

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America Breed Health Survey 2000 & 2001

GSMDCA Health Committee
October 2002

Table 12: Endocrine, Kidney, and Heart Conditions

Condition		Total	1-24 mos	25-43 mos	44-64 mos	65-157 mos
		n = 846	n = 213	n = 203	n = 215	n = 215
Endocrine: Pancreatitis	Frequency	4	1	0	2	1
	Percent	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.5
Endocrine: Addison's	Frequency	1	0	0	1	0
	Percent	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0
Endocrine: Hypothyroidism	Frequency	10	0	1	2	7
	Percent	1.2	0.0	0.5	0.9	3.3
Endocrine: Hyperthyroidism	Frequency	2	0	0	2	0
	Percent	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0
Kidney: Cystitis	Frequency	68	16	15	21	16
	Percent	8.0	7.5	7.4	9.8	7.4
Kidney: Familial Glomerulonephritis	Frequency	1	0	0	0	1
	Percent	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Kidney: Kidney Stones	Frequency	1	0	0	0	1
	Percent	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Kidney: Urinary Incontinence	Frequency	93	9	18	22	44
	Percent	11.0	4.2	8.9	10.2	20.5
Kidney: Renal Dysplasia	Frequency	1	1	0	0	0
	Percent	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Heart: Stenosis (subaortic)	Frequency	1	1	0	0	0
	Percent	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Heart: Murmur	Frequency	1	1	0	0	0
	Percent	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
		n = 444	n = 104	n = 108	n = 108	n = 124
Females with Cystitis	Frequency	58	14	13	17	14
	Percent	13.1	13.5	12.0	15.7	11.3
Females with Urinary Incontinence	Frequency	89	9	18	19	43
	Percent	20.0	8.7	16.7	17.6	34.7
		n = 402	n = 109	n = 95	n = 107	n = 91
Males with Cystitis	Frequency	10	2	2	4	2
	Percent	2.5	1.8	2.1	3.7	2.2
Males with Urinary Incontinence	Frequency	4	0	0	3	1
	Percent	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	1.1

Temperament

Table 14 shows the temperament characteristics reported for Swissys. The most common descriptions were very friendly (67.6% of Swissys), confident (49.9%), and protective (31.4%). Fewer older Swissys were

described as confident ($p = .018$), more Swissys in their middle years were described as protective ($p = .010$), and fewer Swissys in their middle years were described as very friendly ($p = .000$). Potentially dangerous temperament characteristics were reported: dog aggressive (7.0%), aggressive (1.8%), has bit a person (1.8%), and rage syndrome (0.4%). Dog aggression was significantly associated with age, with older Swissys being more likely to be described as dog aggressive ($p = .023$). Four of the reported bites were explained in some way: the animal was ill or provoked, the bite was inhibited, or the bite occurred while protecting the owner. Although many owners gave lengthy descriptions of their Swissy's temperament, only two additional themes emerged from these comments: food guarding was reported for 9 Swissys and a strong prey drive, often directed at cats, was reported for 6.

Table 13: Reproductive Conditions

Condition		Total	1-24 mos	25-43 mos	44-64 mos	65-157 mos
All Females		n = 444	n = 104	n = 108	n = 108	n = 124
Female: Irregular Heats	Frequency	30	3	8	8	11
	Percent	6.8	2.9	7.4	7.4	8.9
Female: Vaginal Infections	Frequency	11	2	3	3	3
	Percent	2.5	1.9	2.8	2.8	2.4
Females with Attempted Breedings		n = 128	n = 1	n = 22	n = 40	n = 65
Female: Refusal to Accept Male	Frequency	5	0	0	0	5
	Percent	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7
Female: Failure to Conceive	Frequency	24	0	2	10	12
	Percent	18.8	0.0	9.1	25.0	18.5
Female: Mastitis	Frequency	3	0	0	0	3
	Percent	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6
Female: Difficulty Whelping	Frequency	25	0	1	8	16
	Percent	19.5	0.0	4.5	20.0	24.6
Female: Caesarean Section	Frequency	48	0	5	19	24
	Percent	37.5	0.0	22.7	47.5	36.9
Female: Pyometria	Frequency	4	0	0	1	3
	Percent	3.1	0.0	0.0	2.5	4.6
All Males		n = 402	n = 109	n = 95	n = 107	n = 91
Male: Undescended Testicle(s)	Frequency	4	0	3	1	0
	Percent	1.0	0.0	3.2	0.9	0.0
Male: Prostatitis	Frequency	22	0	1	4	17
	Percent	5.5	0.0	1.1	3.7	18.7
Males with Attempted Breedings		n = 77	n = 2	n = 4	n = 28	n = 43
Male: Lack of Interest in Female	Frequency	4	0	0	3	1
	Percent	5.2	0.0	0.0	10.7	2.3
Male: Sterility	Frequency	7	0	0	0	7
	Percent	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.3
Male: Abnormal Sperm	Frequency	3	0	0	2	1
	Percent	3.9	0.0	0.0	7.1	2.3