

C & P SWISSY LICKS

Providing fun activities, information, and support to Swissy enthusiasts

President's Message

At our recent C&P Board meeting we discussed what we wanted to accomplish over the next year. There was strong agreement that we want many events for people to participate in; however I would like a broad spectrum of our membership to share what they would be most interested in. You can post any ideas you have on our C&P web site in comments on the Events page.

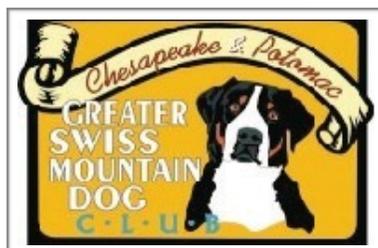
I would like to thank some very special members who have done an exceptional job on our club's website. Nancy Kechner, Mary Jo Rasmussen, and Phyllis Walker have put in many hours of work to update our site with a beautiful new look. Check out <http://www.cpgreaterswiss.com/> THANK YOU!

Back to participation, our Spring Draft Trial is May 3 & 4 in Cross Junction, VA which is about 15 miles NW of Winchester, VA. Draft Trials are usually quite a fun time; lots of socializing time except for the judges and the one person at a time that is being judged. Your dogs are welcomed; just keep them back away from the actual course; there is always plenty of room. We all do lunch together at the site. May in Virginia should be a beautiful time. If you are not currently drafting with your Swissy, this is a most EXCELLENT time to see what it is like and ask all the questions you could ever have.

Another special thanks goes out to Jenna Starr-Farling. I personally became involved with weight pull with my Swissy about 15 years ago. The problem then was the lack of opportunity to participate. Jenna offers more opportunities year round than probably anyone, in any breed, across the entire USA. Check in on the C&P web page and Facebook page for future possibilities.

Take care one and all and I hope to see you at an event soon.

Huck



In this edition:

Food for Thought

Veterinarian and Swissy Owner, Estelle Ward, gives us a short written version of the talk she gave to the club at the Eastern Specialty in Millwood this year. The topic is: Laparoscopic Gastropexy and Timing of Spay/Neuter

Lure Coursing

Tracy Brainard tells us about her experience Lure Coursing with Ollie

Life with Swissys

This issue we focus on C & P Member and Former "Pick of the Litter Winner", Jan Collins, and her Swissys

Events

Coming events!

Member Brags

Shout-outs to our members and their Swissys

Food For Thought:

Laparoscopic Gastropexy and Timing of Spay/Neuter

Estelle Ward DVM

Laparoscopic Gastropexy

If you love Swissies, you know and fear “bloat,” the slang for gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV). For many reasons, some that are understood and some mysterious, several breeds of dogs can experience a rotation of the stomach on its axis which can result in rapid, life-threatening shock and death. That’s a short version, but that’s really mostly what you need to know for now. If you love and live with one of the breeds known to be susceptible to GDV, you should live with a great deal of trepidation that this could literally happen at any moment. The very young are usually not at risk, meaning animals less than 1-2 years of age. But after that, the risk is real. The fact is that the only sure way to prevent this is to surgically secure the position of the stomach in such a way that it cannot rotate. Many techniques have been described and performed over the years, but all have significant flaws ranging from gross invasiveness—belt-loop gastropexy-- to anatomically compromising the stomach position—incisional gastropexy. Laparoscopic gastropexy is relatively new and has addressed previous concerns. It is safe, non-invasive, and maintains a normal anatomic position for the stomach. Availability of laparoscopic gastropexy is limited by the cost of the equipment as well as the expertise to perform the procedure. Some concerns have been raised over the timing of the procedure as well as its long-term integrity and its ability to prevent stomach rotation. However, refinements of timing and technique have been made. It is now widely suggested that dogs should reach one year of age, and have mostly achieved their adult size, before gastropexy. Furthermore, the length of the actual pexy itself must be substantial to achieve the goal of gastric stability. It is a quick procedure with virtually no side effects. Patients are eating and acting normally the next day. Recuperation is seven days of rest. Some patients may have a wrinkle in the skin at the surgical site that is generally temporary. The cost is about one fifth the cost of GDV surgery and comes with one hundred percent less stress than worrying if your pet will survive, although you will pay the bill regardless of ultimate survival. The timing of this procedure can be linked readily with spay and neuter if you intend to do that. Regardless of whether you plan to have a pet or a show dog, laparoscopic gastropexy makes sense from every perspective. You will look at your dog differently every time he/she vomits, acts lethargic, does not eat or goes for a long hike or somehow seems “off.”



Timing of Spay/Neuter

The history of our thinking and doing about spay/neuter in this country is quite interesting, and it has relatively little to do with what is actually best for the pet—though some if it does consider that. It usually is primarily concerned with what is convenient for their owners and with what is deemed necessary in society. Let me explain. The hallowed six-month timeline has a great deal to do with avoiding heat cycles in females and hormone-linked behaviors in males—humping, urine-marking, “wanderlust,” and aggression. Prevention of mammary neoplasia and prostatic disease plays a role as well. However, very little attention was given to the role of sex hormones in skeletal development in establishing the six month guidelines. With the increasing power of the shelter animal movement and the linkage of spay/neuter to curbing overpopulation of animals (though this linkage has NOT been proven), the timeline for spay/neuter has been gradually pushed earlier, so that now most shelters are spaying and neutering puppies and kittens at

6-8 weeks of age prior to adoption. Studies have been done to support the safety of this new standard. Yet, long term consequences are difficult to link and there are vast variables. There is so much we don't know. What we do know is that there has been a disturbing increase in orthopedic problems in mixed and pure bred dogs, especially in the incidence of stifle disease (specifically, cranial cruciate ligament disease). Please look at your one-year old Swissies and note how high their hips—the wings of the ileum—stand relative to their shoulders—the scapulae. This occurs because the growth plates of the upper thoracic limbs—humeri—close and finish their growth after the ileal wings. There is growing concern that reducing sex hormone levels prior to final growth plate closure affects normal form and hence normal function. Veterinarians who specialize in performance dogs are advocating for late spay/neuter. We see much less cranial cruciate disease in intact animals. The last words on this subject have not been written by a long shot. This discussion will rage on, but a thoughtful dialogue must exist. There are many, many considerations both practical and philosophical. One simple answer will not suffice. Let's keep questioning, advocating, listening, and searching, because surely they are worth it.



Estelle Ward is a Veterinarian at [Eastern Animal Hospital](#) in Baltimore, and owns a Swissy. Her practice performs the Laproscopic Gastropexy

Agility at the Eukanuba/AKC Championships

Jan Collins

2013 was an exciting year for Swissies in agility. To qualify for and to be considered for the agility Invitational a dog must be competing at the master level and be earning MACH or PACH points. The top five dogs per breed are then invited. 2013 was the first year that 6 Swissies were considered. The five invited were Jethro and Steve Likevich, Kenzie and Megan Fletcher, Annie and Jan Collins, Sara Lee and Jan Collins and Maggie and Barbara Warner. Kenzie and Maggie were not able to attend but hopefully next year there will be five Swissies competing. The courses were challenging as expected at this level of competition but very fun to run. I drove to Florida with my good friend Ellen Miller who qualified with her Berner Tally. We had a great time in the warm Florida weather. I hope that others that are running their dogs will make this a goal. Swissies are very athletic dogs and can love the game of agility. See the awesome pic on the last page of this Swissy Licks!

- 1.) Annie
- 2.) Sara Lee
- 3.) Jethro

Life with Swissys

Jan Collins shares her experiences with her Swissys

I have had Swissies in my life for over 12 years. Still, it seems like yesterday that we went to get Rufus for my then 11-year-old son, Chris. Rufus was the best first Swissy for our family, and also the best for an 11-year-old boy. Rufus was sweet, kind, and gentle, with not one bit of a guardian nature to him. You'd walk into the playroom on any given Saturday morning, and there would be Rufus, sleeping among 4 or 5 boys. My son Chris decided he wanted to take agility lessons with Rufus. I asked one of my very good horse friends about her agility classes, and she promised she wouldn't kick me, Chris and Rufus out of class no matter what. Little did I know where that first class was going to take me! I just wanted my son to have fun with his dog. I had no thoughts of ever competing in agility; I just wanted it to be whatever my son wanted it to be and for him and Rufus to enjoy it. It was perfect. An 11-year-old boy just wants to run and play with their dog, and that is what Rufus and Chris did together in agility.



A year and a half later came my most special Albert. Albert was the dog that would change my life forever. I decided I wanted to start doing some agility myself, so Albert and I started our most fun journey and built a bond so strong that will hold memories for a lifetime. Albert is a huge big farmy dog without the look of an agility Swissy, but he was a fantastic athlete for his size. He had plenty of drive and was super food motivated and he taught me so much about how to train a dog. He has a huge prey drive so learning how to keep focus through fun and games was a must with him. Tug? My big boy could tug! Fetch a ball? Oh yes and oh so fast! These are my tools for amazing weaves and focus! He was the first Swissy to earn a Master Jumpers Preferred title. Doing agility with Albert was so much fun to do together, and I was so proud of my boy for working with me. We competed in agility through AKC, USDAA, NADAC, and CPE, but AKC was our



main focus. The work it took to keep Albert focused was what probably made him my most difficult Swissy in some respects, but he got it, and we were a team, and the game with my best buddy was so, so special.

Then I got Calvin, who is Albert's half brother. Calvin is a tall leggy boy with a fantastic work ethic, and a build more like that of an agility dog. Calvin proved to be a much easier dog to train than Albert had been. He went on to earn excellent titles in FAST, Standard and Jumpers, and was a fun, and a little more relaxing dog to run agility with.



My next Swissy was Flash, who is a super jumper, but a more laid back dog. He has several AKC and NADAC titles, but agility was just not his thing. He is super at pulling a cart, so Master Draft Dog was more his style.

Then came my Robin; the sweetest and best-tempered Swissy I have ever owned. She would do anything I asked of her. She got her open title very easily, and even an excellent leg, but she is very straight in the rear, and just not made to be an athlete. As sad as it made me I knew she shouldn't run any more, even though she would run and give her all every time out.



My next Swissy, Annie, is a half sister to Robin, and she is a fantastic working dog with tons of drive and play. My other dogs had plenty of obedience training, but Annie was the first one I competed in Rally and Obedience with an addition to agility. Annie can train several times a day, and always has a lot of enthusiasm for it, which has allowed me to try others areas of competition. Annie is a dog who is

into me 100% of the time. She doesn't want to be outside for more than 5 minutes if I am not out with her.



With Annie I started to do more training through shaping, although the most shaping I have done is with my puppies, Scopey and Jack. Annie taught me how to be more detailed-oriented in my obedience training. Since I come from a horse background I always want my dogs to have a good understanding of how to use their rear ends. The first day I got her to move sideways with me was so exciting. I just loved it. Her ability to understand how to "get it in" was a special time for me as well. Working with Annie reminded me so much of how I wanted my horses to make their corners and circles, that she taught me to transfer my horse techniques and thoughts to my dogs. Annie has come a huge distance in her agility training, and she went on to become the first and only Swissy to get her Master FAST title. I enjoy FAST

with her so much since she is a dog that can have bars in jumping. In FAST, however, you could still qualify as long as you got enough points and didn't have a bar in the send. She has her excellent titles in Jumpers and Standard, but if I could take away bars, she would have her PACH. Bars or not she is a super fun and exciting dog to run with, and is an awesome partner who loves the game. Annie has been invited to compete in the AKC/Eukanuba Agility Invitational two years in a row, and was the top agility Swissy in 2013.



Then came Sara Lee, who is the ultimate Swissy athlete, and the most confident Swissy I have ever trained.



Her jumping style is spectacular! Natural jumping instinct is extremely important in both dogs and horses. You can't "make" a dog a correct jumper. You can help dogs through gymnastic type work, but their jumping style is their style. Sara Lee can run full speed and easily adjust her stride to meet a jump correctly. She can jump right from the base of a jump with her knees up around her chin. She loves the game, and with little training has done amazing things. She has grown to love the game so much

that I can't let her watch another dog run because it just sends her over the top. She is quick, fast, smart,

athletic, and wants to please. She is everything a performance dog should be. In a very short time of running she has earned both her Master Jumpers and Master Standard titles along with her Novice FAST. Sara Lee also competed at the 2013 AKC Agility Invitational and finished second to Annie. I was so proud of her to qualify in such a very short time of running.

Around the same time that I got Sara Lee, I ended up with two puppies that are two weeks apart. Scopey is my latest Swissy pup, and Jack is my first Entlebucher. I



thought I had lost my mind having two pups, with all the rest to train each day, but I love to train/play with my dogs. Competing is fun but learning how to communicate with my dogs on all levels is the most rewarding part for me. I do all my training through positive reinforcement. And for me, positive doesn't mean permissive! My pups learn to tug, retrieve, play lots of crate games, and just learn that working with me is super fun. The key to a good performance dog is a dog that just loves to work with you. How can you make that happen? Play, play, and more play! Through play puppies and dogs learn some things that I will need from them very much in their later years. They know to get their ball or tug they are to stay until they are released with an ok. Often they find they want the game so bad that the stay is just a part of it.

Again, coming from the world of horses I have always wanted that spectacular movement—light and floating. Scopey takes my breath away every time I watch him move. Because of his movement and his obedience training his heeling is very eye catching, and makes it so fun for me to train him. He is a dog that has learned so much through shaping and offering behaviors. Teaching just fun games to him intrigues me. Some of these “just fun games” include sitting in a chair and asking him to back all the way into the other room, picking up a bowl and putting it in another bowl, making backward figure eights through my legs, and crawling on his belly. All these games teach me how he learns and teaches him how much fun we can have together. The bond that we have developed is very special, and I look forward to working with him as he gets older in all areas of competition. He has already demonstrated beautiful jumping form, which is so important, and makes me so excited for what is ahead for us as a team. I have really enjoyed training the two pups together. It is very time consuming, but so very rewarding. Scopey and Jack each have different training and performance strengths. This serves to make my training even better as I try to get the weaker one in each area up to the level of the other one. With just one puppy I wouldn't have the ability to see just how well something could be done.



When I'm not training my dogs I love to take them swimming or go to parks with my other dog friends for walks. When my human sons left for college I needed something to spend my days doing. Over the years my Swissys have provided me with challenges, opportunities, and so very much enjoyment.

Jan Collins lives in Central Maryland and is a former C & P Swissy "Pick of the Litter" Winner



Lure Coursing With Ollie

Tracy Brainard

Every week I receive mailings announcing upcoming breed shows. Most of the time I toss them in the trash but sometimes I actually read them. Perry, GA is a large show that offers agility, obedience, conformation, breed seminars, specialties, eye & heart clinics and herding tests. It has something for everyone who wants to participate in dog sports.

This year when reading through the judging program I noticed they were offering lure coursing to all breeds. I had seen an announcement from the AKC at the beginning of the year that they were now offering lure Coursing Ability Test (CAT) to all breeds and mixed breeds. The thing that made going to Perry, GA stand out was they were offering 2 coursing tests a day for 4-days, and it said "no experience or training needed." It also said that I could earn a new AKC title with just 3 qualifying runs. Knowing Ollie has a high prey drive, I knew she could easily earn a title since they were offering 2 runs a day.

Since I had never heard of lure coursing I went to the AKC site to see what some of the rules were and what was involved. Here are a few of the important things to know if you are interested in getting your swissy involved with the sport.

- ï The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is for any dog of any breed, including mixed-breeds, as long as it is at least 1 year old and individually registered or listed with AKC.
- ï The dog must be sound.
- ï To pass the test a dog running alone must pursue a lure, completing the course with enthusiasm and without interruption within a given time.
- ï AKC Coursing Ability Tests do not require dogs to run as far as dogs in lure coursing trials. They also do not have to execute extreme turns, with no turn being more acute than 90 degrees.
- ï Dogs under 12-inches at the withers and/or brachycephalic (flat-faced) dogs have a course of approximately 300 yards and must be completed within 1½ minutes.
- ï Dogs more than 12 inches at the withers race approximately 600 yards. The 600-yard course must be completed within 2 minutes.
- ï Females in season may not enter.
- ï To earn a CAT leg, it is a pass or fail and the judge keeps the official time and decides the enthusiasm of the dog.
- **Novice Title** = Coursing Ability (CA). Awarded to a dog that passes the CAT 3 times under at least 2 different judges.
- **Advanced Title** = Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA). Awarded when the dog passes a total to 10 times. (CA+7 additional passes)
- **Excellent Title** = Coursing Ability Excellent (CAX). Awarded when a dog passes a total of 25 times.

→ A higher number is awarded for every additional 25 passes after the excellent title. For 50 passes the title will be CAX2, and so on.

We had pre-entered but dogs could enter at the day of the show for an additional fee. We had no idea what to expect since we had never seen or heard of lure coursing and with same-day entry we wanted to get there early. From past experience, we knew that the herding tests in Perry could be very busy.

We arrived at 7:50 am for a 9:00 am test start time. By the time we got there, there were already so many people in line. Obviously, we should have gotten there earlier. Darlene dropped me off in line so I could sign in and she parked the car. I checked in at the table, but then found out I should have had Ollie in line with me too. They would not put her on the entry list until they checked for lameness and to make sure she wasn't in heat. I ran back to the car to get Ollie and by the time we got back several people had moved ahead of me on the board. Bummer! We also needed to be at the conformation ring at 11:30 that day.

To check for soundness, an inspection committee of 2-people that were on the field committee watched Ollie gait 20 feet out and back. They declared her sound. Then they took toilet paper and wiped her privates to verify she was not in heat. That is something they don't do at obedience or agility trials. Once that process was completed Ollie was entered on the board in the order she checked in. Darlene and I then put Ollie up and watched to see what coursing was all about. Several participants had told us the first course set up was a terrible course; it was one of the worst ones they had seen (lots of line crosses). We had no prior experience and we were a little nervous to enter Ollie because she had torn tendons in her hock at the age of 1 training for a Junior Herding Title. We wanted to make sure that we thought it was safe enough for her to participate. We were particularly worried about the tight turns.

A lure course is a pulley system set up with a remote controlled wheel and pulleys that are staked in the ground at specified turns. The judge that day designs and sets the course. After the distance is checked and measured accurately, a string is then run thru the wheel, across the field and thru all the pulleys. What makes a good course is to have minimal crosses of the line throughout the course. The lure was 3 white grocery bags that were tied close together on the line. A round disk, or Frisbee, was placed on the ground at the start line and finish line. See my example course, which is not what Ollie ran that weekend. The example course attached only has 2 line crosses in the design.



After watching several dogs compete, we realized that none of the dogs follow the course exactly. The experienced dogs anticipated the change of direction and often would move to cut off the lure after it made a turn. One dog in particular was very exceptional. It was a Dalmatian that one could easily see that the dog was intelligent and thinking of each move. Most of the time she would be right there when the lure made the next turn. Once in awhile she would decide wrong though, and then she would have to hustle to catch



A pulley changes the direction in the course

To begin, the field assistant yells "Tally Ho." I let go of one end of the leash for a quick and safe release when the lure moves.

back up to the lure. Since all the dogs we had watched weren't making extremely tight turns we allowed Ollie to go ahead and participate.

The course was not setup by 9:00 so there was a delay in starting. Then, the course had numerous tight turns and crosses so the line, or string, kept breaking. Every time it broke they would stop the dog in action, pause the time, and retie the line. The dog would restart where the line broke. It took forever to get our chance to run but when we did Ollie was excited. She had watched several dogs in front of her and decided going after bags was going to be the most excitement of the weekend. We entered the ring and went to where

the field assistant said to start; next to a Frisbee. We took the leash off and wrapped it around Ollie's neck. The judge said that she will raise her arm and when she yelled "Tally Ho" then let go of one side of the leash. This way Ollie can take off fast when the bags (lure) start moving. Ollie hulled swissy legs around the course and easily got her first leg.

We left for conformation and then returned immediately afterwards. The afternoon session was to start at 1:00 with sign ins at 12:00, but they were no where close to finishing the morning session. The line kept breaking about every other dog. They delayed the sign in for the second session (so we were told) and we went to lunch. During our time away, they decided they would go ahead and take sign ups for the second session. Since we were at lunch, we ended up being 100 and something on the afternoon session. The morning session did not end until 4:30. Ugh!

The second session was a judge change and they did not have to reset the course. What they do is just change the direction the line is moving so that the dogs are running the course in the opposite direction as the morning. That saves lots of time in laying another course. Since they were so far behind, I knew we would be there all night. I decided to steward the ring. I helped stop dogs from running out of the ring and catching dogs that did not have a good recall. While the dogs were running I talked with the judge and learned more about the sport. I also learned that the sport lost a great supporter, Les Pekarski. Everyone involved that day spoke of him with such admiration, but also with a big sense of loss. I didn't even know him, but listening to some of the stories made me know how much he meant to the sport and to the GANG Club. It was a great way to spend the evening other than waiting in the truck.

Ollie's turn finally came about 7:30pm. She was excited, but not as excited as the first turn. The line broke 2 or 3 times during the run and it was frustrating for the judge and the guy controlling the line. When the line broke, Ollie pounced on the bags, sniffed them, and then ran to me with an expression of "Why am I chasing bags Mom?" They would retie the line and off we would begin again from the spot the line broke.



Crosses of the line should be minimized for a better course. Sometimes they are just unavoidable.

Ollie received her second leg even with all the mishaps. The line breaking probably actually helped her since it was so hot. It gave her a minute to catch her breath while they fixed the line.

The next morning we arrived early. We were the 1st ones in line. I didn't want to be there all day. We wanted to do some shopping and check out some of the agility going on. It had poured rain all night and started with a torrential pouring that morning. Once again, the course was not even set. I decided to see if I could help somewhere. I



went out and asked if I could help, and they said yes. I learned how they set the course and how to check for the best pulley's. I ran errands back and forth and held a tarp over the judge when it rained. The judge that set the course wanted to set it up with as little crosses as possible. She did not want the line breaking on her watch. She did the course from her head and still had 5 crosses on the course, but a huge improvement from Thursday.

Ollie ended up being the 10th dog to run and even with the rain, she chased the lure around. She



received her 3rd leg and her title on April, 12th. She is now Double Q's Double Olive Martini CGC RN NDD CD WWD **CA**. Not bad for a dog that could not do any activities for 11 months from her 1st birthday till her second.

I would encourage anyone looking for a physical activity to do with your dog to try Coursing. It does not put the strain on the animals like weight pull or pack hiking and yet it is a great sport to release some energy on the high energy swissys. If your dog gets excited over squirrels and birds, chances are it will like coursing. Ollie acts more like a pointer than a swissy sometimes, and this is a great release for her. If your dog doesn't like it, you will know

right away. Some dogs just did not care to chase the lure and instead would run back to their owners or just run around wild in the arena.

Good luck in your attempts to try coursing!

Tracy Brainard lives in Raleigh with Darlene Ward and their 2 Swissys, Soullie and Ollie

We've got great members! The GSMDCA has great awards to recognize them! Let's nominate!

Deadline: April 1, 2014

Procedure: Please use the [Awards Nomination Form](#) on the following page to nominate individuals for awards. Or contact [Anna Wallace](#) to request a mailed form.

Submit to: Please submit your nominations to the GSMDCA Board of Directors by email board@gsmmdca.org or via mail to Anna Wallace, 9168 Liberty Run Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Process: The GSMDCA Board is requesting your nominations of outstanding members of the GSMDCA to be honored for the following 2013 Annual Awards. These awards are for the year ending December 31, 2013 and will be presented at the 2014 GSMDCA National Specialty in Bethlehem, PA. If no qualified candidates are nominated the Board may elect not to present the award.

Awards:

- Margaret Poole Lifetime Achievement Award—To honor from time to time a person or team demonstrating a lifetime commitment to the GSMD breed and exemplary service to the GSMDCA. Nominees must have been active members in good standing of the GSMDCA for at least 15 years.
- Ambassador of the Breed Award—To recognize purebred Swissies demonstrating extraordinary accomplishments as working/service dogs, both perpetuating the breed's historical purpose by example and through motivating others in the interest and pursuit of preserving the GSMDs working heritage. Nominees must be purebred GSMD. (Note: Titles may be considered but are not to define qualification for this award.)
- Friend of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog—Awarded to the individual who has done the most for the GSMD in the United States in the preceding year (2013).
- Exemplary Junior Award—To honor the Junior who has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and dedication to the GSMD in the preceding year (2013) through participation in AKC's Junior Handler Program (provide AKC Handler number on nomination) and various events or community service that has contributed to the welfare of the breed or the GSMDCA. Parent or guardian of the Junior must be a member of the GSMDCA.
- AKC Outstanding Sportsmanship Award—To honor the individual who deserves special recognition that has made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and has been an active and valued member of the GSMDCA.



Chesapeake & Potomac **Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club** Sponsors **All Breed Draft Test**



May 3 & 4, 2014

Save the date!!

756 New Hope Rd., Cross Junction, VA 22625 540-664-3946

Entry fees \$35 per team per entry

Ring prizes + Qualifier prizes + Lunch = Provided!

Premium List coming soon www.cpgreaterswiss.com/events

The Triathlete Challenge

New 2014 National Specialty Performance Award!!

Earn 3 legs—you & your dog are Triathletes!

Is your Swissy made of Bethlehem Steel?

The Specialty Triathlete trophy is awarded (at Awards Banquet) to each Swissy/handler team that earns a qualifying leg or passing score in 3 or more venues. *Eligible events are:

- Obedience
- Rally
- Draft
- Weight Pull
- Pack Hike
- Herding



Award offered by

To be eligible, download, complete and e-mail the Triathlete Challenge Form

TRIATHLETE CHALLENGE FORM 2014 GSMDC National Specialty

Handler's Name:

Contact Information

Dog's Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Identify venues & classes entering for Challenge

Draft class entered:

Phone:

Obedience class entered:

E-mail:

Rally class entered:

What is the best way to contact you during the Specialty?

Herding class entered:

Weight Pull class entered:

Will you be staying at the host hotel? Yes No

Pack Hike class entered:

Please send completed Triathlete Challenge Form to: Megan Westenmeyer, mfletchrides@hotmail.com, 756 New Hope Rd, Cross Junction, VA 22625 Questions? Contact Megan at: 540-664-3946

Pre-entry is appreciated, but not required

*Only one score or performance in each venue will count towards the award. The performance must be at the titling class level or higher (e.g., PT or higher for herding). Non GSMDC members may participate but will not receive a trophy.



Stars from the Past!

The 2014 National Specialty will feature a slideshow of **Stars from the Past** ~ Those wonderful Swissies who have left us but still shine brightly in our hearts.

Please send photos of your special Stars so they can shine over Bethlehem at the 2014 National Specialty!

Be sure to include the following information:

- Registered Name
- Call Name
- Titles
- Owners Name(s)
- Year of Birth
- Year of Death

Submit your photos to Katie Markley at ktmarkley@comcast.net

See You In September!

While winter feels never-ending, we are already planning for the fall. The Eastern Regional Specialty weekend is September 26 - 28, 2014, at the beautiful Long Branch farm in Millwood, Virginia. Despite the unpredictable weather for this 3 day event, it draws a friendly crowd and gorgeous dogs with over 100 Swissy entries last year. Participants travel from all over to enjoy the camaraderie and compete. It is also the site of the C & P annual meeting and picnic which all members are encouraged to attend.

To make this show successful, we count on our membership and beyond to sponsor classes. The money raised not only covers the cost of the special trophies for the winners of each class but it also funds the ring prizes for everyone who participates.

Please consider sponsoring a class or two for this year's specialty. Your generosity is what makes this show and our club great. Email Michelle Charters at mbcharters@cox.net with your preferences today!

Keepstone Farm "Dog Days" Event

What are Dog Days?

Dog Days are a fun time for dogs and their owners and owner families. Last year's [Keepstone Farm](#) sponsored Dog Days activities included Rally, Agility, and Disk Dog demonstrations (and a chance to try out these sports); the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test; the Herding Instinct test; and a chance to both see if your dog was turned on by lure coursing and take the AKC CAT(Coursing Ability Test) on Sunday. We also had a great food vendor!

Families and leashed dog(s) are cordially invited to attend this year's fun event the second weekend in April on the 12th and 13th. We are anticipating that many of last year's participants will return, have invited our great food vendor, and hope to add some additional activities. As the date draws closer, we will provide more details.

So, set aside April 12-13, 2014 and join us for this great weekend of fun. Find new ways to connect your dog with you and other family members!

Keepstone Farm has supported C & P Swissy herding events for several years now. This will be an all-breed event, but there'll be a couple Swissys there, so join in the fun!



C & P Swissy Brags

Rally/Obedience/CGC

"Pyro", CH Matterhorn's Burning Down the House earned his RN on Feb 9th-Laurie Carmody

"Dee" Matterhorn's Queen of Hearts, earned her RN.- Laurie Carmody

"Boots" Matterhorn's Get On Your Boots, RN earned her first CD leg

"Terra", Blue View's Earth & Sky, earned her first Rally Novice leg at her first rally trial just after turning 6 months old! Megan Fletcher

"Sirius", GCH Nox's Precious Black Seal earned his CGC- Nancy Kechner

"George", GCH Nox's George Bailey's Irish Creme earned his CGC -Deanna Never

Agility

"Kenzie", CH Suddanly Riverdance, earned her Master Agility Preferred title at her last trial (MXP) -Megan Fletcher

"Sprite", Dufenhof Race For The Pennant, earned her Excellent Standard title (AXP) at her last agility trial- Megan Fletcher

"Ollie", CH Double Q's Double Olive Martini CD RN NDD NWWD CA VGS earned an agility Novice Standard leg yesterday. Here's the video link: [Watch the video HERE](#) -Tracy Brainard

"Tre", Trout Creek's Third Time's the Charm NA NAJ, earned his Novice Standard Agility (NA) title. And Siren earned her Novice Standard and Novice Jumpers Agility (NA & NAJ) titles-MJ Rasmussen



Weight Pull

"Izzy", GCH Shadetree's Ezekiel Strengthen pulled a new record for wheels on carpet at 7 years old pulling 6,080 lbs in 20.56 seconds and 49.03x his body weight. Watch the video [HERE](#) -Jenna Starr-Farling



"Wyatt" CH Nox's Wish I had a Sixpack earned his ACE-Jenna Starr-Farling

"George", GCH Nox's George Bailey's Irish Creme CGC earned his WWDX and WWDS-Jenna Starr-Farling

Conformation

"Vago" GCH Serendipity's Hand some Dr. Zhivago earned his Grand Championship- Doreen Holly

"Milo" CH Suma's Milo finished his championship in December-Laura Hendrix

"Riley", CH Double Q's Make Mine a Double, went BOS Saturday and Sunday at Fredericksburg-Michelle Charters

"Pyro, CH Matterhorn's Burning Down the House RN earned his Championship and won the Grand Futurity and Puppy Sweeps at the National Specialty-Laurie Carmody

"Emmet", GCH Seneca's Dream On wins an Award of Merit at Westminster-Hanna Fournell-Ferrall

Hanna Fournell-Ferrall starts 2014 as the #1 Rottweiler Junior Handler, and the #6 Working Group Junior Handler

Versatility Greater Swiss

"Ollie", CH Double Q's Double Olive Martini CD RN NDD NWWD CA VGS "earns her Versatility Greater Swiss-
Tracy Brainard

Membership

To apply for Membership, please go to our membership page at

<http://www.cpgreaterswiss.com/membership-2/>

If you have any ideas for future Swissy Licks topics, please email them to [Nancy Kechner](mailto:Nancy.Kechner@cpgreaterswiss.com), Swissy Licks Editor



Sara Lee and Annie Collins, with Jethro Likevich, representing at the Eukanuba/AKC Agility Invitational!