



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

November 3, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The following health statement, unanimously approved by the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America Board of Directors, is for the AKC Breeders' Classified section of the website. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about our statement. Thank you.

Greater Swiss Mountain dogs are large, powerful, well-muscled, confident, alert and striking-tri colored dogs. Like all breeds there are some health issues but many GSMDs can live 8-12 years or more and are generally healthy dogs. Working with responsible breeders who screen their breeding stock may lower common health problems of the Greater Swiss such as hip dysplasia, osteochondritis (OCD) elbow dysplasia and eye problems. In an effort to reduce the incidence of these problems the GSMDCA recommends screening breeding animals for hips, elbows, shoulders and eyes.

GSMDs may be affected by bloat, gastric torsion and splenic torsion. These are life threatening emergencies that most large breed dogs can encounter. Other health issues in the breed are distichiasis (extra eyelashes) urinary incontinence, epilepsy, cancer and licky fits (which is a term to describe frantic licking the dog will do when they have severe gastrointestinal discomfort or acid reflux).

The national breed club web page at [gsmdca.org](http://gsmdca.org) contains information on health and caring for a GSMD. Working with responsible breeders, those wishing to own a GSMD can gain the education they need to know about specific health concerns within the breed. Do your research, ask questions about health issues that are known within the pedigrees, and get to know and trust your breeder before you get a puppy.

*Mary Jo Rasmussen*

Mary Jo Rasmussen, President  
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America

**Board of Directors**

Mary Jo Rasmussen, President  
Teri Stanger, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Doreen Holly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Holy Webb, Treasurer  
Catherine Cooper, Secretary  
Catherine Cooper, AKC Delegate

**Directors**

David Gerzabek  
Val Guthrie  
Lori Houha  
Steve Likevich  
Mike Rusk  
Elizabeth Schuh