The Entlebucher Mountain Dog

Presented by:
NEMDA- National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association
AKC Parent Club

*Revised 09/2019
Historical Background

• Entlebucher Mountain Dog- Entlebucher Sennenhund or Entlebuch Cattle Dog

• Smallest of the Swiss Mountain Dogs

• Pronunciation: Ent-LEE-BOO-cur or ENT-leh-boo-cur

• Named for Entlebuch in central Switzerland, where the breed was developed

• Entlebuch is just 22 square miles; An agricultural area with focus on crops, fruit and cattle breeding.
Sennenhund from *Senn*, Swiss alpine herdsmen (or dairymen); *hund* from the German word for dog.

As farm dogs, Entlebuchers were used to drive cattle.

The greatest risk to the cows was not predators but navigating the terrain of the Alps.

Entlebuchers were critical to the success of the dairymen.
• The first description of “Entlebucherhund” dates back to 1889.

• The two smallest Swiss Mountain Dogs, the Entlebucher and Appenzeller were primarily cattle drovers (and the same breed).

• The dogs born with natural bobbed tails evolved to become the Entlebucher.

• The congenital bobtail, for various reasons is the rarest tail type.

• In 1913, four small bobtailed mountain dogs were exhibited at a show and introduced by Professor Albert Heim who is credited with the discovery of the four Sennenhund breeds.
• WWI delayed breed development until sixteen dogs of breed type were found in 1926.

• First Entlebucher breed standard was written in 1927.

• First Entlebucher Mountain Dog imported to the US came from Switzerland to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1975.

Ali - DOB 1961

Ari - DOB 1964

Waran - DOB 1970

Enetbach Kennel – 1960's
The Entlebucher Mountain Dog Today

- Medium-sized breed prized for its agreeable nature
- Active family dog, watchdog and sports competitor
- Agile, energetic, enthusiastic and possess a strong work ethic
- Intense need to bond and be involved in all aspects with their family/owners.
Versatile Working Dog
Breed Standard  Effective January 1, 2009

General Appearance

The Entlebucher Mountain Dog (Shepherd Dog from Entlebuch, or Dog of the Alpine Herdsman) is native to Switzerland, and smallest of the four tri-colored Swiss Sennenhund breeds. Swiss farmers 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 managing other large animals, like horses and hogs.
The Entlebucher is
• medium-sized  
• compact  
• strongly muscled  
• an elongated drover

The Entlebucher has
• a short, hard and shiny coat
• bright black with symmetrical markings of 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.

Alert, clever with friendly facial expression
Given a job, he transforms from a lively, high-spirited playmate, to a serious, tireless, self-assured dog of commanding presence.

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.
Although primarily a drover, Entles excel at competitive sports and are willing, enthusiastic partners in any athletic canine activity chosen by their master.

Purpose and heritage have resulted in an intense bond between the Entle and its master yet the Entlebucher should not be considered a breed for the casual owner.

Entles will remain active and highly energetic their entire lifetime. Due to their guardian traits, thorough socialization is required during puppyhood. Typically Entles are indifferent to, or somewhat aloof with strangers.
Size & Proportion

Ratio of height at withers to length of body: 8:10
Measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers

Dogs - 17 to 21 inches
Bitches - 16 to 20 inches

Important to keep in mind
Two essential defining characteristics:
• medium size dog
• smallest of the Swiss Mountain Dogs

Size alone should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness, and temperament.
- Too small generally lacks the power required
- Too large may lack desired agility and mobility
Entlebucher Ratio Variations

Correct Ratio is 8 : 10 (Measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers)

Correct – elongated but not exaggerated

Too short – square appearance 9.0 : 10

Too long – exaggerated length 7.5 : 10

Rectangles depicting too short correct too long
Substance - Range of Males

Strongly muscled, agile, **balanced dog** with ample bone; but never overdone. **Size** alone should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness and temperament.

*Ample is defined as sufficient to satisfy a requirement or need; in this case relates to our breed’s function as a cattle drover and general all-purpose farm dog.*
Substance - Range of Females

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.
**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.
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.

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.

*All photos correct to Standard*
**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 top skull. **Firm, well developed ear-cartilage**. Flaps pendulous, **triangular, rounded at tips**.

*All photos are equally appreciated as correct ear set & size*
Illustrations of Entlebacher Head and Eye
Traits not preferred to the Standard

Eyes not well fitted, baggy appearance
Round eyes
Round eyes and Snipy Muzzle

Steep stop
Snipy Muzzle
Snipy Muzzle
Illustrations of Entlebucher Head Traits not preferred to the Standard

- Narrow, high ear set
- Narrow, high ear set
- High ear set
- Long, Houndy ears
- Low ear set
- Ears too wide and long, eyes not well fitting
Bite: Scissor bite preferred, even bite tolerated.

Disqualifying faults:
Overshot or undershot jaw;
Wry mouth.

Entlebuchers may be missing premolars. We do not consider it a fault at this time. We are watching the occurrences in our small gene pool.
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

Tail: Natural tail or docked tail is equally acceptable. Natural tail set-on in continuation of the gently sloping croup.

Natural Tail - Hanging (Relaxed)

Natural Bobtails – Acceptable at any length, fuller appearance

Docked Tail – blunt appearance
Tail – cont.

In motion can be elevated but never curled over back.

“Curled over back” refers to the Appenzeller trait of the tail being carried tightly curled over the croup.

Ring-tails highly discouraged.

Entlebucher Brace Team

Ring-tail Tightly Curled Over Croup Not Preferred
Tail Set vs Tail Carriage

**Straight Tail – Correctly Held (Mid Level Alert)**

**Tail Carried High – Correctly Held**
- Left shows arousal, can have a saber appearance
- Right shows alert / excitement

**Tucked Tail – Undesirable**
- Insecure, Stressed

Check for the correct tail set. Tail docking can mask tail set.
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

All are nice examples
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

**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** is most easily visible on the head **behind the ears and** in the **neck area, and near the hind end.** All undercoat colors are acceptable.

*Note – Sometimes the undercoat is not as visible due to seasonal shedding, warmer climates or time of year. Please take those factors into consideration looking at undercoat.*

*Rare recessive long coated Entlebucher*
Color

**Tricolor. Basic color must be black with tan** (fawn to mahogany) **and white markings**, as symmetric as possible. Tan markings are above the eyes, on cheeks, muzzle, either side of the chest, under the tail, and on all four legs. On legs, the tan is 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.

*Inverted cross on chest*
Markings

Color and markings should not take precedence over overall soundness, balance and temperament. Undesirable but tolerated - small white patch on the nape of the neck (not more than 2 inches), high boot, socks and bib.

Acceptable White on Neck

Undesirable White – Over 2”

Undesirable White – Over 2”

*A high boot and/or socks are considered when the white is higher than the dog’s pasterns, especially on the front feet.

Examples of high boot, high socks
* Note - Differences in blaze width can alter the look of the head and expression. The amount and placement of white can also change the look of the dog in movement.

Please be **mindful of visual illusions** that may be created by markings; **reward overall soundness, balance and temperament** as it relates to function.

Markings on this page are correct to standard showing different looks.
Marking Variations

Graying female
Minimal blaze
No blaze
Broken white on chest

Group of Entles (males & females)
Relatives from the same kennel
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.

*Good reach, movement with level back.*
*Strong drive from the rear, level topline*

*Legs converge front view*
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 & Disqualifications

Faults
Any departure from the foregoing points must be considered as a fault.

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
• Overshot or undershot jaw
• Wry mouth
Priorities of the Entlebucher

Overall impressions
The Entlebucher should appear:

- **Athletic and fit** for the job of a cattle drover and all-purpose farm dog.
- **Balanced, moderate** and just medium-sized - not exaggerated in any area.
- **Upper arms equal or slightly shorter than shoulder blade.**
- **Length of forearms** should be in proportion when compared to the depth of body.
- **Gender appropriate:** Females should look feminine; males should look masculine.
- **Age appropriate:** Generally Entlebuchers can take up to 3 years to fill out.
- **Compactly built** - firmly put together with efficient use of space.
- **Self-assured and good-natured.**
Thank you for your interest in our breed! For more information on the Entlebucher, To view upcoming scheduled Judge’s Education presentations or to arrange a breed presentation, please visit: http://nemda.org/judges-education
# Entlebucher Mountain Dog Breed Mentors

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* Judge’s Education Coordinator

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