 Supported Entries
NOHS Thursday & Friday
Rosettes for new champions!
Come have some fun at WOOFSTOCK!



Swissies & Snow



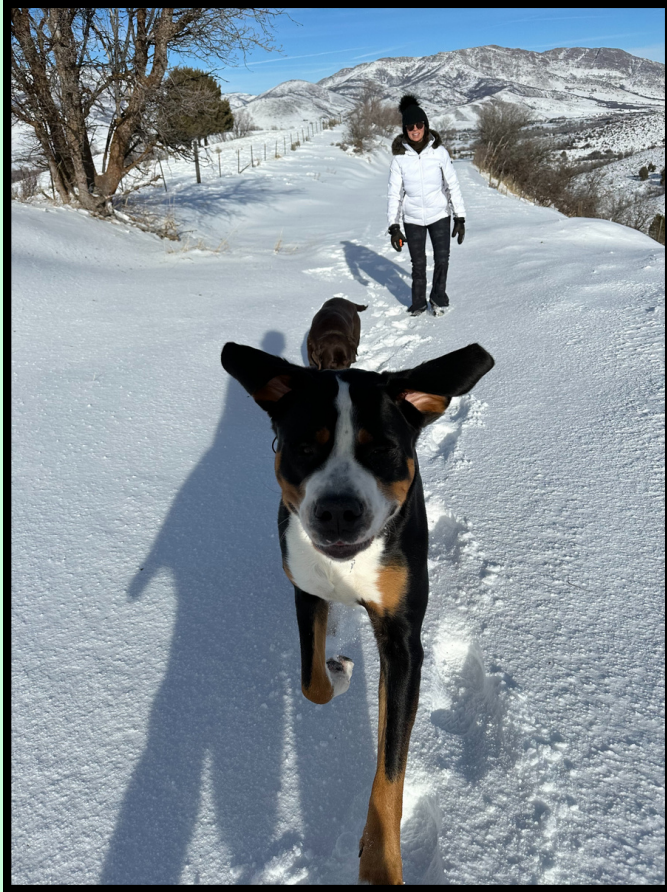
Niki and Lauti celebrated their January birthdays in stunning Yosemite!



Rufio having a blast on his snowy escapade!

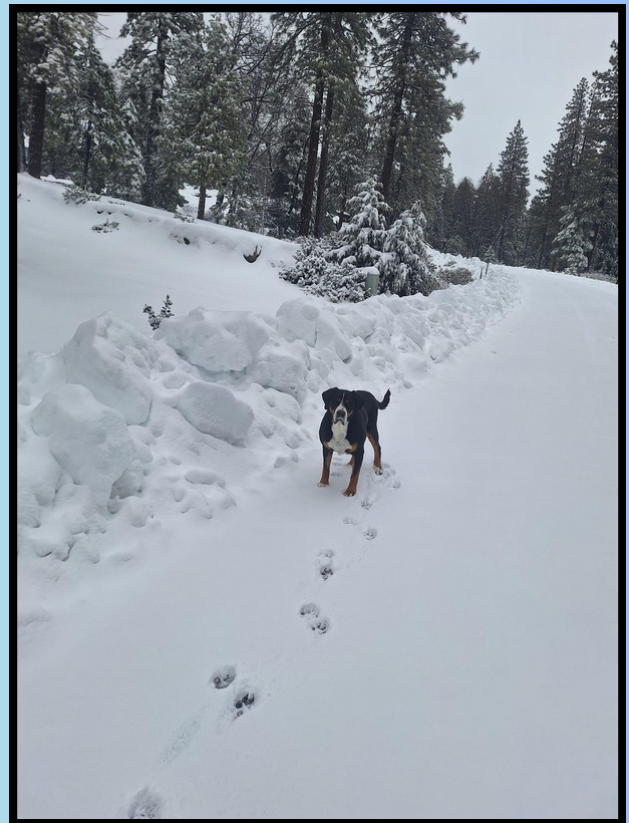


Jojo with her similar colored siblings striking a pose



He's all ears!! Cosmo and his chocolate lab brother camouflaged behind him

Emmie is having a blast in the winter wonderland!



SWISSIES & SUNSHINE



Terra soaking up rays in the Bay Area!



Behr celebrating his 3rd birthday poolside



Odie Turns 1!!!



Hey There! Hunk of Chunk!

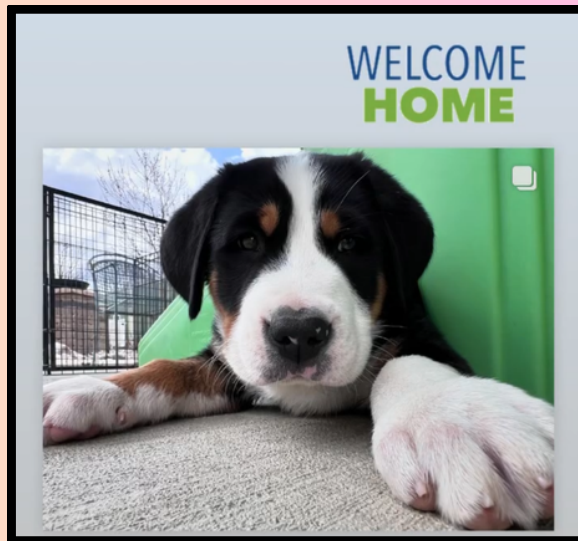


Rita & Piper hanging at the stables

SWISSY SIGHTINGS!



Issie and her birthday bear



Welcome Home, Milton Allen !!



Rebel's lunch with his fabulous GG, Toni, was the talk of the town!



Gerti Sitting pretty



Littermates Cosmo & Wylie meet up with their humans



Schnitzel, the sunset and his kitty sibling!



Bros for life!
Brix & Milton
have officially become California boys!

SWISSY SIGHTINGS!



Ruedi meeting an Entle at a recent Meet the Breed



Hailee, Gerti, Seamus and Avalon enjoying a sniff spot in San Diego



Morgan taking a breather from the urban hustle



Arbor and a few of her friends celebrating her 12th birthday!



Pippin practicing FastCat



Ingo and Annie welcome their newest addition, Brix

DID YOU KNOW?

HOW ARE HIPS GRADED?

RADIOGRAPHS ARE EVALUATED AND CATEGORIZED:

NORMAL: EXCELLENT
GOOD
FAIR

BORDERLINE

DYSPLASTIC: MILD
MODERATE
SEVERE



HOW IS THE GRADE DETERMINED?

Consensus must be reached by 3 independent radiologists

SOME EXAMPLES:

2 EXCELLENT + 1 GOOD = EXCELLENT

1 EXCELLENT + 1 GOOD + 1 FAIR = GOOD

1 FAIR + 2 MILD = MILD



EVER WONDER HOW OFA GRADES HIP RADIOGRAPHS ON ADULT DOGS?

WHEN A SET OF HIP RADIOGRAPHS ON DOGS OVER 24 MONTHS IS SUBMITTED TO THE OFA, A GROUP OF 3 RANDOMLY ASSIGNED BOARD CERTIFIED RADIOLOGISTS EVALUATE AND GRADE THEM INDEPENDENTLY. THEIR EVALUATIONS ARE POOLED, AND A FINAL GRADE CONSENSUS IS DETERMINED.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE:

[HTTPS://OFA.ORG/DISEASES/HIP-DYSPLASIA/HIP-GRADE-DETAILS/](https://ofa.org/diseases/hip-dysplasia/hip-grade-details/)

<https://www.gsshwwdb.org/>
Database HOME on left side

Bottom of page under Submitting Data, select Go To Submission Forms:



Submitting Data

How to submit information about your dog so it will be in the database. Database policies.

[Go To Submission Forms »](#)



Choose Add/Update Health Information:

Update Add or Update Your Dog

- [Add a new dog to the database](#)
Use for dogs that are not in the database
- [Add/Update Certification/Test](#)
For dogs already in the database.
- [Add/Update Health Information](#) ←
For dogs that are already in the database.
- [Add/Update Date of Death](#)
A simplified form for owners or breeders to submit a date of death and,
- [General update for a dog already in the database](#)
For owners or breeders to submit general information about their dog, in

If you don't know your dog's ID, select Lookup:

Select Dog for Health Update

Enter the GSSHWWDB Dog ID for the d

Dog ID: [Lookup](#) ←

[Continue ...](#)

Type in information on your dog and Submit Search:

Search by the dog's registered name, call name or registration number. †

Registered Name:

or

Call Name:

or

Registration No:

[Submit Search](#) ← [Cancel Search](#)

Hit the Select button next to your dog:

Dog ID Lookup Results		1 Dog records found		
	Dog ID	Registered Name	Call Name	Registration #
Select	45561	RIDGEBRIDGE MAKE IT A MAGNUM	FAILLA	WSS4048501 (AKC)

Page 1 of 1 1

[New Search](#) [Show All](#)

It will populate your dog's ID into the field so hit Continue then Confirm.

This will bring up the submission form. Fill out with as much detail as possible.

- Upload diagnosis documents from a vet etc. if you have them. Without documentation the information is still important, it will be marked anecdotal.

Select Send the Health Info at the bottom:

[Send The Health Info](#) ← [Cancel](#)

This will send it to one of our Data Operators who will review and post!

If your dog is not in the database we can add the dog or build the litter for you. We need the sire/dam registration name and or numbers as well as your dog's registered name and or number. If you need further assistance you can contact Sandi treasurer@gsshwwdb.org



Curious about your Swissy's health & pedigree? Information can be entered by breeders or owners
Take a look!

SPLEEN HEALTH

What is Splenic Torsion?

Splenic torsion is a twisting, or folding and unfolding of the spleen. It may occur by itself (rare, except in Swissys) or in association with gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) syndrome, commonly known as bloat. In this secondary type, the conventional wisdom is that the stomach bloats and twists, taking the spleen with it.

Splenic torsion cuts off the blood flow in the area where it occurs, resulting in a painfully enlarged spleen. While no known cause has been firmly defined, it is felt that the causes might include trauma, previous surgery, rolling, retching and exercise as contributing factors. It is more prevalent in large breed, deep-chested dogs.

Warning Signs/Symptoms:

Symptoms of splenic torsion in dogs will vary depending on whether it is acute or chronic. They include (with acute symptoms listed first):

Acute collapse with abdominal pain (seek emergent care quickly)

Abdominal pain/distension/mass

Vomiting, incessant nausea

Blood Test, PCV of less than 30

Lack of appetite

Swelling of the abdomen

Weight loss

Excessive drinking and urination

Urine color changes (may look like port wine)

Pale gums

Lethargy

Lick fits

Depression

What to do if you suspect Splenic Torsion:

If you suspect acute splenic torsion, you must get your dog to an emergency veterinarian immediately. This is a life threatening emergency! With chronic symptoms, you need to seek advice from your veterinarian as soon as possible.

SPLEEN HEALTH

What to Expect at Vet:

You will need to advocate for your GSMD! Most vets are not familiar with splenic torsion and you will need to present the article below by David Jackson DVM, as well as keep the diagnosis of splenic torsion in the forefront, if suspected. The veterinarian needs to know that this is not an unusual problem for Swissys.

Link to Spleen Article:

<https://www.gsmdca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Splenic.pdf>

You can also follow the Swissy Spleen Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/247645920303249>

Additional Points to Consider:

While Splenic Torsion is quite rare in dogs, and many veterinarians never see a case during their career, it is NOT RARE in the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

Chronic Symptoms include:

Depression/Lethargy
Intermittent nausea and vomiting
Lick Fits
Pale mucous membranes
Just does not act right
Other symptoms occur

Similar to other advice given with regards to health concerns some of the best advice is:

KNOW YOUR DOG!!

If something feels off trust your gut!!

The Spleen may be enlarged but not twisted (may not be splenic torsion)
Several members have experienced different symptoms

For example:

Unsettled

Pacing

Unable to get comfortable

Vomiting

Lack of Appetite

SHOULD YOUR DOG EAT MUSHROOMS?

Turkey Tail Mushroom

Used for centuries in Asia to treat disease and contains high levels of active compounds that have been proven to inhibit the growth of cancerous tumors.

Reishi Mushroom

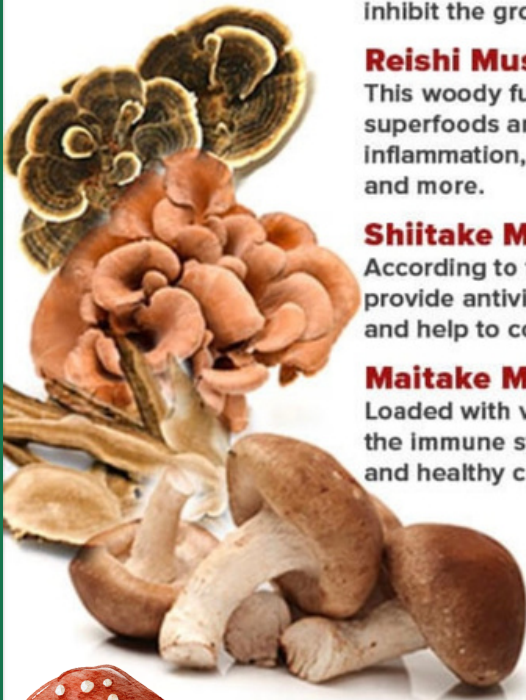
This woody fungi is known as one of the top natural superfoods and has been used for 1000s of years to fight inflammation, cancer, heart disease, hormonal imbalances and more.

Shiitake Mushroom

According to the Journal of Nutrition, shiitake mushrooms provide antiviral, antibacterial and antifungal protection and help to control blood sugar and reduce inflammation.

Maitake Mushroom

Loaded with vitamins and active ingredients that stimulate the immune system and promote natural hormone balance and healthy cell growth.



Certain mushrooms may be beneficial in helping your pet to boost its immune system to fight diseases.



CLICK THE LINK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

[HTTPS://WWW.DOGSNATURALLYMAGAZINE.COM/CAN-DOGS-EAT-MUSHROOMS/](https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/can-dogs-eat-mushrooms/)

Rainbow Bridge

**GCH BIT-A-SWISSY'S THIS AIN'T MY FIRST RODEO RN CGC TKN
NRPD "RODEO" HO GIRL
AUGUST 20, 2012 - JANUARY 19, 2024**

**JOHN AND I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE DAY RODEO CHOSE
US TO BE HER HUMANS. IT WAS NEVER THE OTHER WAY
AROUND...WE WERE HER PEOPLE, SHE WAS NOT OUR DOG.**

**SHE WAS BORN INTO MY HANDS AND LEFT US IN MY HANDS. IN
BETWEEN, SHE PROVIDED US WITH SO MUCH LOVE, BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY SO MUCH ENTERTAINMENT. SHE LIVED UP TO
HER NAME EVERY MINUTE SHE WAS WITH US. THE MASTER OF
EXPRESSIONS, SHE MADE ME LAUGH EVERYDAY.**

**AT AGE 10 SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH WOBBLERS AND OUR
NEUROLOGIST ADVISED US TO TREAT WITH PREDNISONE AND
EXERCISE, BUT TO BE PREPARED SHE WOULD BE UNABLE TO
WALK ON HER OWN IN A FEW MONTHS. WELL, SHE RODE
THROUGH THAT BUZZER AND WAS WALKING ON HER OWN UP
UNTIL HER LAST WEEK WITH US. SHE CLEARLY HAD OTHER
PLANS...AS USUAL.**

**WE WILL MISS HER SO MUCH, BUT WE ARE ALSO SO THANKFUL
FOR ALL THE FUN MEMORIES WE HAVE OF SUCH A SPECIAL
DOG.**

REST IN PEACE MY DEAR RODEO



Somewhere Over The Rainbow

Alpinez Silver Bullitt "Porter" CGC NWPD

April 5, 2014 - January 8, 2024



To the gentlest giant, with the kindest soul, the
goodest boy to his family, little brother to
Bronson and big brother to his 2 little
furless puppies (human sisters)

YOU WILL BE MISSED BY ALL WHO KNEW YOU



IF THE KINDEST SOULS WERE REWARDED
WITH THE LONGEST LIVES, DOGS WOULD
OUTLIVE US ALL