

## **GSMDCA Breeding Guidelines**

The responsible breeder of Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs will protect the health, temperament, type and welfare of the breed and the puppies they produce. As an AKC member club, the GSMDCA is not, by constitution, an ethics club and does not regulate the practices of its member breeders.

Breeders are encouraged to:

- Compete in both conformation and working events.
- Attend specialty shows and shows outside the breeder's local area in effort to gain a broader spectrum of knowledge of the breed.
- Continue their education in all aspects of breeding and dog care, attempting to remain current with research.
- Seek advice from strong mentors and help mentor others.
- Participate in GSMDCA Health Studies/Surveys
- Research pedigrees to better understand and mitigate health risks.
- Utilize available tests and health registries to screen against health issues. (ie OFA, CERF, PennHip)

Breeders are encouraged to use only breeding stock that:

- Conform to the AKC Breed Standard.
- Produce healthy puppies with strong, stable temperaments.
- Achieve passing health clearances for Hips, Elbows, and Eyes prior to being bred. Is free of other genetic diseases such as OCD, patellar luxation, cardiac or other issues that may affect the breed.
- Have never exhibited seizures

Breeders are expected to:

- Maintain a safe, healthy environment for all breeding stock and puppies.
- Sell directly to the public, avoid placing dogs through pet stores, brokers, auctions or raffles.
- Carefully screen buyers to ensure the buyer has the knowledge, environment, facilities and ability to properly care for the animal.
- Support puppy buyers and be willing to take back sold animals at any point in their lifetime.
- Disclose to buyers full detail, answering questions honestly and completely.
- Register all breeding stock and litters with the AKC (foreign members excluded.)
- Microchip puppies/dogs prior to placement.
- Sell puppies/dogs on contract to protect both breeder and buyer and enforce spay/neuter when appropriate.