

# Great Swiss Mountain Dog



Illustrated FCI standard No. 58



**SKG SCS**  
hund schweiz chien suisse cane svizzero

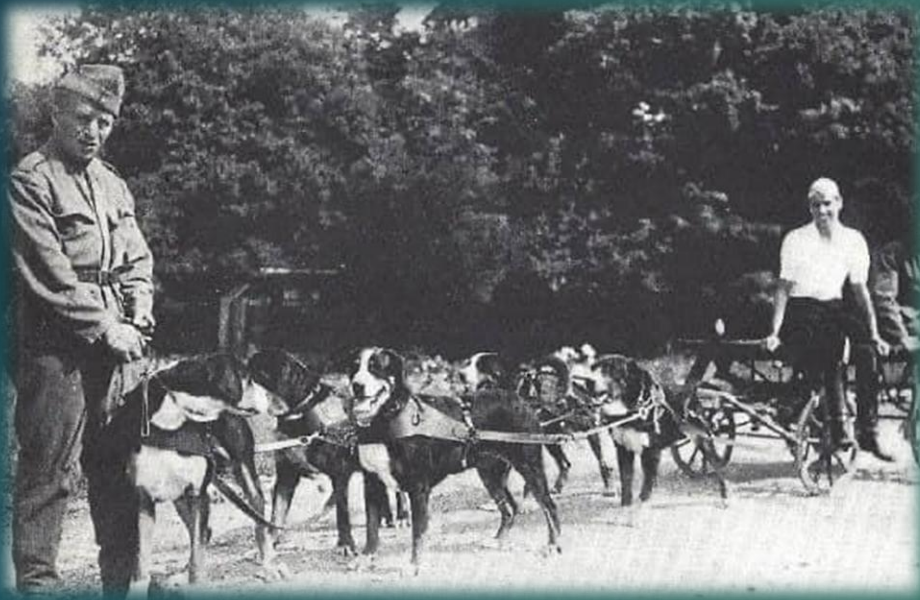
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## History



In 1908, at Langenthal, on the occasion of the jubilee show to mark 25 years of existence of the “Schweizerische Kynologische Gesellschaft” (Swiss Kennel Club) SKG, two short-haired Bernese Mountain Dogs were presented to the great promotor of the Swiss Mountain Dogs, Prof. Albert Heim. He recognized them to be representatives of the old, vanishing, large Mountain Dog or butcher's dog, whose ancestors had in the past been widely spread across Europe, bred as guard-, draught- or droving-cattle dogs. In 1909 they were recognized by the SKG as a separate breed being registered in volume 12 of the Swiss Stud Book.

The first standard was published by the FCI not before February 5th, 1939. Today these dogs are also bred in other European countries, they are especially appreciated as family dogs due to their calm, reliable temperament.

## Great Swiss Mountain Dog in the traction dog column of the Swiss Army



Abb. 17a

Einsatz des GSS-Hundes als Kriegshund: Traktionshundekolonne (Aufnahme von Dr. de Roche).

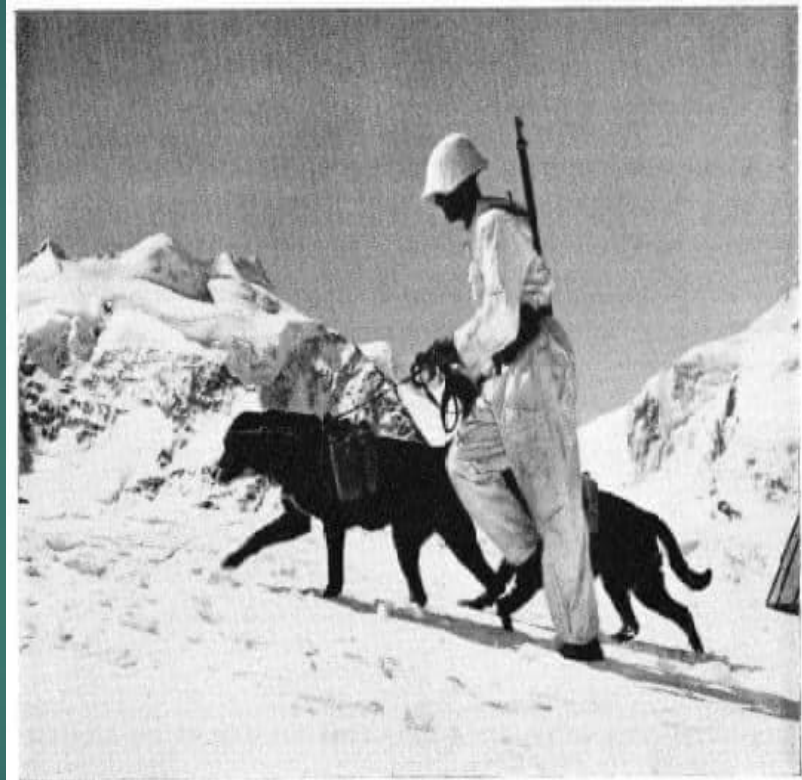


Abb. 17b

Einsatz des GSS-Hundes als Kriegshund: Basthund im Hochgebirge (Aufnahme von Dr. de Roche).



# The most important information in brief

- ▶ Typically tricolour. Main colour black with symmetrical, reddish-brown (tan) markings and clean white markings.
- ▶ The biggest Swiss Mountain Dog of all 4
- ▶ Big dog with heavy bones
- ▶ Expressive head
- ▶ Double coat consisting of thick, outer coat of medium length and dense undercoat
- ▶ A lot of drive and reach in the movement
- ▶ Sovereign behavior



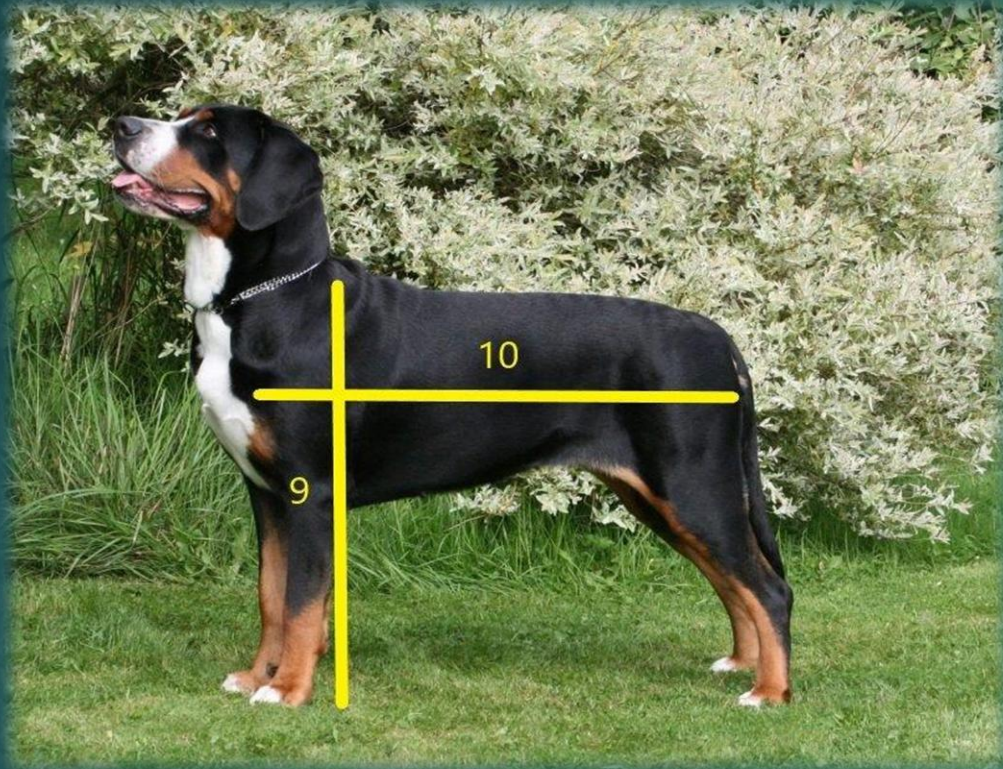
# General appearance



**General appearance:** A tricolor sturdy heavy boned and well-muscled dog, in spite of his size and weight, he presents endurance and agility, the difference between the sexes is distinctly obvious



# Important proportions



Body length (measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock to height at withers ):  
Withers = 10 : 9

Depth of chest to height at withers = 1 : 2



## Important proportions of the head

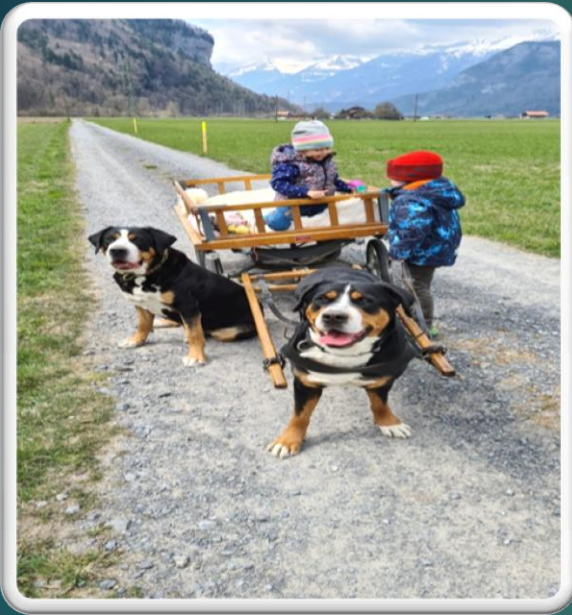


Length of skull to length of muzzle = 1 : 1



Width of skull to width of muzzle = 2 : 1

# Behavior / Temperament



Self-confident, alert, watchful and fearless in everyday situations. Good-natured and devoted towards people familiar to him. Self-assured with strangers. Medium temperament.



# Head



Correct



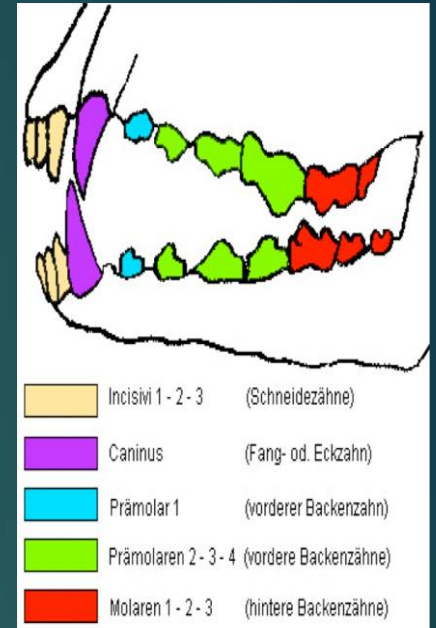
Pronounced stopp, muzzle to short and not wide enough



to heavy, plump, obvious dewlap open lips

**Head:** Strong corresponding to the body, but not heavy. Dogs stronger in head than bitches. **Cranial region: Skull:** Flat and broad. Skull: The frontal furrow beginning at the stop gradually runs out towards the top. **Stopp:** Hardly pronounced **Facial Region: Nose:** Black. **Muzzle:** Strong, longer than its depth. Must not be pointed, seen either from above or in profile. Nasal bridge straight, without furrow. **Lips:** Barely developed, well fitting, black pigmentation. Not pendulous.

# Jaw / Teeth



Strong jaws; complete, strong and regular scissor bite. The absence of two teeth (premolar 1 and/or premolar 2) is tolerated. Absence of the molars 3 (M3) is not taken into account



# Eyes



correct



dark, but too deep set



too deep set with  
non adjacent  
eyelids



too light

**Eyes:** Almond-shaped, of medium size, neither deep set nor protruding. Hazel to chestnut brown, with alert, friendly expression, lids close fitting, eye rims dark

# Ears



Correct earset



Carried strongly back and too low set

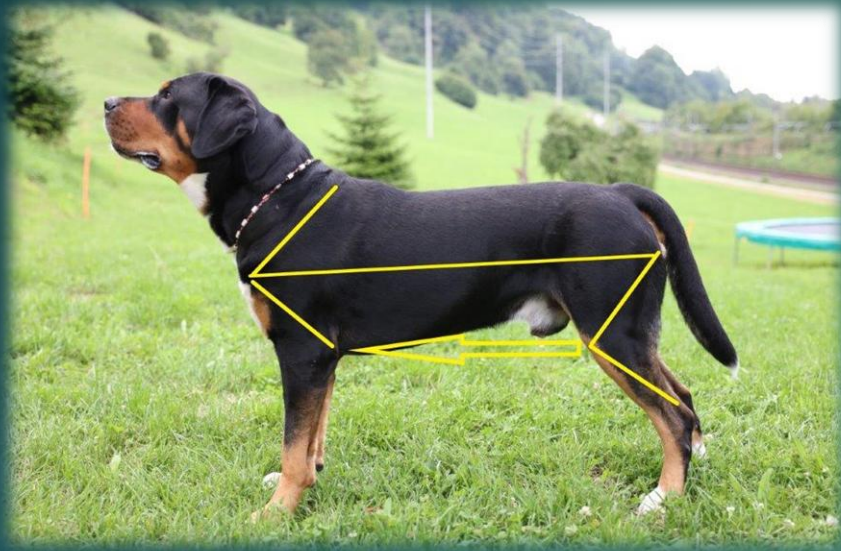


Open carried and too high set

Medium sized, triangular and set fairly high, lying flat when at rest, directed forward when alert, hairy inside and out



# Body proportions



correct



descending topline  
Underline to ascending

Slightly longer than its height at the withers.

**Back:** Moderately long, strong and straight, **Loins:** Broad and well-muscled

**Croup:** Long and broad, gently sloping, never higher than the withers or abruptly slanting, **Belly and underline:** Belly and flanks barely tucked up.

# Chest



correct



not reaching to the elbows, too narrow, no forechest

**Chest:** Strong, broad, reaching to the elbows, seen in cross section, the ribcage is roundish oval shaped, neither flat nor barrel shaped, forechest well developed.



# Tail



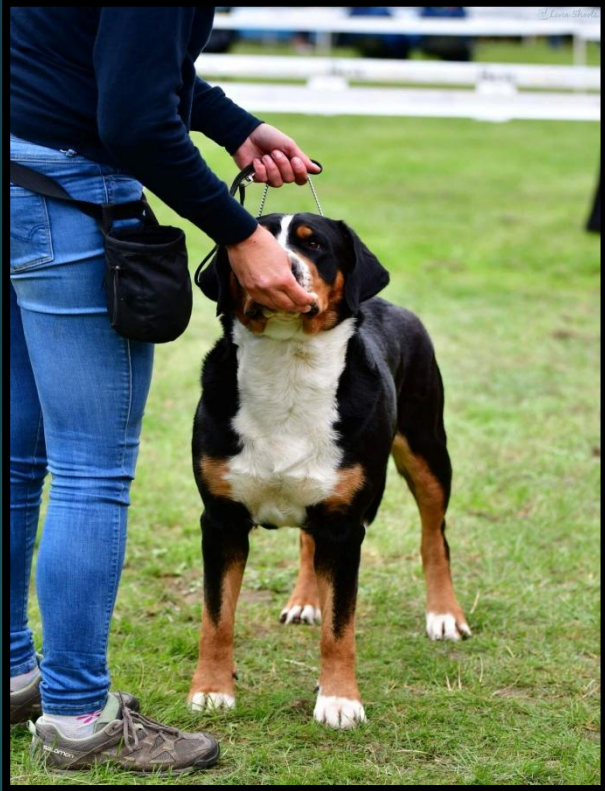
Pendulous in  
repose



In the movement

Set-on harmoniously following the croup, fairly heavy and reaching to the hocks. Pendulous in repose; when alert and in movement carried higher and slightly curved upwards, but never curled or tilted over the back.

# Forequarters



correct



correct

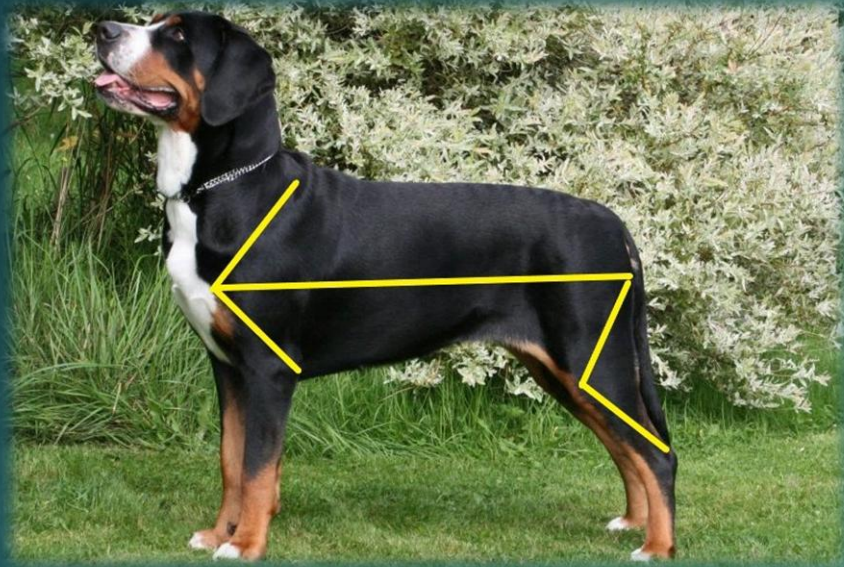


too narrow,  
forefeet turning out

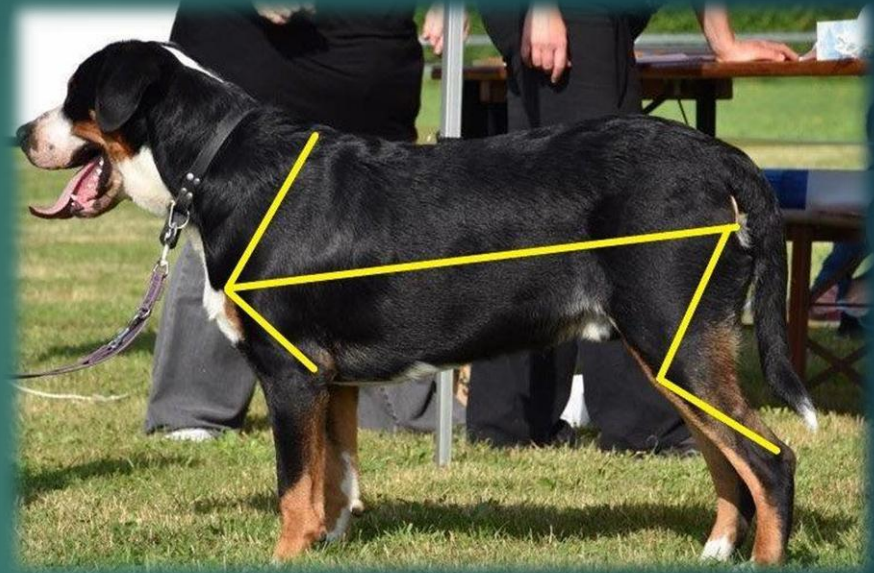
Straight and parallel when seen from the front, set rather broad.



# Shoulder



**Correct**



Short upper arm

Shoulder blade long, strong, well laid back, close-fitting to the body and well muscled, forming a not too obtuse angle with the upper arm

# Pastern



correct



open toes, right side not arched enough,  
weak pastern, turning out

**Pasterns:** Firm, seen from the front in straight line with the forearm; seen from the side almost vertical. **Forefeet:** Strong, pointing straight ahead, with well-knit, well arched toes and strong nails



# Hindquarters



correct



over angulated



lack of angulation

**General appearance:** Straight and not too close when seen from the back. Metatarsus and feet turning neither in nor out. Dewclaws must be removed except in countries where their removal is forbidden by law. **Upper thigh:** Fairly long, broad, strong and well muscled. **Stifle:** Forming a distinctly obtuse angle. **Lower thigh:** Fairly long. **Hock:** Strong and well angulated. **Hind feet:** Strong, pointing straight ahead, with well-knit, well arched toes and strong nails

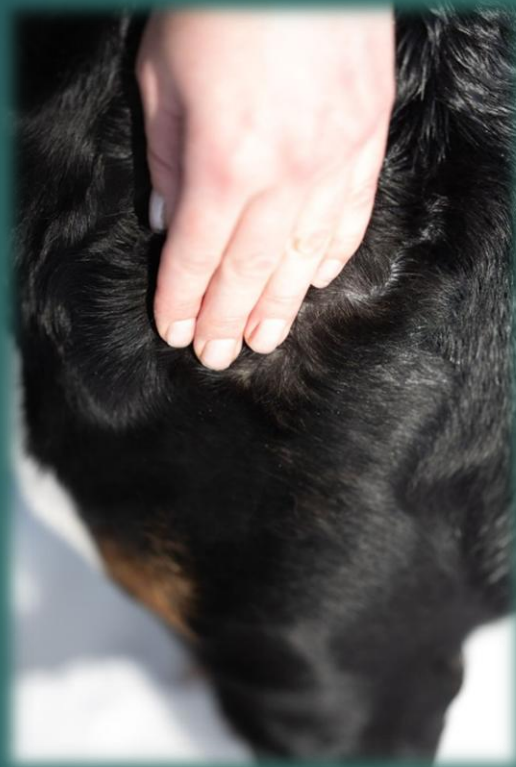
# Gait / Movement



In all gaits, balanced movement with good reach. Free stride reaching well out in front with good drive from the hindquarters. At the trot, coming and going, legs moving forward in a straight line.



# Coat



Hair: Double coat consisting of thick, outer coat of medium length and dense undercoat. The latter as dark grey or black as possible. Short outer coat permissible if there is undercoat → **Short coat without undercoat → disqualifying fault**

# Colour



**Color:** Typically tricolor. Main color black with symmetrical, reddish-brown (tan) markings and clean white markings. The reddish-brown color is situated between the black and the white markings on the cheeks, above the eyes, on the inside of the ears, on both sides of the forechest, on all four legs and underneath the tail. The white markings are on the head (blaze and muzzle), running down unbroken from the throat to the chest, also on the feet and the tip of the tail. Between the blaze and the reddish-brown markings above the eyes, a band of black should remain. A white patch on the neck or a white collar around the neck are tolerated.



# Color distribution



broken white on the chest



no white on the feet



white over the corner of the mouth



narrow blaze

## Size



Height at withers for males: 65 -72 cm Height at withers for bitches: 60-68 cm.



## Faults:

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog

- Unreliable behaviour
- Absence of any teeth other than 2 PM1 and /or PM2 (Premolar 1 or 2). The M3 are not taken into account, Level bite
- Light eyes. Lids not close fitting
- Coat: Visible yellow-brownish or light grey undercoat. Colour and markings not clear
- Mismatching:
  - Absence of white markings on the head; blaze too wide
  - White marking on muzzle reaching distinctly beyond the corners of the mouth
  - White pasterns or hocks ("boots") reaching beyond the pastern joints or hock joints
  - Noticeably asymmetrical markings.

## Disqualifying faults:

- Aggressive or overly shy dogs
- Any dog clearly showing physical or behavioural abnormalities
- Over- or undershot mouth, wry mouth
- Entropion, ectropion
- One or two blue eyes (Wall eye)
- Short coat without undercoat
- Long coat
- Other than tricolour coat
- Main colour other than black

## N.B.:

- Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum
- Only functionally and clinically healthy dogs, with breed typical conformation should be used for breeding



Thank you for helping to keep this wonderful, versatile breed in the sense of “fit for function” and for a careful selection when straightening

