

## **BE A BREED AMBASSADOR**

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is a giant breed with a striking look that turns heads, and they are valued for their dedication to their family and for their sense of adventure. The typical temperament of a Greater Swiss is an alert and confident dog. The Greater Swiss is known for getting along with other animals and accepting of people that their owners consider friends. A well-managed Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is an excellent family companion.

However, there are traits that Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs exhibit that may be quite misunderstood by the general public. Excessive barking, vocalizing, lunging, and chasing can be interpreted as aggressive behaviors. Greater Swiss Mountain Dog owners are expected to manage their dogs so that these behaviors do not turn into incidents where other dogs or humans are harmed.

Management strategies may include removing your dog from situations in which he/she is not comfortable and ensuring that an environment is highly controlled prior to arrival. Teaching your dog to offer alternative behaviors when in a stressful situation is a great way to prevent the dog from escalating the unwanted behaviors.

Addressing behavioral problems early on by consulting your breeder and professionals is a great first step in learning how to manage your Swissy outside of the home. Aggression towards humans is not an acceptable behavior, and it should be addressed and managed immediately. Seeking professional help in person is highly recommended.

By virtue of being a striking rare breed, you and your Swissy are automatically enrolled as ambassadors of the breed. A meeting with your dog may be the only time someone encounters a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog in person, and the impression that your dog gives the public will be lasting. Thank you for your dedication to the breed and ensuring that Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs remain good canine citizens.

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America - 2017