



**The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club**  
*of America*

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**The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Temperament**  
**A Directive to Judges and Breed Mentors**

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog standard calls for a bold, faithful, willing worker. Alert and vigilant. Aggression and shyness shall be severely penalized.

The Greater Swiss is a confident and alert breed - a sentinel breed – who is watchful of his surroundings, sounding off with a trademark alarm bark, “baroo”, when he sees something suspicious or out of place. A Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is agreeable and biddable when it comes to teamwork.

Swissy temperaments vary in their acceptance of strangers, ranging from overtly friendly and seeking attention with a tail wag, to disinterest or aloofness, to wariness and barking at a "safe" distance until the owner accepts the stranger. However, this range does not extend to shyness, requiring constant coaxing to accept touching, or aggression (biting or intention to bite), whether unprovoked or when being touched.

In the conformation ring, you should expect self-assured dogs who do not shy away upon approach. A Swissy should not balk, slink, or back away in the conformation ring. A Swissy should be comfortable in a public setting so that alarm barking in a show environment is few and far between. A Swissy should never menace or show aggression at a judge in a controlled conformation ring. Exhibitors are expected to have thoroughly acclimated their dogs to show environments and trained them for ring procedures. Leniency may be granted for young dogs in this respect.

Any signs of aggression or shyness shall be severely penalized as temperament is hallmark of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog.

We appreciate your support of our breed,

*The GSMDCA Judges Education Committee*

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