

more information please visit our Website [www.nemda.org](http://www.nemda.org) or contact Jane Torma, our PRA Research Committee Chair, at [jptorma@pcii.net](mailto:jptorma@pcii.net).

### Entlebucher Note Cards Now Available

Now you can order 4¼" x 5½" white note cards with envelopes with a black and white sketch of an Entlebucher head on the front. Cost is 10 for \$10 that includes packaging, mailing, and a contribution to the PRA Research Fund. They are perfect for a quick note or thank you. Order as many as you like! Send a check made out to NEMDA to Linda Planting, 220 State Street, Suite H, Los Altos, CA 94022. For international orders, please contact Linda at [lplanting@aol.com](mailto:lplanting@aol.com) or 650-949-2002 to determine mailing costs. Cards will be available at the Entlefest 2000, which will be held in conjunction with Swiss Days in Midway, Utah over Labor Day weekend.



### PRA PLEA

By Jane Torma - PRA Research Chair

As most of you know, I have stepped down as NEMDA President to devote my full attention to the development of a DNA test for PRA in the Entlebucher Sennenhund. Lynda Hruby, Sue Edick and myself have formed a new PRA Research Committee to assist Dr. Petersen-Jones develop our test. But we need you help! All of you!

Please, if you own an Entlebucher Sennenhund, have its eyes tested by an ACVO Ophthalmologist. If you are breeding or planning on breeding your Entlebucher, you should be doing this every year. If your Entlebucher is just your beloved pet, please do it once in your dog's lifetime, preferably after the age of 4. It is not that expensive, but I know that ACVO Ophthalmologists are not as convenient for most of us as our family veterinarian, but please do it for your dog.

If your dog's eyes check out fine, please send the CERF form into CERF to be added to their database (please put your dog's real full name on the form). If your dog has PRA, please bring in our Michigan State University form to your Veterinarian and have blood drawn and sent to Dr. Petersen-Jones, along with a copy of the eye examine and your dogs pedigree. You can get the form from our website at [www.NEMDA.org](http://www.NEMDA.org) or please call either Lynda Hruby at (604) 541-2822 or myself for a copy. If your dog does not show any signs of PRA, please send a money donation to Dr. Petersen-Jones to aid in the cause!

Whatever your dogs outcome, we need to track how our dogs are doing on this side of the Atlantic. Please contact me, Jane Torma at [jptorma@pcii.net](mailto:jptorma@pcii.net) or call at (608) 348-8723, or fax at (608) 248-8226 or write me at: Jane Torma, 8841 St. Rd 80, Platteville, WI 53818.

Our Genetics Committee will also need your information, so either contact Teri Beeman,

Genetics Chair, or you can just request I forward to her.

Want to do more? The PRA Committee needs some energetic volunteers!

\* We need someone with the drive, time, or expertise in fundraising! We have some ideas of Entlebucher and combinations of all four Sennenhund breed products that we need made and sold, with proceeds going to PRA research! If you would like to become involved in the making, marketing and whole fundraising part of this committee, please contact me as listed above.

\* Do you have the skills, time, or the desire to research companies and write grants? We need people willing to research different companies and organizations and then write them and ask for their monetary assistance. Does that sound like something you would like to do? If so, please contact me as listed above!

\* Do you have great communications or language skills, or just the time and desire to contact other Entlebucher Clubs in Europe, share information of what we are doing, and ask for their assistance in getting blood and money for the research? How to reach me is listed above.

\* I understand if you work full time, I do to, but that is why we need help. We need more people to split up the workload so that the health problem of PRA will be a thing of the past. If you feel you have the time and desire to tackle one of the jobs above, please contact me for more details. If you have a friend in mind to help you, better yet, please give me a call.

Please remember that this is a very worthwhile cause and together we can solve this health problem. Your donation, eye testing of your Entlebucher, and sending in of blood of the PRA afflicted will make PRA in the Entlebucher Sennenhund a thing of the past. But we need your help to make this happen!

These wonderful dogs deserve to see their loved ones!

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,  
Jane Torma

### **OFA Information**

By Rebecca Hahn, DVM

Effective July 1, 2000 the OFA will institute owner choice pertaining to an open or semi-closed database for the hip, elbow and patella databases. An open database will provide all information (normal and abnormal) to the public domain. The semi-closed database will only provide normal data in the public domain. If an owner fails to choose a specific database the results will automatically default to the semi-closed database.

The OFA has also adapted a policy effective January 1, 2001 requiring permanent identification of any animal submitted for inclusion in the database. The animal must be permanently identified prior to evaluation. The policy covers all databases maintained by the OFA. Note: this has been the policy of AKC all along and now OFA has joined ranks. For Entlebuchers this means identification by an FCI approved tattoo series, Avid or HomeAgain microchip or DNA profile.

### **Why Alphabetize?**

By Teri Beeman

If you are a new owner of an Entlebucher, or a old hand at owning one of these incredible dogs, if you imported your pet from somewhere in Europe or from most North American breeders, even if you are not a dog owner, just an admirer, you have probably all notice or come across the strange custom of alphabetizing of litters. On this side of the Atlantic, this is thought very strange, in Europe, it is beyond tradition, rather a breeding rule. A very old breeding rule. Breeders and buyer in Europe do not give it