

2019

NEMDA's Breeders' Code of Ethics



National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association
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National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association

Breeders Code of Ethics

1 — Purpose

1.1 Support for Breeders

The purpose of the Breeders' Code of Ethics Program (BCOE) is to provide information, education, guidelines, support, and networking for breeders and stud dog owners. Our goal is to actively support quality breeding practices to preserve the health and breed standard of the Entlebucher Mountain Dog.

1.2 Support for Owners and the Breed

The members of the National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association (NEMDA) share a deep concern for the welfare and future of the Entlebucher Mountain Dog (EMD). This code is established in accordance with the objectives set out in the club Constitution as the standard of practice for the responsible and ethical ownership and breeding of the EMD.

2 — Breeding

2.1 Responsibilities of Breeders

Breeders bear great responsibility to the future of the EMD breed and shall plan each breeding with the paramount intention of advancing and protecting the breed. Breeder includes both owners of brood bitches and stud dogs.

2.2 Genetic Diversity

Each breeding should take place with the understanding that genetic diversity is a major key to the health and welfare of our breed. Genetic diversity is encouraged. Prior to any breeding, a breeder should take advantage of a Comprehensive Breeding Analysis, including a calculation of coefficients of inbreeding, using the NEMDA Pedigree Database. This analysis is available from the Breed Committee. Breeders should strive to understand the current Entlebucher population genetics as a whole when making choices in breeding pairs. Using different pairings for each breeding and selecting dogs with pedigrees that are more rare are encouraged. Selecting a diverse number of offspring to carry on into the future as potential breeding dogs are encouraged whenever possible.

2.3 Breeding Goals

Breeders shall:

- strive for the betterment and healthy perpetuation of the EMD in accordance with the breed standard as approved by NEMDA, the Parent Club, and recognized as the official standard by the American Kennel Club
- breed only physically and temperamentally sound stock
- learn the strong and weak points of their own stock
- never double up on a known serious fault that will affect the health of the breed nor shall they repeat a breeding which produces potentially fatal and/or serious lifelong heritable defects.

3 — Breeding Standards

3.1 Registration and Identification

EMDs must be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) or the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). All breeding stock must have permanent identification with a nationally recognized microchip. All breeding stock shall be included in a DNA identification database maintained by the American Kennel Club. (See section #8: Records)

3.2 Health Requirements

Only those Entlebuchs free from hereditary defects shall be used for breeding. See following sections for specific certification requirements that must be submitted to the Breed Committee prior to breeding and with the annual report to that Committee.

3.3 Hips

Breeding stock must have hips rated and certified by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). All stock entered into a breeding program between 18-24 months of age MUST have OFA preliminary results of fair, good or excellent after 12 months of age. If both bitch and dog in a breeding have only preliminary ratings at least one *must* have a good or excellent rating. All stock MUST have final OFA certification after 24 months of age even if a preliminary rating was submitted.

3.4 Patellar Exams

Breeding stock must have patellas examined and recorded with OFA. A dog with a grade of 1 or 2 may only be bred to a clear.

3.5 Eye Exams

Breeding stock must have their eyes certified free from inherited eye disease by the Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER) prior to breeding.

3.6 Eye Exams for Retired Stock

It is recommended that retired stock continue to be tested annually as there are other genetic eye diseases such as glaucoma that, although not common, may occur in the EMD. When retired stock receives CAER exams, results are to be provided to OFA and to the Breed Committee as part of the Breeder's Annual Report.

3.7 Glaucoma and Gonioscopy Exams

Glaucoma is still rare in the Entlebucher, but has proven to be more prevalent in some lines than others. Breeders are encouraged to educate themselves about the disease and the pedigrees of the breeding pair. As a clear causal relationship between gonioscopy results and glaucoma has not been established at this time, we nevertheless encourage breeders to have a gonioscopy and pressure checks performed on all breeding stock to contribute to an historical data base for future use as veterinary ophthalmologists discover more in this field.

3.8 Progressive Retinal Atrophy

Breeding stock must have a PRA test performed by an OFA approved lab prior to breeding or must be first generation clear by parentage certified through OFA. Stock may only be bred to animals that have also been tested and the breeding pair must meet the requirements listed below. These requirements also apply if breeding with EMD stock owned by persons who are not NEMDA-approved COE breeders, and copies of the prcd-PRA test reports of this stock must be submitted with the annual report.

- EMDs testing Normal may be bred to Normal, Carrier or Affected
- EMDs testing as Carrier may only be bred to Normal.
- EMDs testing as Affected may only be bred to Normal

3.9 Foreign Breedings

When breeding to a foreign (ie other than US or Canadian) owned EMD, COE breeders may accept the hip, eye and other health certification used by that country's breed club but must require no less than the minimum standard as set out in this document.

3.10 Hereditary Defects

Breeders shall exercise great care in breeding an individual who, although free from hereditary defects, produces afflicted offspring. Breeders shall monitor the progress of dogs of their breeding program to track any genetic defects and improve their breeding program. If any hereditary defects occur in the lines of the individuals used for breeding, breeders shall make every effort to disclose this information to owners of all dogs they have sold for breeding and any dogs sold as pets that may be at risk for developing the defect. Breeders shall inform all potential buyers of genetic defects known to occur in EMDs.

3.11 Health and Genetics Reporting

Breeders must inform the Health and Genetics Committee of any defect known or suspected to be genetic in their breeding stock, or in any pups produced, as soon as they are made aware. Information must be shared with owners of all pertinent related dogs. ([Health & Genetics Form](#))

3.12 Multiple Sires

More than one male may cover a bitch during a heat cycle only if DNA testing for parentage is performed on all whelps prior to their sale and registration. American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club requirements for multiple sired litters registration procedures shall be followed.

4 — Breeding Age

4.1 Minimum Breeding Age and Required Documentation

Dogs and bitches may be bred after 18 months of age. All certifications and requirements listed above MUST be completed and submitted to the Breed Committee prior to breeding. If the breeding is based on a preliminary OFA assessment, a final OFA rating MUST be obtained after 24 months of age.

4.2 Maximum Breeding Age

Bitches shall not be bred after their eighth birthday. Males may be bred after 8; active, healthy longevity is considered a strong benefit to the breed.

4.3 Well-Being of Bitch and Back-to-Back Breedings

Owners of breeding stock bear the responsibility of evaluating if their bitch has recovered sufficiently to permit back-to-back breeding. It is the breeder's responsibility to determine how each individual bitch's breedings are planned, taking into consideration the bitch's physical and mental well-being and the breeder's ability to manage whelping and rearing litters.

5 — Breeders' Responsibilities

5.1 Care to Bitch and Puppies

Owners of both bitches and stud dogs shall breed only when in a position to assure proper care to both bitch and puppies; and when reasonably certain that there is a sufficient number of good homes available for the puppies.

5.2 Breeding Knowledge Requirements

Breeders shall make every effort to learn basic genetics and as much as possible about health, structure, movement, behavior, and other heritable traits of the EMD and shall use this knowledge to produce sound, healthy dogs that adhere to the breed standard.

5.3 Reporting Causes of Death

In the event an EMD dies of an unknown cause, breeder shall make every attempt to have a necropsy performed. Copy of results for known and unknown causes of death shall be provided to the Health and Genetics Committee.

5.4 Lifetime Responsibilities

Breeders shall be available to their buyers for whatever advice and reasonable aid and assistance they may need for the life of the dog.

Breeders bear a lifetime responsibility for the wellbeing of their own EMDs, as well as any offspring they have produced. This applies to owners of brood bitches and stud dogs, living and deceased. If a Buyer/ Owner cannot keep a dog, the Breeder will assist with re-homing. If necessary, the Breeder may involve the NEMDA Rescue Committee.

5.5 Continuing Education

Breeders are encouraged to pursue diverse and multiple educational opportunities to build an informed breeding program.

Each year BCOE Breeders are expected to continue their education through participation in BCOE educational events, seminars, online courses, books, Entlefest and the National Specialty, CEBA, mentoring, social media etc.

All breeders and partners shall make every effort to participate with their Entlebuchers in the CEBA temperament and conformation evaluations. Breeders are encouraged to share their CEBA evaluations when looking for a breeding pair.

AKC and other conformation dog shows are encouraged as valuable breed assessments. In addition, assessing the dogs working ability through performance events and activities are also encouraged.

6 — Breeding Arrangements

6.1 Terms and Conditions for Matings

Terms and conditions of the mating must be clear to all parties prior to mating. A written contract is strongly recommended. Stud services should be clearly outlined as to cost and conditions.

6.2 Reciprocal Breeding Requirements

Breeders shall verify that any dog or bitch they use for breeding possesses the physical qualities they desire and is as their owner represented them to be. Breeding stock must be healthy and meet age, hip, annual eye, prcd-PRA, and patella certification requirements detailed within this COE document. Breeders must obtain copies of all health certifications and an approved pedigree from either AKC, CKC, or FCI prior to breeding.

7 — Sales

7.1 Puppy Placement

Breeders shall be discriminating in the sale of their puppies and carefully choose the homes in which they are placed. Breeders shall strive to sell to those who may be best suited to the unique responsibility of owning an EMD. Breeders are encouraged to place two or more pups from each pairing into trusted homes where the owners agree to become BCOE members and upon the successful completion of mandatory health testing, will create one or more litters.

7.2 Selling and Advertising

Breeders shall not knowingly sell to dog wholesalers, retailers or pet stores, or known/suspected puppy mills. Breeders shall not donate dogs or puppies as prizes nor knowingly allow any dogs of their breeding to fall into animal shelters or rescue organizations outside of NEMDA facilitated rescue. All advertising of puppies and dogs, written or oral, shall be factual, forthright and honest in both substance and implication.

7.3 Sales Agreement

A written sales agreement specifying responsibilities of both Buyer and Seller is recommended. Any puppy sold with the express or implied possibility of future breeding must come with a full explanation to the Buyer of the responsibilities, ethics and risks involved in breeding. All puppies should be protected from breeding activities until they have met health and age requirements. Spaying or neutering of animals not desirable for breeding is encouraged through one or more of the following steps:

- Withholding registration papers
- Providing a Limited Registration with the American Kennel Club or a Non-breeding Registration with the Canadian Kennel Club
- A written contract.

It must be explained to buyers that a puppy/dog with Limited registration may not be shown in conformation. Any health or temperament condition, which requires monitoring by the new owner and/or a veterinarian, must be clearly explained and agreed upon at the time of sale or transfer.

7.4 Buyer's Expectations

Breeders shall discuss prospective buyers' expectations, disclosing any physical faults and health issues the dog may have or which are known in its lineage. Breeders shall emphasize the necessity of the buyer's lifetime commitment to their dog first and foremost as a companion animal.

7.5 Resale Restrictions

Breeders shall not broker EMDs, foreign or domestic, or purchase EMDs for resale purposes.

8 — Records

8.1 AKC Registration

All Entlebucher litters from BCOE Breeders must be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) or the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) within six months after the litter is born.

8.2 Record Keeping Responsibilities

Breeders shall keep and pass on to buyers, accurate health, breeding, registration, and pedigree records. Breeders must keep accurate records of all litters produced, all dogs/puppies sold, pedigrees, and stud service contracts as required by NEMDA, American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club.

8.3 Microchip Registration

All puppies will be implanted with a nationally recognized microchip prior to placement and register the owners contact name with the microchip organization. Proof of microchip will be included with the NEMDA pedigree database submission.

8.4 Pedigree Database Submission Requirements

BCOE breeders MUST sign and complete a NEMDA Pedigree Database submission within six months after the litter is born.

8.5 DNA Identification Requirements

It is mandatory that all NEMDA BCOE breeding stock have DNA identification. DNA sampling will be done directly through the AKC. Proof of DNA must be submitted to the Breed Committee.

9 — Annual BCOE Requirements

9.1 Annual Report

All breeders MUST complete and submit the required annual report of certifications, litters, copies of American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club litter registrations and stud activity to the Breed Committee, within the required time frame.

9.2 Health and Death Reporting

All breeders have an obligation to continue to report the health and death records of their retired breeding stock and their offspring to the Health & Genetics Committee for the rest of their life. This includes breeding stock that has been placed with other owners. Retired BCOE breeders in good standing will receive partner status and will be encouraged to mentor our breeders.

10 — Conduct

10.1 Breeder Conduct

Breeders shall resolve to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and standards of the Club, and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be beneficial to the club, the breed and the reputations of both. Breeders shall not defame other club members, breeders, exhibitors or those persons' dogs.

10.2 Ethical Standards

When confronted by a situation not covered by this Code of Ethics, the Breeder's conduct shall exemplify the way he/she would like to be treated under the same circumstances and reflect the highest ethical and professional standards.

11 — Exceptions

11.1 Variance Request

A Breeder may request a variance to the Code of Ethics in writing to the Board. The Board, in consultation with the chairs of the Breed Committee, will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the request. The Board will balance the circumstances of the request against its obligation to protect the reputation of the Association, the well-being of any involved dogs and their offspring, and the fitness of the breed as a whole. Within 60 days, the Board will notify the breeder in writing with the decision and its rationale. A copy of this letter shall be kept in the permanent records of the Club.

12 — Terms of Agreement

12.1 Terms and Signature

Violations of the NEMDA breeders' Code of Ethics (COE) will be subject to NEMDA disciplinary procedures and may be grounds for expulsion.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by this Code.

Date: _____

Signature of Owner/Breeder

Print Name of Owner/Breeder

Signature of Co-Owner/Breeder

Print Name of Co-Owner/Breeder