

Timber Ridge Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Glenn & Kimber Gradin

PO Box 63

Miranda, CA 95553

Phone: (707)223-4245 Kimber / (707)223-4645 Glenn

Email: Kimberglenn@gmail.com

Puppy Application

As breeders, we feel an obligation to our puppies, to you as a potential puppy buyer, and to our breeding program. You and your puppy will be entering into a relationship that should last about 10 years or longer. The following questions will help us to help you find the right puppy. The better the information we have the better fit we can make.

Name(s):

Street:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone #s:

Email:

Home Details

List all human members of your household and their ages.

Do you have any other dogs now? What breeds? Ages? Genders? Are they sterilized?

Do you have any other non-canine pets now? What kind? Ages?

How big is your yard? Do you have a fence? What kind/how high? Available shade?

Do you own/rent your home? Apartment, condo, house, mobile home? Urban, Suburban, Rural?

Where do you work/what do you do? How much time during the day will your dog spend alone?

Where will he/she spend this time? Where will your dog live? (Inside, outside, kitchen, whole house, etc.)

Where will your dog sleep at night?

Where will your dog stay if you go out of town?

Please outline your exercise plan for your dog.

What are you looking for?

Please indicate your preference in the following: (please circle or bold your preference)

Potential as a show/breeding prospect:

Very Important

Not sure/leave my options open

No Competition or Breeding

Potential as an obedience/agility competitor:

Very Important

Not sure/leave my options open

No Competition

Gender:

Male Only / Prefer Male / Either Gender / Prefer Female / Female Only

Please describe what you are looking for in a dog.

Previous experience with dogs/GSMD's

Have you ever raised a puppy? How long ago? What breed?

Have you ever owned a Swissy? Is so, who did you get it from?

If you have not owned a Swissy, have you spent any time with Swissys? How much time?

If you have not owned a Swissy, have you owned another large working breed dog?
List details please.

What have you read and to whom have you spoken about Swissys?

Why do you want a Swissy?

What characteristics of the breed appeal to you?

What concerns do you have about the breed? Do you know about Bloat in deep chested breeds?

How do you feel about a 100+ pound dog in the house?

Have you ever used a crate when training your dogs?

Things you need to consider, think about, and discuss with other adults in the household.

Does everyone in the household want a new dog? Families that are not in agreement about getting a new dog make things very unfair on each other, and especially very unfair on the new puppy. This isn't the time to be selfish. All members of the family should be excited about the arrival of a new puppy.

The #1 reason Swissys are given up is due to having a baby. Swissys are usually outstanding with children, however, it does require that the dog be trained. No untrained dog is good with children, but it is entirely up to the dog's owners. If you do not have children now, do you plan to have any in the future? When? Are you or your spouse currently pregnant? We generally recommend any dog brought into a family be at least a year old before a baby comes along as new babies are quite time consuming and young Swissys are too!

Is anyone in your household allergic to dogs? If so, how do you plan to handle the allergy problem with your new Swissy? The time to discover allergies is before a new dog comes into your home. People don't suddenly become allergic to the dog, but dogs can make standard allergies more prevalent as the dog will track in grass and mold spores, etc. Keeping the dog clean and well-groomed and on a high quality diet goes a long way towards managing allergies.

Does any member of your household or frequent visitor have a disability that would affect his or her interaction with a puppy or very large, active adult dog? Be honest. If your 86 year old mother who is on oxygen and maneuvers with a walker lives with you, it may not be the best time to get a Swissy. They are highly physical and are not always gentle. Your mother will be knocked off her feet, and your toddler will be pushed over with the swing of a tail. They can pull or push any person off their feet, especially without training, and this can be dangerous with those that are physically compromised. After all, they can pull your car out of a ditch, they were bred to pull!

Are you willing to obtain and use a crate for the comfort and safety of this puppy? Crate training in combination with tethering the puppy to you has been found to be the most effective method of teaching proper elimination habits as well as teaching the puppy how to behave in the house. The WORST thing for a puppy is lack of supervision. Puppies must earn freedom by demonstrating they can be responsible. No puppy should automatically be given free roam of the house. Supervision is key for housetraining and keeping your puppy safe.

Training and socialization are extremely important for puppies. They need to learn about their world, need to learn about people, and must learn how to interact appropriately with other dogs. A training program that balances reward with correction is most effective and should be implemented the very first day you bring your puppy home. Training is quite extensive in the puppy's first year of life. If you don't have the time to devote to your new puppy, you need to wait until you do. If you are not working daily with your puppy, then you are

not being fair to the puppy. He's learning every moment of every day...is he learning what you want him to learn?

The cost of a puppy goes far beyond the puppy's purchase price. Food, toys, training and veterinary care are often more expensive for large dogs. While budgeting normal expenses is not difficult, and of course, you make the decision of how much you choose to spend, but emergencies can and do happen. Ongoing medical issues can develop. Pet Insurance may be a worthwhile investment to help cover such emergencies and ongoing issues.

Spaying and Neutering

Timber Ridge puppies are sold on contract with a designation for show/breeding puppies or non-show/non-breeding puppies. All non-show/non-breeding puppies are sold with limited AKC registration which prevents any offspring from being registered with the AKC. It is the responsibility of the owner to prevent females from getting pregnant and males from getting them that way. Really, if you cannot pay this much attention to your dogs, you don't need a dog at all! If you want to breed, then be honest with us and tell us, and we will help you learn what you need to know about the breed in order to breed responsibly and correctly, and will make sure you get started with a dog that has potential to be so. Only the best puppies in a litter should be bred, and if you want to breed, we want you to have one of the best!

Males

There are no medical benefits to neutering your male dog and many real medical reasons to leave your male dog intact. It is no longer medically justifiable to castrate dogs for prevention of cancer. The cancers you prevent are rare, but the cancers you increase risk on are devastating. Neutering a dog before one year of age significantly increases the risk of osteosarcoma (bone cancer) which is prevalent in large breed dogs and has a very poor prognosis. Neutering also triples the risk of hypothyroidism, triples the risk of obesity, increases the risk of progressive cognitive impairment, increases the risks of orthopedic disorders and increases the risks of adverse reactions to vaccinations, and decreases muscle tone.

The overwhelming mass of data against neutering can no longer be ignored, and publications are out there so that no veterinarian can use the excuse of ignorance. Castration predisposes to highly malignant prostatic cancer. Nearly all dogs afflicted with this nasty tumor are neutered individuals. Testicular cancers are very rare and almost always benign (and they can be completely removed by simply neutering the dog should they occur.) Perianal adenoma can be treated by castration if and when it arises. It too is benign although messy.

With large breeds, early castration often results in an animal that does not mature to its genetic predisposition. They do not develop the proper depth and breadth of head, do not develop the physical substance they should have, and often grow taller than they genetically should. The biggest issue with underdevelopment is not how they look, but with the affects it causes. An insufficient breadth of chest affects orthopedic health. The narrow chests which result are inadequate to support the weight that so many neutered animals, male or female, put on. These dogs then have to develop a 'toe-out' stance, with valgus deformity of the carpus, in an attempt to broaden their base for weight bearing. If you do choose to castrate your male dog, by all means wait until he is at least one year old for small to medium size breeds, or at least 2 years old for giant breeds.

Inappropriate male dog behaviors are solved by training, not by surgery. The only time we really recommend neutering a male dog is to help resolve male to male dog aggression. It is true, there are added responsibilities to maintaining a male dog that is intact as it definitely is your responsibility to keep him from breeding females. Managing a neutered dog is easier, but please, if you do choose to neuter, let him grow up first!

Females

Females are a different story. We suggest all non-show/non-breeding females should be spayed when they are of age. While there are health risks involved with spaying, the risks of not spaying greatly outweigh them. By “of age” we mean **AFTER** one year of age and **AFTER** their first heat cycle. Most vets push for them to be spayed very young, which is simply not in the best health interest for your puppy. Large breed females that are spayed too young do not mature and develop properly and are at a higher risk to becoming incontinent. “Spay incontinence” can still happen even when spaying after having a heat cycle, but the statistics are reduced. Please ask me before agreeing to sterilize your female before she has had a heat cycle. We won’t prevent you and will leave you to make your own decision, but we do want you to fully understand the consequences that your vet doesn’t have to live with and will also benefit financially from. Don’t misunderstand, we fully agree that all non-breeding females should be spayed, just as we agree that all females that are bred should be spayed when they retire from breeding, the only question about that is the appropriate age to do it. Timber Ridge plans are; that our girls will be retired and spayed by the time they turn 5.

Some vets may tell you to spay before the first heat cycle to prevent all chances of mammary cancer. Mammary tumors are the most malignant form of tumors in female dogs. Statistics show that spaying after the first heat cycle and before she is 2 years old is statistically almost as good as spaying before the first heat cycle, and it drastically reduces the incidence of developing urinary incontinence. Mammary cancer in Swissys is not that common, but urinary incontinence is reported in about 20%! Spaying also removes the risk of Pyometra (uterine infection) which affects roughly 1/4 of intact female dogs. Pyometra is very serious and deadly if not caught early. Pyometra is unusual in young females, and quite common in older females.

Spayed females are at an increased risk for obesity and decreased muscle tone, so it is imperative to monitor her weight and keep her well exercised. The increased risks of hypothyroidism, orthopedic disorders and adverse reaction to vaccinations are the same as for males, but the benefits outweigh the risks.

What to do with all this information?

First, realize that the decision to spay or neuter your dog is yours to make and the common information available to the public is very unbalanced. Never spay or neuter your dog simply because it is politically correct to do so. Your dog will not produce puppies unless you allow it to do so (puppies are not spontaneous!) Surgical procedures cannot and will not train your dog. Never spay or neuter your dog before sexual maturity.

Showing/Breeding Experience

If you are interested in a show (conformation) puppy, please describe your experience showing in conformation. Do you plan to show the dog yourself, or have someone else show it for you?

If you are inexperienced, please explain how you intend to prepare yourself and your puppy/dog to compete successfully.

If you are interested in a performance (obedience/agility/drafting, etc.) puppy, please describe your experience in the area(s) of interest. If inexperienced, please explain how you intend to prepare yourself and your puppy/dog to compete successfully.

What dog related organizations do you belong to?

If you do not already belong to the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America or regional club, would you be interested in joining one or both?

Have you ever bred dogs? If so, please describe your activity as a dog breeder.

If you are buying a potential breeding animal, you will be expected to complete all available health tests/certifications prior to breeding. Dogs found affected by hip or elbow dysplasia, OCD, epilepsy, or other serious genetic issue should not be bred.

Travel arrangements

What are your plans for transportation for the new puppy? Coming to pick up the puppy in person?

Meeting us somewhere?

Do you have any other questions or concerns about your potential purchase of a Timber Ridge Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Puppy?

Feel free to phone or e-mail us—and you are welcome to arrange visits after the puppies are 4 weeks old. We would like to meet you, and we would like you to meet our dogs to be certain that this is the breed for you, and that our style of Swissy is what you are looking for.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and for your interest in a Swissy!

Glenn & Kimber Gradin
Timber Ridge Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs