

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG

GROUP: Working

GENERAL APPEARANCE:

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog is a Draft and Drover breed and should appear structurally as such. It is a striking, tri-colored, large, powerful, confident dog of sturdy appearance. It is heavy-boned and well muscled, but is agile enough to perform the all-purpose farm duties of the mountainous regions of its origin.

SIZE

At the highest point of the withers, range is males 25 to 28 ½ inches; females 23 ½ to 27 inches. Body length to height is approximately a 10 to 9 proportion, so that dogs appear slightly longer than tall.

COAT:

The coat is double coated with a dense top coat of 1 to 1 ¾ inches long. The essential undercoat may be thick and sometimes showing, almost always present at the neck but may be present throughout. Color of undercoat ranges from the preferred dark gray to light gray to tawny. **Absence of undercoat is undesirable and should be penalized.**

COLOR:

The ground color of top coat is jet black. All markings should be rich and symmetrical. Glossy rust-red markings are found on the cheeks, over each eye, on each side of the chest, under the tail, and on all four legs. There is a white blaze and muzzle. White markings include a symmetrical white marking in the form of an inverted cross on the chest, white feet and tail tip. A small white patch on the back of the neck or a collar are permitted. Rust is found between the white and the black on each leg. Any color other than the Black, Red, and White tri-colored dog described above, such as **Blue/Charcoal, Red and White, or Red and White is considered a serious fault**; however, when evaluating a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, markings and other cosmetic factors should be considered of lesser importance than other aspects of type which directly affect working ability.

HEAD

Skull is flat and broad; strong, not clumsy; stop is slight; skull and muzzle are of equal length. The long straight muzzle is blunt, not pointed and never snipey, often with a slight rise before the end. The lips are clean, as in a dry-mouthed breed, with the flews only slightly developed.

Eyes: Medium-sized; dark brown, with close-fitting lids. Eyes should be neither deep set nor prominent. Eye rims are black. **Disqualification: Blue eye color**

Ears: Medium-sized, triangular ears are gently rounded at the tip. They are set on fairly high, the top of the ear being level with the top of the skull. They hang close to the head when in repose, but are raised at the base and carried forward when the dog is at attention.

Nose: Nose is always black.

Bite: Full complement of strong, white teeth meeting in a scissors bite. **Serious Faults: Undershot or overshot bites.**

NECK:

The neck is of moderate length, strong, muscular, and clean.

BODY:

The chest is deep and broad with a slight protruding breastbone. The ribs are well-sprung. Depth of chest is approximately one half the total height of the dog at the withers. Body is full with slight tuck-up. The loins are broad and strong. The croup is long, broad, and smoothly rounded to the tail insertion.

Topline: level from the withers to the croup.

Tail: thick from root to tip, tapering slightly at the tip, reaching to the hocks, and carried down in repose. When alert and in movement, the tail may be carried higher and slightly curved upwards but should not curl or tilt over the back. The bones of the tail should feel straight.

FOREQUARTERS:

The long, sloping shoulders are strong, flat and well-muscled. Forelegs are straight and strong with pasterns sloping very slightly. ***Fault: Weak pasterns.***

HINDQUARTERS:

Thighs are long, sloping and moderately laid back. Stifles are moderately bent and taper smoothly into the hocks. The hocks are well let down and straight when viewed from the rear. Feet are round and compact with well arched toes which turn neither in nor out. Dewclaws should be removed.

MOVEMENT:

Good reach in front, powerful drive in rear. Movement with a level back.

TEMPERAMENT:

Bold, faithful, willing worker; alert and vigilant; **shyness or aggressiveness shall be severely penalized.**

The foregoing is the description of the ideal Greater Seiss Mountain Dog. Defects of both structure and temperament are to be judged more severely than mere lack of elegance because they reduce the animal's capacity to work. Any fault that detracts from the above described working dog should be penalized to the extent of the deviation.

Any departure from this standard should be considered a fault, and the final score should reflect the seriousness of the deviation from the standard.