THE ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG
Presented By

The National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association

NEMDA

The AKC Recognized Parent Club
Historical Background

• The Entlebucher Mountain Dog (Ent-lee-boo-cur) is the smallest and rarest of the Swiss Mountain breeds.

• Appenzellers were occasionally born with bobbed tails and those bob tails were separated out, bred for the tail trait and identified as a distinct breed, the Entlebucher, by the early 1920s. Through this selective breeding they developed distinct differences in appearance and temperament from the Appenzeller.

• There have been major improvements in the temperament of the Entlebucher over the last twenty years, making him a very suitable family companion.

• NOTE: All photos in this section and the Standard and Comments are Swiss Foundation Stock from the 70s and 80s.
They were farm dogs used to herd cattle and guard the herd and farmyard when not in the high Alps for summer grazing. They are known for keeping the barnyard and farm free of vermin as well. They were also used to for carting cheese to market.

They faced extinction during the World Wars and by the 1950s there were very few remaining purebred Entlebuchers. They have been carefully bred back although they are also still relatively rare in Switzerland. There are more Appenzellers than Entlebuchers in Switzerland but the reverse is true in the United States.

Entles (Ent-lees) are most often sought after for their athletic abilities. They are very, very active dogs, ever alert and ready to explode into action. They are very fast and extremely agile. They excel at agility, Rally-O, obedience, freestyle, carting, fly ball and tracking. They are willing and enthusiastic partners with an almost pathological attachment to their masters.
Entlebucher Mountain Dog Standard

GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Entlebucher Mountain Dog (Shepherd Dog from Entlebuch, or Dog of the Alpine Herdsman) is a native of Switzerland, and the smallest of the four tri-colored Swiss Sennenhund breeds. Swiss farmers have historically used the Entlebucher to move cows from pasture to pasture in the Alps. Their keen intelligence, speed and agility also made them useful for the management of other large animals such as horses and hogs.

The Entlebucher is a medium sized, compact, strongly muscled, elongated drover with ample bone. He has a short, hard and shiny coat, bright black with symmetrical markings of pure white on blaze, muzzle, chest, and feet; shades of rich fawn to mahogany are present on the eyebrows and between the black and white markings.
Prized for his agreeable nature, ease of training, and devotion to family, the Entlebucher possesses an excellent work ethic, and the ability to work alone or in harmony with his master. Given a job, he transforms from a lively, high-spirited playmate, to a serious, tireless, self assured dog of commanding presence. Although primarily a drover, Entles excel at competitive sports and are willing and enthusiastic partners in any athletic canine activity chosen by their master.

Purpose and heritage have resulted in an unusually intense bonding between the Entlebucher and his master; however the Entlebucher should not be considered a breed for the casual owner. He will remain an active, highly energetic dog for his entire lifetime. Because of the guardian traits of this breed, thorough socialization is required during puppyhood; typically Entles are indifferent to, or somewhat aloof with strangers.
SIZE
Dogs - 17 to 21 inches, Bitches - 16 to 20 inches. Ratio of height at withers to length of body: 8:10 - length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers. Strongly muscled, agile, balanced dog with ample bone; but never overdone. Size alone should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness and temperament. Note that too small a dog generally lacks the power required and too large a dog may lack the agility and mobility desired in a herding dog.
NECK, LINES & BODY
Pleasing smooth merge of neck into topline.

Neck: Medium length, strong and clean, merging smoothly with the body.
Top line: Sturdy and level.

Body: Strong, slightly elongated, length to be in rib cage and not in loin; length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers.

Chest: Capacious, broad, deep, and reaching to the elbows; well sprung ribs.

Underline: Slightly tucked up.

Back: Straight, firm, broad
Loins: Strong, flexible

Croup: Slightly sloping, relatively long

Tail: Natural tail or docked tail is equally acceptable. Natural tail set-on in continuation of the gently sloping croup. In motion can be elevated
HEAD
In harmonious proportion to the body, slightly wedged-shaped; clean. Head planes of muzzle and skull more or less parallel. Ratio of muzzle to skull 9:10.

Expression: Alert, attentive, and friendly.

Eyes: Must be brown, darker eye preferred. Slightly small, almond shaped, with well fitted, black pigmented rims. Disqualifying fault: Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes.

Ears: Not too big, set on high and wide. When alert, are slightly raised at set-on, turned forward; in repose lay flat and close to head and form a nearly level plane with topskull. Firm, well developed ear-cartilage. Flaps pendulous, triangular, rounded at tips.

Skull: Flat on top, broadest between set-on of ears, slightly tapering towards muzzle. Occipital bone barely visible. Frontal furrow barely pronounced with minimal stop.
HEAD continued.

Muzzle: Strong, well chiseled, clearly set off from slightly pronounced cheeks, tapering but not pointed or snipey. Bridge of nose is straight. Whiskers to be left natural.

Nose: Black

Lips: Close fitting to jaw, with complete black pigmentation.

Bite: Scissor bite preferred, even bite tolerated. Disqualifying faults: Overshot or undershot jaw; Wry mouth.
NECK, LINES & BODY

Pleasing smooth merge of neck into topline.

Neck: Medium length, strong and clean, merging smoothly with the body.

Top line: Sturdy and level.

Body: Strong, slightly elongated, length to be in rib cage and not in loin; length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers.

Chest: Capacious, broad, deep, and reaching to the elbows; well sprung ribs.

Underline: Slightly tucked up.

Back: Straight, firm, broad

Loins: Strong, flexible

Croup: Slightly sloping, relatively long

Tail: Natural tail or docked tail is equally acceptable. Natural tail set-on in continuation of the gently sloping croup. In motion can be elevated but never curled over back. Ring-tails highly discouraged.
FOREQUARTERS

Strongly muscled but not too heavy.

Shoulders are laid back, flat lying, well muscled and never loose. Upper arm length equal or slightly shorter than shoulder blade. Angle of shoulder blade forming as nearly as possible a right angle. Elbows lying well onto the body, turning neither in nor out.

Forelegs are short, sturdy, straight and parallel; neither too wide nor too close together. Seen from side placed well under the body. Pastern seen from front in straight continuation of the forearm; seen from side slightly angulated and relatively short.

Paws point straight forward; compact, slightly rounded with well-arched toes. Pads coarse and robust.

Dewclaws: May be removed on the front legs.

Nails: Short, strong; any combination of black or white
HINDQUARTERS

Well-muscled. Hind legs not too close together; from behind, straight and parallel.

Upper thigh: Fairly long, broad and strong.

Lower thigh: Approximately equal length to upper thigh; clean.

Stifle: Well angulated.

Hock joint: Strong; turns neither in nor out.

Hock: Relatively short, perpendicular to the ground when dog is standing naturally; from the rear, parallel to each other.

Rear dewclaws: Must be removed.

Rear feet: Overall description same as front
**COAT**

**COLOR & MARKINGS**
Tricolor. Basic color must be black with tan (fawn to mahogany) and white markings, which should be as symmetric as possible. The tan markings are placed above the eyes, on cheeks, muzzle, either side of the chest, under the tail, and on all four legs. On legs, the tan is situated between the black and the white. Small tan oval islands on cheeks are desired. White markings include a distinct small blaze, which runs without interruption from top of head over bridge of nose, and can wholly or partially cover the muzzle. White from chin to chest without interruption. An inverted cross on chest desirable. In full-length tail, tip of tail is normally white. White on all four feet.

Undesirable but tolerated - small white patch on the nape of the neck (not more than 2 inches), high boot, socks and bib.

Color and markings should not take precedence over overall soundness, balance and temperament.
GAIT
Ground covering, free, fluid movement with good reach and strong drive from rear. As the speed of the gait increases, legs converge - the rear more pronounced.

TEMPERAMENT
The Entlebucher is a confident cattle dog, neither shy nor vicious; may be reserved with strangers. He is lively, active, persistent, self-assured and determined. Cheerful and capable of learning, he is loyal and protective of family, herd and property. He is highly intelligent, versatile and adaptable with a strong willingness to work; is quick and responsive to commands from his owner making him especially suited as a companion, herding and general all-purpose dog.
FAULTS
Any departure from the foregoing points must be considered as a fault, and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

DISQUALIFICATIONS
Absence of under-coat
Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes, wall eyes
Overshot or undershot jaw
Wry mouth
Comments Regarding Standard
Head
In harmonious proportion to the body, Slightly wedged-shaped; clean. Head planes of muzzle and skull more or less parallel. Ratio of muzzle to skull 9:10.

- Correct head is essential to breed type. Head must match body.

- Muzzle often has excessive cartilage on bridge. This is normal.

Snipey, narrow skull         Ear set too high, back         Hound like, low ear set skull too narrow
**Eyes:** Must be brown, darker eye preferred. Slightly small, almond shaped, with well fitted, black pigmented rims. Disqualifying fault: Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes.

- **Entlebuchers tend to have very visible blood vessels in the exposed whites. This is normal.**

**Ears:** Not too big, set on high and wide. When alert, are slightly raised at set-on, turned forward; in repose lay flat and close to head and form a nearly level plane with topskull. Firm, well developed ear-cartilage. Flaps pendulous, triangular, rounded at tips.

- Be aware of thin, flyaway or hound like ears. The ear when raised and turned forward frames the face.

**Bite:** Scissor bite preferred, even bite tolerated. Disqualifying faults: Overshot or undershot jaw; Wry mouth.

- **Entlebuchers may be missing premolars. With our small gene pool we are not considering it to be a fault at this point in time.**
Tail: Natural tail or docked tail equally acceptable. Natural tail set on in continuation of the gently sloping croup. In motion can be elevated but never curled over back. Ring tails highly discouraged.

- Docked tails are traditionally 4 to 6 inches long. Typically tails are docked where tan marking under the tail ends not at a specific vertebra. At birth the tan ends in an inverted V slightly above the base of the tail. When tails remain intact the tan under the tail tends to gradually spread up the back of the tail sometimes nearing the tip.

- NOTE: We do not breed for bob tails as pups from two natural bobbed parents often do not survive. It appears to be a lethal combination.
Body: Strong, slightly elongated, length to be in rib cage and **not in loin**; length to height ratio 10 to 8 measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers.

- **Bitches** can be forgiven for having a slightly longer loin. Length in loin is **not acceptable in dogs**.
COAT
Double coat. Topcoat short, close fitting, harsh and shiny. Undercoat dense; of varying color. Wavy or soft coat tolerated but not preferred.
Disqualifying fault: Single coat.

- Undercoat often especially visible on ears, head and buttocks. Typically the undercoat is lighter in the chest and neck “collar remnant” area but may be lighter all over.
- **ALL** undercoat colors acceptable.

GAIT
Ground covering, free, fluid movement with good reach and strong drive from rear. As speed of the gait increases, legs converge –

- Very pronounced single tracking
COLOR & MARKINGS

Tricolor. Basic color must be black with tan (fawn to mahogany) and white markings, which should be as symmetric as possible. The tan markings are placed above the eyes, on cheeks, muzzle, either side of the chest, under the tail, and on all four legs. On legs, the tan is situated between the black and the white. Small tan oval islands on cheeks are desired. White markings include a distinct small blaze, which runs without interruption from top of head over bridge of nose, and can wholly or partially cover the muzzle. White from chin to chest without interruption. An inverted cross on chest desirable. In full-length tail, tip of tail is normally white. White on all four feet. Undesirable but tolerated - small white patch on the nape of the neck (not more than 2 inches), high boot, socks and bib.

Color and markings should not take precedence over overall soundness, balance and Temperament.

• Some white on each foot required. Ideally not higher than the pasterns, particularly on the front feet. White on rear feet is commonly higher on the inside of the feet than the outside.
• Width of blaze is not to be a major factor. The Standard says “small white blaze”, however wide blazes are flashy and attract attention.

• Care must be taken not to overemphasize “flashy” white markings. Too much emphasis on white may result in ultimate return of the neck collar and socks and loss of the “Inverted cross” chest marking. The parent club is committed to maintaining the markings as defined in the standard, including the “cross”.

![Dog images]
TEMPERAMENT

The Entlebucher is a confident cattle dog, neither shy nor vicious; may be reserved with strangers. He is lively, active, persistent, self-assured and determined. Cheerful and capable of learning, he is loyal and protective of family, herd and property. He is highly intelligent, versatile and adaptable with a strong willingness to work; is quick and responsive to commands from his owner making him especially suited as a companion, herding and general all-purpose dog.

• Entlebuchers should not be penalized for lack of enthusiasm or showiness. They are aloof and extraordinarily focused dogs and view conformation as just another job required to please the owner. They have eyes only for their master.
NORTH AMERICAN
ENTLEBUCHER
MOUNTAIN DOGS
DOG
FOUR BITCHES
Bitch & Dog

Good Examples of Breed Type
PUPPY

GOOD EXAMPLE OF INVERTED SWISS CROSS
NORTH AMERICAN FOUNDATION DOG
THIRTEEN GROUP 1, 7 BIS IN THE LATE NINTIES. THIS DOG HAD BALANCE, EXCELLENT STRUCTURE, MOVEMENT AND RING PRESENCE. HE Sired MULTIPLE SPECIALTY WINNERS. A KEY AMERICAN BRED. HIS EXCELLENT TRAITS ARE CLEARLY VISIBLE IN HIS LINE TODAY.
VETERAN DOG WITH DOCKED TAIL
Multiple BIS, National Specialty Winner
BITCH, BALANCED, TYPEY. MULTIPLE BIS, NATIONAL SPECIALTY WINNER
BITCH

Note muzzle band marking with minimal white on this same winning bitch. Structure, balance and movement most critical.
TRAITS COMPARED WITH BREED STANDARD
BITCH
DARK EYE, PLEASING HEAD & FRONT
DOG

DARK EYE, PLEASING HEAD & FRONT
DOG

NICE HEAD, PLEASING EXPRESSION
BITCH

NICE FRONT, SOLID HEAD, DARK EYES
GOOD EXAMPLE OF ENTLEBUCHER IN MOTION
Too much white! No tan on cheeks, overwhelming blaze merging with tan brows. Demonstrates return of collar with exaggerated white markings. Boot on left paw. Looks like Border Collie cross in this photo.
DOG
HOUND LIKE HEAD, LIGHT EYES
BITCH

TOO MUCH WHITE, LOSING CHEST PATCHES
BITCH

EARS TOO HIGH SET, TERRIER LIKE
Bitch
Snikey, lacking in substance
BITCH

TOO HIGH IN REAR, TOO HIGH IN HOCK, DOMED HEAD
BITCH

TOO SHORT IN BODY, LACKING IN SUBSTANCE & BREED TYPE. MUZZLE TOO LONG FOR TOP SKULL
BITCH
HOUND LIKE
BITCH

INTERUPTED CHEST MARKING
JUDGING TIPS
NEMDA emphasizes the following points to bear in mind when judging Entlebuchers.

- This is a hard working herding dog, bred to go all day, every day. Effortless fluid movement with excellent reach and drive is the hallmark of the breed.

- Head is vital to Type. The head must also match the body.
Flashy markings are not to be emphasized. There is such a thing as too much white. Structure and movement are paramount.

Entles should appear robust and well boned but never coarse or overdone. Musculature is pronounced in rear.

Some white on each foot required. White on rear feet is commonly higher on the inside of the feet than the outside. Width of blaze not a factor.
Entlebuchers should not be penalized for lack of enthusiasm or showiness. They are aloof and extraordinarily focused dogs and view conformation as just another job required to please their master.

White on the chest that is symmetrical at least to the tan chest patches is desired. Tan chest patches are to be present, forming an inverted cross with the white.
Undercoat is often somewhat visible, especially on ears, head, neck and buttocks. Often the undercoat is lighter in the chest and neck “collar remnant” area. All undercoat colors acceptable.

Length of body to be in rib cage, not loin. 10 to 8 ratio, length to height.

Proportion and balance are all important.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST. WE HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY US!
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