



**GOLDEN GATE  
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB**

## CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES

- Feb. 6 Drafting #1 with NorCal Berners
- 13 Walk 'n' Talk at Fort Funston
- 27 Drafting #2 with NorCal Berners
- 27 Swissy Stride Pack Hike-Simi Valley
- 28 Swissy Stride Pack Hike-Simi Valley
- Mar. 20 Drafting #3 with Berners
- Apr. 10 Herding in Vacaville with D. Pollard
- May 6-7 Walnut Creek Pack Hike
- 14 Pleasanton Swiss Family Picnic and Grooming Workshop
- June 18 Walk 'n' Talk at Shadow Cliffs
- July 31 Swiss Dog Day at Fort Mason
- Aug. Mid-Hike in Mammoth
- Sept. 23-25 End of Summer Party-Sonoma
- Oct. 21-23 GSMDCA Western Regional, GGGSMDC Specialty and Supported Entry-Harvest Moon Classic-Pleasanton
- Dec. 4 Christmas Luncheon in Pleasanton

**For dog shows in Northern and Southern California and added events, check the Calendar on our web page: <http://www.goldengategsmdc.com/events.html>**

# THE BLAZE

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year, everyone!

As I start my new term as President of the club, I want to give thanks to the outgoing board members for serving so well. We are a very strong club now, so I hope the new board will continue being as strong or even stronger.

2016 looks to be another busy year for the Golden Gate GSMD Club. We have numerous activities and informative club events planned for the next few months. Check the Upcoming Events calendar on the website. Our premier event of the year is the annual GSMDCA Western Regional at the Harvest Moon Classic (Del Valle) on October 21-23. This is three days of big shows, raffle, and educational events. Please mark your calendar for Saturday's Annual Meeting at this event. We need everyone to attend this meeting.

As we start this new term, we will be in need of more of you to volunteer for various positions. Please contact me to let me know where and what you would like to do to help. If you have a special talent or an interest in a certain area, please let me know. Speak up if you know of an activity or good dog walk we'd enjoy. This is your club! I will need each and every one of you to help me to make it the best club on the West Coast!

Woof,  
Toni Killpatrick

## CONTENTS

1 Calendar, President's Letter	7 Jura	13 Recipes	19 Halloween Parade
2 Officers, Objectives	8 New AKC Champions	14 Swissy Time	20 Heimlich for Your GSMD
3 Minutes for 12-5-15	9 Top 20, Arbor, Sophie	15 Puppy Socialization	21 Resources
4 Inflammatory Bowel Disease	10 Luna	16 Puppy Socialization	
5 2016 Learning Opportunities	11 Rainbow Bridge: RILEY	17 Bleeding Issues	
6 Pack Hiking	12 2016 Western Regional	18 How About a Little Laugh?	

## Officers, Board Members and Committees

President: [Toni Killpatrick](#)

Vice President: [Erin Stammer](#)

Secretary: [Linda Ridenour](#)

Treasurer: [Julie Vonada](#)

### Board Members:

[Leslie Bryson](#)

[Carol Bamsch](#)

[Susan Robinson](#)

[Paula Robles](#)

[Donna Zetterquist](#)

Membership: [Susan Robinson](#)

Public Relations: [Heidi Steenstra](#) [Susan Robinson](#)

Ways and Means: [Erin Stammer](#) [Paula Robles](#)

Awards and Trophies: [Erin Stammer](#)

Social Events: [Carol Bamsch](#) [Donna Zetterquist](#) [Linda Ridenour](#)

Calendar: [Donna Zetterquist](#)

Show Events: [The Board](#)

Working Events: [Heidi Steenstra](#)

Newsletter: [Susan Robinson](#)

Website: [Rob Blits](#)

Raffle: [Heidi Steenstra](#)

### The objectives of the club shall be:

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

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

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

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

To have FUN together with our Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs.

## Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Meeting 12-5-15 in Pleasanton, CA

President Toni Killpatrick called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm. Those in attendance were: Toni Killpatrick, Lyle Killpatrick, Doug Ridenour, Linda Ridenour, Monika McNamara, Gaby Cohen, Paula Robles, Donna Zetterquist, Jeffrey Preefer, Judy Preefer, Carol Bamsch, Leslie Bryson, Susan Robinson, Linda Ridenour.

### Treasurer's Report (Donna Zetterquist)

As of November 30, there was \$3502.92 in checking, which will be revised to \$10,607.42 when all else is added in. The Budget Committee will meet in January (Donna, new treasurer Julie Vonada, and Linda Ridenour). Committee chairs should submit a proposed budget before then.

### Membership Report (Toni Killpatrick)

There are no new members. The deadline for renewal is January 31. Owners of companion Swissys want more functions than dog shows. We discussed a May picnic in Pleasanton (Hospitality), walk at Fort Funston (Mac and Gaby), an introduction to Barn Hunt (Melanie Cordan), Herding (Carol), walk at Shadow Cliff (Donna), Carting with the Berners (Susan). Donna will work on the calendar. Susan is the new Membership chair.

### Unfinished Business:

- Donna discussed the new calendar and how to present it.
- Toni discussed the Perpetual Trophy.
- Rob Blits will add categories to PayPal on the website: Membership, Trophies, Sponsorship of Events, and Ways and Means purchases.
- Rob's 2016 Calendars have brought in \$480.00 so far.
- Nationals 2018—GSMDCA will contribute \$2000 in seed money and will back us. It costs \$30,000 to put on a National Specialty. Cascade, GGGSMDC (Erin Stammer) and the Colorado Rockies clubs are submitting proposals to put on this event. If we do it, we'll include conformation, herding, weight pull, obedience, futurity, and pack hike. It would go Monday through Thursday at Pleasanton (\$1700/day) and then the All Breed shows will be Friday (designated specialty), Saturday and Sunday (both supported entries).
- In 2016, there will be no spring specialty, but two in October at the Harvest Moon. Friday will be an All Breed show with a weight pull at 8:00 pm. On Saturday, there would be a designated specialty in the morning, a box lunch, and a Saturday night dinner and Western Regional Specialty. Sunday would be an All Breed show.

### Trophies:

Erin Stammer has all the October trophies done. Heidi Steenstra is collecting raffle prizes.

### Miscellaneous:

- All club operating materials will be housed at Paula Robles' barn in Sonoma. This includes the 350 lb. weight pull cart now at Nancy Glenn's home and one harness/carpet, which Troy Riewe has.
- The next show is January 30-31 at the Cow Palace. Erin will head this up. Erin and Paula will decorate for the Bench Show. (Event was cancelled later)

There will be a Board Meeting in January 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Submitted by Susan Robinson



## INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (IBD) IN DOGS from VetLearn 2011 with thanks to Maria Jensen

### What Is Inflammatory Bowel Disease?

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) is a general term for conditions that cause the lining of the intestines to become thickened and inflamed. When this occurs, the digestive tract can't absorb nutrients and move food substances properly. Certain portions of the digestive tract may be affected or the entire length of the intestines may be involved.

### What Are the Signs of Inflammatory Bowel Disease?

Dogs and cats with IBD can appear normal but may experience intermittent, but chronic, vomiting or diarrhea. The signs may vary, depending on what portion of the digestive tract is involved. Lesions at the beginning of the intestine may result in vomiting, while lesions further down may cause watery diarrhea with mucus or fresh blood. In more severe cases, the animal may lose weight, experience a loss of appetite, or have a thin, dull coat.

### What Causes This Condition?

The exact cause of IBD is unknown. It is suspected that IBD is caused by chronic stimulation of the immune system from various factors, including dietary ingredients, parasites, or bacteria within the digestive tract. Genetics may also play a role.

### How Is Inflammatory Bowel Disease Diagnosed?

Your veterinarian will probably recommend a number of tests to rule out other causes of vomiting and diarrhea, including fecal exams, blood tests, and radiographs (x-rays). An abdominal ultrasound may show thickened loops of bowel, which tends to occur with IBD. However, a definitive diagnosis of IBD requires biopsies (tissue samples) from the digestive tract. Biopsies may be obtained during abdominal surgery or via endoscopy using a fiberoptic endoscope. This is a long, narrow tube with a tiny camera at the tip. The endoscope can be inserted through the pet's mouth to reach the esophagus, stomach and small intestine, and/or inserted into the rectum to reach the large intestine. The instrument includes a small forceps, which the veterinarian can guide, using the camera, to take tissue samples.

While both procedures require anesthesia, endoscopy has the benefit of being less invasive, so the pet requires less time to recuperate. Endoscopy has some limitations, in that it may be difficult or impossible to reach some locations within the digestive tract, and only small samples may be obtained. For those reasons, surgery may be preferred. Once the tissue sample is obtained, a specialist will examine it to determine the dominant type of cell found in the intestinal lining. This allows an exact diagnosis to be made, so treatment can be tailored to the specific type of IBD present.

### What Is a Diet Trial?

In some cases, your veterinarian may suggest a hypoallergenic diet trial to rule out a dietary cause, such as an allergy. Although most pets with a food allergy develop problems with their skin (such as itching), some pets also develop signs consistent with IBD. In most cases of food allergy, the protein source in the food is usually the cause of the problem.

Before starting a diet trial, your vet needs a full history of what diets your pet has eaten in the past. Be sure to include any human foods as well as any commercially prepared diets or treats. A diet trial usually involves feeding your pet a diet made using a protein source that your pet's immune system hasn't been exposed to before, such as venison, rabbit, fish or duck. This means your vet needs to know what protein sources your pet has been eating, because those must be avoided for the duration of the diet trial. Another alternative is feeding a food that contains hydrolyzed protein, meaning that the protein has been broken down into very small molecules so that the immune system won't recognize it.

During the trial it is important that the pet eats *only* the hypoallergenic food and nothing else. All treats, edible chews (such as rawhide), and human foods must be discontinued. Feeding these items may expose the pet to the offending proteins, which can confuse the results of the trial. Typically, the animal is on the diet trial for a minimum of 12-16 weeks. If the signs improve or resolve during the trial and return when the pet is fed the previous diet, a diagnosis of food allergy can be assumed.

### How Is This Condition Treated?

Treatment of IBD varies depending on your pet's condition and the specific type of IBD determined by the biopsy. Most pets with IBD may require a special diet and/or anti-inflammatory or immune-suppressive medications.

Other recommendations may include antiemetic and antidiarrheal medications and/or probiotics.

Although IBD can't always be cured, it can frequently be controlled. Pets with IBD may have occasional relapses.

## 2016 HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN TO...

**CART** Northern California Bernese Mountain Dog Club Draft work Seminars beginning Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>. For info: <http://www.bmdcnc.org/calendar-2/feb-6th---draft-work-semina.html>  
Cost is \$30 a session. Fill out registration form and bring it. Let [Jim Maxwell](#) know you are coming. They provide the harnesses and carts and a nice "Introduction to Drafting" booklet.



Pack Hike and Herding photos courtesy of Allison Allen

**PACK HIKE** Walnut Creek—May 6-7 Need 5 dogs to do this one. Contact Heidi Steenstra [hcsteenstra@gmail.com](mailto:hcsteenstra@gmail.com)  
2016 Swissy Stride—Feb. 27-28 Pack hike in Simi Valley with Kelly Stover [k\\_stover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k_stover@sbcglobal.net)  
Start getting your dog in shape now. (see next page for how to prepare)



**HERD** Carol Bamsch is planning another Herding experience for your Swissy on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Carol will be sending out registration forms and information to those who contact her. [patandcarol@comcast.net](mailto:patandcarol@comcast.net)  
408-247-4314 <http://herding4u.com> Save this date!



**WALK 'N' TALK** (at the same time)

February 13<sup>th</sup> at Fort Funston, led by Mac DogTrainer and Gaby, 10:30am. We will meet in the parking lot at the lookout (close to where the para gliders take off from and near the sand stairs). We'll need a minimum of 5 'Swissy families' joining us. Please RSVP by Mac at [mac@dogtrainhumane.com](mailto:mac@dogtrainhumane.com).

## So you want to do a pack hike? Here is some great advice from pack hikers.

We have at least two Pack Hikes scheduled this year for Swissys and their friends. Several of our club members have completed these hikes with their dogs, earning titles. They have been very willing to share what they learned. Thanks to Allison Allen for these pack hiking pointers!

I really like using these weights for training, because the weight is easily adjustable. They work well inside the pack to keep the weight balanced, too. Any Swissy that is ready to go on a pack hike should be able to carry these with no problem by the time of the hike. They work great especially for the males, b/c you have to find so much weight to put in and the weight is made from 1lb sand packets so can be adjusted accordingly. Biggest plus in my opinion is they lay flat so you can put them snug against the bladder (most packs have these) or put them right up against the rib cage of the dog which helps for stability without using large amounts of the space.

[http://www.amazon.com/Valeo-Adjustable-Weights-10-Pounds-20-Pound/dp/B000I1BQKO/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?s=sporting-goods&ie=UTF8&qid=1427216586&sr=1-4&keywords=adjustable+ankle+weights](http://www.amazon.com/Valeo-Adjustable-Weights-10-Pounds-20-Pound/dp/B000I1BQKO/ref=sr_1_4?s=sporting-goods&ie=UTF8&qid=1427216586&sr=1-4&keywords=adjustable+ankle+weights)

If the packs have water bladders...USE THEM! We use this water very last and here's why: the water in the bladder sits against the dogs' sides, helping create a natural cooling, and they also help cushion and balance the load. Our dogs also don't like the way the water tastes out of them very much, so we reserve this water for the last of the hike once the rest of the load is mostly empty.

Things to pack...we used Nalgene bottles and then smaller water bottles to fill in, but the biggest thing is that each side of the saddle pack be balanced in weight. We put an extra bottle in one side so as soon as the pack hike started we would take it out and carry in our hand to immediately remove some of the weight from the dog. Water is really the best to put in the pack. You and your dog can drink a lot and pretty fast, so getting the bulk of the weight out at the beginning makes for an easier hike. Consumables aside from water that we packed:

- Dog's breakfast and lunch (don't feed them in the morning, if possible, and then have them eat their breakfast right after start of hike.) You can feed them their lunch at the midpoint.
- Dog biscuits, hot dogs, etc...whatever your dogs like.
- We gave way more treats than normal on hike days...they're working, burning calories and this helps get weight in pack and quickly consumable.
- Apples, pears (you can share these with your dogs and leave very little waste to carry). Nuts/Trail Mix-- Some people liked bringing cheese and lunch meat rolls.
- Power Bars/Protein Bars/Granola Bars.

### HELPFUL ARTICLES:

<http://www.gsmdca.org/activities/back-packing/>

[http://www.k9trailblazers.org/dog\\_hiking\\_info.htm#1](http://www.k9trailblazers.org/dog_hiking_info.htm#1)

<http://www.jotunheimswissies.com/uploads/2/6/1/3/26138141/timetogetpacking.pdf>



## CONGRATULATIONS, JURA!

**IntCH GCH Alpeze Double Shot, CGC, RN, BN, CS, CI. DOB 6/12/13**

**Dam: CH Alpeze Trick or Treat Candy "Candy"**

**Sire: Int CH GCH Big Hunk of Whispering Pine, ROM "Riley"**

**Owners: Kristy Stecker, Daman Wood and Alyssa Shah**



So proud of my Jura puppy! Here is her loot from the carting/draft trial this weekend. She had not one, not two, but THREE perfect scores, and the high in test award both trials!!! She received a 200/200 in both the Carting Started (CS) and Carting Intermediate (CI). (This is similar to our Novice Draft and Open Draft just no freight haul and the course is much tighter.)



She completed Rally Novice (RN) all with first place finishes, and Beginner Novice Obedience (BN) that weekend, with two second places and a third. She received an AKC title of CS and CI as well as obtained the HIT (high in test) for both Trials. Jura started her conformation title in July of 2014 and finished as a new Champion in October 2014 with 3 majors. She kicked off her GCH in Jan of 2015 with a BOB and finished in April of 2015 with 2 more BOB wins along the way and 9 majors. She also obtained her International GCH in March of 2015, taking two BOB wins and Group 3 placing. All Owner Handled.

Jura was ranked AKC 25th in the country in 2015, 6th ranked Bitch.



She's working on herding and pack hike titles. Not too shabby for 2 and 1/2.

# NEW AKC CHAMPIONS



**CH Treensea's Hurricane Lukas**  
 DOB March 1, 2013  
 Breeder: Maria Jensen  
 Sire CH Treensea's Lupine Serenade  
 Dam CH Cordilera Kai's Sweet Dreams  
 Owned by Marlene Lucas.  
 Lukas knows what you are thinking  
 He is a great dog.

Meet new CH and new CGC  
**CH Snowy Mountain's Grand Atlas CGC,**  
 "Atlas"  
 bred by Holly Webb and DaLena Christensen.  
 Sire: Hero x Dam: Wookiee.  
 Atlas is 3 years old.  
 He finished with four majors



**CH RODEO's All About North Rim Nostalgia, RN "Nexpa"**  
 DOB: 5/29/14  
 Owned and Bred By:  
 Holly and Jeff Webb  
 Sire: GCH Swiss Run's Jamaican Me Crazy CD RE PT WWD DD VGS "Mon"  
 Dam: CH Snowy Mountain's Deep Space Wookiee RN "Wookiee"  
 August 1, 2015 BOB for CH

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Our GGSMD Club in the 2015 GSMDCA TOP TWENTY!**

**Congratulations to  
GCH CH Painted Mtn's Olaf The Viking Pirate "Olaf"  
GCH CH Wildest Dream Genuine Rock N Roll RN "Rocco"  
GCH CH Ramsgate's Full Moon Rising "Luna"  
GCH CH Fire Dance Sudden Impact "Dirty Harry"  
GCH CH Big Hunk Of Whispering Pine "Riley"**

**ARBOR**

**Arbor finished her Bronze Grand Championship-October 31, 2015, with back-to-back Best of Breed wins!  
She also ends the year the #15th ranked AKC Grand Champion Swissy in the nation;  
#5th ranked Grand Champion bitch.**

**Arbor and I have learned a great deal as we started this show-thing together.  
She LOVES to show and I am happy to oblige.**

**I recently came across our picture from our first show.**

**Arbor was 6 months old and I had no idea what I was doing. What a journey!**

Winter 2016

VOL. FIVE ISSUE #1



**I am very excited to see what 2016 brings us! Camille Sybert**

**SOPHIE HAS HER CD!**

**CH Alpeinz Gold Medal Ribbon CGC CD**

**Loved and owned by Kelly Stover.**

**Dam: CH Five Point Alpeinz Trick or Treat Candy "Candy"**

**Sire: CH Big Hunk of Whispering Pine aka "Riley"**



**Presenting the 2015 AKC Eukanuba Best of Breed Champion**

**Bronze GCH RamsGate's Full Moon Rising**

**"LUNA"**

**BD 3/26/13**

**Sire: GCH Big Hunk of Whispering Pine "Riley"**

**Dam: GCH RamsGate's Diamond in the Rough "Quinn"**



2015 was certainly a very exciting year for Luna and her handler, Soni Jager. The last four months of the year, in particular, saw her in the ribbons in every show she was entered but one, culminating in her amazing BOB win at Eukanuba.

See video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwGXit4nUWU>

To say we're proud of this lovely young girl would be a gross understatement. She is all we hoped she would be, and more.



**SEL-GSMDCA National Specialty**



**BOS Central Florida Working Group**

**Co-owned and loved by Michele Slate and Antoinette Killpatrick**

**RamsGate Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs – Michele Slate**

[www.ramsgateswissys.com](http://www.ramsgateswissys.com)

[wolfpack1313@msn.com](mailto:wolfpack1313@msn.com)

# RILEY



**INT CHGCH BIG HUNK OF WHISPERING PINE, ROM**

11/08/08—12/07/15

Statistics for 2015

All Breed Standings #5

Breed Standings #20

His accomplishment in 4 1/2 years:

60 Puppies and 43 Grandpuppies

8 AKC Champions

6 AKC Grand Champions

2 AKC Bronze Champions:

Daughter, IntCh BGCH RamsGate's Full Moon Rising "Luna"  
took the BREED at the 2015 Eukanuba Classic.

We are so proud of Riley in every way.

Sorry to say, Riley had a very short life but he was really busy in those 6 years.

Riley was an extremely fun loving dog, very animated and very much alive.

*Rambunctious* is a great word to describe him.

In August 2015, Riley was diagnosed with sudden onset Kidney Disease, unknown reason why.

He was treated very aggressively, but in November he started to decline.

At this time, I knew I had to make a decision, since he was having some discomfort.

Riley was in my arms, and Lyle's, when Dr. Wise sent him to Rainbow Bridge.

He went on his journey very peacefully.

Riley will be missed.

Lyle and Toni Killpatrick

Michele Slate

Woutje Swets

**Riley's Last Show:  
A Champion to the End**



## We're Back in 2016!



Wear your Western duds in the ring.

Camp together under the Amador Pavilion—reserve with [Toni](#) asap.

Hitching Post spots for X Pens, crates, grooming (with power) \$10/day/dog

Magnificent raffle a la Heidi

Get your Golden Gate GSMD gear at the Country Store.

Crazy times at Leslie's photo booth

2017 GGGSMDC Calendars available!

Hot Dog lunch on Saturday

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**PEANUT BUTTER WARNING FOR YOUR PETS!**

A new type of peanut butter (and other nut butters) is being sold with with less sugar but now includes more xylitol as a sweetener. That is what is used in sugarless gum, and it can be deadly in dogs. Many people use peanut butter as a dog treat, or to fill a Kong, or to disguise medications; if they now use the type of peanut butter with xylitol, it could be very dangerous. It has been known to cause hypoglycemia and hepatic necrosis in dogs. Read the label carefully. For more information: <http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/xylitol-now-found-certain-peanut-and-nut-butters>



**PUMPKIN MOLASSES DOG TREATS**

Ingredients

- ½ cup organic canned pumpkin
- 4 tablespoons molasses
- 4 tablespoons water
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon baking powder

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl mix the pumpkin, molasses, vegetable oil, and water.
3. In a separate, medium bowl combine whole wheat flour, baking soda, and baking powder.
4. Slowly stir dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until the dough softens.
5. Scoop out small spoonfull of dough {about 1 inch wide} and roll them into balls with your hands.
6. Set the balls onto a lightly greased cookie sheet and flatten them with a fork.
7. Bake for 20 minutes-refrigerate for up to 2 months.



Thanks to Melissa Brvant



Introducing Lily of Coarsegold

# Swissy Time!



Roxy



Arbor



Bruno Schmoltdt



Brando and Harley



Dixie Vonada



Harley Rose and Spider



Leah and Lukas



Greta and Bosco



Roscoe Jennings



Mia, Sophie and Emmie Stover



Freddie Vonada

## Puppy Socialization

aka Ways to Have Fun with Your Puppy (or any age) Swissy

Adapted from an article by Monique Anstee, Victoria, BC

Dogs need to be socialized. That means that dogs need to SEE the world, and handle it with social grace. We need to teach them the skills and habits necessary for participating within our society. Unfortunately, socialization got misunderstood as interacting and playing. While puppies do need to play with other puppies, this is a teenie, tiny piece in their education, but somehow it became the only piece.

Here is a socialization list that I have been compiling for the last three puppies that I raised. This is the type of thing that I teach in my puppy class. (She names specific places in Victoria, BC, but you will get the idea.)

1. Riding in a wheelbarrow.
2. Crossing many, many bridges of different surfaces, widths, heights, gaps in between planks, etc. She can now take a slippery plank over my pond at a gallop, and stay on!
3. Climbing driftwood at the beach for footing, balance, and learning how to use her body.
4. Climbing rocks at Botanical Beach. This rock is thin sheets, so puppies need to focus on feet and balance.
5. Visiting Sooke Home Hardware, experiencing the sounds.
6. Visiting Pet Smart, but be careful of overly-friendly strangers who may not heed your instructions.
7. Going on the Gorge Waterway past heavy traffic, an odd pedestrian bridge, people, bikes, dogs, joggers.
8. Canadian Tire, with a slippery, shiny entrance that she didn't even notice.
9. Walking on many types of floor surfaces.
10. Taking only one dog-park trip with most pass-bys done in your arms, and several on the ground with very safe, kind dogs.
11. Taking one walk with a friend and her dog.
12. Being with children, and sitting outside on the playgrounds.
13. Hanging out with chickens, ducks, and goats. When the goats were really scary, she was on a lap being protected.
14. Being tossed into a giant box stuffed full with teddy bears, then being covered with teddies and having to crawl out.
15. Having towels thrown over top of her head; then graduating to entire sheets
16. Being held for cuddling and kisses every night.
17. Having her toe-nails worked on weekly, with a dremel.
18. Being cuddled and kissed while chewing on her bones. Walking at a new beach, forest or mountain every single day.
19. Getting stuffed into your jacket so the puppy's owner was 'wearing her', and going for a bike ride with the big dogs running beside.
20. Being crated every single day for varying lengths of times.
21. Traveling in two vehicles, in different types of crates or seating arrangements.
22. Visiting Dintner Nurseries, and making friends with all the staff inside.
23. Because she is so friendly, having to learn the art of walking past people without always saying hello. We walk past at least four out of five people without greeting, otherwise her friendliness will be annoying when she is big and strong.
24. Maybe one of the most important things: peeing and pooping on grass, gravel, asphalt, or cement, on a leash, or free. This makes traveling very simple.
25. Every day she is presented with small problems that she must solve... how to get her ball that rolled under the couch, how to get the marrow out of her bone, how to stay on a bridge without falling off, how to climb over a downed tree that is higher than she thinks she can climb. I help her but NEVER do it for her. And I only help enough so that she has the confidence to do the rest. If she puts in no effort, I will not help her.
26. She is learning to come running back fast on her name, no matter the distraction. If she is running with my dogs, saying 'hello' to the chickens, seeing a person that she want to run to, "Come" means chase me.
27. The Boardwalk in Sooke. It is a walk on a raised bridge - and is a fabulous experience for puppies.
28. Learning that scratching up at, and holding onto my adult dog's heads while being passionately kissed is not allowed.
29. Having play dates with trusted dog-friends.

(Continued on next page)

31. Walking on all types of stairs.
32. Being in a boat.
33. Swimming with a slow, steady introduction to water.
34. Going into the petting zoo to see all the animals, and more importantly, all the children.
35. Walking on the weird decks at Fisherman's Wharf and exploring this fun place. (Be careful your puppy does not get eaten by the seals - and no, I am not joking. Don't allow them on the edge, peering into the water, just in case!)
36. Being to two friend's houses for dinner, and meeting their dogs when they were calm so that they would not scare her.
37. Watching an adult dog herding sheep. (Her eyes almost popped out of her head.)
38. Being in a kayak, and knowing how to jump on and off.
39. Being in a hammock.
40. Sitting on a lap in a swing.
41. Going down a slide, in my lap.
42. Playing numerous games of soccer, including me tackling the ball from her.
43. Staying in hotels, and another house, during vacation.
44. This polite puppy has learned to demand what she wants from me. This will be removed when she is less polite!
45. Travelling in the child section of a shopping cart, all around Home Depot.
46. Riding in an elevator.
47. Going through automatic doors.
48. Being around someone who smells of cigarette smoke.
49. Walking past a person in a wheelchair.
50. Riding around on my lap on the tractor.
51. Accidentally seeing a bear (gave a very brave bark!).
52. Hanging out at the vet's and getting cookies.



Socialization means teaching life skills. I exposed them to every possible skill that they might need to be a functional adult. With all of the exposure and success comes a level of confidence and bravery; they will get to the point where they believe they are invincible. Even when they get into trouble, they know I am right there behind them to help with difficulties.

When they feel overwhelmed or scared, we do the experience in my arms, rather than on the floor. By not asking them to brave it, they watch from up high, and then start wriggling like a mad thing, wanting to get down and do it themselves. Rather than asking them to try it, by taking that option away and making them feel safe, they have to then demand that they be allowed to try it. Because it is their choice, they are then brave as soon as they are put down on the ground.

My last puppy never did have one 'bad' experience. Unfortunately, it will happen, and even when it does, they will know that I am there to protect and help them. As they go on their adventures in the world, both good and bad, we are a team, and I have their back.



Thanks to Cammi Muirhead and Michele Slate for Puppy photos!

## **BLEEDING ISSUES**

**by Kristin Krumpe of Aegis GSMD**

[http://www.aegisgsmd.com/bleeding\\_issues.html](http://www.aegisgsmd.com/bleeding_issues.html)

Over the years there have been numerous anecdotal stories of GSMDs suffering from a variety of bleeding issues. Those stories have ranged from Swissies with uncontrolled bleeding who died (or nearly died) during simple surgeries to Swissies who suffered from severe nosebleeds. Every time I hear of one of these young dogs bleeding out or dying from nosebleeds, it drives home once again the very real threat these issues may present for our breed.

The extent of these bleeding disorders is not known at this time, nor have they been clearly identified. However, in 2009 Dr. Mary Boudreaux, DVM in the Department of Pathology at Auburn University, stumbled upon a gene mutation for a platelet disorder. This **P2Y12 mutation** was first identified in a dog who suffered uncontrolled bleeding during a routine spay.

We are incredibly lucky that a blood sample from this dog wound up in Dr. Boudreaux's hands. Dr. Boudreaux has been researching hemostasis and platelet pathophysiology for over 25 years, and in the last ten years she has identified genetic mutations for various bleeding disorders in several breeds (Great Pyrenees, Otterhounds, Landseers, Basset Hounds, German Shepherds and now Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs). We are even more fortunate that Dr. Boudreaux has been able to develop and conduct DNA testing for these disorders.

To date, very few Swissies have been tested for the P2Y12 platelet disorder mutation. But the test does exist, and it can identify whether a Swissy is a carrier, is affected or is clear of the mutation. The test is very simple and can be utilized by all Swissy breeders. Carrier detection is vital if we're going to control the spread of inherited defects, and DNA testing is the only reliable method of detection. We are lucky that there is a test for this mutation, as there are many other health issues we already combat, such as epilepsy, where we are very far away from any kind of genetic testing.

Pet owners of non-breeding Swissies may also wish to have their dog tested, as this mutation COULD have grave consequences should your dog undergo a routine surgery such as a neuter or spay, or even a routine teeth cleaning. By making a vet aware of a dog's "potentially" compromised clotting ability, they will be much better prepared to combat any bleeding issues a dog encounters during a surgery, blood draw or any issue that presents with excessive and uncontrolled bleeding.

Keep in mind that a Swissy may or may not experience bleeding, regardless of their P2Y12 status. Simply not enough data exists to predict which dogs will be symptomatic or why. There have been numerous dogs who have experienced serious bleeding who are NOT P2Y12 "affected." Some dogs have suffered from serious nosebleeds, as mentioned above, which is not typically how a P2Y12 clotting mutation would present, and suggests that there may be multiple sources of bleeding in this breed. At this time, it would behoove any GSMD owners to let their vet know, prior to any surgery, that the breed does occasionally experience bleeding of unknown origin. This information can be important to prepare a vet should a Swissy in their care experience unusual bleeding during surgery or post-operatively.

To read more about Dr. Boudreaux and her work, click [here](#).

The form for blood sample submission through Auburn University is also available [here](#).

[Pawprint Genetics](#) is now offering P2Y12 testing for the GSMD. This is a buccal swab sample submission, which can be done at home (rather than having your vet draw and ship blood, which makes this test somewhat more affordable).

Currently Auburn and Paw Print Genetics are the only two labs in the US approved and accepted for this test in GSMD.

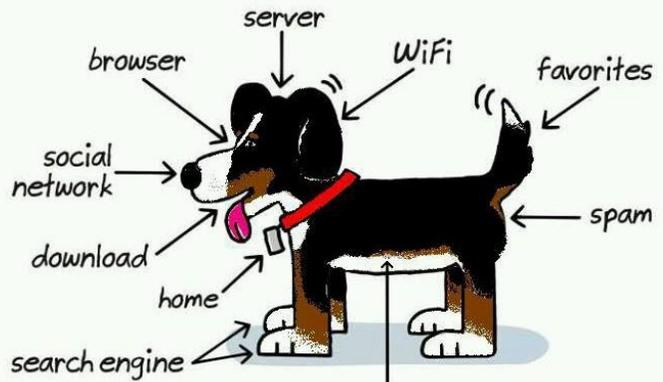
Although much more research needs to be done, and more data collected to determine the expression of this mutation, we have chosen to test our breeding dogs in the hopes that we can reduce the number of GSMD who are carriers or affected with this mutation in our breeding program.

## How about a little laugh?



"Tell whoever it is that I can't come to the phone because my dog is sleeping on my lap, and if I get up, I will disturb him."

—Charlie Brown



**The Interswissy**

### What kind of handler are you?

REV

The dominant 'Stand & Stare down'...



(I dare you to dump me)

The 'Inconspicuous ,dont make eye contact!...'



(Nothing to see here, move along!...)

The 'Exhibitionist!..



(Have a look at this!... and my dog too!)

The 'Look at moy!, look at moy!'



(ADHD, baiting, jiggling, dangling , annoying)

The 'sympathy Vote!..



(Despite my serious injuries, I have struggled out to show my dog )

The 'Klutz!...'



(Cant handle, makes us laugh, deserves a win with applause)

**There is no better psychiatrist in the world than a puppy licking your face. Ben Williams**

*Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job. Franklin P. Jones*



## Let's Have a (Swissy) Halloween Parade!

In October, at the Harvest Moon Cluster in Pleasanton, CA, there is a Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Halloween Parade on Saturday afternoon. Here's a sample of what went on. It was captured on film by our photo booth photographer, Leslie Bryson of Focus Point Images [www.focuspointimages.com](http://www.focuspointimages.com)

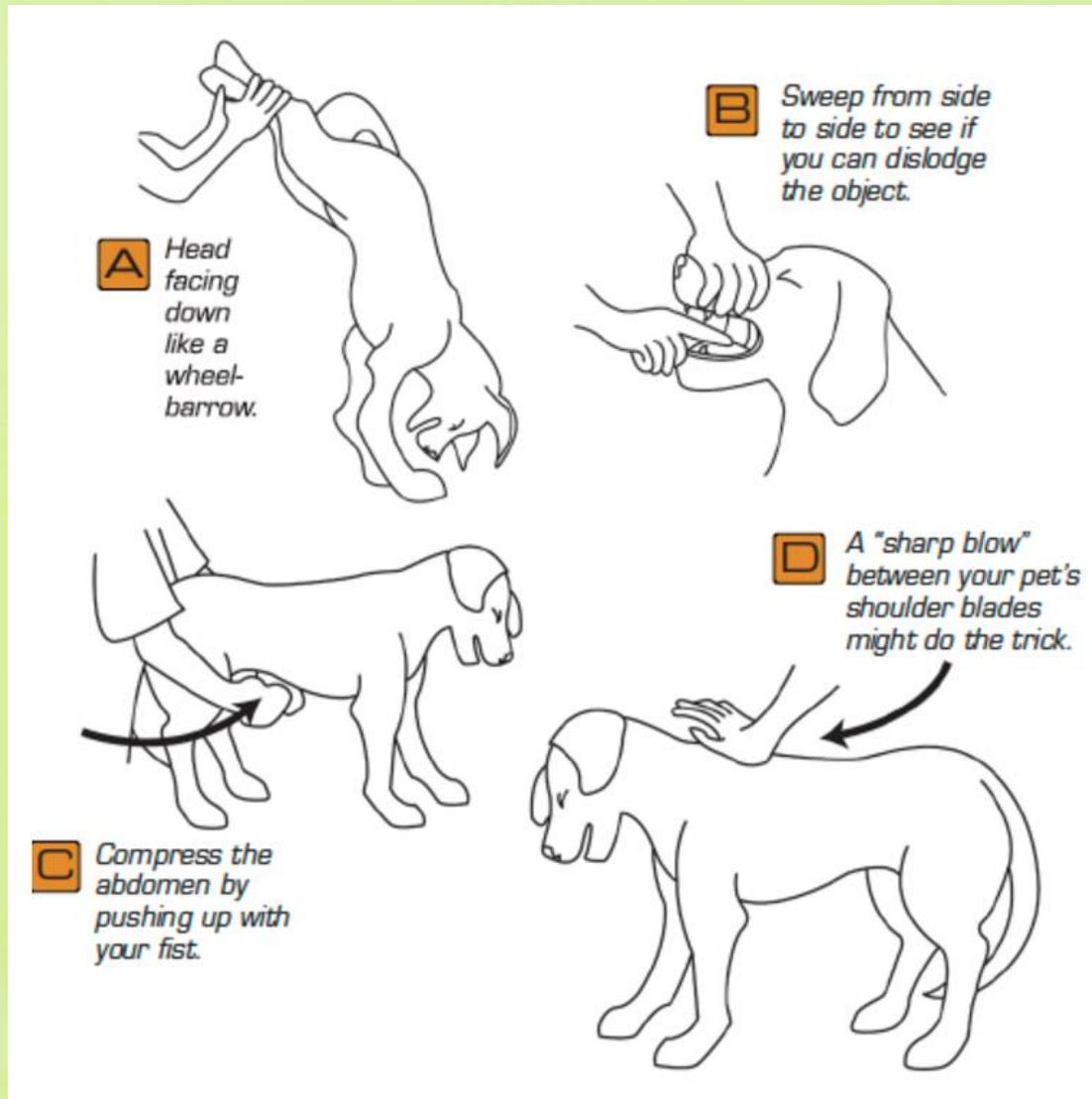


## How To Perform Heimlich Maneuver on a Choking Pet

<http://homestead-and-survival.com/guide-how-to-perform-heimlich-maneuver-on-a-choking-pet/>

Performing the Heimlich maneuver is the best way to offer assistance to someone choking.

There is also a way to perform Heimlich maneuver on a choking pet.



Sluggo and Woody in Portland on the Columbia River



Trekker at Pistol River, Oregon

THE SATURDAY  
EVENING POST



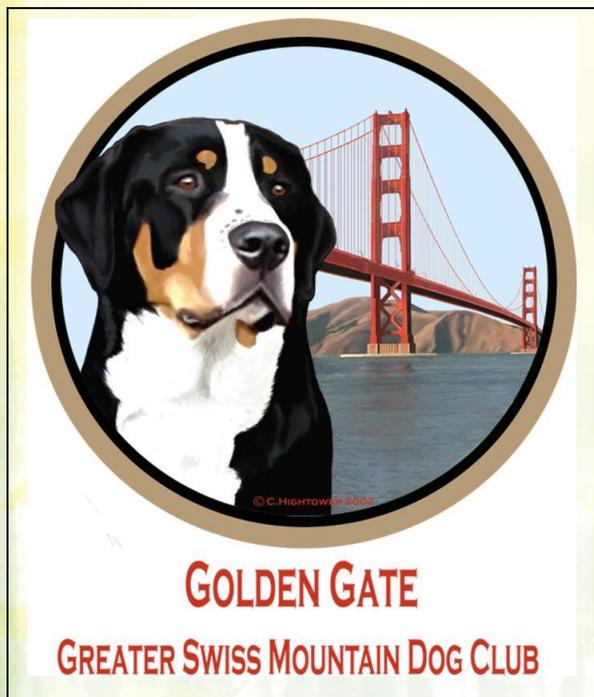
## SIGNS OF DOG SICKNESS

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**

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

**Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America**

**GSMDCA**

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

**Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Forums**

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

**Golden Gate GSMD Facebook Page**

[Click here](#)

**Visit our club website:**

[www.goldengategsmdc.com/](http://www.goldengategsmdc.com/)