

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club - Welfare policy statement.

We have a Welfare coordinator who is responsible for all enquiries. The coordinator can be contacted on sonja.watkins@sky.com or Tel: 01600 780478

All initial enquiries are dealt with on an individual basis. We get people wanting advice on numerous matters – health, behaviour etc. Thankfully at the moment as we know where all the Swissies bred by Club members in the UK are homed it is very rare that we have anyone asking us to help them find a new home for their Swissy. However, if this should occur all efforts will be made to find a forever home for the Swissy.

Some owners just need some help and guidance when they encounter problems with their dogs others are looking to re-home for various reasons.

In the case of a re-home it is explained to all enquirers how we operate. We ask a local member to assess the dog before it is accepted for rehoming. This is to enable the coordinator to place the dog in the right home. Some dogs are used to living with other dogs/ cats etc. Some are used to a lively home with children, others prefer quieter surroundings. Any medical history is taken into account which we can then relay to the potential new owner.

We try to never place a dog in kennels while they wait for the right home to come along. This means less stress for the dog and Swissies, as this breed, typically, does not do well in kennels.

All homes offered are checked out by a member living locally to the potential adopter. This is again to ensure that we can accurately match home to dog. A benefit of this system is that the new owners have somebody local who they can contact during the settling in period.

We ask for a sensible donation from the new home and request that their new dog is neutered as soon as possible (if it hasn't already been done). We will help with this expense if needed.

We try to ensure that there is no contact between old home and new owners except by using the coordinator as an intermediary. A good reason for this is that other Welfare Associations have had instances of the old owners wanting their dog back after it is happily settled in its new home.

If, as can rarely happen, the dog will not settle with its new owners we will step in and find another home.

Sometimes the current owners just need someone on the end of a telephone to help deal with queries about Swissies.. It is gratifying when we can.