

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.

2-Day Draft Trial and Draft Capability Testing

1717 Dibble Rd, SW
Aiken, SC 29801

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Hosted by



Southbound Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club, Inc.

Testing begins at 8 am each day and continues until all teams have completed.
All judging will be outdoors.

Entries close on Sunday, March 2, 2025, after which time entries cannot be accepted, canceled, or submitted except as provided in the GSMDCA Draft Trial Rules.

Submit entries on-line at [AIKEN DRAFT TRIAL ENTRY FORM](#)

Or via mail/email to:

Mary Sezer, Draft Trial Secretary
4643 Hunters Mill Ct
Hephzibah, GA 30815
idrmary@yahoo.com

GSMDCA OFFICERS

President: Deanna Never
1st Vice President: Allison Allen
2nd Vice President: Kelly Lovley
Secretary: Andrea Hansen
Treasurer: Leslie Gillette

Board of Directors

Gina Aurichio
Jess Bell
Debbie Echols
Jackie Mathis
Nichole Proctor
Pat Runde

DRAFT TEST COMMITTEE

Draft Trial Chair
Melissa Jarriel

Draft Test Secretary

Mary Sezer
4643 Hunters Mill Ct
Hephzibah, GA 30815
idrmary@yahoo.com
(443) 876-3680

Additional Draft Committee Member

Laura Bullock

DRAFT TRIAL AND DRAFT CAPABILITY TEST JUDGES

Melissa Jarriel, 1717 Dibble Rd, SW Aiken, SC 29801
Steve Cipolla, 313 Heber Rd. Summerville, SC 29485

EMERGENCY VETERINARIAN

Blue Pearl
410 Topgolf Way
Augusta, GA 30909
(706) 733-7458

HUMAN HOSPITAL

Aiken Medical Centers
302 University Pkwy
Aiken, SC 29801

Definitions: The term “dog” applies to dogs of both sexes. The term “team” means a handler and his/her dog. All terms and instructions and regulations that refer to a single dog also apply to a pair of dogs working together unless otherwise noted.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

LODGING in Aiken, SC

Quality Inn and Suites, 3608 Richland Ave West

Sleep Inn, 1002 Montgomery Drive

The Willcox Inn, 100 Colleton Ave SW www.thewillcox.com

RV PARKING

<https://www.aikenrvpark.com/>

ENTRY INFORMATION (PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED for all classes)

Draft Trial Entry Fees

\$35.00 per single-dog team, \$40 per brace.

Draft Capability Testing Entry Fees

\$20 per single-dog team, \$25 per brace.

- Entry is limited to seventeen (17) teams total on Saturday and on Sunday, whether entered in Draft Capability Test, Novice Draft, Open Draft, or Brace Draft.
- Dogs must be 12 months or older to enter a Draft Capability/ Brace Draft Capability Test and 18 months or older to enter the Draft Trial.
- Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs have priority over other breeds.
- See GSMDCA Draft Rules for complete information on entry priorities and procedure for random draw.
- All entrants will be notified by email of their entry status.
- ***Bitches in season may compete either day, after all male dogs have completed the entire test (including the freight haul). Bitches in season must be kept off site or in a vehicle (parked in designated location) until all male dogs have completed the entire test.***
- The Draft Test Secretary must be advised of plans to advance a dog or brace to Open Class no later than 7:30 am the day of the show in question.
- No dogs belonging wholly or in part to the draft test judges, or to any member of their immediate family, may compete.

- The Basic Control Exercise shall be waived for dogs that have earned an AKC Companion Dog (CD) title IF a copy of the CD title certificate is sent with the entry form.
- Handlers must provide the draft rig. Any of the following draft rigs may be used: cart, wagon, sled, toboggan, or travois. Each of these must be equipped so that the draft rig cannot run up on the dog when hauling downhill. A cart must be used for DCT/BDCT Events.
- The handler selects and provides appropriate freight load for the apparatus and the dog. Entrants are responsible for obtaining the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations and being familiar with them. Regulations are available on the GSMDCA web site (www.gsmdca.org).

TEST ADDRESS: 1717 Dibble Rd, SW Aiken, SC 29801

SCHEDULE FOR BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY:

7:30 – 8:00 AM All Entrants Arrive and Check In

8:00 AM Draft Capability Testing

Immediately Following Draft Test Equipment Check

Immediately following Course Review

Immediately following Draft Test Judging Begins

LUNCH

Lunch will be as follows for \$8/person/day. Use on-line form or email lunch order to firesidegsmd@gmail.com

Saturday Lunch: Turkey chili

Sunday Lunch: Loaded potato soup (bacon on the side) and rolls

(both days will include iced tea, water, or coffee, and dessert)

TEST SITE

Basic control and maneuvering will be in a grass field with pine straw borders. The freight haul will begin and end in the maneuvering ring and include trails in Hitchcock Woods. Hills and varied surfaces (grass, pine straw, pavement and sand) are components of the freight haul.

Hitchcock Woods is open to dog walkers and equestrians. Handlers are encouraged to train for these conditions.

PRIZES

All participating entrants will receive a ring prize and each dog earning a qualifying test will receive an award.

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Test Entry
1717 Dibble Road SW, Aiken, SC 29801

Draft Trial Entry Fee: \$35.00 for single, \$40 for brace

DCT/BDCT Entry Fee: \$20.00 for single, \$25 for brace

Entries Close at the Test Secretary's address on Sunday, March 2, 2025, after which time entries cannot be accepted, canceled, or altered, except as specifically allowed in the current GSMDC Draft Test Regulations.

Use On-Line Entry (Preferred) or Mail Entries & Fees to:

Mary Sezer, Draft Trial Secretary
4643 Hunters Mill Ct, Hephzibah, GA 30815

Make checks payable to Southbound GMDC or request Paypal invoice. Print clearly and include your telephone number and e-mail address for notification.

BREED:

SEX:

Mar 15 CLASS:	Novice <input type="checkbox"/>	Open <input type="checkbox"/>	Brace Novice <input type="checkbox"/>	Brace Open <input type="checkbox"/>
	Draft Capability Test <input type="checkbox"/>	Test <input type="checkbox"/>	Brace Draft Capability Test <input type="checkbox"/>	Test <input type="checkbox"/>
Mar 16 CLASS:	Novice <input type="checkbox"/>	Open <input type="checkbox"/>	Brace Novice <input type="checkbox"/>	Brace Open <input type="checkbox"/>
	Draft Capability Test <input type="checkbox"/>	Test <input type="checkbox"/>	Brace Draft Capability Test <input type="checkbox"/>	Test <input type="checkbox"/>

Check box if dog has earned AKC Companion Dog (CD) title—enclose certificate

CALL NAME:

REGISTERED NAME:

AKC REG NUMBER:

Or OTHER REGISTRY AND NUMBER:

DATE OF BIRTH:

PLACE OF BIRTH:

USA CANADA FOREIGN

BREEDER:

SIRE:

DAM:

ACTUAL OWNER(S):

HANDLER:

OWNER'S ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

No Entry accepted without a signed Agreement

AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT I understand that the club holding this event has the right to refuse this entry. I agree that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and the dog ("the dog") that accompanies me in relationship to this entry. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry and the opportunity to participate in this event, I agree to HOLD HARMLESS and INDEMNIFY the following listed parties from any claim for loss, damage or injury alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by my actions or by the actions of the dog in relationship to this event: the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America (GSMDCA) and the event-giving club or group of individuals, their members, officers, and agents; the owner and/or lessor of the premises; any provider of services at this event; any employees or volunteers of the parties listed here, and any Draft Judge (or other judge) judging at this event. I personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claim. I agree to be responsible for any loss and expense (including legal fees) incurred by any of the listed parties based on claims related in any way to my participation or the actions of the dog in relationship to this event, whether the claims are made by third parties or by myself. Additionally, I agree to assume the sole responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury (including death) to myself or to the dog in relationship to this event. I agree to RELEASE, INDEMNIFY and promise not to sue the parties listed above for any such loss, damage or injury to myself or the dog, regardless of the cause, and whether or not the loss, damage or injury may have been caused by the negligence of the listed parties. I AGREE THAT ANY CAUSE OF ACTION, CONTROVERSY OR CLAIM ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO THE ENTRY, EXHIBITION OR ATTENDANCE AT THE EVENT SHALL BE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO ARBITRATION ALL APPLICABLE GSMDCA BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST FIRST BE FOLLOWED AS SET FORTH IN THE GSMDCA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, RULES, REGULATIONS, PUBLISHED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I agree to abide by rules and regulations of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America (GSMDCA) in effect at the time of these GSMDCA Draft Tests and other events and by any additional rules appearing in the premium list for these events. I certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and Agreement. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with all such Rules and Regulations (including all provisions applying to discipline) and to abide by any decisions made in accordance with them.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Filling in your name and submitting this form constitutes your agreement to the terms above.

Volunteer Opportunities!

I am able to volunteer on: Saturday Sunday

I could do any of the following when I'm not on course:

Load steward Unload steward Set narrows Bring cart in ring
Distraction steward Scribe Freight haul walker Lunch set up
Lunch clean-up Site clean-up at conclusion of trial Parking

Important information regarding the new Draft Capability Test (DCT)/Brace Draft Capability Test (BDCT) Program

The DCT/BDCT Program is designed to ease the dog and handler into a test environment and promote confidence by giving them experience in performing foundational exercises seen in more advanced draft tests.

The test will also assess the team's readiness to begin training for more difficult exercises. Constructive and instructional feedback from the judge is an essential part of the program and the test is designed to allow the judge to "coach" the team at specific intervals during testing. This is a "Certificate Program", not a titling event. This certificate will not count towards producer awards.

The DCT/BDCT program will be reviewed approximately 1 year from its inception to assess its effectiveness in aiding new draft dogs in the process towards titling, its practicality as part of the overall GSMDCA program, and any other considerations deemed appropriate.

All GSMDCA Draft Regulations will apply to Draft Capability and Brace Draft Capability tests unless otherwise specified in this Chapter. Hosting a DCT/BDCT event is optional. The test can be administered as a standalone event, in conjunction with an approved GSMDCA draft trial, or as part of another GSMDCA event, such as a draft clinic. The same event application process applies as for a draft trial. Same day entry is allowed for a DCT/BDCT Event. The Premium List must clearly state which tests are being offered and whether pre-entry will be required for the DCT/BDCT Event.

***This event is dedicated to the memory of our beloved friend
and long-time Southbound Club member,
Mac MacFadden.***

DRAFT CAPABILITY TEST (DCT)/BRACE DRAFT CAPABILITY TEST (BDCT) JUDGES WORKSHEET

General Performance Guidelines:

- The team is allowed two attempts at each element. If unsuccessful on its second attempt, the team does not pass that element.
- Dog is to be on a loose leash for each element. Two warnings may be given during the test.
- The cart may bump into obstacles, but the dog must extricate the cart to continue. If the handler has to touch or lift the cart to continue, the team does not pass.
- The team does not pass if the load falls off cart or drags on the ground.

The following exercises may be performed in any order except the first and last exercises or where noted.

Exercise	Performance	P/NP
Basic Control	<p>GREET JUDGE: Handler and harnessed dog approach Judge for greeting.</p> <p>MOVABLE OBSTACLE: Handler and dog pass through a moveable obstacle/gate and closes it. Dog is behind or at handler’s side moving through obstacle. Dog remains in place (stand, sit, down and may change position) while obstacle is moved. This can be done before or after greeting the Judge.</p> <p>HITCH TO CART: Handler gives leash to Judge or connects leash to post while the cart is hitched. After inspection, the Judge instructs the handler to make any adjustments.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Controlled Walking	<p>Team walks to object placed 60 feet away, does an about turn around object, and returns to original position. A passive stranger sits approximately 20 feet away.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Figure 8	<p>Team performs a Figure 8 around two objects set 9 feet apart.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Wide, Fixed Narrows	<p>Handler walks dog through a set of traditional narrows or straw bales, etc., set 5 feet apart, no longer than 6 ‘ long. Dog can be next to or behind the handler.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Secure Load in Cart	<p>Handler leaves the dog to retrieve lightweight parcel on chair, returns to the cart and secures the load. Handler may hold leash the entire time.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Halt	<p>At an appropriate location along the course, independent of other obstacles, the Judge will command the handler and dog to halt.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Visual Distraction	<p>Situated 20 feet from an obstacle, a visual distraction is used. Naturally occurring sights and sounds may substitute for this element.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Two Broad Curves	<p>Team performs two broad curves in each direction.</p> <p>NOTES:</p>	
Judge Concludes Test	<p>The team halts before exit (dog may sit, down or stand). Judge greets the team and briefly gives comments about the performance—no more than 1 minute.</p>	