

## **\*\*VERSATILITY GUIDELINES\*\***

These programs are designed to spotlight dog/handler teams that work together in a wide variety of events. They are awarded in recognition of the accomplishments of GSMDs in a wide range of activities: conformation, obedience, drafting, weight pulling, packing, stock work, and other activities in which certification is earned.

Application for these awards must be made to the Versatility Chair. It is the owner's responsibility to supply documentation of the completion of all requirements to the Versatility Chair. The owner must be a member of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America in the year of the application. Note: no title is retroactive, i.e., the title cannot be earned prior to the title having been introduced.

### **Versatility Greater Swiss (VGS)**

The Versatility Greater Swiss title is designed to honor the special individuals of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog breed that have proven their merit in multiple arenas; such as conformation, obedience, and performance.

The Versatility Greater Swiss title is awarded to dogs whose achievements have been recognized with an AKC Companion Dog (CD) obedience title, and **THREE** other titles from different PRIMARY level categories. Advanced level titles can substitute for Primary level titles.

### **Versatility Greater Swiss Excellent (VGSX)**

The Versatility Greater Swiss Excellent title is designed to honor the special individuals of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog breed that have proven their merit in multiple arenas at advanced levels of participation.

The Versatility Greater Swiss Excellent title is awarded to dogs already having the VGS title whose advanced achievements have been recognized with an AKC Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) obedience title, and **TWO** other ADVANCED level titles from different categories.

### **Versatility Greater Swiss Master (VGSM)**

The Versatility Greater Swiss Master title was introduced January 1, 2021 to honor the highest performing individuals of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog breed that have succeeded at the premier levels of competition in multiple performance areas following the introduction of the title January 1, 2021.

The Versatility Greater Swiss Master title is awarded to dogs already having the VGSX title whose high achievements have been recognized with an AKC Utility Dog (UD) obedience title, and **TWO** other SUPERIOR level titles from different categories.

The titles that qualify toward Versatility awards are from the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America (drafting, pack hike and weight pull) and the American Kennel Club, unless otherwise

indicated. The final title earned towards the VGSM must be earned on or after the date the title was introduced, January 1, 2021.

### **Titles eligible toward Versatility Titles**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Primary (VGS)</b>	<b>Advanced (VGSX)</b>	<b>Superior (VGSM) (1/1/2021)</b>
Obedience	CD ( <u>required</u> )	CDX ( <u>required</u> )	UD ( <u>required</u> )
Conformation	CH	--	--
Drafting	NDD	DD	MDD
Pack Hike	NWPD	WPD	WPDX
Weight Pull	WWD	WWDX	WWDS
Herding	PT (AKC) JHD (AHBA)	Any Started title (AKC) Any Started (I) title (AHBA) Any Started title (ASCA)	Any Intermediate title (AKC) Any Intermediate (II) title (AHBA) Any Open title (ASCA)
Nose Work (1/1/2021)	Tracking: TD, TDU	TDX	VST
	Scent Work: Any AKC Advanced	Any AKC Excellent	Any AKC Master
	Barn Hunt: RATO	RATS	RATM
Agility	NA, NAP, NAJ, NJP, NF or NFP	OA, OAP, OAJ, OJP, OF or OFP	AX, AXP, AXJ, AJP, XF, or XFP
Dock Diving (1/2021)	DJ	DS	DM
Therapy Dog (1/2021)	THD	THDA	THDX

### **Special and Meritorious Achievements**

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs that have actively worked in a specific realm of activity (but may have not fulfilled the specific requirements for a title) may, under certain special and meritorious circumstances, be granted exemptions to be applied toward the Versatility awards. Examples of activities eligible for recognition under this category include (but are not limited to) search and rescue (SAR), employment by law enforcement agencies for substance detection, and service dog work. Requests for such exemptions must be accompanied by ample documentation that the GSMD in question has received the necessary training and has been certified as operational by an appropriate organization or agency and must be unanimously approved by the Versatility Committee.

### **Heritage Certification**

Reflects vote approved September 2021

The Heritage Certification was introduced January 1, 2021 to honor the skills and strengths used across the variety of traditional jobs for the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, a special designation will be earned through performance in the categories of Drafting, Pack Hike, Weight Pull and Herding.

A **Heritage Working Dog** certification is earned by completing titles in **THREE** of the four historic working events - Drafting, Pack Hike, Weight Pull, Herding. The specifics of eligible titles are detailed in those categories in the table for the Versatility Program. The final title earned towards the Heritage Certification must be earned on or after the date the title was introduced, January 1, 2021.

## **REGISTER OF MERIT PROGRAM FOR VERSATILITY DESIGNATIONS**

### **Versatility Register of Merit (VROM)**

Awarded to a dam or sire for a required number of offspring attaining Versatility designation. There are no requirements for the dam or sire, themselves, to earn conformation or working titles. A dam shall be designated a VROM when she has produced three (2) or more offspring having attained VGS titles. A sire shall be designated a VROM when he has produced six (4) or more offspring having attained VGS titles.

### **Versatility Register of Merit Excellent (VROMX)**

Awarded to a dam or sire for a required number of offspring attaining Versatility Excellent designation. There are no requirements for the dam or sire, themselves, to earn conformation or working titles. A dam shall be designated a VROMX when she has produced three (2) or more offspring having attained VGSX titles. A sire shall be designated a VROMX when he has produced six (4) or more offspring having attained VGSX titles.