A Comprehensive Entlebucher Breed Assessment (CEBA) entails a two-part evaluation of your dog. First, the temperament evaluation portion of CEBA provides an assessment of your dog's inherent abilities regarding nerve strength, sociability, play, prey, hunt and defensive drives. Second, the conformation evaluation determines how your dog measures up to the breed standard in structure and movement.

Not only does CEBA provide a comprehensive assessment of your dog’s adherence to the breed standard in both temperament and conformation, but by consenting to the inclusion of your dog’s evaluation in the NEMDA archive and future database, you are enhancing NEMDA's ability to optimally perpetuate the breed. Accordingly, the compilation and correlation of CEBA evaluations are invaluable to an understanding of the characteristics of our breed and are helpful in identifying any issues which require attention.

The latest CEBA evaluations took place in September, 2016 at Entlefest held in eastern Pennsylvania. Experienced evaluators and judges were on hand to conduct the evaluations and to diligently complete the detailed CEBA forms. Volunteers were recruited to assist in the evaluation exercises. Owners were encouraged to register, to dress their dogs in a flat collar or show lead, to practice with their dog to “stand for examination,” to practice showing their dog’s bite and to read and review the NEMDA Breed Standard.

So, on a mild September afternoon, my two-year old male Entle, Luca, and I found ourselves about to be judged. Other than wearing the requisite collar and sporting a red bandanna, neither Luca nor I had prepared for this moment. To our mutual relief, no preparation was necessary.

We walked through a group of enthusiastic volunteers (“friendly strangers”) who approached Luca to engage with him. We played with and without a toy. Luca was asked to hide behind a row of volunteers while I hid behind a nearby building. Luca was then released to search for his owner. To our delight, Luca found me immediately. Finally, Luca was provided with an opportunity to react to audio, visual and tactile stimuli.

Three judges evaluated Luca for breed conformation. Luca took the beauty contest in stride.

At the end of the conformation part of the evaluation, one judge took me aside, extolled Luca’s temperament, and said: “He could stand to lose 2 to 3 pounds.”

“Couldn’t we all,” I replied.

“What do you feed him?” the judge asked.

“Two cups of dry food a day,” I responded.

“Really,” said the judge, quizzically.

“Well, he also gets some table scraps and treats,” I said, admitting to Luca’s actual caloric intake.

After CEBA, I know that my Entle is good-natured, confident and looks, more or less, the way he is supposed to look. At the end of the day, Luca and I had fun and after CEBA we are both on a diet.
Saturday, September 17, 2016 marked CEBA's 7th offering, held at Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. It was an easy walk from the NEMDA National Specialty show grounds to the Schaffer – Wendling Pavilion, site for the CEBA evaluations and Entlefest/Specialty lunch. CEBA preparations had been made the day before and the set up was complete.

As we strolled toward the pavilion to enjoy lunch and to start CEBA, we were stunned to find the pavilion and adjacent grounds had been double booked! With the help of the organizers we were able to in a compromise with the ‘second party’ and proceed with events. Undaunted by the 1 hour delay, participants, volunteers, and judging staff jumped in with enthusiasm.

Our CEBA volunteers are NEMDA’s unsung heroes! Did you know that our volunteers came from as far away as Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Wisconsin and Illinois? Now that is dedication! On the Temperament side, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our lead field coordinators: Steve Stefanki and Chris Urata and Anna Wallace. An additional thanks to our talented conformation crew: Gerry Delengowski (check in desk), Cindy Stocker, Bob Urata and Elaine Wilson (attaching CEBA collar tags).

On the Conformation side, a special thanks to our conformation crew: Gerry Delengowski (check in desk), and to scribes: Anna Lacker, Paula Lacker, Dru Patterson, and Anna Wallace. An additional thanks to our talented site photographer, Joyce MacKay, and to Jodie Cutter for coordinating the site.

And now for the 14 teams! Congratulations to:

(T, C) Cindy Stocker - "Liesel" (Liberty Run's Echo from the Alps)
(T, C) Meghan Loura & Mike Ciaccchero - "Mocha"(Loura Puppy Double Gap Farm)
(T) Carolin Hault & Pat Cicalo – “Max” (Moratel Maximus Mojo)
(C) Carolin Hault & Pat Cicalo – “Moritz” (Newton Fig Moritz Rama v. Eagleheart)
(T) Monique Bocock – “Khaleesi” (Daenerys v. Adhem)
(T, C) Jennifer & Alan Spizer – “Luca” (Luca of Moratel’s Good Fortune)
(T, C) Andrea Lage - “Roseli” (Moratel Roseli Chemisses)
(T, C) Darcy Kemp – “Levi” (Levi v. Eagleheart)
(T, C) Suzane Voorhees – “Erg” (Erginos from Balihara Ranch)
(T, C) Paula Lacker – “Athos” (Athos Magnificent Swiss Tricolor)
(T, C) Anita Crouse – “Bluto” (Charles from Balihara Ranch)
(T, C) Anita Crouse – “Bronco” (Chagall from Balihara Ranch)
(T) KJ Krammes – “Kingston” (Liberty Run’s Egg Rock Lighthouse)
(T, C) Geoff Clark – “Dazzler” (Moratel Dazzler Azure)
(C) Leelee Stefanki – “Brise” (Brise v. Simonhof)
(C) Fran Fleming – “Dragon” (Night Owl Dragon of Fleming)

Participation in Temperament evaluation = (T) and Conformation evaluation = (C)
This brings CEBA’s total of Entles evaluated to 125!

TEMPERAMENT
CEBA participants enjoyed a unique opportunity this year. Mike Artim returned to lead the temperament evaluation and was joined by his wife, Carole Artim, AKC Obedience and Rally Judge, as the second evaluator. The Artims are an amazing team - together they possess a deep and practical knowledge of canine behavior and a genuine feeling for our Entles.

Comments from our 2017 Evaluators:
Carole and I would like to thank you for honoring us with the privilege of preforming the Temperament evaluation on your fine breed. The Entles that were presented to us demonstrated excellent mental soundness. The exam presents the team with many unusual situations that allow us to evaluate the dog’s and handler’s ability to adapt. These life situations put emphasis on the dog’s self confidence and problem solving skills, as well as his trust in his handler. This goes beyond the normal bond of training. During one evaluation a volleyball game broke out on a grass court adjacent to test area. The handler tensed and got up tight, then the dog reacted to game day by guiding his person away from the “Danger.” When given the opportunity to work through the “over-handling” of many handlers, the dogs were able to solve the situation and demonstrate the appropriate behavior. It was fun watching the dogs use their own reasoning skills and not totally relying on the handler for commands. It was also enlightening to watch the handler’s reaction watching their dog figure it out. This type of condition builds a strong bond and trust between the teams that serves to heighten the overall relationship.

We also want to congratulate CEBA on their continuing efforts to breed the whole dog, by continuing to promote their instinctive characteristics, mental soundness, bid-ability traits and conformation. !It was a pleasure working with the organizing committee, all the helpers, our scribes and lastly, a BIG thank you to the owners that shared their wonderful Entle friends with us.
Regards,
Mike & Carole.
CONFORMATION
Each year CEBA strives to find a conformation judging panel with abundant knowledge, interest in our breed, and a patient and enthusiastic willingness to interact with our participants. This year we hit the jackpot with Judges: Sam Houston McDonald, Michael Canalizo, and Andrew Ritter. To see how much these judges enjoyed the CEBA experience, you can read their comments below...

Roseli, one happy CEBA girl.

Comments from our 2017 Judges:

Dear NEMDA Membership and CEBA Participants:

I want to thank you for providing me with a very satisfying experience that only a few might ever be afforded in ones judging career.

Yes... I am a recently approved Judge of your breed, but not surprisingly I had yet to actually have one entered under me. I accepted the Sweepstakes assignment to better prepare me for the time that your breed would be presented to me for my judgment and the opportunity to evaluate a breed with a significant number can positively impact one’s knowledge of a breed. The fact that the Entlebucher is a breed with so small a gene pool and competitive history is not lost on me as I have been involved in a number of “rare breeds” and know that sometimes one might not delve as deep into their nuances as one should... the secondary component of my assignment as a participant in your evaluation scheme (CEBA) was just more icing on the cake to me! I take it very seriously to judge every breed I’m approved for with all the “breeder instincts” I possess. The fact so many of your breeder/exhibitors sought more insight to their dogs is so commendable and their interest and acceptance of our (myself and my co-judges) evaluation is an important aspect when a breed’s future direction is at stake. The unexpected shift in the judging location was only a minor glitch and I don’t think it impacted the process in any way. The most important part of the process would be that the forms and rankings given to all the breeder/owners provided a proper introduction to how important good conformation is to a breed. If there was one thing I did chat about to many was that there needs to be a good mix of conformation with temperament and a display of breed specific function in a judge’s overall assessment to be successful. The forms were good for specifics of conformation and movement. I would adjust the order to follow more the way your breed standard reads... overall balance, then head, neck, body, front, rear... with movement towards the end. For this “non regular” event I would suggest you allow the exhibitors to present their dogs on a ramp. Your breed has very unique requirements for/on balance and sometime looking down on a short dog by a taller person can cause some deception. It might also help in the judge panel to examine them... I was aching after all the bending for all of them... and some might also be a bit more tolerant as well since the ramp does take them a little “ off guard” and they seem to stand a bit longer on them. To me the entire experience was enlightening and I think I will be a better judge of your breed for having had this opportunity. That being said, I think it most important to have approved judges and successful breeders to be part of the process. This is not something for those who anticipate judging your breed if they don’t have a serious breeding background... to me, that just wouldn’t be fair to those seeking a knowledgeable opinion from those most qualified to make it on their behalf.

I thank your club again for having me as a part of their National and I look forward to being a good judge of your breed and thanks to the experiences you provided me... think I just might be!

- Michael Canalizo
1). How was the evaluation experience of value to you? I found the evaluation very helpful. This is my second time on the CEBA Conformation Judging Panel and I learn something new each time. !!

2). What did you learn from the evaluation? I learned how these dogs interact with their owners and the general public. This helps in the first approach to the dog. That will make a world of difference on how that dog will perform in the ring. A dog that is not spooked by my approach will show more naturally.

3). What did you like best? The interaction with the dog and the owner was fantastic. Most of the time, in the ring we get two and a half minutes with a dog.

4). Where were could we improve? The only thing that may help is to have someone explain to the conformation participants before hand what we will be doing with each Entle as far as gait and movement. Some participants are familiar with the “down and back” exercise demonstrating each dog’s gait and movement and some are not. A demo would be helpful to newbies.

5). Would you recommend the evaluation to other judges? If so why, or why not? I do think you should incorporate the CEBA evaluation format into your Judges Education program. Limit it to 4 dogs but have the judges go over each dog as part of your education course. That said, you would need someone there who is knowledgeable of the breed. After the judges have completed the process, go over the evaluation findings with them and have a discussion about what they saw and see if they are in the correct church with understanding your breed.

6). Do you have any additional comments on the general overview of the Entlebuchers you observed at the evaluation, or anything else you would like to say? I would like to say that I am so pleased to see how well these dogs have improved in the past six years. One large concern I had was if you could put these dogs on handlers because at the time they were very attached to their owners and it did not go well. This time the dogs were very well adapted to that.

As far as breed problems that you have, type or structure, your (breed) is facing the same problems that we all face. Nothing stands out. As an overview, I am happy to see your breed is moving in a positive direction.

I truly hope my comments have been helpful and I want to thank you for allowing me this wonderful opportunity.

Andy Ritter
Cerri’s Bernese Mountain Dogs and Newfoundlands
Stockton, New Jersey

In closing...Come join us at the 2017 CEBA evaluation (which looks to be in Portland, Oregon) either as a participant, volunteer, or field coordinator. CEBA is fun and low stress. Come out and try it! Your dog might surprise you!!

Leelee Stefanki & CEBA Committee