

Check out the New Logo!



THE MAGS AZINE

Mid-Atlantic Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club Newsletter

November 2017

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MAGS New Website Launched!

www.midatlanticgsmdc.com



A big thanks to Katie Markley for all of her hard work!



Get Connected!



- ♦ MAGS Facebook Club—www.facebook.com/magsmdc
- ♦ Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America website—www.gsmdca.org

Swissy Army Call to Action!



- ⇒ Participants and Volunteers needed for Christmas Parade—see page 11
- ⇒ Donations needed for Specialty Show Raffle—see page 12
- ⇒ Booth Ideas and Volunteers needed for Canine Learning Experience—see page 13



The new MAGS website was launched on October 4th and is loaded with new features. If you haven't yet seen it, be sure to check it out at: midatlanticgsmdc.com

There are many ways to use the new website to support our Club, get involved in Club activities, and get in touch with other Club members.

Mid-Atlantic Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

[HOME](#) [OUR CLUB](#) [SWISSY INFO](#) [EVENTS](#) [MEET US!](#) [MEMBER SERVICES](#) [JOIN OUR CLUB!](#) [MAGS STORE](#) [CONTACT](#)

- ◆ Click on **EVENTS** to stay on top of Upcoming Events with the Events Calendar; register and pay for upcoming events online



- ◆ Under **MEET US!** click on **Where We Are!** and use the interactive map to find MAGS Club members near you



- ◆ Use **MEMBER SERVICES** to find services you may need, provided by our members: Breeders, Doggie Day Care, Dog Training, Dog Sitting, Grooming, etc.

- ◆ Visit the MAGS Online Shop under **MAGS STORE** to purchase merchandise provided by our Ways & Means Committee



An email was sent by Katie Markley on 10/4 with the password required to access this section. If you're unable to locate the email, contact Katie at kmarkley@comcast.net

In this section of the website, which is restricted to members, you can:

- ◆ Volunteer to serve on one of the Club committees
- ◆ Submit your ideas for Club activities
- ◆ Submit your feedback to improve our website
- ◆ Upload photos to be included on the site and specify where you'd like your photos to appear. New photos are needed to keep our website fresh!
- ◆ Use the Membership Directory to find MAGS Club members alphabetically by last name, or by location
- ◆ Send an Email to Officers and/or Board Members

Welcome New Members!

**Nancy Kechner lives in Charlottesville, VA
with her Swissys Rex and Teddy**



**Sarah Jensen lives in Rochester, IL
with her Swissys Attlee, Arthur, & Riley**



Welcome New Members!

Susan and Keith Crisp live in Landenberg, PA with their children Robyn and Eric and are awaiting the arrival of their first Swissy!

Azlynn Swartz lives in Mechanicsburg, PA with her new Swissy Chumley (Top Hat's Sir Chumley)



Welcome New Members!

Timothy Vanderhey and Anthony Buttari live in Hillsborough, NJ
with their two Swissys, Fiona and Dante.

Katie and Rob Kiernan live in Caldwell, NJ with their daughters,
Elizabeth and Claire, and their Swissy, Murphy (Matterhorn Star Boy).



Welcome New Members!

Lara and Greg Coyle live in Wayne, NJ
with their 2 daughters, Mackenzie and Chelsea.
They have 2 Swissys Zeke (Seavaridge Zeke and You Shall Find at
Twinpeaks), and Zuri (Seavaridge's Joyous Queen Zurich).



MEET OUR MEMBERS

The Sheppard Family



Luke, Micah, Michelle, Jon, Addi and Ben

Hello MAGS friends.

My husband Jon and I live in Hershey, PA with our kids Luke 16, Micah 14, Ben 11 and Addi 9. And our Swissys Tobler 3, and Mack 1. Jon is a builder in central PA—new homes, renovations and some commercial building. He started Sheppard and Son Builders with his Dad almost 30 years ago. I am a youth pastor at Spring Creek Church of the Brethren in Hershey. We're a busy family balancing lots of sports, music lessons, school activities, and of course, our Swissys' schedules.



Tobler and Mack

Jon and I said we would never have a dog.

We've always loved big dogs, but four kids seemed like enough to take care of. Our daughter Micah had other ideas. She was 10 when she wore us down. She gave a presentation about why dogs are good for families. How could we say no? So we began doing research. We had our share of what Jon calls "runners, barkers and diggers". So we looked at the working group dogs. We had never heard of a Swiss Mountain Dog, but once we met a few and talked to breeders there was no question that was the dog for us.

Our first Swissy came from S'rendi Show Dogs in Texas.

We counted the days until we picked him up. When the kids finally held their puppy I said, "why did we wait so long?!" We named our puppy Tobler. Living in Hershey, chocolate dictates most of what we do. To honor his Swiss heritage we named him after the Toblerone bar. We took Tobler everywhere with us. To school pickups, baseball and football games, even church. He was one socialized puppy with the best temperament. Micah worked hard with him in obedience classes and in conformation classes. She learned to show him in the ring. They were best buddies from day one. Soon after we got Tobler, Micah had some significant health issues. We knew Tobler was meant to come to us. He gave Micah strength and was, as she calls him, her angel with fur.



MEET OUR MEMBERS

The Sheppards *(Part II)*

When we joined MAGS we met Katie and Randy Markley.

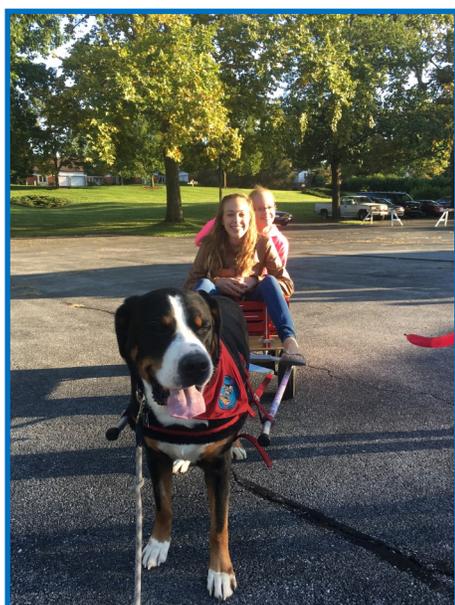
We couldn't believe there were Swissy owners living about 20 minutes from us! My kids now help Katie socialize puppies which often leads to "can't we get another one?" I held them off until last Fall when a special little SwissKiss puppy came along. He was the cutest thing with a dot on his head. We've watched Katie raise puppies and its remarkable how much time she puts into socializing her puppies, exposing them to different sites, sounds, smells, and preparing them to be successful in their new homes. We didn't have any hesitation about this dot puppy coming home with us. We named him Mack and he and Tobler were instant friends. Mack is a sweetheart and he loves his kids. His favorite activity is to play hide and seek. The kids sneak off and hide then yell "find" and Mack will knock a person down to go find his kids.



Tobler and Mack ... Instant Friends!

We discovered that two dogs are loud, but they're a joy to watch!

We keep them busy with classes and playdates. They're no different than kids with their own busy schedules. Tobler loves therapy work and his backpack and cart. We look forward to teaching Mack these things too. He's busy being a show dog right now. Our dogs are part of our family. They go where we go. They've made a name for themselves in our neighborhood and with our kid's friends. Swissys are like that!



Tobler giving Micah & a Friend a Ride



Micah & her Pack - 2017 National Specialty



Mack with Two of his Favorite Girls!

MEET OUR MEMBERS

The Sheppards (*Part III*)

Our Swissy journey has not been easy though.

Last January we discovered Tobler has epilepsy. It devastated all of us. Watching such a gentle, big dog have a seizure is horrible. He was stable for many months, but took a turn this summer and again a few weeks ago. I thought we were going to lose him. Our lives with Tobler have completely changed. He takes 20 pills a day; we're ruled by the clock and his pill schedule; we have to carry an emergency seizure pack everywhere Tobler goes; and, we've had to teach the kids to give rectal injections of valium. We've sacrificed so we can buy his meds and pay hospital bills. Tobler is family and we're fighting for him. The Swissy community has been so incredibly supportive and helpful. Tobler wouldn't have made it if it wasn't for the help and advice of many Swissy owners who have gone through the same thing. But that is also the sad part. We know this disease is out there and that it's a nightmare in so many ways. We need to talk about it and we can't hide it. Breeders, please continue to do all you can to eliminate this from your lines. It isn't worth the cost. My kids are always afraid of another seizure. They flinch when they hear something hit the hardwood floor. We all do, hoping and praying it's not Tobler.

Despite this challenge we love our boys and we love this breed.

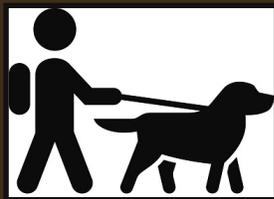
We're thankful to be part of the Swissy community. We'll be around a while, Micah has already told us she wants to own three or four when she's out on her own. :)



The Sheppards extend a welcome to MAGS members and their Swissys if you're ever visiting Chocolatetown.

Michelle Sheppard

Mark Your Calendar



5th Annual Turkey Trot Pack Hikes



Ready to burn off all that turkey and pumpkin pie?

Come join us for our MAGS 5th Annual Turkey Trot Pack Hike. Earn a leg(s) towards a title! Earning a Pack Dog leg towards a title requires the dog/handler team to complete a ten mile hike, 8 mile back to back hikes or a 5 mile (each way) primitive overnight camping trip. The dog carries a sturdy back pack loaded with a 20 or 30 percent of its body weight. Pack weight can only be reduced through the hike by normal consumption of water and snacks carried.

The fee is \$20 per dog and both events start at 8:30 AM.

Hike 1

Friday, Nov. 24, 2017

Trexler Game Preserve
5150 Game Preserve Rd
Schnecksville, PA 18078

Hike 2

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017

Frenchtown, NJ
Delaware & Raritan Canal
Delaware River Scenic
Byway

Forms will be sent out prior to hike in November. For more information about pack hiking visit the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America website <http://www.gsmdca.org/activities/back-packing/>

Mark Your Calendar



2nd Annual Christmas Parade

December 9, 2017

Downingtown, PA



Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade

The Mid Atlantic Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club is going to participate in the Downingtown, PA Good Neighbor Christmas Parade. Last year the club participated in the Coatsville, PA Christmas Parade and had a blast, winning first prize of \$500.

The Downingtown parade is a 1.6 mile parade with a possible prize of \$150.

When: Saturday, December 9th

Time: 3:00 PM (Gathering time may be adjusted!)



We will be looking for dogs to pull decorated carts, Christmas trees, wear hike packs filled with candy to hand out along the way and just walk along being the wonderful Swissy ambassadors that they are!

Volunteers will be needed for planning, decorating, handing out holiday gear for people and their dogs, picture takers, etc.!

RSVP: Sharon Gardner at sharongardner@mac.com



Check out the 'MAGS Reindogs' in last year's Christmas Parade in Coatesville.

Fast forward the video to 1.35 to see for yourself how much fun it was!

<http://videos.coatesvillechristmasparade.com/>

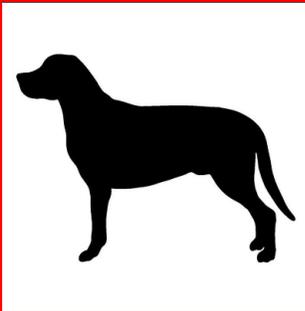
Swissy Army Call to Action!



Participants & Volunteers Needed

Contact Sharon Gardner (sharongardner@mac.com) if you'd like to participate, as well as, volunteer to help with various activities like planning, decorating, handing out gear, taking photos, etc.

Mark Your Calendar



3rd Annual Specialty Show

December 16, 2017

Agri-Plex Building
302 N. 17th Street
Allentown, PA



Saturday, December 16, 2017

Agri-Plex Building, 302 N. 17th Street, Allentown, PA

The Mid-Atlantic Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club will hold their 3rd Annual Specialty Show and Sweepstakes on Saturday, December 16th, 2017 in Allentown, PA. The show is being held in conjunction with the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club All-Breed show.

Show Superintendent: Jim Rau Dog Shows

Breed Judge: Kimberly Meredith-Cavanna

Sweepstakes Judge: Arthur Favors

Hope to see you at the **MAGS Specialty with bells on!**



Swissy Army Call to Action!



Raffle Donations Needed

Please donate dog-related item(s), gift cards or cash **in advance of the show**. You can bring your item(s) to an upcoming MAGS event or ship to:

Denise Mitterando
1035 Tysley Place
Raritan, NJ 08869

Questions????? Contact Denise at fotodoc@optonline.net

Mark Your Calendar



Canine Learning Experi- ence

February 3rd & 4th,
2018

Agri-Plex Building
302 N. 17th Street
Allentown, PA

2018 Theme Dogs in Action



Swissy Army Call to Action!



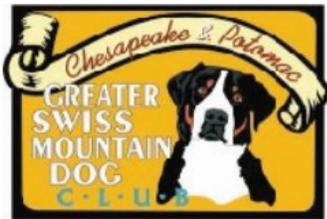
Booth Ideas & Volunteers Needed

Contact Carol Gehret (cabro53@windstream.net) or
Jim Hauptly (swisscateers@gmail.com).

Help will be needed to construct / break down the booth,
as well as, greet visitors.

All helpers welcomed—even 4 legged—hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar



C & P Club Specialty

April 20-22, 2018
Timonium, MD

C & P Club 10th Birthday Party

May 5, 2018
Louisa, VA

We're Moving!!



The C & P Regional Specialty that is!!



In conjunction with Cherry Blossom Cluster

Who: C & P GSMD Club
What: *Specialty and Supported Entries
When: April 20-22, 2018
Where: Timonium, MD

*Friday, April 20 = Specialty

*Saturday, April 21 = Supported Entry, picnic, club meeting, raffle, educational seminar, fun

*Sunday, April 22 = Supported Entry

Happy Birthday To US!!

C & P 10th Birthday Party! May 5, 2018—sun up 'til sun down

Play around with:

- Back Pack
- Weight Pull (competition)
- Conformation
- Carting (draft trial)
- Swimming & dock diving
- Agility
- CGC & Farm Dog exercises
- Therapy Dog

And oh yes—**FOOD!!**

Let them eat cake, ice cream, hot dogs, burgers—the works!

We're pulling out the stops!!

Louisa, VA

mjrasmus@gmail.com



Everybody welcome! No cost! Tent and RV sites!

SWISSY FUN DAY



Nineteen Swissys attended the Fall Swissy Fun Day in Hillsborough, NJ on October 22nd. It was a beautiful day so the pups were inside and out. Besides all the great socialization for members and dogs, there was a game of 'Musical Sit'—Frank Caputo and Herbie were the winners! There was also a game of 'Get the Hot Dog in the Toilet Paper Roll Without the Dog Eating the Hot Dog'—Eric Jakubowski & Achilles had the quickest time of 30 seconds! There was also a wonderful photographer onsite who took professional photos. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fun and received a Halloween bucket with tasty goodies to take home.



Isabella Caputo giving Trooper Hauptly some Lovin'



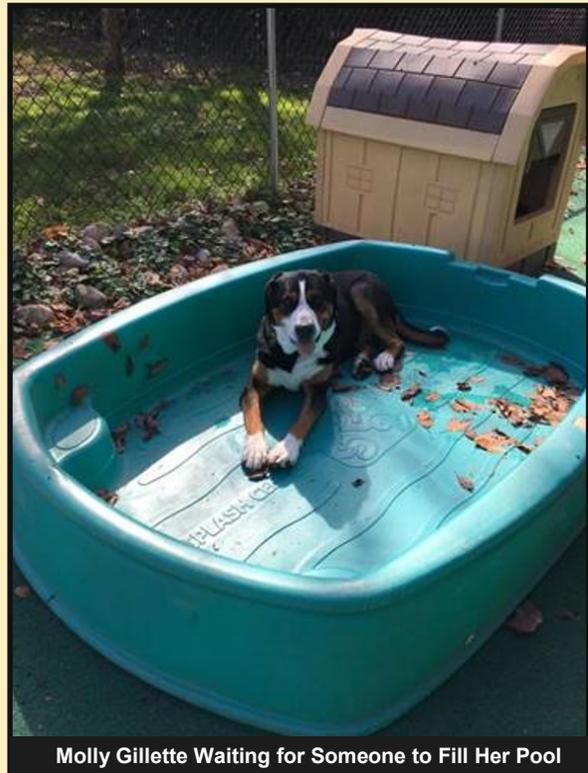
"Ready Or Not ... Here I Come"



Ozcar & Fiona Playing House

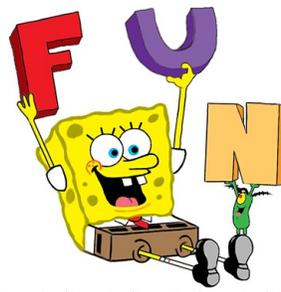


Trooper Hauptly with his Dad Toby Hecker



Molly Gillette Waiting for Someone to Fill Her Pool

SWISSY



DAY



Dante & Molly Trying Hard Not to Eat the Treat While Caboo Considers Taking a 'Bow'



Time Out for a Belly Rub - Jay Pallis & Molly



Musical Sit Congrats to Winners Frank & Herbie!



Kylie Rosander & Twix Playing Musical Sit



Jeff & Marianne Bonner with Ellie



Eric Jakubowski and Achilles
Winners of the Hot Dog Game!



Isabella & Herbie Caputo

SWISSY FUN DAY



Denise Mitterando & Caboo



Katie Kiernan with daughter Claire & Murphy



Suzanne, Keith & Ozcar Davis



Jeff, Marianne & Ellie Bonner



Kathy Diehl with daughter Kelly & Zander



Tonia Adams & Oliver



Sarah Winklevoss & Ursa



Toby, Trooper & Jim Hauptly



Eric Jakubowski & Achilles



Jay Pallis, Leslie Gillette, Grey, Molly & Jaxx



Anthony Buttari, Tim Vanderhey, Dante & Fiona



Toby & Klara Hecker



MAGS BRAGS



Caboo and Oliver Labor Day Weight Pull

Denise Mitterando's Caboo and Tonia Adam's Oliver drove out to Ohio over the Labor Day weekend to join the Crooked River Swissy Club in some Labor Day weight pulls and Swissy games.



Caboo pulled her personal best of 3,984 lbs.
38.68 times her body weight!

Oliver Learned the Art of Weight Pulling



MAGS BRAGS



Cherished Snuggly Duckling Has James Oliver Canine Good Citizen Certified & Best Junior Puppy

Tonia Adam's Oliver obtained his Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title and was awarded Best Junior Puppy at the October SwissAthlon in Ohio in mid October. Tonia and Oliver also did an 11 mile pack hike for fun and since Oliver is a 12 month old puppy Tonia carried all the water and snacks! They completed their first day pack hike and did 3 miles on the second day of the hike.





MAGS BRAGS



Caboo SwissAthlon

Denise Mitterando and Caboo participated in the Crooked River Swissy Club's SwissAthlon. This annual event took place in London, Ohio in mid October and included 2 draft trials, 2 pack hikes, and 2 weight pulls plus a puppy / veteran match. "So proud of my little girl Caboo and all of her accomplishments!"



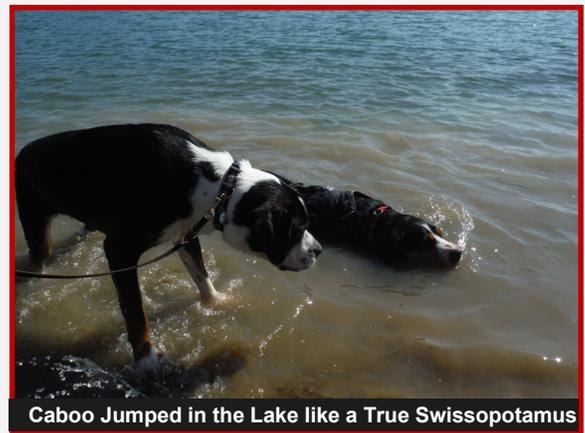
Not one, but TWO AKC Trick Dog Titles—Novice & Intermediate



First Place in her Weight Class 90-109 lbs. Pulled 2,008 lbs. in 9.56 Seconds—19.68x her Body Weight



8 mile pack hike in the Blazing Hot Sun on Saturday



Caboo Jumped in the Lake like a True Swissopotamus



Oliver & Caboo Exhausted! Same for their Moms, but Well Worth the Trip!

Caboo earned her 2nd leg by doing another 8 miles on Sunday towards her WPDX-Working Pack Dog Excellent Title!



MAGS BRAGS



Platinum GCH CH Painted Mountain Oliver Twist Best of Veterans

Katie and Randy Markley's Oliver took Best of Veterans on October 1st in Millwood, VA, at the GSMDCA Eastern Regional Specialty Show hosted by the Chesapeake & Potomac GSMDC. His prize was this lovely Swiss cross pillow which apparently is going to have a very short life span!





MAGS BRAGS



SwissKiss Big Mack Attack with a Twist First Major

Michelle and Jon Sheppard's Mack took Best of Winners at the Berks County Kennel Club in Macungie, PA on September 17th and earned his first 4 point major towards his Conformation Champion title.





MAGS BRAGS



SwissKiss Raindrop on Roses First Major

Chris and Jamie Darhower's Rainey took Winners and Best of Opposite Sex at the Catoctin Kennel Club show in West Friendship, MD on October 12th and earned her first 4 point major towards her Conformation Champion title.





MAGS BRAGS



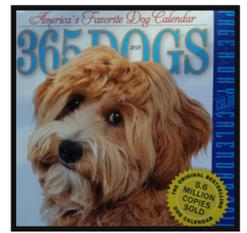
Shadetree's Furst Lil Deuce Coupe Bronze Level Grand Champion

Jana Furst's Cooper, handled by Lou Ann Isenberg, went Best of Breed at the Catoctin Kennel Club show in West Friendship, MD on October 14th and earned his Bronze level Grand Champion title.



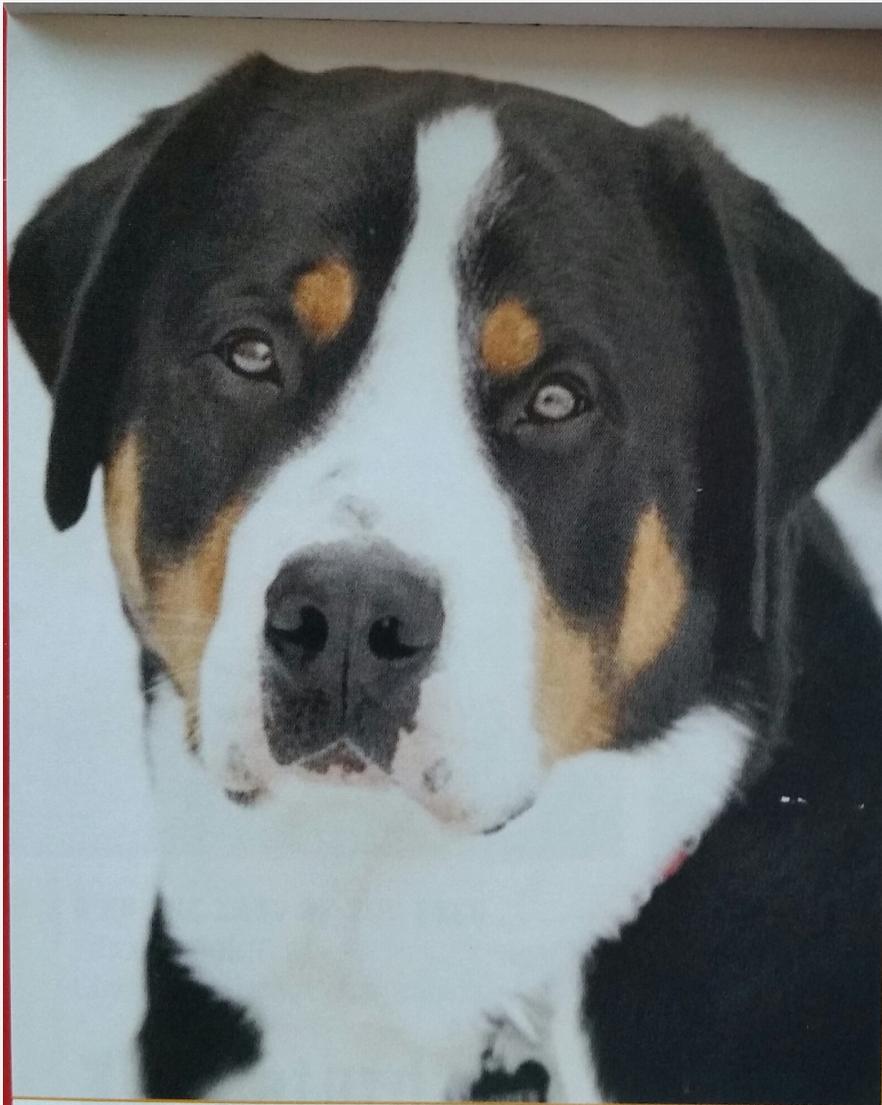


MAGS BRAGS



Shadetree's Furst Lil Deuce Coupe Calendar Pin Up

Jana Furst's Cooper was selected to be featured in the 2018 '365 DOGS' Calendar



RARE OCCASIONS

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is one of four closely related breeds developed in the Swiss Alps. Although the Bernese Mountain Dog is more widely recognized in America, the Greater Swiss is the oldest and the largest of the four. Like his cousins, the Greater Swiss is a descendant of Mastiff-type dogs brought to the Alps by the ancient Romans. He has the same handsome black, white and rust coloration as the Bernese, and he shares the same great strength and reliability. COOPER, who lives with Jana Furst in Camp Hill, PA, is a Grand Champion in conformation and has his Canine Good Citizen certificate.

9-Friday-November 2018



MAGS BRAGS



Cherished the Century's Best CGCA BN NWPD WEDS Grand Champion

Jaime and Randy Taylor's Sentry went Best of Breed at the Carolina Kennel Club show in Greensboro, NC on August 19th earning the one final point he needed. Sentry is their first show dog, and proudly owner-handled all the way!

“Way to go Sentry!”





MAGS BRAGS



GCH Kismet's Once Upon a Time, RN, CGC

2nd Place Group

Diana and Eric Gartz's Odet took 2nd in the Owner-Handler Group at the Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc. in Hamburg, NY on October 15th.



Canine Performance Events Level 1



Odet and Diana have been taking agility classes since February and "she's doing great" — finished Canine Performance Events (CPE) Level 1!



MAGS BRAGS



CH Rivedell's Zen Master Ginger Ale, CGC Rally Advanced and Companion Dog

Donna Rollins' Bosco earned his Rally Advanced (RA) title at the Western Lakes Training Club of Buffalo, Inc. on September 10th with a perfect score of 100! He also got the first 2 legs for his Novice Obedience Companion Dog (CD) title at the Western Lakes show placing first with high scores. He finished his CD title at the Kennel Club of Niagara Falls on October 12th taking 2nd place with a score of 187!





MAGS BRAGS



Magestic Woods Easter Lily Rally Novice

Donna Rollins' Penelope earned her Rally Novice (RN) title at the
Western Lakes Training Club of Buffalo, Inc
on September 10th.





MAGS BRAGS



Kismet's Esperanza in the Eastern Sky Canine Good Citizen Certified

Stephanie and Dan Dooley's Hope earned her Canine Good Citizen (CGC) title. She also passed her Therapy Dog test on October 16th with the Furever As Friends organization and will now work towards earning various AKC Therapy Dog titles.



Hope also celebrated her 1st Barooday on October 16th



MAGS BRAGS



Shadetree's Ursa Minor Farm Dog Certified

Sarah Winklevoss' Ursa got her Farm Dog title
at the York County Dog Training Club
on September 9th.





MAGS BRAGS



Cabro's Nice N Easy Tugger New Champion

Katie Schomps, Tugger, handled by Breeder Carol Gehret, finished his AKC conformation championship at the Blue Mountain Cluster, Lehigh Valley Kennel Club on September 16th. The following day he went Best of Opposite at the Berks County Kennel Club starting his Grand Championship journey with 5 points.



Katie and Tug followed up Tug's awesome morning in Macungie, PA with a Group 1 in the Owner-Handler Division.

"As his breeder, I am very excited about what the future may hold for this magnificent boy!"



HAPPY BAROODAY



Oliver Turned One!

Tonia Adam's boy celebrated his 1st birthday on September 21st.

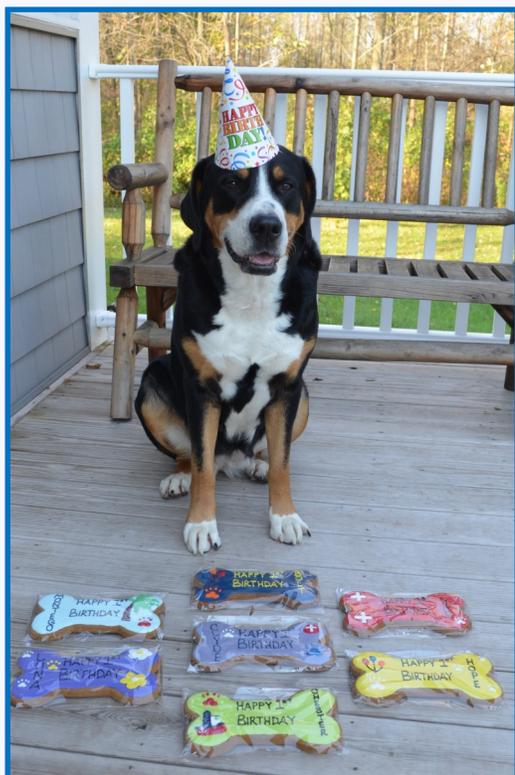


HAPPY BAROODAY



Odet's Puppies Turned One!

Odet's puppies celebrated their first birthday on October 16th.



Each pup
got a
special
birthday
gift from
Mom!

HAPPY BAROODAY



Bodie Turned Two!

Laurie & Gene Grace's boy celebrated his 2nd birthday on October 21st. He enjoyed a Frosty Paws and got a hedgehog and a new puppy brother for his birthday!



Yes, that's a mini PB Birthday Bundt Cake!



Bodie enjoying his Frosty Paws with a little help from his new puppy brother, Finn

Congratulations it's a

BOY



**Cabro's
Happy
Days
With
Trooper
Thorn**

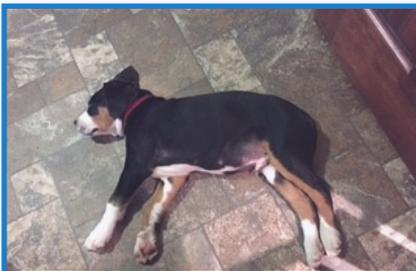
Eileen and Jim Hauptly welcomed 'Trooper Thorn' into their family in September. Trooper is from Carol Gehret's 'Happy Days Gang' litter of 4 boys and 1 girl born on July 10th from the breeding of CH Cabro's two nice n easy Joy's Top Hat in tails Lacey and GCHB Kismet Captain Avery's Toby CGC, NWPD, WPD.



Time to Leave and Go Home with Dad



Home at Last with Bribes from Mom



Snoozing (Where'd these legs come from?)



So Much to Explore!



Hey, Where's the Water?



Farmer Market Outing ... I got gifts from Vendors!



Take me to the groomer & all get is this lousy bear?

Congratulations it's a

BOY



**Shadetree's
Huckleberry
Finn
With A
Little Twist**

Laurie and Gene Grace welcomed their 2nd Swissy—Finn—into their family on September 18th. Finn is from a litter of 3 boys and 1 girl born on July 22nd in Martinsville, Virginia. Finn's dad is CH Shadetree Mario Twist who was sired by Katie & Randy Markley's Oliver. Big brother Bodie is having fun playing with his new baby brother.



Finn (left) & his brothers with a 'Blue Girl'



Finn and 'Blue Girl'



Finn's Dad Mario



Super Finn



Finn and his Big Brother Bodie



Finn's First Outing

Congratulations it's a

BOY

**Dreams
of
Cathrine's
Cherokee**

...

Carol Gehret welcomed Cherokee as the newest member of the Cabro GSMD family. Cherokee was born on July 23rd in the Czech Republic to GSMD breeder Katerina Muskarooska, Dreams of Cathrine GSMD facility. He was exported to the USA to the Dulles International Airport, Washington, DC on October 3rd. "Many thanks to Jim Hauptly and his Swissy Trooper for travelling with me on this special day to welcome my little one to the USA!"



congratulations
It's a girl!

**Sharon Gardner welcomed Tillie (Top Hat's Matilda in Red) to their family.
Tillie was one of the 5 beautiful girls from Sharon's Maggie and Kim Wollard's Zuko litter
of 9 pups born on June 29th.**



Fall Has Arrived!



Gem-N-I, Gertie and Lonzi Haubrick



Finn Grace shopping for Mums with his Mom



Toby Hecker posing in Peddlers Village, PA

Hooray for Fall!



Leslie Gillette & Jay Pallis
Grey, Molly & Jaxx



Denise Mitterando & Caboo
"Little Sundae with a Cherry on Top"



"Pirate" Skye and Hope "the Good Witch" Dooley

Fall is Finally Here!



Sentry and Eleanor Taylor



Tonia Adams and Oliver



CH Cabro Cinco Snowmans Boss
"Rest in Peace Sweet Boy"

TAKE ME BACK TO OLD (MILLWOOD) VIRGINIA

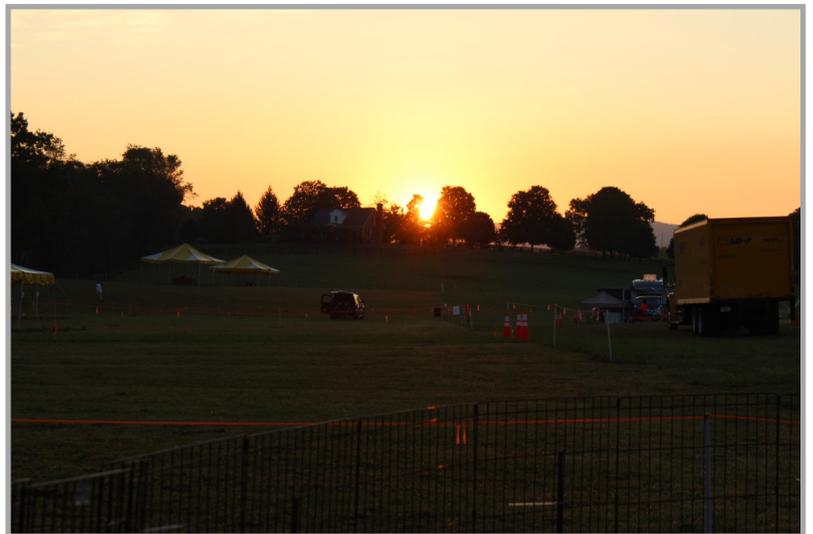
Janie Hecker

Well, it was a 37 & 1/2 foot Holiday Rambler motorhome, but ...

it did take me back. "Santa Wayne" and I traveled with Toby and Klara to Millwood Virginia on September 27th and stayed through October 1st to take part in the Chesapeake and Potomac [C&P] Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club's Regional Specialty. The last time we went to this event was in September 2013. Toby was sixteen months old.

Chesapeake & Potomac (C&P) is the club directly south of MAGS.

Their club includes Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Many members of MAGS are also members of C&P and vice versa. The Hunt Country Cluster dog shows are held at the Historic Long Branch House & Farm, a beautiful horse farm that has enough acreage for conformation, obedience, weight pull plus vendors, campers, cars, and club meeting tents. We were very fortunate that we had gorgeous weather the entire time we were there. It made camping in a field of timothy hay very enjoyable. I just had to take a picture of the sunrise one morning!



We entered Klara in all four shows.

We missed the show on Wednesday, and Toby was entered on Friday and Sunday (the day of the Specialty). While both Klara and Toby made the cut on one day of the show, neither dog won any show ribbons. I took pictures of some of our MAGS members with their dogs in the ring. See if you can recognize two of our members. Toby had gone to three weight pull classes back home so he competed in his first official weight pull event. Of the three dogs in his weight class, he came in first by pulling 545 pounds.



TAKE ME BACK TO OLD (MILLWOOD) VIRGINIA

On Saturday, C&P had a club picnic, meeting, and raffle.

The club went through routine business. Under new business, the topic of scheduling the National Specialty by GSMDCA was discussed. It has been moved from May this year to September next year. This creates a problem for the regional clubs because the national club will not approve a regional specialty within three weeks before or after the national specialty. Because of this, C&P's specialty cannot be held in Millwood next September as had been the tradition. It was suggested that C&P and MAGS both petition the national club seeking an established week in the year for the national specialty which would not change. That would allow each regional club to hold their specialty and be assured the date would not have to be moved.

After the meeting, Jan Collins provided training on shaping dog behavior.

While this method takes time and patience, it is an effective method to get your dog to perform desired behaviors. Jan uses this method to elicit behaviors which serve as foundation for conformation, obedience, and drafting. The picture shows her working on a dog as body and movement awareness are developed. They also learned "tricks" like fetching thrown items and then placing them in a bowl and stacking different size rings on a stacker in the proper size order.



We had a wonderful time.

We enjoyed the company a lot of fellow Swissie owners and saw so many Swissies. We enjoyed the beautiful pastures and woodlands of Virginia with its quiet moments, clean air and excellent weather. Next year this specialty is expected to be held in April at Timonium, Maryland.

Janie Hecker

IT TAKES A CLUB TO RAISE A LITTER

This past June we welcomed Maggie and Zuko's ...

Crooked River GSMD club) litter. We said hello for the first time to 5 girls and 4 boys as they entered this world with the help of the staff at Pleasant Valley Veterinary Services and Denise Mitterando. I'm very fortunate Denise was there to help me in the car to and from and to document the arrival of these pups!



As days turned into weeks our pup's socialization program began.

Anthony Buttari, Tim Vanderhey, Denise, and the Caputo family were among the pups first new friends. Some of our first outings were to the bank, the liquor store and our grain store. The puppies went three at a time, and everyone greeted them with such delight! In the meantime, I encouraged all of my new puppy families to visit as often as they liked. This gave them a chance to meet the pups, as well as Maggie and her dad, Teddy. It also gave me the chance to get to know them better to help me with the proper placement of each pup. It was a very busy time, as Denise can attest to! One afternoon she called to come for a visit and must have heard the panic in my voice as I ran down the list of all the things I had left to do that afternoon. Denise showed up to help, and brought DINNER! Phew!



What Do you Get When You Add Frank Caputo to a Whelping Pen of 9 Puppies? 'A Tight Fit'

The next big outing for the pups was when they were 49 days old

and had their Volhard Temperament testing. Since it's important that the testing is conducted in a strange place, off they went, three at a time, to my neighbor's farm. The test also must be performed by a stranger, so I was fortunate that club member, Diane Schmidt, volunteered for the job! Diane tested each pup one by one while Denise recorded the results. Testing finished just as the skies opened up. We were able to make it back to my home safely and dry! At home we reviewed the results with pizza, wine and beer! Big thanks Diane and Denise!

The next week, week 8, my husband and I loaded the nine pups ...

Into both our cars, and headed off to Helene Nathanson's home for their conformation evaluations. Many thanks to Helene, an AKC judge, Susan Spaeth, and Lynne Kenney, both of whom are long-time breeders, for volunteering their time for this important day. Special thanks to Frank Caputo for making the trip and individually bringing the pups in and out to be evaluated. We learned so much from these three women—it was truly a fascinating afternoon.

The very day we were back where it all started ...

Pleasant Valley Vet Services for the pups' wellness checkup. All went well and by the end of the week we began to say our good byes. It's very bitter-sweet to say goodbyes, but it always makes me smile seeing how excited the families are to bring home their newest family member.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the club members, vet staff, and Swissy friends for helping me raise such a great group of pups. My family and I feel very fortunate to be part of the awesome group of people who are our Swissy community.

Looking forward to seeing and meeting many of you at the parade on December 9th.

Sharon Gardner, Top Hat GSMD



Golden Nuggets of K9 Knowledge

From the Pat Hastings 2-Day Seminar

Katie Markley

Pat's 2 day seminar in Bethlehem on October 21st and 22nd was a combination of her Structure in Action seminar and her Evaluating Puppies seminar, geared toward breeders and those participating in conformation and performance events. I've been to both of these seminars many times before but the thing about Pat's seminars is that she doesn't use "canned" material. She's always throwing out little golden nuggets of K9 knowledge! There's always something new to learn from Pat which is why many people, like myself, will never miss a Pat Hasting's seminar!

I'd like to share a few nuggets of knowledge from her recent seminar. Some nuggets are new, some are not, but if you haven't heard them before, they're new!



Diet for Breeding Bitches

If there's one thing two or more dog people will never agree on, it's a diet for dogs! Pat takes a no nonsense approach to diet; if what you're using is working for your dogs, fine. If not, change! But when it comes to bitches to be used for breeding, there is statistical evidence that indicates bitches fed a grain-free diet have smaller litters than bitches fed a grain based diet. This has not yet been proven in scientific studies. But based on the chance that it MAY be proven to be scientifically accurate and switching to a grain based diet will surely do no harm, why would you not put breeding bitches on a grain based diet?



Don't Make it so Easy for the Judge!

A good judge doesn't judge by looking for faults, but rather by looking for virtues. However, Pat says that inevitably, exhibitors insist on highlighting their dogs faults! It's very easy for her to see where the fault is... it's the part of the dog the handler is fussing with! Her advice for handlers is this:

Know your dogs faults. Every dog has some and a handler needs to know what they are. Never look at your dog's faults when you're in the ring and never put your hand on the dog near a fault.. If your dog's topline is less than perfect, don't look at it and don't put your hands on it. If your dog has straight shoulders, keep your eyes and your hands away from those shoulders. On the other hand, if your dog has a bedrock topline, a not-too-obvious stroke of the topline while the judge is looking will cause the judge to notice that topline. A judge's eye will follow your eyes and your hands. Make it work for you, not against you.



Evaluating Puppies

Pat spent a lot of time on puppy evaluations and actually evaluated two litters of 8 week old puppies during the 2 day seminar. So there was a ton of information presented, but I'd just like to highlight two important take-aways.

1. "Pick of the Litter" is a term that should be abolished, particularly for breeders. The best puppy in a litter of all mediocre puppies is still a mediocre puppy and probably doesn't belong in a breeding program. Puppies should never be evaluated against each other; they should be evaluated independently by scoring them on their own merits.
2. Pat's philosophy is that puppies must be evaluated at 8 weeks of age, plus or minus 3 days, no exceptions. The idea is that the structure of a puppy at 8 weeks of age is what the puppy will be as a mature dog when his growth plates close, which for Swissys is at about 18 months. In between that time, from 8 weeks to 18 months... don't even look at them because they will probably be going through all kinds of awkward growth stages. But there are 4 characteristics of an 8 week old puppy that have no relevance to how the dog will be at maturity and should not be considered in evaluating or choosing a puppy. Those characteristics are size, bone, substance, and tail carriage (NOT tail set).



Diet for Puppies

There are many diets that work well for puppies, and there are some that don't. The most important aspect of a diet for young puppies is the Calcium/Phosphorus ratio and the calories consumed vs: calories expended. Protein is not an issue. If these components are not kept in balance, developmental orthopedic disease can appear very quickly. The good news is, it can also disappear very quickly by changing the diet and/or increasing the puppies' exercise. The litter of Springer Spaniels that Pat evaluated during the seminar was a good example. These puppies had no muscle! You could feel their rear legs and thighs, and literally, there was skin and bone and nothing in between. Consequently, all of the puppies were barrel hocked; they had no muscle to stabilize their rears, and the slightest tap on the side of their rear legs caused them to fall over. Pat said the only time she sees this is when puppies are on a fish based diet, so she asked the breeder what she was feeding. It was a fish based diet with no other source of protein. Fish protein is not the same as meat protein for a dog. It's a good source of protein, but will not build muscle and is not appropriate as a single source of protein. If you're feeding a fish based diet, make sure there are other sources of meat protein in the formula.



Magic Lines!

The term "Magic Lines" is mine, not Pat's. I'm not sure what she calls them. But whatever you call them, these lines play a large part in her puppy evaluations and also play a large role in a judge's evaluation of your dog in the show ring.

When evaluating puppies, Pat will stack the puppies and look for these lines. When a judge is standing back and looking at a line of stacked dogs in the show ring, he is often looking at these lines. This is particularly true if there is a large entry in the ring. Remember, a judge only has about two minutes per dog for judging so he needs to get to his "best dogs" as fast as possible. These lines provide a way for a judge to quickly narrow the field to serious contenders. Keep in mind that a dog must be properly stacked for a judge to evaluate with these lines so if your dog isn't stacked well, you may miss an opportunity.

Line 1: A vertical line from the ischium (bone at the point of the buttocks) to the ground. The line should fall at the tip of the dog's toes.

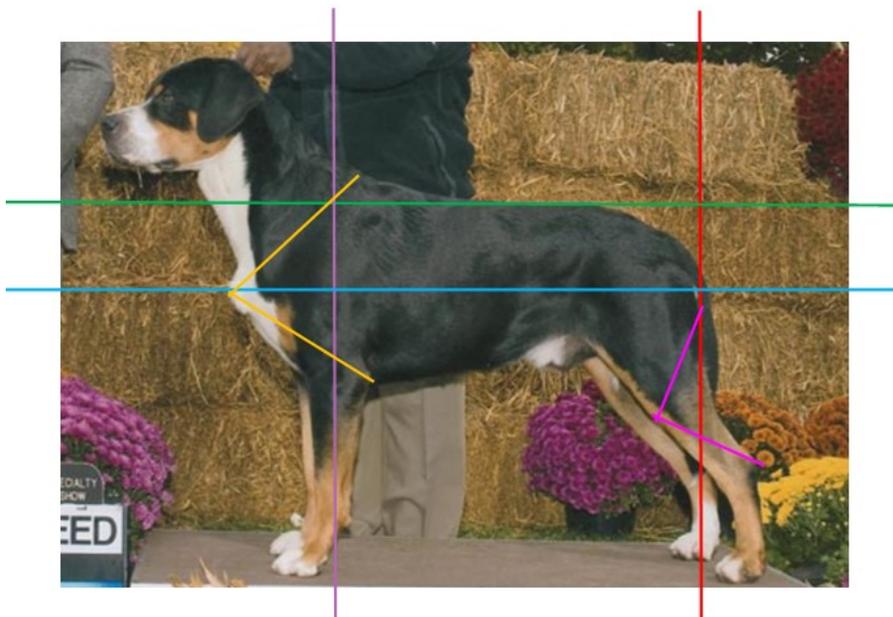
Line 2: A horizontal line drawn across the dog's back. The head must be positioned with the jaw parallel to the ground. The dog's head and neck assembly should be above this line.

Line 3: A vertical line drawn upward from the center of a dog's leg. The dog's head and neck assembly should be forward (to the left) of this line.

Line 4: A horizontal line, from the point of the prosternum across the dog to the ischium. This line should cut approximately halfway through the body of the dog at the shoulders.

Line 5: Two diagonal lines. One from the point of the shoulders to the prosternum, and one from the prosternum to the elbow. These lines should be of approximate equal length.

Line 6: Two diagonal lines. One from the ischium to the knee, and one from the knee to the point of hock. These lines should be of approximate equal length.



As a handler, you can't see these lines on your dog when you're in the ring. But you can practice stacking your dog in front of a mirror to see how he measures up to the magic lines. You can't change the lines on your dog; they are what they are. But if, for example, the head and neck aren't forward of the vertical line (**Line 3**), it wouldn't hurt to stretch the neck farther forward in the show ring. And it wouldn't hurt to adjust the placement of the rear feet so that the rear toes fall closer to the line drawn from the ischium to the ground (**Line 1**).



Learn to Evaluate the Whole Dog!

When you're standing ringside watching a dog show, it's tempting to say to yourself or to someone next to you ... "I don't like that dog's rear (front) (movement) (head), etc. The next time your mind goes down that path, STOP! Before thinking or saying what you don't like, point out 5 things that you DO like about the dog. Then be specific in your mind about what you don't like. You don't like the rear because... the tail set is wrong? the hocks are too high? the dog moves too close? poor angulation? By forcing yourself to recognize virtues and be specific about faults, you'll learn to evaluate the whole dog instead of parts of the dog.



Basenji Heat Cycles

The Basenji is the only dog who comes into their heat cycle once a year, at the same time every year... always in the Fall in the United States. Basenjies are from Africa and when U.S. breeders began importing females to breed, they found that the imported Basenjies also came into heat only once a year, but in the Spring instead of the Fall. And so, breeders began breeding those imported bitches in the Spring. But, not a single breeding was successful. Breeders quickly learned what the problem was. Male Basenjies only produce sperm during the same season that the females are in heat! So when trying to breed an imported Bitch who is cycling in the Spring, with a U.S. dog who only has sperm in the Fall, there was no chance of conception.

I realize this has absolutely nothing to do with Swissys but found it to be a fascinating tidbit of information. So now if the topic should come up in social circles, you will know!

Katie Markley

MAGS Donates \$1,000 to AKC Reunite Canine Support and Relief Fund

On August 25th Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 storm, slammed southeastern Texas causing unprecedented & catastrophic flooding.

Hurricane Harvey was the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Wilma in 2005, ending a record 12-year drought in which no hurricanes of Category 3 intensity or higher made landfall in the country. In a four-day period, many areas received more than 40 inches of rain as the system meandered over eastern Texas and adjacent waters, causing catastrophic flooding. With peak accumulations of 51.88 in, Harvey is the wettest tropical cyclone on record in the contiguous United States. The resulting floods inundated hundreds of thousands of homes, displaced more than 30,000 people, and prompted more than 17,000 rescues. (Source: Wikipedia) A storm of this magnitude affects many animals, including pets that are sadly left to fend for themselves.



Frankie and Bear were rescued after found floating in a boat in a flooded neighborhood.



A volunteer from Austin Pets Alive! cradles a rescued puppy in Houston. (Photo: Austin Pets Alive!)

To assist victims MAGS donated \$1,000 to the AKC Reunite Canine Support and Relief Fund whose goal is to provide resources, support, funds, and other assistance to not-for-profit animal shelters and similar not-for-profit organizations to provide care for domestic animals orphaned or displaced as a result of natural or civil disasters.

The next wave of help needed



Pets are safe in a temporary shelter after being rescued after Hurricane Harvey. (Photo: Austin Pets Alive!)

Red Cross Releases Pet First Aid Online Course

For more than 100 years, the American Red Cross has been training people to perform first aid skills so they could save the lives of others.

Now, the organization announces the release of its new Cat and Dog First Aid online course so that owners will know what to do in an emergency until veterinary care is available.

People can access the course on their desktop or tablet at redcross.org/catdogfirstaid for a \$25 fee and go through the content at their own pace. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete the course. Participants can stop and pick up where they left off if Fluffy needs a treat or it's time to take Fido out to the dog park.

The interactive course includes:

- How to determine a pet's normal vital signs so that owners can notice if there are any irregularities;
- Step-by-step instructions and visual aids for what to do if a pet is choking, needs CPR, has a wound, or is having a seizure; and
- Information on preventative care, health and tips for a pet's well-being.



Cat & Dog First Aid Online Training

REGISTER NOW

You love your pets and want to keep them happy – and providing a healthy lifestyle and being prepared to deliver first aid care for your pet is the best way to do that!

In this 35-minute online course, you will learn the basics in caring for cats and dogs through a variety of topics – from understanding and checking your pet's vital signs, to preventative care for cats and dogs, to caring for the most critical emergency situations - including breathing and cardiac emergencies, wounds, bleeding, and seizures.

The Red Cross Pet First Aid App complements the course by providing cat and dog owners with instant access to expert advice, an animal hospital locator, pet-friendly hotels, content on how to include pets in family emergency preparedness plans and more.

The app can be downloaded for free in mobile app stores or by texting "GETPET" to 90999. American Pet Nutrition is a sponsor of the Pet First Aid App.