

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

NEWSLETTER December 2014



CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity through the Club's newsletter to say a huge thank you to the Officers & Committee who gave their commitment and support through the various events held this year. Also a most sincere thank you to the other members who have helped out and given great support to our events and in particularly the Discover dogs booths at both Earls Court in London and NEC Birmingham for Crufts. No mean feat considering the travelling and time involved, but most of all it is great that the dogs enjoy being cuddled and photographed giving such a wonderful account of the breed.

Our events are put there for all and turn out to be a great social event particularly for our dogs who love to meet their own kind and the folk as well.

Those of you who show up and down the Country are having great results as well as promoting our breed in a good light so do keep it up.

Remember it is your Club so any input will be I am sure taken on by the Committee and if you want to help anywhere then please do inform our secretary.

I would like also to wish you and your beautiful and handsome Swissies a superb Christmas and peace for 2015.

Peter Swinburn

Our last Discover Dogs at Earls Court.

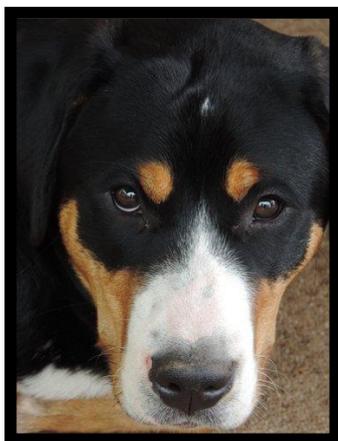


Unable to agree whether the next doggie member of the family should be another Rottweiler (husband Steve's choice) or a Bernese Mountain Dog (my childhood wish), we decided to visit Discover Dogs at Earls Court . My plan was to chat to the owners, meet the dogs and let the beautiful Berners win Steve round. What actually happened was that we saw at a distance, through the crowd, a most gorgeous and stunning dog. He had the colouring of the Bernese, with the short coat of the Rottweiler and he literally took our breath away. We followed him and handler to his breed stand and finally met, for the first time ever, a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. It was love at first sight and so we immediately started learning more about the breed and decided this was definitely the one for us. That was two years ago.

Move on a year to 2013 and I was now the owner on the breed stand at Earls Court, showing off my beautiful Swissie girl, Elsie at Discover Dogs. I thoroughly enjoyed chatting to the people, giving honest accounts of what it's like to live with such a fabulous but headstrong breed. Elsie enjoyed the day too – ever ready to accept attention; she was soaking up the adulation of her adoring public. At regular intervals she would goad Denton, our fellow breed representative, into a game – such a crowd pleaser!

So, now in 2014, it was with a heavy heart in November that Elsie and I set off for the very last Discover Dogs event to be held at Earls Court. On the journey I reflected on all the memorable events I have attended there since childhood – The Ideal Home Shows, The Motor Shows, Christmas events and, of course, my annual favourite (until it moved to Birmingham) Crufts. They say all good things must come to an end but I am truly saddened to lose such a long established venue.

However, on arrival, we put all negative thoughts behind us and threw ourselves with gusto into the spectacle that is Discover Dogs. Elsie's fellow breed representative this time was the handsome Tag, accompanied by his owners Sue & Ian. This time there was no opportunity for play as it soon became clear that Tag was more interested in having Elsie as a girlfriend than a playmate. She was having none of that malarkey and quickly made her displeasure clear by telling Tag off. We decided it would be best to keep the dogs separate and so one stayed in the enclosure and the other was taken out. Peace and calm quickly returned to the Swissie stand. Both Tag and Elsie were superb ambassadors, calmly accepting fussing, petting and all manner of attention from all comers. It really is asking a great deal of our dogs to cope with the Breed Stand experience. Being approached by hoards of complete strangers of all sizes, shapes and colours – some using wheelchairs and disability scooters, some wearing hats, carrying walking sticks, strange bags, young children and babies could be a huge challenge for some dogs. However, Elsie and Tag not only coped well but also seemed to thoroughly enjoy all the attention.



At the end of our stint on the stand, we indulged in a spot of lunch, some fairly intensive shopping around the trade stands and watched the displays and competitions in the rings. Finally our time at the last Earls Court Discover Dogs was at an end. We all left, tired but very happy after such a lovely day. Goodbye Earls Court – thanks for so many good memories. Now we are looking forward to next year and our first Discover Dogs event at the Excel Centre. See you there?

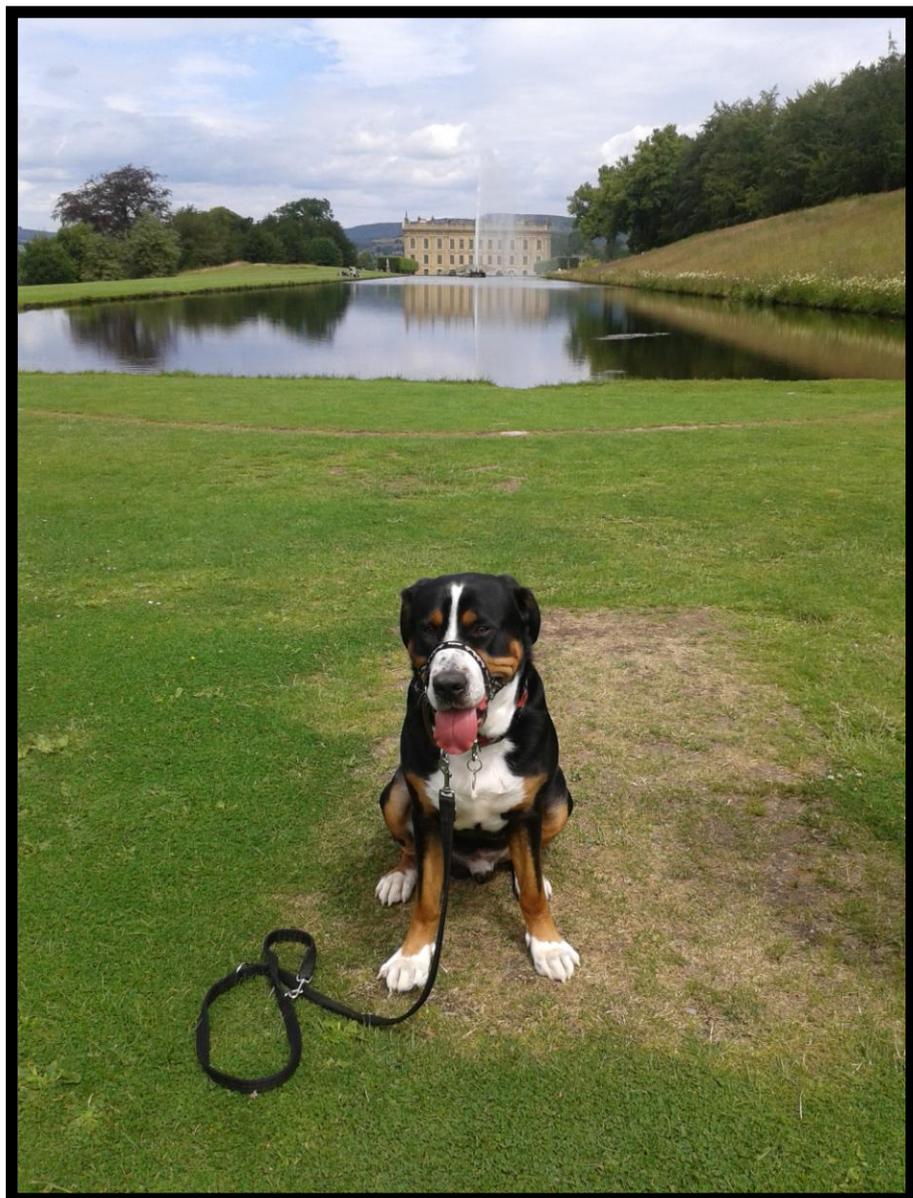
Tag does Chatsworth!

Now Tag is quite grown-up, well physically at least, he is now 56Kg, he is a bit too much for Ian's Mum to cope with so going on holiday means where we go, Tag goes.

In July we went to a very Dog friendly hotel in the village of Grindleford in the Peak District.

The great thing about the hotel is that dogs are allowed everywhere, except the restaurant, the hotel are so dog orientated they even offered to serve our breakfast in the bar area so that Tag could join us. We declined, but Tag always got a sausage for being a good boy whilst we were away enjoying breakfast and planning the day ahead.

Chatsworth House was only a 20 minute drive from the hotel so after a hearty breakfast, off we set. Chatsworth was really easy to find as there are road signs to it from quite a way away. It costs £3 to park in the car park and there were lots of places available under trees. If we had known then what we know now we would have brought a combined ticket for the house and gardens but we weren't sure about the parking. Leaving Tag in the car for the hour and a half they state it takes to look round the house was not an option if it was going to be warm, so we just brought tickets for the garden. Dogs on leads are more than welcome to be walked round the gardens. As we walked through the entrance Tag was drawing a lot of attention, the lady collecting the tickets, lent out of the ticket office to make a big fuss of him, Tag was in his element!



Off we set round the grounds, there is so much to see and I am still convinced we didn't see all of it! We had a fantastic time, taking it steady, as there was so much to see and it was a warm day, but there is lots of shade. There is even a refreshment booth at the far end of the lake, tucked away under trees and the coffee was rather nice.

We stopped at the coffee shop which was close to the exit for a cold drink and some lovely chocolate cake before leaving for the hotel, well, we had been walking for a couple of hours!

Whilst we sat there enjoying our refreshments, we lost count of the number of people who came to make a fuss of Tag and take his picture, he made friends with everyone that stopped to pat him even a couple of little dogs came and said hello.

We had a wonderful day and will go back. You could just park in the car park and walk round the grounds outside. You do not need to enter the house or the gardens as there are shops and a cafe up in the old stables. We will need to go back next year when they start their Xmas market, I am sure it will be truly magical!

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations Jan and her swissy Elsie for achieving the Kennel Club's Good Citizens Gold award

This section is for members to submit details of what they and their dogs have achieved. I am thinking for example those who have obtained their KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme awards and at what level, but there may be other achievements be it in agility, carting, obedience, PAT dogs, etc.....

THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZENS DOG SCHEME:

Has your dog obtained their Puppy, Bronze, Silver or Gold awards?

If so do let me (Tracy) know, your dog's name (Pet and Pedigree), the level achieved along with the date and venue. Details will then be published in the next newsletter

Tag has achieved his Silver(see Above)

WEBSITE

The new password for the club's members only area on the club website has now been changed to dogcart and if anyone has a photo of their Swissy, with or without a story, for the front page it would be most welcome.

Calendars

£7.50 + £1.59 P&P

Ask a committee member for details



Car Stickers

If you would like to purchase either of these car stickers, priced at **£1 each for club members** and **£1.50 for non members**, please contact a member of the committee.



Future Events

Sunday 28th December 2014

Xmas Swissy Walk

Clent Hills, Nr Romsley, Worcestershire, B62 0NL. Meeting in the Nimmings Wood Car Park at 11am. Further details available on the club website.

Saturday 14th March 2015

Club AGM

This will be held at Overseal village hall, further details of the activities to be held after the meeting will be published early in 2015

23rd May 2015

Carting Day and Character Assessment at Chieveley Village Hall.

The location for this is by J13 of the M4 close to Newbury.

This will be a new venue for the club. Which is being tried out more details will be made available nearer the date. Don't forget to keep an eye on the club website at <http://www.gsmdclub.co.uk>

If there are any members out there that would like to stand for committee, please complete the attached form and return it to the Club's Secretary no later than Friday 16th January 2015.

Forms can be completed, scanned and emailed to GSMDCLUB@GMAIL.COM or posted to:

GSMD Club Hon. Secretary
c/o 7 Strokins Road,
Kingsclere
Berks
RG20 5RH

If anyone can volunteer some time to help out with Discover Dogs at Crufts in March 2015 (5th, 6th, 7th and 8th) please can you contact either Julia Swinburn via: Juliaandpeter@bynton.fsnet.co.uk or Sue Parkin-Russell via: gsmdclub@gmail.com

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to you all and thank you for all your input over the last year for our newsletter. It would not of been possible without you all.

Love

Tracy



Any items you would like to put in future Newsletters, no matter how small; then please send them to the Editor, tracythornett5@msn.com