

Not to be out done by the girls in the family, **Bravo Victor of Wildhorn**, handled by his owner/trainer, 13-year-old **Boris Madar**, earned his Flyball Dog and Flyball Dog Excellent titles on his first day of racing ever, on February 21st. Bravo went on to earn his Flyball Dog Champion title on April 3rd, in only his second tournament! Proud Mom reports that since the team was short on dogs, Bravo had to race in all 50 heats during the weekend and “Boris and Bravo both performed superbly throughout the 2-day tournament. They were focused, steady, and fast, so that our team brought home more than 750 points, one of our best weekends ever!” A big BRAVO to Boris and Bravo!

On the competition obedience circuit, **Carol Dibari** beams that her **Urban-Maximilian vom Chopfli (Max)** placed second in the Novice A group at the UKC obedience trials in West L.A. on July 25th. With an impressive score of 189, Max now has his first of three legs for his United Companion Dog obedience title and had the highest score in UKC’s Guardian group at the trial. Way to go, Maximilian!

Three cheers for **Jen Shaul and Duke (Caesar of Balihara Ranch)** as Duke earned his UKC United Companion Dog title (UCD) in only two days! With two trials on one day, Duke earned his first leg and a 2nd place ribbon at his very first trial and then qualified with a 4th place in the second trial. A month later Duke achieved his third qualifying leg and a 4th place ribbon, earning the UCD title! Along the way Duke had extra challenges in the ring as at one trial a horse and rider trotted by during the one minute sit stay and at another trial a nearby family playing with a soccer ball (Duke’s favorite toy) looked very inviting during his exercise. In both instances Duke sat as solid as a rock, making Mom Jen especially proud.

Part of the UKC novice exercise involves one dog and handler performing a down stay in the same ring with another dog and handler team doing heeling. At one trial the two teams happened to be Jen with Duke and Carol with Max! What a sight to have two Entlebuchers working in the same obedience ring. Jen reports “everyone was so impressed with them both.”

Duke is also competing in Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) obedience trials and so far has two qualifying legs towards an ASCA CD. It’s great to see more Entles involved in competition obedience and congratulations to both Max and Duke for their successes!

As for herding, **Kim Manuelides** proudly reports that **Sasha (Rusty Gates Sasha)** passed her herding instinct test “with flying colors” on May 15th. The tester said Sasha “had great instinct and was very trainable.” Kim says “Sasha was so pleased with herself that she literally bounced and pranced back to the truck.” These Entles DO love to herd!

Let’s continue to celebrate the triumphs and successes of our talented Entlebuchers! Please send all brags and stories to Linda Planting, Lplanting@aol.com, or 26726 Moody Rd., Los Altos Hills, CA 94022.

From the Genetics Chair

by Teri Beeman

GLAUCOMA

Now that Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) in the Entlebucher can be controlled genetically through the diligent use of results from the prcd DNA test, it is time to turn to other eye diseases affecting sight in the Entlebucher. Cataracts are very prevalent in the breed but fortunately tend to be a type which does not result in blindness. Glaucoma on the other hand, though not as prevalent, affects vision and can be very painful.

Glaucoma is the increased pressure inside the eye due to a decrease in the outflow of aqueous humor which is the watery fluid present in the anterior chamber of the eye. Normally aqueous humor is produced in the ciliary body of the eye, flows around the lens, through the pupil and into the drainage angle in the front of the eye. There is a delicate balance between the production of aqueous humor and its final resorption into the bloodstream. Blockage of the primary outflow pathway results in intraocular pressure known as glaucoma. There are two types of glaucoma – primary and secondary.

Primary glaucoma affects both eyes and occurs in the absence of previous trauma or ocular disease, whereas, secondary glaucoma occurs as a result of some other disease, such as ocular inflammation, intraocular tumors or trauma to the eye.

Primary glaucoma is known to occur in some breeds more often than in others and is thought to be genetic, either familial or hereditary. There is no proof that it is inherited in the Entlebucher but it does occur and bears tracking by the Genetics Committee. In recent months, glaucoma and goniodysgenesis have been reported to the Committee and all have occurred in offspring of Berna v. Bogenthal.

Goniodysgenesis is the abnormal and incomplete development of the pectinate ligaments which are the small channels that form tunnels for the fluid to drain from the eye. When the flow holes are compromised the intraocular pressure increases and an increased risk of glaucoma occurs.

The symptoms of glaucoma may include: redness, cloudiness, tearing, vision impairment, sensitivity to light resulting in squinting, an enlarged eyeball, lethargy, loss of appetite and unusual aggressiveness due to pain. A measurement of the intraocular pressure of the eye can confirm the occurrence of glaucoma. The prognosis is largely dependent upon how early glaucoma is detected. There are several means of medical management which are long term and require regular, consistent re-evaluations.

Gonioscopy is a technique used to evaluate the iridocorneal angle which helps to determine the predisposition for glaucoma. The test may be done in conjunction with a CERF exam but the ophthalmologist must know beforehand as the test must be done before the drops for dilation are administered to the dog. The gonioscopy does not have to be repeated yearly like the CERF exam. If abnormalities are present, medical treatment can be initiated to prevent or reduce the risk of future problems. A re-evaluation of breeding plans for the dog should probably be made if the angle is not normal.

Glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in dogs, can be treatable and may be held in check with medicine, laser therapy, and/or surgery. Gonioscopy is highly recommended as it helps determine the predisposition for development of primary glaucoma. It should be remembered that glaucoma is considered an ophthalmic emergency and must be treated immediately to help prevent permanent loss of vision. So remember the symptoms of glaucoma and consider having a gonioscopy performed with your Entles next CERF exam.

References: www.acvo.com
www.blinddogs.com

Swiss Dog Day 2004

By Lois Williams



SWISS DOG DAY AFTERNOON

The Annual Swiss Dog Day Afternoon took place in San Francisco on August 14th. The Annual Swiss Dog Day brings together the five native Swiss mountain breeds. The day was full of activities with Mountain Dog Olympics, a Swiss Breeds Showcase Parade, Swiss Music, a Raffle, Handmade Crafts and Souvenirs, and a Swiss-Style Barbecue. NEMDA sponsored Canine Good Citizen tests, Conformation, and Obedience matches. A group of Entlebuchers and their families traveled 500 miles to attend Swiss Dog Day. Some of our Entlebuchers from Southern California regularly visit Swiss Dog Day in Northern California.