



GREAT SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

NEWSLETTER May 2012

The Great Swiss Mountain Dog Club held its 3rd AGM on Saturday 17th March 2012 at Overseal Village Hall in Derbyshire.



Chairman, Peter Swinburne, reported on another successful year for the club. Notably, the club's first Companion Show in October, which was very well supported, the introduction to Carting in April and 2 Swissy Walks in February and September.

In addition 11 club members GSMD's had a very successful year on the showing circuit topped off by Sid's (Duke Du Val Du Sanon) breeders, Mr & Mrs F Jung, winning the Arden Grange Top Breeder award and Tia (Bynton Flanders Rose at Dalynrics), owned by Lynne & Eric Russell, winning the Arden Grange Top Puppy award .

The club was very proud to be asked to collaborate on the GSMD feature which appeared in the October issue of Our Dogs. It was a chance to publicise this wonderful breed and show not only what a versatile working dog it is, but also what a great affectionate and loyal family pet they are.

Steve Brailey, Treasurer, reported that the Club is on a sound financial footing and with membership increasing year on year, we are looking forward to an exciting 2012, with plans for the year well under way.

After the AGM, members were given a briefing and demonstration by Cynthia Bailey and Sheila Tickle about the Control Test that the club has formulated. Members were then given the opportunity to 'have a go', with varying degrees of success!

Sue Parkin-Russell then led a session on show handling and each Swissy was then given a trial run.

Finally, by means of entertainment, the dogs enjoyed a sausage race with a twist, having to negotiate a gate and slalom poles before reaching the sausages!



The 2011 Springhaze Trophy, which is awarded each year to the dog who has achieved the most points across all the working disciplines and a variety of other categories, went to Springhaze Dazzling Gem (Roxi), owned by Samantha Loader-Hughes from Somerset.

Great Swiss Mountain Dog photo competition sponsored by

KUDOS PET PRODUCTS LTD

Categories for 2012 GSMD Photo Competition

1. Snow Scene
2. Puppy (6 months or under)
3. Carting
4. Showing
5. Young photographer under 13yrs(any photo of a Swissy taken by a child under 13yrs old)
6. Young photographer 13-18yrs(any photo of a Swissy taken by a child 13-18yrs old)
7. Water
8. Action Shot
9. Playing
10. Relaxing
11. Best Friends
12. Favourite GSMD photo



Entries will be £1 per class or £10 to enter all 12 categories (cheques payable to GSMD Club) or ask for bank details to pay via BACS.

All entries to be received via email: smbrailey@tiscali.co.uk (Please send photo's one at a time)
Or post to: S M Brailey, Hudds Mill House, EDINGTON, Nr WESTBURY, Wiltshire, BA13 4NH
by 31st August 2012 stating which category each entry is for. *Please note photographs will not be returned.*

The judging will take place in September and will be judged by Brian Brooks, MD of Kudos Pet Products Ltd.

The winning photograph in each category will feature in the GSMD club calendar for 2013. The overall winning photograph will feature on the front page of the calendar and will receive a prize donated by Kudos Pet Products Ltd of Westbury. www.kudospetproducts.co.uk

The GSMD calendar will be on sale from November 2012 and will cost £10 Inc postage and packing.

Rules: The judge's decision will be final. Entry into the competition means permission is granted for any photo to be reproduced on the GSMD club website and calendar. All entries must feature a Great Swiss Mountain Dog. Professional photographers are excluded from the competition. Any photos submitted of a GSMD not belonging to the entrant, must have permission from the owner of the dog. The competition is only open to paid up members of the GSMD Club.

Character Assessment



Allow me to extend a friendly woof woof to all my fellow swissies.

My name is Didrik & I am nearly 8 yrs old, so have been around for a while & maybe learnt a thing or two. I have been asked to give you a few tips about the forthcoming 'Control' assessment.

I did an introductory demonstration about this at the clubs AGM in March, but for those who were not able to attend, I'll go through the elements of the assessments again. I'll not say it's easy peasy but you don't have to be a genius dog to be successful and gain a certificate. So come along & have a go, i can promise you that you will have lots of fun.

Here are a few tips about elements of the assessment:

1. **STAND FOR EXAMINATION** – When the assessor approaches you to briefly run his/her hands over you, it is partly to see if you are friendly, so stand fast & wag your tail if you wish.
2. **HEEL ON LEAD** – Always keep a slack lead & keep close to your handlers left leg, never pull your handler along.
3. **HEEL OFF LEAD** – Always keep close to your handlers left leg & take great care to maintain this position when changes of direction occur.
4. **RECALL TO FRONT POSITION** – When you are left at the sit to do this exercise you must stay on the spot while your handler walks some distance away(10 spaces). Only when your handler calls you may you dash towards him/her and sit neatly in front of him/her.
5. **STAY FOR 2 MINS** – Sit or Down, it is imperative that you don't break this stay & you may NOT change your position.
6. **OBSTACLES** – It is important to remember that this is NOT a race event! You will be working off lead to negotiate the 4 obstacles. Don't worry your handler will be there to guide you through the course – just do as he/she asks you to do & watch for the body signals that will be given to you.

- a) THE GATE – Remember that you must sit at the gate, let your handler go through, wait for your handler to call you through.
- b) TUNNEL – You'll love this when you get the hang of it, my handler used treats at first to lure me through the tunnel & once i had done it, i wanted to do it over & over again. Possibly because i was given a treat for being a good boy !!
- c) STAY BOX – This is like a low platform, you know like the platform you have to get on when you are being weighed at the vets. You will need to stay on until you are told to get off.
- d) BENDING POLES – Another bit of fun! All that you have to do is weave in & out of poles set 2 feet apart.

Now then my fellow swissies, that is all that there is to it !

How about having a go, come and show what you are made of, prove that you are truly a WORKING DOG.

Website

Please take time to have a look at our website www.gsmdclub.co.uk we have a forum featured on here which you may be interested in, or if you would like a photo of your swissy for the front cover or if there is any photo's stories etc you would like to add to the site please let us know.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 19th May 2012

Carting Event - at Roade Village Hall, Bailey Brooke Lane, Roade, Northamptonshire, NN7 2LS
Start Time: 10:30 am. Charges will apply should you wish to take part in the test.. Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided.
With Tom & Wendy Murray

Sunday 28th October 2012

Character Assessment at Overseal Village Hall, Woodville Road, Overseal, South Derbyshire, DE12 6LU, also lots of fun games on the day.
Starting at 11am.

The assessments will be carried out by Miss Helen Lamb and Mrs Cath Lamb.

Cost will be £7.50 per dog – 7 dogs Maximum.

Event will be administered by Steve Brailey, responses to be received by the end of June 2012..

If you need any other info please visit the website www.gsmdclub.co.uk or contact Sue Parkin-Russell,
Tel: 01635 299353 email: spaclere@btinternet.com

Well its bye for now, but remember if you would like an article or just a photo of your swissy in the news letter please send it to me at the e-mail address below.

Regards

Tracy

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