



2022 | WINTER EDITION

THE BLAZE

*The official publication of the
Golden State Greater Swiss
Mountain Dog Club*



A Message from our President JULIE VONADA

What a fun-filled Swissy year!

I want to thank the volunteers that stepped up to help the Club in 2022. Your contributions are truly appreciated. We could not be a club without our wonderful volunteers. I only have a small amount of space for my letter and by the time I typed everyone's name it was over my 'word limit'. THANK YOU TO ALL!

It is time to start planning ahead, and the board is getting ready to make plans for next year. We have our annual board meeting in January. Now is the time to speak up if you would like to see your club do an event. We are hosting Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of American National Events in October (22nd-26th) 2023, so all our regular events will be held in a week! If you would like to do a "walk and talk", "Swissy Social", picnic or any other fun ideas, please email me so we can get it on agenda for the board meeting.

Looking forward to an exciting 2023!

Julie Vonada, President

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

Additional information will be released as we receive it. Items marked with an asterisk (*) have more information in the following pages. If you have any specific questions you can reach out to Julie Vonada (vonada@att.net) or you can visit the GSGSMDC Facebook page [here](#).

January 14, 15, or 16: Potential Swissy Social (more info forthcoming)
Huntington Beach Dog Beach

January 22: Scent Trial
(Lodi, CA)

January 28-29: San Fernando/Los Encinos Kennel Club Dog Show
(Ventura, CA)

January 30: Swissy Social (Meet-up)
Orange County, CA (Exact Location TBD)

February 24-26: Silver Bay Kennel Club Dog Show
(Del Mar, CA)

April 23-24: Sierra Pacific Great Pyrenees Club's Two All-Breed Draft Tests
(Sacramento, CA)

June: Woofstock – Supported Entry
(Vallejo, CA)

***October 23-26:** National Specialty* at Sonoma County Fairgrounds
(Santa Rosa, CA)

Future Pack Hikes (exact dates TBD)

February: Ojai

March/April: Oakland

November/December: San Diego

If you are interested in planning an event in your area, please let us know and we'll be happy to support it in any way possible! Some ideas include Swissy Socials, pack hikes, meet-and-greets, and more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION!

2023 National Specialty

WHEN:

October 23rd - 26th, 2023

WHERE:

Sonoma County Fairgrounds
Santa Rosa, CA

ABOUT:

2023 National Specialty is coming to California!

We are thrilled to announce that our club will be hosting the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America's National Events in October 2023. All of our typical events will be held during that week. We would love help, so if you're interested in volunteering or have any fun ideas, please let us know!



EVENTS:

Events will include the following:

Canine Good Citizenship

Trick Dog

Obedience

Rally

Drafting

Weight Pull

Conformation

Pack Hike

Scent Work

Social Activities

ROOM BLOCK:

Use the following link to book a room using our room block!

https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/lz29c9?groupId=LZ29C9&ratePlan=undefined&fbclid=IwAR1oNACwFlrWNznrvRVz8k0lh7rttL3Fp02gzG7lk2DSIn2ZBx-M_t6FRM8&ratePlanCode=BTSHQS&checkInDate=2023-10-22&checkOutDate=2023-10-27

You can also visit <https://2023gsmdcans.webador.com/2023-gsmdca-national> to learn more and stay up-to-date!

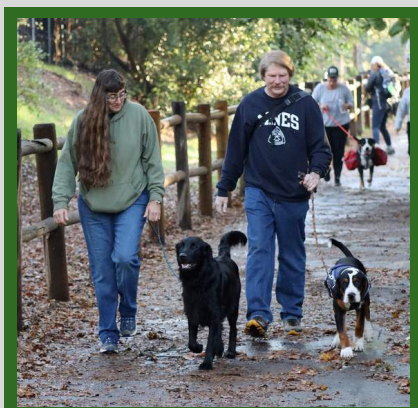
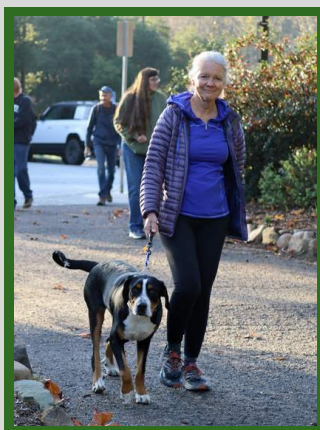
PREVIOUS EVENTS

HAPPY PAWLIDAYS PACK HIKE

December 3rd - 4th, 2022

Ojai, California

Club members recently met in Ojai, California for a 2-day pack hike! Rain wasn't a deterrent for this group, as 3 dogs (Poppi, Rebel, and Terra) were all carrying their packs consisting of 20% of their body weight. Many others came to support them and join them on their hike. Shout out to Becky Reinke and Silver Oak's Perfect Blend "Rebel," who completed his VGS title.



PREVIOUS EVENTS

WESTERN REGIONAL SPECIALTY

September 15th - 18th, 2023

Vallejo, California

In September, our Regional Specialty was held in Vallejo, CA! Dozens of Swissys competed in the weekend's events, including conformation, sweepstakes, and more! We loved seeing so many of our members there with their dogs, and even had some people attend our happy hour that wanted to know more about the breed.



Some of the vets lined up for Sweepstakes!



Kathi Cover and Christine Mata at lunch with their girls Gerti, Glory, and Avalon.



Tori Bersin and Archie.



Lisa England, Julie Vonada, and Berkeley sharing a special moment together.



Kathi (+ Gerti) with Christine (+ Avalon).



Silver Oak Swissies Family Tree! Many came to participate, support, and watch the weekend activities.



Stanley, Gerti, Glory, and Avalon had fun at their AirBNB!

SWISSY SPOTLIGHT

Every issue we will be highlighting different dogs for the new "Swissy Spotlight" feature!

Ansel

Silver Oak's "Ansel"

Hobbies: Ansel lives in San Diego and loves the outdoors, whether it is the beach or the mountains! He attends day care with a variety of doggy friends, and has 2 cat brothers at home.

Fun Fact: Both of Ansel's parents had Swissys prior to meeting one another. Alex had Trekker, and Stig had a rescue Koa.

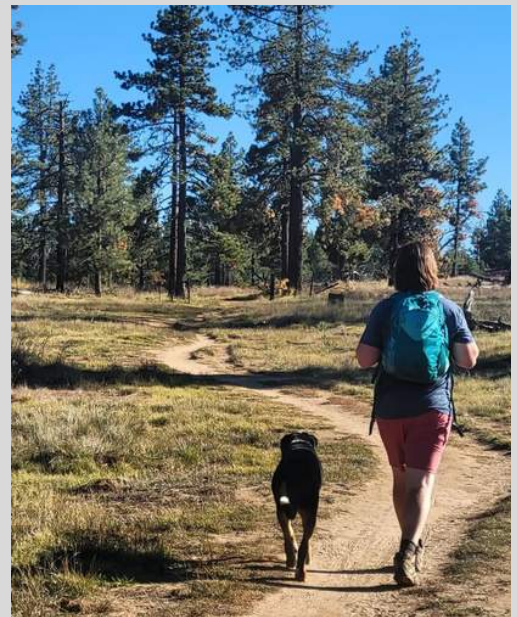
Tricks: He knows the basic tricks, including "Whisper."

Favorite Treats: Carrots and Bacon
(Incidentally, one of his cat brothers is named Carrot!)

Skills: He is a great hiker and an excellent backpacker, even though he once popped their sleeping pad. He is a hedgie fiend and a sock connoisseur!

Quirks: Ansel is afraid of flies. He is a true teenager in the morning, and getting him out of bed involves a lot of groaning and coercing. Anything hotter than 70 is too hot!

Ansel is owned and loved by: Alex Bilts and Stig Baker.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

EASY HOMEMADE DOG TREATS

Recipe By: It Doesn't Taste Like Chicken Blog ([Link](https://itdoesnttastelikechicken.com/easy-homemade-dog-treats/#))

We found this recipe on the blog "It Doesn't Taste Like Chicken." They will feel soft when you first take them out of the oven, but harden as they cool. Store in an air-tight container in the fridge and they last for 1-2 weeks! View the full recipe and check out there blog at:

<https://itdoesnttastelikechicken.com/easy-homemade-dog-treats/#>



Ingredients:

2 cups of oats
2 medium ripe bananas
1/2 cup natural peanut butter
(no oils, sugars, or salt)

Directions :

- Preheat oven to 300F.
- Line baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Add the oats to a food processor and grind to a powder.
- Add bananas and peanut butter.
- Blend to form a sticky dough.
- Roll out dough on lightly floured surface. (Dog-friendly flour).
- Cut into squares or use cookie cutter of your choice!
- Bake 25-30 minutes until puffy, dry, and dark brown on bottom.

TRICK OF THE MONTH

"GO FISH"

Submitted By: Leah Wimberly

HELPFUL HINTS:

1. As you toss something for your dog to retrieve in the water, use your "Wait" command to let them know it is for them, but they need to wait.
2. Use your "Take It" or "Release" command and egg them on to grab it.
3. As they retrieve it, say "Go Fish!" very enthusiastically.
4. Tons of positive reinforcement!!!
5. Start to say "Go Fish" earlier once they have it down, using that as the release.

WHY I LIKE THIS TRICK:

While it doesn't have real-world use, I think it is important to keep my dog and I learning together and working together. New tricks provide mental stimulation and aren't a huge time commitment. It gets us outside in the sunshine together, and Stanley seems to really enjoy playing Go Fish. Plus, it has gotten him more comfortable in the water!

NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Join us in welcoming some of the members that have recently joined GSGSMDC! Please feel free to reach out to them to hear more about them, their Swissy(s), and welcome them to the club!



Paul Marks and Rebecca Smith (+ Luna and Terra)

Paul and Rebecca live with their 2 Swissys Luna and Terra, and their Coonhound in Sunnyvale. They recently joined us for Regional Specialty in Vallejo, Drafting in Napa, and for the Pack Hike in Ojai, where Terra completed her first two legs. Luna is from Brush Creek, and Terra is from Windridge Swissies.

Kathi Cover (+ Gerti)

Kathi and Gerti (1 1/2 years old) live in Carlsbad. Gerti comes from Lori Price of Jotunheim GSMD's, where Kathi had received her previous 2 Swissys as well. Gerti is already involved in conformation and has joined pack hikes for fun. They hope to try carting together in the future!



Mike and Julie Ann Ressler (+ Rudi)

Mike and Julie Ann live in Bradbury with 4-month old Rudi and his Flat-Coated Retriever brother! Their breeder is Jessca Holberg, who is based out of Oregon. When Rudi is older, they are looking forward to conformation, pack hikes, and carting! They recently joined us in Ojai for the Pack Hike and Rudi stole the show!



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Julia and Kristi Bixby (+ Summit)

Summit lives with the Bixby Family in Santa Barbara. She has many accolades to her name, BOSS GCH RODEO'S El Capitan The Shield Summit CGC TKN. Most recently, she had her first litter, which arrived earlier this year.

Ingrid Hansen (+ Schnitzel)

Schnitzel, formerly "Blue Boy" from Silver Oak's Pocket Full of Sunshine litter is already over 80 lbs. at five months old. He lives with his mom Ingrid in Palos Verdes, which is in sunny Southern California. We can't wait to watch him continue to grow! Welcome to the club, Ingrid and Schnitzel!



Jim, Sondra, and Alexis Tarouilly (+ Callie)

Callie lives with her family in Glendale, CA! They are looking forward to meeting and sharing experiences with many other SoCal-based Swissy families. Callie is from Marla Jensen at TreenSea. Jim has attended dog shows in the past, and is interested in attending again. Join us in welcoming them to the Golden State Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club!

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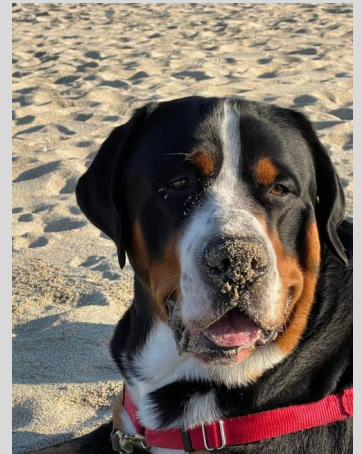


Nicolette Cutler (+Lautie)

Lautie is the Cutler Family's first Swissy! This growing girl lives in Southern California with her family. Together, they joined us for the Pack Hike in Ojai, CA. It was such a pleasure getting to know them!

Isabell, Mike, and Marlon Szabo (+ Dario)

Dario lives in Sunnyvale, CA with the Szabo Family! He is their first Swissy, and at one year old is playful, loves all kinds of dogs, enjoys going on walks and taking dips in the ocean! He is one of Mac McNamara's Black Velvet puppies. They are looking forward to meeting other Swissy families soon!



Quentin White (+ Zoe)

Zoe lives in Napa County with her dad Quentin White. She loves when he pulls out her harness and asks if she wants to go carting, or just taking a ride to the store or going anywhere really, as long as they get to travel. Zoe is lovingly described as a 90 pound keg of dynamite just ready to explode into fun and mischief whenever she gets the chance. She loves all people, and also enjoys her couch time sleeping next to her dad. She really likes all people that come to see her and especially loves when they rub her tummy. Treats are gladly accepted, as long as Dad doesn't see them slipped to her!



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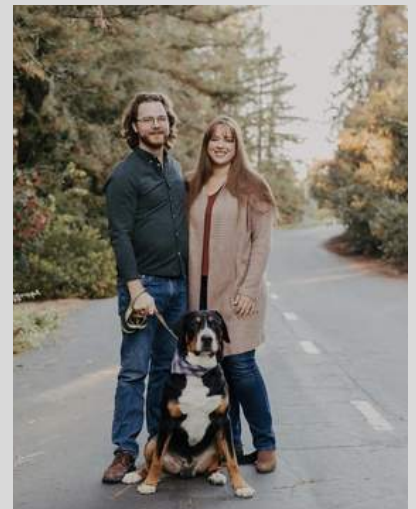


Andrew and Colleen Beeg (+Clyde)

Clyde lives with his parents Andrew and Colleen in Huntington Beach, CA! Clyde is a Black Velvet Swissy, and he absolutely loves going to the dog beach. All three of them are excited to have a whole community of Swissys for Clyde to play with! Welcome!

Sabrina and Derek Forbes (+ Buster)

Sabrina and Derek live with their Swissy, Buster, in Sacramento, CA. The reason they are most excited to join the GSGSMDC is that they would love for both Buster and themselves to be around other Swissys and their families. Welcome to the club! We can't wait to get to know them!



Brandy and Danny Lengning (+ Bates the Beast)

Join us in welcoming Brandy, Danny, and Bates the Beast to the Club! Bates the Beast comes from Alpenblick in Northeast Oregon, but is now loving life in California with his parents. They live in Fillmore, CA. We hope to see you at club events soon!

QUESTION OF THE QUARTER



**"What do you feed your Swissy(s)?
Why does it work well for you and
how did you end up choosing it?"**

We are pleased to announce our new "Question of the Quarter" feature! We'll be posting new questions each quarter and sharing the answers on our social media channels and in the following Newsletter. Let us know if you have any questions you'd like to have answered by your fellow GSMD owners! To share a response to a question, email us directly at leahmariewimberly@gmail.com Let us know if you'd like us to share your information or if you'd like your response to remain anonymous.

LAST QUARTER'S QUESTION & RESPONSES:

"How did you first hear about Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs and what enticed you to learn more?"

"21 years ago, I took my 2nd grade class into our school library. As they were looking for their books, I noticed a book about the four Swiss dog breeds. History was written that day. I fell in love with the Swissy from that book. I am of Swiss descent. I started researching and found that they were expensive and hard to find. In that 21 years, I was only lucky enough to meet two "real live" Swissies. Life went on, I raised my children (and their dogs). Last year, all things came together! I was able to get my Rocky from Megan at Blue Hills Swissys. He is a dream come true! I am blessed to be a Swissy owner and am grateful for this club and the nice people I have met through it. Looking forward to 'playing' with more of you as the years go by!"

-Susie Walker

"I grew up with Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, so I had an introduction to the breed when I was quite young. My parents' first Swissy was Clover, who they got in 1998. Next, they got Zuma from Cornerstone in 2009. I got my boy Stanley from Cornerstone in 2020, and he is actually related to Zuma. Seeing their bond and their friendship was so incredible and brought me so much joy in the year and a half they got to spend together. They loved each other so much, and each brought out a fun side in the other. This breed is nothing short of incredible and I've love every minute!"

-Leah Wimberly

RAINBOW BRIDGE:

IN MEMORIAM



Liddy

Blue Hill's A Pair of Fine Eyes

June 9, 2017 - August 18, 2022

Loved by Susan and Bob Robinson

Liddy was only 5 when she left us, a victim of bladder cancer. She became a member of Susan and Bob Robinson's family when she was one year old to be best friends with her daddy, King. Together they hiked the hills of the family ranch and forded the streams. They even modeled one summer day for Kong in Yosemite. Liddy adored any food - ginger snaps, bananas, cantaloupe, oranges, apples, broccoli, vanilla ice cream, and sorbet. Liddy's day was complete without her walk, and thanks to the encouragement of her GSGSMD friends, she earned her Novice Pack Hike title in Ojai. She tried her nose at nose work and barn hunt, and her paws and drafting and fast cat. She loved them all! She was training for her therapy dog certificate because kids and adults just wanted to hug her. But the best part of each day was hopping on the couch and putting her head on Bob or Susan's lap to watch TV. Life was just too short for this beautiful, affectionate girl, and for the Robinson family. Thank you Megan Lewis, Anna Lythgoe, and Jennifer Logan for blessing our lives with Liddy.



Liddy



Zuma

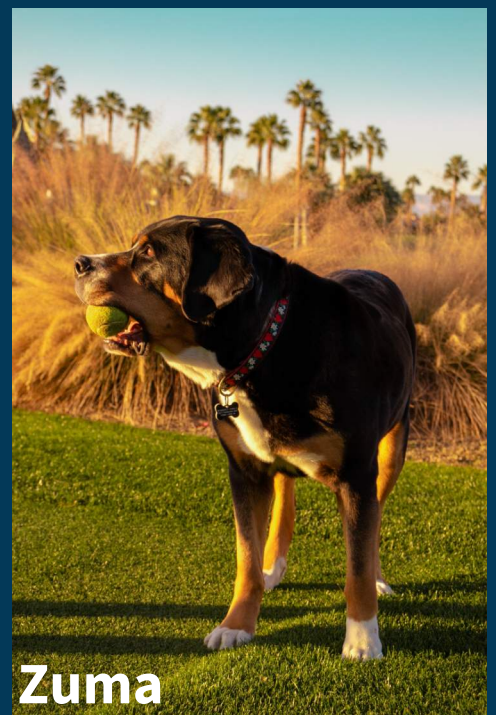
Cornerstone's Diamond in the Ruff

7/14/09 - 5/13/22

Loved by The Wimberly Family

"Our beautiful Zuma crossed the rainbow bridge just a few months shy of her 13th birthday. She was such an integral part of our family, and all of our important memories over these years include her. She is the best dog our family could have dreamt of having, and everyone that met her knew how sweet and special she truly was.

We so loved and appreciated her strong personality and the depth of her love. We will miss her forever."



Zuma



SWISSYS... *and their Kids!*

Check out these adorable Swissys and the children that they love!

Carl and Sneakers with their kids!



8 year-old Carl (from Alpinez) and new addition Sneakers (from Silver Oak) join their 2 young humans in Carlsbad, CA.



**Appa Ching
and his
sisters live in
the Bay Area!**

**Reba and
Hudson join
their Swissy
sister Lucy in
Southern
California**



**Wylie and his human
sister! He loves his
family, and always
makes them feel better
when they're feeling
under the weather.**

THE SWISSY-FRIENDLY SECTION

Recognizing stores, hotels, restaurants, and more that are dog-friendly and love our furry family members. This month we're pleased to feature Ojai Valley Inn!

OJAI VALLEY INN

<https://www.ojaivalleyinn.com/>

About: The Ojai Valley Inn is a luxury resort in beautiful Ojai, CA. Ojai is a town in a coastal valley known for excellent hiking, plentiful recreating activities, boutique hotels, small local businesses, their art, and for being extremely dog friendly. We have held Pack Hikes in Ojai, and their wineries, breweries, and restaurants have welcomed us (Swissy's in tow!) with open arms. Ojai Valley Inn has a golf course, spa, artist cottage, beekeeping, pools, and plenty of dining options.

While Ojai Valley Inn is dog-friendly, dogs are only allowed in certain areas so be sure to check out their rules and guidelines before planning your weekend activities to make sure you can bring your furry companion along!



"Family includes four paws and a wagging tail, so don't leave them behind! We welcome your pup as a distinguished guest and pampering awaits them as well. Ojai Valley Inn is proud to be a pet-friendly hotel in Southern California."

Source: <https://www.ojaivalleyinn.com/accommodations/pet-friendly-california-hotels>

FUN FACTS



Did you know?!

There are four breeds of Swiss Mountain Dogs, all of which sport the unique tricolor coat. Below are a few characteristics of each breed. They're listed in order of size (largest to smallest).



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

This is the largest of the four, has incredible physical strength, is calm, active, and loves to be part of the family. Among the four breeds, this is considered the oldest.



Bernese Mountain Dog

The second largest of the four, but the only one that has a long coat. They are commonly referred to as the most popular of the Sennenhunds.



Appenzeller Mountain Dog

Next up is the Appenzeller, which is third in size. They are the only ones that feature a unique curled tail, and are known for their excellence in obedience competitions.



Entlebucher Mountain Dog

The smallest of the four is the Entlebucher, who can weigh around 45-65 pounds, which is about half the size of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. They share many characteristics with other livestock guardian breeds, and are now kept primarily as companions.



HEALTH WATCH

In every issue of The Blaze, we'll bring up different health topics that Swissy owners may experience. Some of these may be seasonal, while others are things to keep an eye on.

Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (Bloat)

GDV (also known as bloat) is a medical emergency that is fatal if left untreated. This occurs when a dog's stomach fills with gas, food, or fluid, and subsequently twists. To better understand the symptoms and warning signs, take a look at the below guides.

Quick Reference Guide For GDV BLOAT			Vet's Emergency Telephone Number...	
	What Is Happening	What The Dog Does	What You Should Do	Treatment
Stress ►►► Excitement ►►► Vigorous Exercise ►►► Large Meals ►►► Long Drink ►►► Swallowed Air ►►► Familial Tendency ►►►	Stomach function is normal. Gas accumulates in the stomach but the stomach does not empty as it should.	Dog behaves as usual. Seems slightly uncomfortable.	Keep the dog quiet; Do not leave the dog alone; Give Antacid if your vet agrees. Be aware of Phase I symptoms.	During this period the dog may recover without going on to develop Gastric Volvulus.
PHASE I GDV	Stomach starts to dilate. (Gastric Dilatation) Stomach twists. (Gastric Volvulus)	Anxious, restless, pacing; Trying to vomit-may bring up stiff white foam but no food; Salivating; Abdomen may be swollen.	Call your vet, tell him what you suspect and why. Take the dog to the vet without further delay.	During this period the dog may recover if your vet releases the pressure with a stomach tube.
PHASE II GDV	Blood supply to part of stomach is cut off. Stomach tissue is damaged. Portal vein, vena cava and splenic vein become compressed and twisted. Spleen becomes engorged. Shock begins to develop	Very restless; whining & panting; Salivating copiously; Tries to vomit every 2-3 min; Stands with legs apart & head hanging down; Abdomen swollen & sounds hollow if tapped; Gums dark red; Heart rate 80-100 beats/min; Temperature raised (104°F)	Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.	During this period the vet will need to relieve the stomach pressure, start an intravenous drip and perform surgery to untwist the stomach.
PHASE III GDV	Spleen and stomach tissue become Necrotic. Shock now very severe. Heart failure develops. Shock now irreversible. Death	Unable to stand or stands shakily with legs apart; Abdomen very swollen; Breathing shallow; Gums white or blue; Heart rate over 100 beats/minute; Pulse very weak; Temperature drops (98°F)	Death is imminent. Get someone to tell your vet you are on your way and why. Take the dog to the vet as quickly as possible.	As well as doing everything above, the vet will need to remove part of the stomach and the spleen. He will also need to use powerful drugs to counteract shock. It is no longer possible to save the dog's life.

Understanding Bloat or Twisted Stomach

What is it?

Bloat, twisted stomach, and torsion are all terms used to describe **gastric dilatation and volvulus**, in which a dog's stomach is distended and then rotates into a dangerous position.



Why does it happen?

The exact cause is unknown, but there are a multitude of factors that are suspected to cause susceptibility to bloat such as rapid eating, infrequent feeding, genetics, and more.



Who does it affect?

Bloat can happen to any dog, but deep chested and large breeds have a higher risk. Great Danes, St. Bernard's and Weimaraners are a few at risk breeds, but all dogs are vulnerable.



What are the signs?

Restlessness, pacing, unsuccessful vomiting, and enlarged abdomen are all signs. Unfortunately, sometimes bloat can occur without prior warning. Seek veterinary care immediately.



What can I do?

Ask your veterinarian about a procedure called **gastropexy** that prevents bloat. By performing this procedure, you can potentially save your dog's life.



SWISSY SIGHTINGS

Angie



Angie and her Swissys took 1st place in our Spring Paws-a-Thon event!

Terra and Luna



Terra and Luna enjoying some sun together!

Axel McNeil



Axel McNeil turned 9, and absolutely loves the mountains! He is his family's first Swissy.



Stanley and Avalon



Stanley and his mom Leah (left) met up with Avalon and her mom Christine (right) at Topa Mountain Winery to kick off a fun Pack Hike Weekend in Ojai.

SWISSY SIGHTINGS

Tobi and Avalon



Blue Hill Swissy littermates Tobi (left) and Avalon (right) recently met up in Ojai! Here they are pictured with their moms, Dani and Christine.

Rudi



Here is a growing boy, Rudi, being adventurous while out hunt-training with his flat-coated retriever brother!

Chloe



Chloe joined her family Lori and Barry Ellis this summer, when they got her for Silver Oak. She lives in Boise, Idaho and we can't wait to watch her grow!



Morgan



Morgan is a Houha Swissy! He is four months old, and lives in the Bay Area with his family.

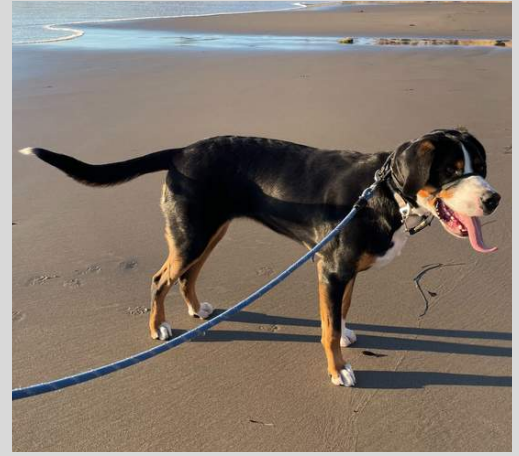
SWISSY SIGHTINGS

Zoe



Zoe LOVES when her dad Quentin White takes out her harness and she gets to go carting!

Wylie



Wylie loves the sunny California winter. It was 75 degrees in Central Coast recently, so he enjoyed a fun beach day!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Remembering some of the dogs from our past that have played a huge part in our lives and are a huge part of the reason we love this incredible breed.



Jennifer Logan's dogs, Norman and Sunshine.



Sunny, Norman, & Louie.



ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW TITLES!



THOR, Dog of Thunder! Thor became a new Champion after winning a major at Woofstock!



Congratulations to new GCH Silver Oak's Miles Away from the Ordinary "Steffi" on becoming a Grand Champion!



Congrats to Mira and Noodles on earning their Novice Draft Dog Title (NDD)!



Silver Oak's "Poppi" is a new Champion! Congrats to both Poppi and Lisa England!



Paul and Terra completed the first two legs of their NWPD title in Ojai!



Dani made Group 1 in 4-6 month puppy! Congrats Dani!!!

ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW TITLES!



Dani earned her AKC puppy STAR!
(Remington's Pride)



Noodles completed her first Barnhunt and earned her instinct (RATI) and novice (RATN) titles along with the first leg towards her open title (RATO).



New Versatility Title! Silver Oak's Perfect Blend "Rebel" and Becky Reinke completed four different disciplines of conformation, obedience, drafting, and pack hikes.



Congrats to LuLu on earning her AKC Grand Championship at the Intermountain West Working Group Club Shows in September at the age of 2!



Fredrick earned his Buried Scent Work title! At 9 1/2 he loves his 'retirement' job!

IN OTHER NEWS...

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



ABOUT:

It is time to renew your Golden State Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club membership! Visit the membership page [HERE](#) to complete this.

Your membership will ensure that you are notified of our events, receive our newsletter "The Blaze," get your directories of membership, and enjoy discounts/gifts at events. Please reach out to Susan Robinson, Membership Chair, with any questions!

AMAZON SMILE

If you haven't heard of AmazonSmile, check it out! It is JUST like Amazon, but you must type in "smile.amazon.com" to your browser. All else remains the same (pricing, Prime account, appearance, your order history, etc.) but you can select a registered charity of your choice to benefit from your eligible Amazon purchases.

We set ours to the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Rescue Foundation (<http://www.gsmdrescue.org/>), so a small percentage of all our eligible purchases will be donated to them. As of November 2021, GSMDRF has received \$7,015.88 from AmazonSmile purchases. Regardless of which charity you choose, please make sure you use the "Smile" option to make a difference in causes that are near and dear to your heart. Pennies add up over time!



Disclaimer: We very much support and encourage shopping small and supporting local businesses whenever possible. However, if you do use Amazon, make sure your orders are making a difference!

IN OTHER NEWS...

BEING A BREED AMBASSADOR

ABOUT:

As we know, the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is a giant breed with a striking look that turns heads, and they are valued for their dedication to their family and for their sense of adventure. The typical temperament of a Greater Swiss is an alert and confident dog.

There are traits that Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs exhibit that may be quite misunderstood by the general public. Excessive barking, vocalizing, lunging, and chasing can be interpreted as aggressive behaviors. It is always our hope that their families/owners are able to manage their dogs so that these behaviors do not turn into incidents where other dogs or humans are harmed.

These strategies may include removing your dog from situations in which he/she is not comfortable and ensuring that an environment is highly controlled prior to arrival. Teaching your dog to offer alternative behaviors when in a stressful situation is a great way to prevent the dog from escalating the unwanted behaviors.

We recommend consulting your breeder and/or professionals as a great first step in learning how to manage your Swissy outside of the home.

As a reminder, by virtue of being a striking rare breed, you and your Swissy are automatically enrolled as ambassadors. A meeting with your dog may be the only time someone encounters a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog in person, and the impression that your dog gives the public will be lasting.

Thank you for your dedication to the breed and ensuring that Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs remain good canine citizens.



2023 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

BELOW IS OUR 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Please feel free to reach out to any of them if you have any questions whatsoever. We look forward to the year ahead under their leadership!

President: Julie Vonada

Email: vonada@att.net

Vice President: Lisa England

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Secretary: Tori Kent Bersin

Email: vek.kent@gmail.com

Treasurer: Linda Ridenour

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Director: Kelly Stover

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Director: Toni Killpatrick

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Director: Carol Bamsch

Email: patandcarol@comcast.net

Director: Christine Mata

Email: matac76@hotmail.com

Director: Mike DeGrendele

Email: mdegrendele@yahoo.com

We'd also like to thank to the board that ended their service in 2022:
Chelsey Langan and Kaitlyn Plum.



ABOUT THE EDITORS!



CHRISTINE MATA

Christine fell in love with Swissys sometime between 2002 and 2008 when a vet told her that her rescue Rottie could actually be mixed with a GSMD. She researched and kept her eye on the breed knowing when the time was right she'd want one. In 2015 Kelly Stover made that dream come true when she matched Christine and Jon with Glory (Quartz Mountain Easter Glory). In early 2021 they added Avalon to the family, (Blue Hill's Everybody Mooove from the Princes Bride Litter). Christine loves having swissys and their humans over for backyard play dates and planning social events in Southern California like Swissy Beach Socials to bring swissys together! A favorite pastime is with maintaining the girls' social media account on Instagram. It's how she started friendships with Tori and Leah.

TORI KENT BERSIN

Tori and Braudy wanted a Swissy for about 2 years before they found Archie. They are avid hikers and campers and needed a dog that could keep up! With Archie (CH Columbine's Wild Bill's Winchester CGCA TKI VHMA) they met their match! They've done upwards of 15 mile hike overnights, climbed countless mountains, and lots of fun along the way!

We have enjoyed writing for the Blaze and feel free to reach out with any questions, ideas, or comments!



LEAH WIMBERLY

Leah Wimberly lives in Newport Beach, CA. Having had grown up with Swissys, she is very familiar with the breed and always dreamed of the day she would have her own! In December 2020 she welcomed home her puppy, Stanley (Cornerstone's XCellent Adventure). In staying true to his name, he sure has made their first few years together quite the adventure, and she wouldn't have it any other way. Leah and Stanley love weekend getaways to La Quinta, visiting their Swissy friends for socials, and lots and lots of cuddles!



Please reach out to Christine (matac76@hotmail.com), Tori (vek.kent@gmail.com), or Leah (leahmariewimberly@gmail.com) with photos, announcements, achievements, milestones, etc. that you'd like to be included in future editions of The Blaze! You can also text Tori at 415-637-4102.