

SHOWING YOUR SWISSY

There are several types of dog shows. The most common are local **Companion Shows** organised by local groups mainly for fun and to raise money for charities. These shows are open to pedigree and cross breed dogs and will have general classes for pedigree dogs and novelty classes for everyone. There are all sorts of breeds in the classes and quite often the judges will never have come across a Swissy before so will think it is a crossbreed. This means you are unlikely to get placed very high especially if you have entered a pedigree class. They are however, fun and good practise for the dogs.

The next level is **Limited Shows**. These shows are limited to 75 classes and any dog that has won either a CC or any other win that counts towards the status of champion is ineligible for entry.

Next are **Open Shows**. Often dogs and bitches are entered together in the same class. Champions are allowed to enter but not many are.

Top of the list are **Championship Shows**. These are large shows usually held over a few days. Most breeds will be catered for with individual classes. As we are a very new breed many shows will not have classes for the GSMD so we will be shown in AVNSC classes which are for all breeds not separately classified. Your dog does not have to have been shown before to enter these shows.

Full details of the shows and schedules can be found on-line at www.fossedata.co.uk and www.highampress.co.uk Entries can be made on-line at www.dog.biz.co.uk Open shows can also be found on Arena Print.

If you plan to show your Swissy first enter your dogs details onto Dog Biz and Fossedata. You will then be able to enter the shows online. When entering a show it will only allow you to enter the classes your dog is eligible for. Normally it will show you 2-3 classes. It is best to only enter one class normally the one on the top of the list. You are able to enter stakes classes if you wish as well as the breed classes. These classes often have prize money but there will be all varieties in the class with large entries. Remember to enter in plenty of time as the entries close about 4-6 weeks before the date of the show.

You will receive your dog pass and details of the show by email. You will need to print them off and take them with you to the show. When you arrive at the show you will need to find your bench which will have your entry number on. This number needs to be pinned on you when in the ring with your dog. You can buy clips at all large dog shows.

It is a good idea to attend a few ringcraft classes before going to a show. These will teach you and your dog what is needed and give you both a bit of practise before entering a ring. Ringcraft classes can be found all over the country. The main criteria for showing your dog is that it stands well in a show pose i.e. all four feet square. It runs in a trot nicely beside you. It is happy to allow a stranger to go all over it including looking at its teeth. This is most important as any dog the judge does not feel happy with will not get placed.

It is also a good idea to have a show lead and collar for your dog. These are best bought at a dog show so you get the right size and fit. All large dog shows have trade stands where you can buy anything and everything for your dog. Make sure your dog is clean and well groomed, with short

trimmed nails and also please ensure the handler is well presented and dressed. The judge only looks at you for a couple of minutes so a good first impression is important.

Lastly, never be afraid to ask for help. There will always be others happy to help you. Relax and enjoy yourself and make sure your dog enjoys it.