



## Valerie (Val) Leigh Guthrie

10/11/1971 - 7/18/2017

Southbound Club Member Since 2003

### Excerpt from Val's Obituary

*She found her calling when her precious "Boulder Boy" entered her life fourteen years ago. She joined the Southbound Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club and entered a show ring for the first time. On the same weekend, in the same building, eight years later, Boulder earned three Select Dog wins and became a Grand Champion. Val worked tirelessly to improve the breed and showcase the nobleness of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. This last May, Val was awarded an AKC (American Kennel Club) Outstanding Sportsman Award. The AKC defines Swissies as faithful, dependable, and family-oriented. These words are a perfect description of Val as well. Her current baby, Ripken, has also excelled under her love. His Grand Championships and the championships that have been and continue to be won by his off-spring will forever be a tribute to Val's dedication and legacy.*

### Excerpt from a eulogy written by Val's long-time friend and Southbound Member, Stacey Gwin

*We all have heard that words can paint a picture; however, I am finding it very difficult to find the words that can accurately describe the type of person that Val was.*

*Selfless, joyful, loyal, compassionate, and supportive all come to mind, but that was just a part of who she was. She was a daughter, sister, aunt, friend, Swissy owner, mentor, trivia expert, Cheerwine loving, and generous to a fault soul. But still, that isn't all.*

*Val was special to so many people and in so many ways. She was the unofficial welcoming committee at any Swissy event that she attended, the good friend that would lend an ear, or the travel companion going to support friends.*

*Val was just special.*

### **The Southbound GSMD Club Val Guthrie Ambassador Award**

This award is not just about volunteering or holding office, entering events or winning titles but for the person who personifies the club while doing any or all of those things.

Southbound was founded for the purpose of promoting recreational, social, and educational activities to benefit Swissys and their owners.

The recipient of this award could be the person who encouraged you to join the club or participate in an event; he or she could be the person who goes the extra mile to provide information or put you in contact with someone who could help answer your questions. This person is dependable, caring and devoted to the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog and the Southbound family. He or she pushes the members to participate, to get along, to volunteer and to have fun.

This is the member who would invite you to come and sit on our front porch with your dog at your side and makes you feel welcome and like you belong. This is the member who promotes and maintains the reputation of Southbound as the club known for its southern hospitality.

### **Award Rules and Requirements**

- The President and Vice President will select the winner of this award and will not be eligible while holding office. Nominations or recommendations will be taken but are not required for consideration of a club member.
- The award will be presented at the Annual meeting of the club members for the prior calendar year.
- The recipient must be a regular member at the time of the award and for the entire calendar year for which it is awarded.
- The recipient will be awarded an embroidered chair and his/her photograph will be added to the club website with a description of their contributions to the club.
- A drive to sponsor the first five years of this award will be open from August – September, 2017.