



Helping those who can't help themselves.

Hootie

The medical records alone should've scared me off.

Pinky toe removed from left front foot.

Birth defected tail.

Toxin exposure when young caused seizures and now he bites at "invisible flies".

Benign growth removed from right rear foot.

Surgery months before to remove obstructed toy in stomach.

Both front knees had had arthroscopic surgery.

Hip Dysplasia and advanced arthritis in left hip.

Dropped off at the local shelter because the owners of nearly 5 years weren't able to keep him. And since that time he'd been with his foster home, Keri Luster, who happened to live in Denver, some 800 miles from my home in Dallas.

As Pat Saxon gave me the medical history and rundown on Hootie I wondered if I could handle the "baggage" that came attached with rescuing him. In the 6 months since I'd initially contacted Pat about a "Rescue", my life wasn't exactly flowing smoothly. My job was a mess, I was recently single again and my young adult son and I weren't exactly on speaking terms. I just didn't have the time or the emotional energy for a dog with so many problems. Feeling sorry for myself, I doubted whether I could and I told Pat I'd have to think about it.

Days went by, but Pat persisted. I offered excuses as to why I was hesitant. I can't afford to take off work to go get him. I lived alone and wasn't sure if he'd be a good housedog. I had two adult cats and wondered if they'd be safe and coexist with such a big dog. I knew little about Swissies. Were they cat aggressive? Pat seized the op-

portunity. She called the foster family and Keri e-mailed me a video showing Hootie allowing one of Keri's cats to walk directly in front of his food bowl. I showed it to a friend and she simply told me, "Go get that Dog, he needs you".

It's now been a year since Hootie moved in. My cats love him. He thinks one day he will actually catch one, but I think he's only interested in the chase. He loves my couch and lets me share it with him. He snaps at the "invisible flies", but don't we all? Thirty minutes before dusk, he becomes the Greatest Salesman in the World and convinces me he needs his walk around the block. He's never met a stranger and thinks all dogs want to play. Milk Bones are a delicacy and he has a black stuffed animal sheep that is now his pacifying "woobie" that he falls asleep with in his mouth. Hootie's Hugs,



where he lowers his head in between my knees, are healing for us both. When he's lying on the floor, I thump his lovable chest and he's quick to fully roll to his back offering all 124 pounds that require attention, "praying mantis legs" and all.

My life is so much better now. My son moved back in with me and is going to college full-time. He just needed a second chance. My job has turned the corner, my general attitude has improved and my friend, who advised me to go get Hootie, is now my girlfriend. Hootie is special and I'm both proud and lucky to give him his "forever home".

Life is full of lessons. I didn't think I could handle "rescuing" a dog that was so broken, but in the end, it was Hootie who actually rescued me.

Ron

Welcome to the first issue of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Rescue Foundation's quarterly online newsletter. It's been a little over a year since we incorporated as a 501(c)3 and it's been a busy year for sure. The Foundation is an all volunteer board of five who have been tasked not only with rescuing Swissies, but also with setting up a Foundation that will be a viable non-profit corporation for years to come. Although rescuing and caring for Swissies in need is our major responsibility, continuing to have the funds to carry out this task is another important component of our job. Despite a terrible economy, we have been fortunate to have some extremely generous donations made to the foundation over the past year but, no matter how large or small, each donation helps to ensure that all rescue Swissies in need will be given the care needed.

Our breed's National Specialty is coming up in May and the Silent Auction held each year at the National is our major fundraiser. This year we have items such as a bronze Swissy sculpture, a hand crafted draft cart, an original oil painting, a cartoon by a Pulitzer Prize winning artist, an extra large Bowser Dog Bed and several other wonderful items. We are planning to implement an online auction prior to the National Specialty so that those unable to attend will have a chance to bid on these wonderful items. Keep checking the website for photos and details. Our plan is to arrange for those not attending the auction to have a chance to be in on the final bidding either by phone or e-mail.

You'll meet our board of five on the next two pages, but there are two other very important people involved in this foundation. They are Jessica Kalupa and Ellen Goldstein. Jessica (Chuck's daughter) designed and maintains our website. She's doing a wonderful job and we are eternally grateful to her for her help and expertise. Ellen Goldstein (Barry's wife) has been my savior. With Jessica's well done online pre-adoption application, we are getting more applications than we've ever had before and responding to all inquiries is of utmost importance. Ellen has taken on the task of responding to the applicants and filing the applications so that we can easily find potential adoptive homes in a particular state. Thank you, Jessica and Ellen.

There's one other blanket thank you that we would be remiss if we didn't make. That's to all the

Swissy and non-Swissy owners who are constantly searching for Swissies in shelters or on Craigslist and sending the info to rescue. Without these unsung heroes there would be a lot of Swissies slipping through the cracks. So thank you so much and keep checking. Although there are many listings that we receive multiple times, there's always a few that we only receive one time. So to those of you out there who think "oh they probably already know about that dog," please send us the e-mail. You might be the only one saving a particular dog.

By the time you read this, most of you will have read Hootie's story on the front page. We will feature Swissies and their adoptive homes "one year later" on a regular basis but Hootie's story was special. Although many of our rescues have problems, Hootie was at the top of the health problem list. Ron deserves all the credit in the world for taking on such a challenge. It's been a good first year for those two and although there's never any guarantee concerning the future health of our dogs, Hootie certainly had the deck stacked against him. Finding appropriate adoptive homes isn't always an easy job but there are times when you talk with someone and you just know that they would be a great home. After one conversation with Ron it was obvious that he was one of those homes. Thanks, Ron for giving Hootie a wonderful second chance and for telling your story.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for future newsletters, please e-mail us at rescue@gsmdrescue.org.

Keep checking our website for updates on the auction.

Sincerely,

Pat Saxon
President

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Rescue Foundation Officers



President—Pat Saxon

My husband and I are currently owned by four Swissies, Mack, Brew, Spencer and Ebbie ranging in age from 7 years to 21 months. Unfortunately, we have lost five over the past few years but were lucky enough to have four of the five live past ten. Over the years, three of our dogs (two Swissies and a Beagle mix) were rescued from shelters and they have been the most loving dogs one could be fortunate enough to own. Rescues truly do understand when they are in a better place and they enrich, not just the two legged family members, but the four legged ones as well.

During the eleven and a half years I've been in the breed, several of our Swissies have been shown in conformation. Our six year old Brew has also earned his TDI (Therapy Dog International) certification and since January 2009 has been lifting spirits and winning hearts of patients, parents and staff at a local children's hospital.

I previously served two terms on the board of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, and for the past ten years rescue has been a very important part of my Swissy life. Serving as President of the GSMD Rescue Foundation is not only an honor, but the most rewarding position held during my years in the breed. It is very exciting to be involved in a fledgling organization that has the ability to help Swissies in need.

My husband and I are fortunate to have worked from home for the past twenty-five years and one of the best perks is being able to bring our dogs to work with us every day. This is truly a very special breed that owns each and every one of us.



Vice President—Barry Goldstein

I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me and to say hello to the many fine people I've been privileged to meet within the Swissy community.

My wife, Ellen, and I acquired our first Swissy in 1998. To say that Gus (CH PlumTree Oddsmaker, CD, CGC, NWPD) changed our lives would be an understatement. Bringing him into the family was timed to coincide with my retirement and I quickly went from being a lawyer to being a dog butler. With Gus' help I learned about the world of dog shows, the thrill of victory and agony of defeat in the confirmation and obedience rings. We also tried our hand at agility, pack dog and drafting with much enjoyment and some success. But most of all, Ellen and I became members of the Swissy fraternity, met some delightful people and made some wonderful friends.

Someone once said that Swissies are like potato chips, you can't have just one. Sure enough, when Gus was about five, Ellen and I decided it was time to bring a second Swissy into our lives. Once again, fortune smiled on us and Annie (CH Avalon RidgeBridge Dreamboat Annie, CD) joined our family. Since then we have lost Gus but added Ben (Jotunheim Start Me Up, born March 15, 2008), to a mixed reception from Annie, as he regularly teases her.

As a Swissy owner and member of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, I served two terms on its Board of Directors and am now serving on the Board of the GSMD Rescue Foundation, an organization that does outstanding work in the rescue, foster care and re-homing of Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs.

Our Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs have made our lives richer, fuller and certainly more exciting. I am delighted to be a member of the Rescue Foundation Board of Directors and will endeavor to further the goals of this worthy organization and protect and support this wonderful breed that we all love.

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Rescue Foundation Officers



Chuck Kalupa—Treasurer

I live in Greenfield, Wisconsin, with Pam, two kids; Jessica and Thomas. Pam and I have been involved in the dog fancy for as long as we have been married (over 20 years) with Pam getting an imported Doberman as a wedding present from me. We got involved in the GSMD breed about 10 years ago when my sister obtained her first dog and Pam began showing "Jack" while at dog shows with our Dobes. Shortly thereafter, we added our first GSMD to our home.

Today, we own and co-own many GSMD's and have been active in all sorts of activities on both a regional and national level. We enjoy the many new friends and breeding partners that we have made along the way from coast to coast. When we do not have litters, we conduct "meet the breed" sessions in our home for families looking at the GSMD breed as a possible addition to their lives. I am happy to say that along with confirming many families' ideas on the breed as good additions to their lives, we also see as many people that call back to thank us for showing them that this is not the breed for them. As many of you know, the GSMD one sees at the dog show is not necessarily the same GSMD at your home.



Mary Beth Usery—Secretary

Mary Beth's dog show career began at the age of 11 showing German Shepherds. At 12 years old, she learned that "you can teach an old dog new tricks" by putting an AKC Companion Dog obedience title on the family's 12 year old toy poodle.

As a single parent, Mary Beth was forced to take some time off from her dog showing passion while running the family business and raising her three children. In 1997 Mary Beth's son, Shawn met Brigitte Rhinehart and her Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs. That Christmas the first Greater Swiss Mountain Dog came into their lives.

Since that time Mary Beth's life has once again become consumed with the fancy. She has finished over 20 Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs. She is influential in promoting junior handlers to show GSMDs in Junior Showmanship competition. In 2003, breed history was made when Tiffany Gonzales and Ch. Markee's Your Song, co-owned with Mary Beth and Margaret McKee, were invited to the Westminster Kennel Club show. Under Mary Beth's mentorship, they were to first Swissy team to achieve that great honor. Tiffany was also the first junior to qualify for the Eukanuba Classic with a GSMD.



Lori Price—Director

Lori has shared her life with Swissies since 1991. As a fancier and hobby breeder, Lori has been actively involved in conformation, obedience and working events. In addition, Lori served on the GSMDCA Board from 1994 through 2008, including a term as Club President and two terms as 1st VP. She served on a number of Committees and was the Judges Ed/Breed Study Coordinator for many years. She was honored as Friend of the Swissy for compiling the GSMD Health Database and Chairing the Standard Revision. She was also honored with the Margaret Poole Lifetime Achievement Awards for her exemplary service to

the Club, to the breed and specifically for dedication to Breed Education and Health. With the rising popularity of the GSMD breed, GSMD Rescue is busier than ever. Lori feels that contributing to Rescue by serving the GSMDRF is just one more way of giving back to the breed that has brought so much joy to her life.