

Swiss Run Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

LICKY FITS

This is an entirely unscientific term to describe the sudden onset of frantic licking of anything in range such as carpet, bare floor, or walls. It can also include the random eating of anything that can be swallowed such as grass, leaves, or fiber from carpets. By doing this they inhale and gobbling up lots of air. It is obvious that the behavior is due to severe gastrointestinal discomfort. It sometimes can be alleviated with medications such as Digel, Gas-X or other gas and acid reducing remedies. What exactly causes the "Swissy Lick" is a matter of discussion among Swissy owners but there seems to be no single or definite factor responsible for this condition. Any numbers of theories have been offered, from excessive gas pressure to acid reflux to allergic reaction to a food substance. Some believe that it is a precursor to GDV but this cannot be clearly substantiated either as many Swissys who have had these licking episodes never went on to develop GDV. While the condition appears to affect primarily young dogs, it has also been reported in older Swissies. Often, young dogs eventually will outgrow the condition.