



The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

**2005 Regulations
Effective September 1, 2005**

The GSMDCA Board of Directors revised the current (2000) Pack Dog Regulations with the following provisos:

1. the revision is effective September 1, 2005;
2. any Pack Dog Hike approved by the Pack Dog Committee by August 31, 2005 shall follow the 2000 GSMDCA Pack Dog Regulations;
3. any changes in the eligible ages for GSMDCA Pack Dog Titles shall be effective January 1, 2006;
4. between July 1, 2005 and January 1, 2006 the 2000 GSMDCA Pack Dog Title eligible ages and 6 week time frame for receiving hike application approvals shall remain in effect.

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, Inc. Working Pack Dog Titles

Purpose

The purpose of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America Inc., **Working Pack Dog Titles** is to encourage Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (GSMD) owners to work their GSMD's in the pursuits for which this breed was originally intended. The overall intent is to demonstrate a GSMD's ability and fitness to work over time and on a variety of terrains. The criteria presented in this document shall apply to all persons and dogs while participating at any GSMDCA Pack Dog hike.

Policies

- All GSMD's over 18 months of age are eligible for Working Pack Dog Titles.
- Non-Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs are eligible to participate in GSMDCA pack dog hikes. Non-Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs will be awarded the title certificate and confirmation letters for submission to their national breed clubs.
- There is no time limit on earning Working Pack Dog Titles.
- Titles are kept for the GSMDs' lifetime.
- Credit may be awarded for a "non GSMDCA" hike so long as the rules meet the minimum GSMDCA criteria. Prior approval by the Pack Dog Chair is required.
- A veterinarian's certificate of the dog's weight must be provided. The weight may be taken up to 7 days prior to the hike.
- Only one dog per handler is allowed.
- So as the GSMD is presented to the public as a good canine citizen, all local regulations concerning leads/off leads are to be obeyed.
- First and foremost hikes are to be conducted with the safety and well being of the GSMD's and Handlers in mind. The Hike Coordinator is authorized to make any necessary decisions to protect the safety and well being of the GSMD's and Handlers.
- The GSMDCA will not be held liable for any injuries occurring to either GSMD's or handlers.

Criteria for All Titles

- Pack weights shall not decrease, except by normal consumption of items such as food or water by the individual GSMD and their individual Handler. No discarding of food or water will be allowed. Participants may be disqualified by the Hike Coordinator for deliberate dumping of pack weights.
- Pack trips must be on natural terrain such as hiking trails or cross-country.
- Elevation gain may be substituted for mileage in the following manner: 1,000 feet of elevation is equivalent to 1 mile of flat terrain. Elevation gain will be figured as the distance between the highest and lowest points of the trip. The maximum elevation gain substitution is two miles.
- A “back to back” hike is one which consists of hiking a minimum of 8 miles each day on no more than 2 consecutive days. A back to back hike requires the completion of both days hike. While the sleep location is optional, hike coordinators are encouraged to arrange for hike participants complete the overnight stay as a group. No partial credit will be given for one day’s participation. Two legs will be awarded for the successful completion of a back to back hike.
- A “day” hike is one which consists of completing the entire hike on one calendar day. All “day” hikes must be completed with in a maximum of 8 hours. The minimum mileage for each hike shall be 10 miles. One leg will be awarded for the successful completion of a day hike.
- A “primitive” hike is one which consists of hiking a minimum of 5 miles each day on no more than 2 consecutive days. A primitive hike requires a primitive overnight camp without access to modern conveniences such as bathroom facilities, running water, electricity, structures, picnic tables or transportation. The completion of both days’ hike is mandatory. Only trails rated as “moderate to strenuous” by the American Hiking Society or equivalent independent trail association or organization will be approved for primitive hikes. No partial credit will be given for one day’s participation. Two legs will be awarded for the successful completion of a primitive hike.

Novice Working Pack Dog Title

The intent of the Novice Working Pack Dog (NWPD) Title is for the GSMD to demonstrate the ability and fitness to work as a pack dog.

1. Dogs and bitches participating must be 18 months or older on the day of the hike.
2. A GSMD must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 20% of the dog’s weight.
3. GSMD’s must be awarded 4 qualifying legs.
4. Any combination of back to back and day hikes will be counted for the NWPD title. Only legs from one primitive hike will be counted for the NWPD title.

Working Pack Dog Title

The intent of the Working Pack Dog (WPD) Title is for the GSMD to demonstrate continued long term ability and fitness to work as a pack dog.

1. Dogs and bitches must be 24 months or older on the day of the hike and must have previously completed the Novice Working Pack Dog Title. GSMD’s who have completed NWPD eligibility but have not had the title awarded are eligible for participation.
2. Option 1: A GSMD must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 20% of the dog’s weight. GSMD’s must be awarded 5 qualifying legs. All legs for the WPD title are in addition to any legs earned for the NWPD title.

3. Option 2: A GSMD must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 30% of the dog's weight. GSMD's must be awarded 4 qualifying legs. All legs for the WPD title are in addition to any legs earned for the NWPD title.
4. Any combination of back to back and day hikes will be counted for the WPD title. Only legs from one primitive hike will be counted for the WPD title.

Working Pack Dog Excellent Title

The intent of the Working Pack Dog Excellent Title is for the GSMD to demonstrate continued long term ability and fitness to work as a pack dog under the most primitive of conditions.

1. Dogs and bitches must be 36 months or older on the day of the hike and must have previously completed the Novice Working Pack Dog and Working Pack Dog Titles. GSMD's who have completed WPD eligibility but have not had the title awarded are eligible for participation.
2. Option 1: A GSMD must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 20% of the dog's weight. GSMD's must be awarded 10 qualifying legs. All legs for the WPD title are in addition to any legs earned for the WPD title.
3. Option 2: A GSMD must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 30% of the dog's weight. GSMD's must be awarded 8 qualifying legs. All legs for the WPD title are in addition to any legs earned for the WPD title.
4. Any combination of back to back and day hikes will be counted for the WPD title. Only legs from two primitive hikes will be counted for the WPD title.

Hike Requirements

The Hike Coordinator must receive submit the official hike letter of application for approval by the Pack Dog Committee 8 weeks prior to the scheduled date.

1. The Hike Coordinator may advertise the hike as pending approval upon submission of the application.
2. The Hike Coordinator will make all a good faith effort to advise as many GSMDCA members as possible regarding the event. At a minimum the hike must be posted on the GSMDCA's web site.
3. A proposed hike course must be mapped and measured, and this information submitted to the Pack Dog Chair along with the letter of application.
4. A vehicle must be provided within a reasonable distance to provide emergency transportation for any injured GSMD or Handler. Allowable reasonable distance is up to 3 miles. Emergency exit points must be identified on the trail map or in the letter of application.
5. The Hike Coordinator will always keep the safety of the GSMD's and Handlers in mind throughout these events. The Hike Coordinator will disqualify any GSMD or Handler showing an inability to safely complete the hike.
6. The Hike Coordinator must provide a reasonable method of weighing packs.
7. The Hike Coordinator must verify the distances and dogs successfully completing the hike by signing the official form.
8. Hike Participants must acknowledge that hikes are a strenuous physical activity. The owner and handler of the registered dog accept full responsibility for the conditioning and condition of both GSMD and Handler.
9. Hike Participants must abide by any decision made by the Hike Coordinator.
10. Where Hike Coordinators are required to deviate from the approved plan, the spirit and intent of the pack dog event and rules are to be upheld at all times.