The CEBA committee would like to acknowledge the many volunteers whose efforts made the conformation evaluation a success. Thank you, Jami Lockhart (steward), for checking in each participant and keeping them on schedule. High marks go to Becky Christiansen (measurement coordinator), and her assistant Jen Shaul. Becky and Jen, made a very difficult job... look easy. Carl Delengowski thanks for coming to our assistance to record and calculate the measurement figures. Dru Patterson and Wendy Mark (judging panel scribes), thank you... thank you... for your patience and professionalism. And finally, we are indebted to our two superb judging panels: Panel A with Debbie Dalton (OH), David Anthony (PA), and Andrew Ritter (PA), and Panel B with Deborah Anthony (PA), Lilian Ostermiller (NY), and Grace McGlynn (NY). Thank you, ladies and gentlemen for so generously sharing your time and expertise with our Entle community. Your feedback is so valuable to our breed.

Evaluator Impressions

Mike Artim
Lead Evaluator
President and Training Director of C & M Care-9s Inc

I was honored and thrilled to participate in the Comprehensive Entlebucher Breed Assessment.
Assessment (CEBA) temperament evaluation at the national Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association Entlefest.

I applaud NEMDA for taking the time and effort to educate the owners, breeders and handlers of these fine animals to the temperament standard as outlined in the Entlebucher Mountain Dog standard. This commitment to the temperament standard will preserve the high working excellence of the breed. I always encourage all owners, breeders and handlers to study and know the standard for their particular breed. This helps the individual understand and acknowledge various behavioral traits as they appear.

I applaud the fact that your standard calls for a dog that is cheerful and capable of learning. A dog that is loyal and protective of family, herd and property. Entle’s are highly intelligent, versatile and adaptable with a strong willingness to work. I mention this because all of the 20 dogs I evaluated met these criteria. A few of the dogs excelled in certain areas.

I was pleased to see a number of dogs instinctively use their keen scenting ability as well as their sense of sight to identify and mark a group of people as its new possible mini-herd. In a few instances, you could actually see the dog matching the scent to its particular individual and counting heads to ensure all were present. All the dogs also demonstrated a natural willingness to focus and take direction from their 2 handlers. As the dog and handler teams worked through various situations, I could see the team gaining confidence and trust in each other. By the time the exercises were finished, they were happy, willing workers.

However, in a few cases, the handler attempted to override these natural tendencies with excessive handling or an over-abundance of commands. Fortunately, most of those handlers got the idea and eventually allowed the dogs to work on their own.

The Entlebucher has a higher than average level of intelligence. Entles are extremely work-oriented and are happy to be performing tasks that please their owners as well as themselves. As this occurs, a natural bond is cemented between the Entle and their owner. However, I stress that puppies and adolescent Entles need a loving and consistent learning environment using positive motivational techniques. As maturity is reached, enhanced shaping techniques can be applied to help form and complete the Entle’s instinctive reasoning skills.

I congratulate the CEBA team in setting up a fine test. It had all the necessary elements and flowed nicely. I congratulate NEMDA for putting an emphasis on the temperament and inherited instinct of this fine breed to maintain the breed as outlined by your temperament standard.
standard. If any of your handlers have any questions, feel free to direct them to me at michaelartim@gmail.com.

Sara Steele, AKC Judge Co-Evaluator
It was an honor and a pleasure to be invited to judge Obedience and Rally and to serve as a Ceba Evaluator at the Entlefest 2010. I had a great time meeting all of the wonderful Entle people and their dogs.

In my opinion most of the dogs examined in the Ceba Temperament Evaluation were well balanced, very lively, confident, and dauntless. I evaluated the portion of the test involving distractions of audio, visual, and tactile nature. The dogs pretty much ignored all of the audio distractions with the exception of the old bike horn. I guess those horns are dated and the sounds emanating from them are a part of the ambience of the past, so that bleating sound drew some curious glances from these dogs of the 21st century. Several of the dogs wanted to get up closer to the horn to check it out. The visual distractions were pretty much ignored. The bird feathers on the ground provided a greater visual—and olfactory!—distraction. Most of the dogs did very well on the tactile distraction. I asked the handlers to walk on the flattened X-Pen, boards, and plastic blanket along with their dogs. Fair is fair. If the dog has to do it, then so should the handler.

I also evaluated the Defensiveness Reaction part of the test. Most of the dogs were protective of mom or dad, but one dog hid underneath mom’s legs. Don’t blame the dog, as the distractor was a crazy lady, a very good actress. Similarly, on the Self Defense, most of the dogs did a very good job. Some barked, and many of them strained against the tether, or, at least, went to the end of the tether. This, in my opinion, was not from fear of the two ladies running around clapping the sticks 3 together, but from separation anxiety: they just preferred to be with mom instead of these noisy, off the wall ladies.

There was one dog that demonstrated some shyness and fear, but this was due to immaturity. The dog was still quite young and just getting to know this big, strange world that we live in.

I was very impressed for the support given to the Ceba Temperament Evaluations.

Not only was the entry huge, but also the number of stewards and helpers was impressive. This was a very popular event. I enjoyed working with Mike Artim, my co-evaluator. He really knew his stuff!

**CEBA Support Team**
It takes a large and dedicated support team to put on the Ceba temperament test. Without our volunteer stewards, field coordinators, and course neutral “crowd” the Ceba temperament evaluation would be impossible. This year we have many volunteers to acknowledge for their generous assistance. Our sincere thanks goes to our three stewards: Sandi Guillmette, Jami Lockhart, and Wendy Mark who did a great job keeping all the dogs in line and making sure everyone had a great time.

Monique Bocock with (Kai) Cyan v. Adhem waiting to take the course

The Wall, (left to right) Rachael McMullen, Brad McMullen, Josette Kimes, Alan Campbell, Scott Kimes, Ken St. Onge, Mike Artim (Evaluator), Don Gravatt (Rogue) Axil Rouge v. Hahn’s Peak (Rogue), & Dru Patterson
our participants on schedule, registered and readied to take the course. Field Coordinators Becky Christiansen, Dru Patterson, Robin Rivera and Leelee Stefanki brought a professional consistency to each course exercise. Lastly, a standing ovation goes to our 18 stand-in volunteers who spent a large portion of their afternoon assisting us as the neutral “crowd” for each of the twenty teams. We commend: Brad & Rachael McMullen, Rebecca Hahn & Jay Schiff, Alan Campbell, Sue Schneider, Nancy Soderberg, Ken St. Onge, Marianne Brauchi, Elyse Giguere, Robin Rivera, Dru Patterson, Janis Miller, Fran Flem ing, Josette & Scott Kimes, and Bob and Fran Stelz, their dedication was awesome.

CEBA Participants
The teams that wowed our evaluators were: Dianne Merz (Tango), Monique Bocock (Kai & Kalani), Rebecca Hahn (Queso), Joe Starost (Katara), Sue Haney (Fritz), Alan Campbell (Digby), Sue Schneider (Little Duey & Cricket), Gerry Delengowski (Sirius), Jan Vincent (Bronte), Bill Powers (Miles), Nancy Soderberg (Gena), Kathy & Ken St. Onge (Ryder), Melissa Gugliotti (Bero & Kozmo), Marianne Brauchi (Moriz), Fran Fleming (Biff), Sandra Lora (Sophie), Don Gravatt (Rogue). Each participating team was presented with a red “CEBA Dog” collar tag inscribed with a white Swiss cross and a written evaluation.

Participant Responses
1. How was the evaluation experience of value to you?
   · It was good confidence builder & interesting to see how my dogs outperformed my expectations.
   4. Yes, It was really valuable to learn how my dog “stacks-up” (measures up) to “norm” of other Entlebuchers.
   · Our Entle is unlike any dog we’ve ever had! We wanted to see what being an “Entle” meant!
   · The experience was very valuable. We appreciate understanding the temperament of our dog.
   · Both evaluations helped me learn more about my dog.
   · Wonderful! Great to see my dog in relation to others to get feedback on her behavior.

2. What did you learn from the evaluation?
   · Keep doing the right things, keep challenging our dogs to be better & do more.
   · My dog is sociable (I really knew that) but is a little anxious when separated from me. He’s well “well-balanced” (what good news).
   · We learned more about our dog’s natural reactions.
   · That my Entlebucher is well-balanced in temperament. This was very important because we’ve been working with a trainer who keeps telling us he’s “aggressive.” So I was very nervous. Gave me a lot of confidence when I found he’s not so bad, after all.
   · That my dog was very well thought of by both evaluators. He did better than I anticipated. From a layman’s view, I didn’t see a wide range among those
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tested.
• That her behavior is normal! Also to pay better attention to her actions.
Helps me understand why she does what she does.

3. What did you like best?
• I am glad that the evaluation confirmed the areas I need to focus on with training.
• The fact that the evaluation was outdoors. The fact that the evaluators instilled confidence in me before we started. Everyone was patient and kind.
• Seeing how you tested for the different characteristics.
• The structure of the test.
• I liked the evaluator and his comments and willingness to go over it with everyone. He was very positive and personal.
• A good evaluation with out PRESSURE!!!
• Excellent experience. I had a bit of trepidation at first, but evaluators put me at ease. It turned out to be fun.
• Having the opportunity to understand my Entle as an individual and as part of the breed.
• The experience and impartiality of the evaluators, and their willingness to share information constructively with us.
• The interaction with the evaluator.

4. Where could we improve?
• We would have enjoyed watching the other dogs, just so we could see the different responses.
• Would have liked a better explanation of what the evaluations will be used for by NEMDA.
• Can’t think of anything. It was a very positive experience for me.
• More immediate feedback from evaluators. Perhaps she/he could take a couple of minutes at end of session.

5. Would you recommend the evaluation to others?
• Yes, it is good to truly know your dog.
• Absolutely, especially temperament. To learn more about you/dog as a team with trust/confidence.
• Yes, it gives an unbiased evaluation of

your dog.
• Yes, it’s a good barometer.
• Absolutely, because of the enhanced understanding of one’s dog. Yes, to encourage owners to be more aware and engaged with their dogs.

6. Would you consider retaking the exercise at a future time and place for an update?
• Yes, I would like to retake the evaluation after my dog has fully grown and been trained more in some areas.
• Yes, I hope I can improve “the team”.
• Possibly, a retaking would certainly tell me how well I was addressing problem areas.

7. Additional comments
• Big thank you to judges, volunteers who helped get me through this!
• Good evaluators, with great comments & passion for their work.
• Would have loved to spend more time with them.
• Try to have some fun games & other activities going on during the evaluation. The evaluation takes a long time and the waiting dogs need activities. Guess that means you need more volunteers.

Thanks for all the effort. Lots of work & we appreciate it. Loved it!

Monique Bocock at play with (Kai) Cyan v. Adhem