

# MEET OUR MEMBERS

## Sarah Winklevoss



### If fifteen years ago someone had told me I would own a Swissy ...

I would have thought they were talking about some sort of knife. While today I spend my time surrounded by dogs of all kinds, I grew up in a pet-free home. Well, other than my brother's short stint as the proud owner of a painter turtle. The turtle suffered an early demise during a family camping trip when it was left outside the camper and became a tasty meal for a raccoon.

### I grew up in the Philly area ...

and went to college in Washington, DC where I stayed until 2001. In May 2001, I was working as a consultant for a software company, and was relocated to Chicago to take over as Regional Manager for the Professional Services division. It was just when the dot com bubble burst, and I was responsible for selling projects to clients to keep my consultants employed. It involved lots of travel, lots of long hours so I worked too much, and was now living in a city where I knew no one. I knew I needed to do something other than work and get out of the house more so I decided to get a dog. It made perfect sense, I mean I lived alone, I had a job that involved a significant amount of hours, as well as, travel so yes, why not get a dog?

### On a bitterly cold January night in 2002...

I drove up to the middle of nowhere Wisconsin to pick up my new yellow lab puppy 'Cubby'. And that started my journey to a life pretty much revolving around dogs.



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## Sarah Winklevoss (*Part II*)

### As I said, my job involved a significant amount of travel so ...

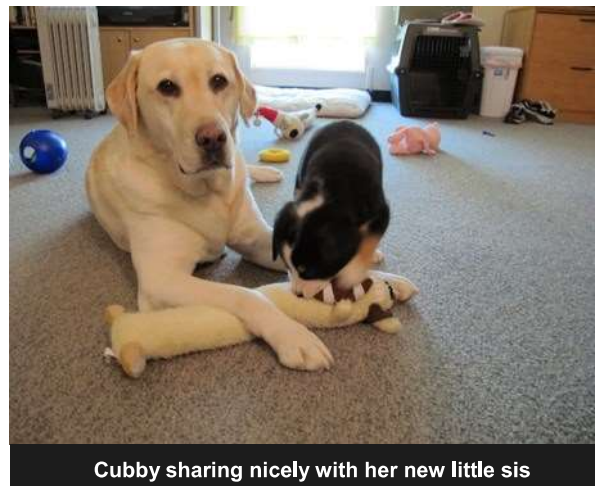
I lined up a dog daycare for Cubby even before I committed to taking her home. It was a great place, she thoroughly enjoyed her time there, but after a couple years the owner sold it to a big boarding chain and it changed. A friend and I joked about opening our own daycare and I thought, well, I definitely know what clients want in a daycare, and I know how to run a business. I just needed to know more about dogs. So in May of 2004, I sold my place in Chicago, loaded Cubby into the SUV and made our way back to Philly. Chicago already had a glut of daycares, but I knew Philly was underserved. I started looking for locations and also started volunteering at a daycare to get experience. It was that daycare that I saw THE MOST BEAUTIFUL DOG ... yep a Swissy! And I knew that would be my next dog.

### After a couple years of volunteering and looking for a location ...

I opened up Cubby's Canine Castle in November 2006. Starting a business keeps you quite busy so I knew I wasn't going to be getting a puppy anytime soon. I was so excited in June 2009 when I got a daycare application for a SWISSY! I was busy with getting a new business up and running so having a new puppy of my own was out of the question. I figured I would live vicariously and love a client's Swissy—it was perfect! Ummm, not so much. Apparently, his parents hadn't read the part of the Swissy manual that stresses YOU MUST TRAIN YOUR DOG!! He was so bad, it was sort of a mutual decision with me and the client that he longer attend my daycare. He was unruly, and at times, aggressive. Luckily Murphy 'Berg came along and restored my faith in the behavior of Swissys and I said okay, yep, I'm going to get one someday.

### Finally, in January 2011 I added ...

Shadetree's Ursa Minor to the family. On what was one of the coldest days of the year, I trekked down to Maryland, Cubby in tow, to meet Cathy Cooper at a dog show to bring Ursa home. Yep, potty training again in the freezing cold. I vowed next time I get a puppy, it will be in the Spring or at least not in dead of winter. Especially a Swissy because I swear she peed more than Cubby ever did as a puppy!



Cubby sharing nicely with her new little sis

Luckily, Ursa understood her place in the pack—Cubby allowed on the couch—Ursa not

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## Sarah Winklevoss (*Part III*)

Out in the Cubby's Canine Castle play yard, puppy Ursa trying hard to keep up with her big sister in the snow while we play our most favorite game ever ... snowball fetch!



Cubby and Usra enjoying their time in the daycare play yard. Ursa eventually became bigger than her 'big sister', but she was always the baby :)



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## Sarah Winklevoss (Part IV)

### Getting Ursa started my sojourn ...

into dog sports. I had always done a lot of training with Cubby, but I didn't even know competition obedience existed until the trainer I had working for me at the time said 'Let's get titles on our dogs'. She said, let's go do this Novice class in September, and then we can enter this show at Oaks in November. Okay, anyone involved in competition obedience right is rolling on the floor laughing at the idea of doing ONE 8 week competition class and then doing a trial. I, however, at the time had no idea and was just following her lead. So, of course, when we entered the show it was an epic fail. Mostly Ursa just stood there and stared at me and at everything around us. The judge actually asked us to leave the ring. I didn't even know that was a possible outcome. But even with the epic fail, my interest in dog sports was born and I soon joined Suburban Dog Training Club, and for the past five years I have been working with some incredible trainers. Ursa and I compete in Obedience and Rally. We finished her Rally Novice title, and have multiple legs towards her Beginner Novice, Novice and Preferred Novice titles.



Ursa taking first place in Preferred Novice at Lower Camden last Spring



Swissy Nationals 2014—Ursa finished her Really Novice

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## Sarah Winklevoss (*Part V*)



With our friends Judy (Great Pyrenees owner) & Mary (Bernese person) who helped us with all things drafting!

## Since I was doing so much obedience training with Ursa ...

Cubby got jealous so I started taking her to the training club too. She loved it! At age 11, yep, we started entering some trials and finished her Beginner Novice and Rally Novice titles in November 2013, including a first place and score of 100 in the Rally trial at Oaks! I was so proud! We got two legs of her Rally Advanced title in March 2014 before I lost her to cancer in April that year. She had been diagnosed with Hemangiosarcoma in November of 2013 so I knew 'it' was coming, but was obviously devastated with losing my first dog—especially the one that started my life with dogs and led to a total career and lifestyle change. Luckily Ursa was there to grieve with me and keep me company. Ursa adapted well to being the sole dog in the household, but we'll eventually add another pup, maybe in a year or so.

Cubby picking up her ribbon for 4th place in Rally Novice at the Wilmington Kennel Club. She was always so lively & bouncy; this judge thought she was 2 when she

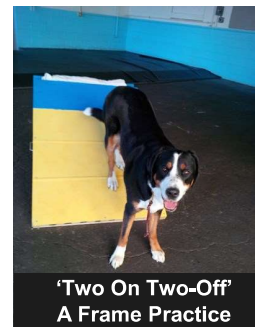


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## Sarah Winklevoss (*Part VI*)

### Aside from obedience and rally ...

our biggest struggle in all of our training has always been Ursa's confidence—she gets nervous and shuts down. Agility has been really helpful for boosting her confidence. We've always done agility for fun, but recently we did a couple of UKI agility trials. Ursa loves the jumps and tunnels and such; we have yet to master the teeter-totter. :(



### My introduction to carting was actually at a ...

MAGS events back in 2013. I went to a cart training event which set Ursa and I on our path to carting. Luckily for me a few other member of our dog training club are carting enthusiasts. Our first practice did not go so well—I had the cart, harness, and got Ursa all hooked up and was so excited to start our first freight haul. I COULD NOT get her to move. Not totally surprising because when she gets nervous she freezes up. My friends and their dogs became smaller and smaller dots on the horizon as I attempted to get Ursa to take even one step. It's not like it was heavy—it was her plastic training cart! After lots of cheese she eventually took a few steps. Funny enough, after she got used to carting it became one of her favorite activities; second only to agility.



### As you can see we upgraded from the ...

original PVC training cart that I made—yes, I made a little wooden cart. And yes, I would get slightly offended when I was asked multiple times if my husband made it. I own my home and run a doggie daycare that hosts an average of 65 dogs a day. The place takes a beating. So I've become pretty handy over the years. The cart I am pretty proud of, as I'm sure is evident, but I also do things like fix fences, and make shelves, agility equipment such as mini-A-Frames, wobble boards, tire jumps, channel weave poles, etc.

Aside from all things dog in my life, I like to keep up on world events. I am an avid NPR listener and website reader, and I also spend a lot of time reading the Washington Post and BBC news websites. I was an international affairs major in college and I studied abroad for a year in the French Alps so I've always had an interest in the world events. I've been lucky enough to travel, although not so much since I became a business owner. But through either business or pleasure, I've been to quite a few US states—I'm missing 12, but hope to visit the rest some day. I've traveled internationally as well—



France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland (I didn't see any Swissys while I was there!), Germany, England, Scotland, Canada, Mexico, Aruba, Virgin Islands (British & US), Dominican Republic and randomly, China. I actually went back to Switzerland in 2001 and spent three months working in Zurich, but still never saw any Swissys. :(

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## Sarah Winklevoss (*Part VII*)

### I also like food, both cooking and eating it!

I moved into a house built in 1940 four years ago and sadly the kitchen was original. Its put a damper on my cooking since there is no counter space, but I'm extremely excited that I'm finally kicking off a kitchen and bathroom renovation project! I knew moving in I would update it—it just took four years to get going on it. And it will be twice as big, and have a dishwasher! As I said, I like to cook; cleaning up is an entirely different matter.

So that's me in a nutshell—corporate IT consultant turned doggie daycare owner, Swissy owner, and handy homeowner.

Sarah Winklevoss



Really, this is my 1940's Kitchen with no counter space!