

## **GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. MEMBER GUIDELINES**

To join the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc. (GSMDCA or Club), please sign the following Member Guidelines. The Member Guidelines reflect the Club's Constitutional mandate to protect and advance the interest of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog.

1. Members shall be aware at all times that the Club exists to protect the breed and that these aims are to be reflected in all activities involving the breed.
2. The Club encourages everyone to voluntarily follow the GSMDCA Breeder Guidelines as a means of promoting and fostering the highest standards for breeding Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs (GSMD).
3. At home and while away from home at shows, lodging establishments, and public places, members will display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect favorably upon the GSMDCA and the breed. Members shall:
  - a. Be diligent in the handling of their properly restrained GSMD/s to minimize being a nuisance, risk of trauma, or a danger to any human being or another animal.
  - b. Recognize their responsibility to protect the name and reputation of the breed.
  - c. Be respectful of all members and be sure that shared assessments of a member's GSMD are constructive.
  - d. Refrain from destructive criticism of another's dog and from personal attacks upon fellow members.
4. GSMD owners and their breeders are encouraged to remain in contact for advice and to update each other on the progress of parents and offspring.
5. Members are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of experienced owners and to willingly educate and cooperate with each other.
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 the GSMDCA web site.
7. Members shall not sell or give away any GSMD/s for raffle prize purposes, or to any dog wholesalers, pet shops, other retailers, or laboratories (other than veterinary research facilities for the betterment of the breed).
8. If a member becomes aware of the 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 or in the care of members shall be given a healthy environment, good nutrition, and veterinary care as well as proper training that includes regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world.
  - a. No member's GSMD may be treated in an inhumane manner, abused, or subjected to any conditions likely to endanger the animal's life.
  - b. No member should have more GSMDs than their facilities can adequately hold.
10. In the event of a GSMD death of unknown cause, it is recommended that a necropsy be performed and the results submitted (anonymously, if preferred) to the Chair of the Health Committee. Breeders and owners should notify each other of the results.
11. Members agree to cooperate with all health surveys or other record requirements set up or conducted by the GSMDCA. Because the GSMD pedigree book is inherently linked to the future health of the breed, the GSMDCA strongly encourages its members to register their GSMDs with the club.

I/We have read the above guidelines and promise to adhere to the principles outlined therein as well as the Constitution and Bylaws of the GSMDCA.

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_