

Greater Swiss mountain dog - frequently asked questions

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President's Report

Welcome to all our readers for another month, Well, winter will soon be upon us ... and I guess for many of the Swiss Clubs in New Zealand, the busy season will be starting with many functions planned for their members. Fondue evenings seem a popular event during the winter months in most Swiss Clubs, and many people enjoy this delectable traditional Swiss dish. I do hope that as many members as possible support their clubs' functions, as committees put in a lot of hard work to ensure the success of these events. If you are on holiday in some other part of New Zealand, you may wish to attend another Swiss Club's function - and I am sure that they would be most happy to see you!!! So Swiss Club secretaries, please ensure that you advertise your clubs' events well in advance to make certain people are aware of your clubs' functions.

As you receive this issue, the Swiss Society's AGM will be held shortly or is just over!!! The committee of the Swiss Society thanks you, its members, for your great support, and would also like to convey a very special thank you to all our advertisers for their loyal and dedicated support over the past year. We are also most appreciative of all the donations we have received over the past twelve months. Without all of you, we would not have a successful Swiss Society!!!

Regards
Marianne

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog - Frequently asked questions.

How big will a Swissy get? Swissies are the largest of the four Swiss Sennenhund. The males generally weigh between 105-140lb. and stand approximately 25-28 inches at the shoulder. Females are slightly smaller and weigh between 80-110lb. and are 23-27 inches tall at the shoulder. Each dog is different, your breeder and veterinarian can help you decide what weight is appropriate for your individual dog. Swissies are slow to mature and usually do not reach their full size until they are 1½-3 years old.

What is their temperament like? Swissies are naturally confident, friendly dogs which are happiest when spending time with their families. They should be neither fearful nor aggressive. Proper socialization from an early age is very important. Most Swissy puppies are very active but as adults they are generally calm dogs which require a moderate amount of exercise.

Are Swissies easy to train? Swissies generally respond best to firm but gentle training using positive reinforcement methods rather than physical punishment or heavy corrections. They can be stubborn at times but generally are eager to please, thriving on attention and praise.

What type of food and how much does a Swissy eat? Generally speaking, an

adult Swissy will eat about one 40lb bag of premium dog food each month. Swissies should be fed a low protein, high quality food throughout their lifetime including puppyhood. Too high a protein level can cause too rapid a growth rate thereby possibly causing some growth related problems. Swissies should never be allowed to get fat since this can cause undue strain on their joints and will otherwise impair their health.

Do Swissies drool? No, Swissies are considered a dry-mouthed breed and do not drool any more than Labradors or Collies.

Do they shed? Yes, although short-haired, Swissies have a thick "double" coat. Most Swissies will shed heavily in the spring when they lose their thick undercoat.

Are they good with children? Swissies can make wonderful family pets but as with any breed they cannot be expected to be good with children unless they have been raised that way.

Do they bark? Each dog is different but in general Swissies are not known as bad barkers.

Source : *Swissinfo*.

Obituary



Werner Gerber
5 July 1940
13 April 2003

Werner was the youngest of six. He was born and grew up on a dairy farm in Munchwilen. After leaving school he made an apprenticeship as a panelbeater. Having completed this, he then worked in the French and Italian parts of Switzerland. In 1963 Werner took a world trip, visiting his oldest brother in the USA before heading for New Zealand. Upon his return he worked in his brother's garage in Zuezwil. In 1967 he met Annette, and together they travelled to New Zealand. Werner had a job to go to arranged by his friend, George W. After both working here for some time, and travelling extensively in New Zealand and vast areas of Australia, they returned to Switzerland. In 1974 they journeyed back to New Zealand where Werner got a job in his trade, and later bought a business. He successfully ran this business for 20 years. Werner and Annette have two daughters, Sandra and Nicole. Collecting was Werner's main hobby. Werner, together with his family, travelled extensively throughout New Zealand. Werner was an active member of the Wellington Swiss Club. Almost four years ago, Werner was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease. As the disease progressed, he spent some days in the day unit at Mary Potter Hospice, and during the past 13 months as a resident of Cashmere Hospital where he passed away peacefully. Werner was a model patient, and a gentleman. The Wellington Swiss community extend their deepest sympathy to Annette, Sandra and Nicole.

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