

Golden Gate GSMDC Member Guidelines

Anyone wishing to join the Golden Gate Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club (GGGSMDC) must sign the following Member Guidelines. The Guidelines were developed to educate all members; encourage good sportsmanship, a high spirit of cooperation, understanding and awareness, and to ensure the overall health and well being of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (GSMD) breed. As a means of promoting and fostering the highest standards among GSMD breeders, the Club encourages its breeders to voluntarily subscribe to Breeder Guidelines. Members should bear in mind that these are more than a set of rules and regulations; they are a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding, and that adherence to the spirit of these Guidelines is as important as adherence to its law.

1. Members shall be aware at all times that the Club exists to protect the breed and that these aims are to be uppermost in the minds of members in all their activities involving the breed.
2. Members will at all times, whether at home, traveling, at shows or at motels, display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect well upon the GGGSMDC and the breed. Members shall:
 - a. Be diligent in the handling of their dogs in public places and shall do so in such a manner as to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or another animal.
 - b. Recognize their responsibility to protect the name and reputation of the breed, and shall not allow their dogs to roam at large or become a public nuisance.
 - c. Refrain from unnecessary and destructive criticism of another's dog and from personal attacks upon fellow members.
3. Members are encouraged to remain in contact with their GSMD's breeder(s) for advice and to update him/her on its progress.
4. Members are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of more experienced owners and breeders who shall graciously assist them with any problems, and share, for the good of the breed, the benefits of his/her knowledge.
5. In all questions of conduct, whether or not addressed by these Guidelines, the individual member shall act solely in the best interest of the breed, and the membership as a whole shall willingly aid any fellow member in upholding these interests.
6. Members agree to educate the public and to honestly represent the breed at all times. This includes making sure interested persons are aware of all general and genetic health problems. Members asked about the current/future availability of puppies should refer the public to the Club's Corresponding Secretary or to the GGGSMDC Newsletter Editor.
7. Members shall not sell or give away any Greater Swiss Mountain Dog(s) for raffle prize purposes, or to any dog wholesaler, pet shops, other retailers, or laboratories (other than veterinary research facilities for the betterment of the breed).
8. If a member becomes aware of maltreatment, misuse or need for relocation of any GSMD, they will notify any or all of the following for resolution of the problem: the breeder (if known), a Club member actively involved in GSMD rescue, a member of the Board of Directors, or the correct authorities in their area.
9. All GSMDs owned by, or in the care of, members, shall be given a healthy environment, nutrition, training and proper veterinary care at all times including regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world. A member's dog shall not be treated in an inhumane manner or abused, nor may they be subjected to any conditions likely to endanger the animal's life. No member shall have more dogs than he/she has the facilities to adequately keep.
10. If a member intends to breed his/her dog or bitch, the Club recommends the future breeder subscribe to the Breeder Guidelines before the breeding takes place.
11. Members are advised that if they decide to breed GSMDs without signing the Breeder Guidelines, they will not be endorsed in the Breeder Referral List. Therefore, the Club strongly recommends that the breeder ensure, to the best of his/her ability, the good health, structure and temperament of the stud/dam.
12. It is suggested that members submit copies of individual AKC registration(s) to the Registrar of the Club for historical reference, including any photographs for inclusion in future historical documents such as the Years of the GSMD.
13. In the event of a GSMD death of unknown cause(s), it is recommended that an autopsy be performed and the results submitted (anonymously, if preferred) to the Chair of the Health Committee. Breeders of such dogs should inform the owners of the littermates.
14. Members agree to cooperate with all health surveys and other record requirements set up or conducted by the GGGSMDC.

Signature

Date

I have read the above guidelines and promise to adhere to the principles outlined therein.