PART 1 THE SWISS ENTLEBUCHER

INTRO:
Before Becky and I go into what we learned in Switzerland about the Entlebucher Mountain Dog, I would like to say that if you have any questions after reading this report, please feel free to express them. If we do not have the answer, we certainly know where to go to find it.

LITTLE KNOWN ENTLEBUCHER GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORY:
Upon the road that traverses the Entlebuch Valley, on the way to Escholzmatt, between the villages of Marbach and Wiggen, stands a lone road sign which reads, Schärlig. This sign is invisible to 99.9% of the traffic that zooms past Schärlig to better-known destinations.

However, to the Entle-lover this sign reading Schärlig, is the landmark entrance to the Schärlig valley, where circa 1900 the mountain dog of Entlebuch was re-discovered.

Mr. E. Bauer from Aarburg published the oldest cynological information about the Entlebucher dog in 1889. Between the time of 1889 and the time of discovery around 1900, much of
the Swiss dog world thought that the mountain dog from this region had been lost from history forever.

So, it was a much celebrated find, over one hundred years ago, when forest superintendent, Max Siber from Winterthur, Switzerland, painter and artist, Richard Strebel from Munich, and geologist and dog scholar, Dr. Albert Heim from Zurich, authenticated, recorded, and classified the mountain dog of Entlebuch.

While in Schärlig, our intrepid hostess Maja Kleinjenni told us, for those who want to know the 'rest of the story', that a more detailed history of this account could be read in the booklet "Der Entlebucher Sennenhund," which was published in 1980. This treasure was given to us by the Schweizerischer Klub für Entlebucher Sennenhunde, which awaits our committee’s translation into English.

OVERVIEW OF SWISS GOVERNING AGENCIES:

- FCI
- SKG/SCS
- SKES

Admittedly, at the beginning of our trip the policies and regulations that govern the Swiss dog clubs didn’t interest us that much. But as we acquired more information it was clear that policy and regulations are a large part of any club’s activities. Below is a brief overview of what we know.

- **FCI** - Fédération Cynologique Internationale
  The Fédération Cynologique Internationale is the World Canine Organization. It includes 80 members and contract partners (one member per country) that each issue their own pedigrees and train their own judges. The FCI makes sure that the pedigrees and judges are mutually recognized by all the FCI members (www.fci.be).

- **SKG/SCS** - Schweizerische Kynoloische Gesellschaft (German)/Société Cynologique Suisse (French)
  This is a subgroup of the FCI. The SKG/SCS is the central regulatory body for all purebred dogs in Switzerland.

- **SKES** - Schweizerischer Klub für Entlebucher Sennenhunde
This is the official breed club for the Entlebucher Mountain Dog in Switzerland that is somewhat similar to NEMDA.

In affiliation with the FCI, SKG/SCS regulates most aspects of SKES. If we understand correctly, SKG/SCS has a long list of requirements for all SKES breeders that must be maintained at all times in order to keep their breeding status.

We were told, that in order for a breeder to obtain a kennel name, that breeder must file a request for application to SKG/SCS asking for five names of their choice. The SKG/SCS will pass this request on to the FCI. It is the FCI that gives permission to the breeder for this kennel name. Once the kennel name is accepted by the FCI, that kennel name is given an international copyright that is then protected by the FCI.

SKG/SCS
- SKG/SCS governs the breeding rules for all purebred dogs and each club follows these rules. SKG/SCS is responsible for national registration, training judges, setting policy for all breeding standards, and setting regulatory requirements for breeding facilities. (Although we do not know the specifics of the SKG/SCS regulations, we do have a total packet, Zucht-und Eintragungsreglement (ZER), which covers all policies that govern each Swiss dog club. This would be something of interest to translate in the future.

SKES
- All SKES club rules and policies can be found in Kör-und Zucht-Reglement, Mitglied der Schweizerischen Kynologischen Gesellschaft. SKES can make rules for the club, but cannot make rules for the Entlebucher. SKES and SKG/SCS create the Entlebucher standard together.
- VERY IMPORTANT! The breed chair, genetics chair and registrar must have shared communication. These 3 positions are handled under the breed commission.
- If someone who is not a member of SKES wants to bring their dog to the Ankörung, they can participate, but can't get pedigrees for the puppies unless they join the club.
• **VERY IMPORTANT!** For SKES, when making breeding choices, consideration is first given to the larger good, rather than personal interest. In other words, the club chooses to breed for the general good of the Entlebucher and for the goodwill of Entlebucher owners and not for monetary gain.

• **SKES EVENTS** - There are four SKES events each year. Their general meeting is held in February. This is followed by an Ankörung in April. In August or September they hold their Entlefest. We were told that the Entlefest no longer tries to do any competitions or games. Entlefest is now primarily a gathering of members and their dogs, young and old. It is usually held where the dogs can play and the owners can eat and enjoy themselves. In October they have their second Ankörung. At special occasions, such as their 75-year celebration in 2001, they organized a dog show with the Federation of Swiss Breeds (a special interest group of the SKG).

SKES's Kör-und Zucht-Reglement, Mitglied der Schweizerischen Kynologischen Gesellschaft, and Zucht-und Eintragungsreglement (ZER) are two booklets containing a multitude of policies and regulations which explain so very clearly how the Swiss maintain their program of excellence. Yes, I think you are getting the picture... we need the services of a translator, **PRONTO**!

**SKES: THE PEOPLE**

**SKES OFFICIALS**

Managing Committee:  
President  Peter Hunziker  
Vice-president  Walter Rolli  
Secretary  Susanne Widmer  
Cashier  Brigitte Vonhuben  
Breed Control  Max Heller  
Support 1  Therese Berger  
Support 2  Hans-Beat Mosimann

Breed Committee:  
President  Paul H. Boss  
Breed Control  Max Heller  
Puppy Placement  Christine Langenegger  
Administration  Trudy Heller  
Secretary  Margaretha Haug
Let's start at the top. **PAUL BOSS** is a full-time, large animal veterinarian. He brings great knowledge and experience to his position. He often takes his dog, Lara von Frutigen, out in the country with him to round up the cows that he must treat. He is married to Katherine and they have been breeders for some time, producing 60 Entlebucher puppies. Their dogs are Lara and her son Kuno (6 months) von Frutigen.

Paul is a man with a vision for the larger picture. He’s looking at breeding choices for the future, not the present. Paul told us that before he starts every SKES meeting he reads the club’s mission statement aloud, so as a club, the members will remember their goal.

It states: ..........Club Regulations (Statuten) Art. 2 Purpose of the club:

a) To promote the purebred EMD in Switzerland according to the FCI standards.

b) To support propagation of the breed in the country.

c) To support the efforts of SKG.

d) To organise cynological competitions and meetings.

e) To inform the members and other interested people about the breed of EMD’s, buy, care, upbringing, education, fairness and attention to the Swiss Animal Protection Law.

f) To promote connections between breeders and prospective buyers.

g) To support friendship and sociability amongst the members.

h) Relations with foreign clubs of the EMD breed.

We found Paul to be a very open and personable man, and to our surprise, he speaks English very well. He was forthcoming with SKES’s history and their current philosophy. One of the ice-breaking moments was when Paul made the comment, “It is in our SKES regulations to lend assistance to international Entlebucher Mountain Dog clubs”. By the time Becky and I left Switzerland, Paul saw to it that we had every form and booklet used by the
SKES for breeding, whelping, and evaluation procedures of the Entlebucher Mountain Dog. Paul also gave us all forms and booklets published by SKG/SCS. Now as a committee, our work really begins - to translate this body of material. Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

MAX AND TRUDY HELLER are definitely a team. They are a warm and caring couple who are dedicated to the health and well being of all Entlebucher Mountain Dogs. With professional acumen, Trudy and Max manage and record all breeding, health, and Ankörung activities. They can tell you the background on almost any Swiss Entlebucher Mt. Dog as they have maintained breeding records that go back twenty years or more. They are instrumental in assisting in every aspect of each Ankörung.

Max’s profession is Animal Control Sheriff. To be with the Animal Control one must have had a profession involving animals. Max’s previous profession was a farmer. Along with his SKES work, Max also breeds and raises Thuringer rabbits. Max and Trudy have two older Entlebucher females, Rovina vom Zusamtal (9) and Quenissa vom Zusamtal (10½). His younger female, Cora (3), is the granddaughter of Rovina. All are lovely dogs.

Max spends much of his time going to each breeder’s house, checking on the quality of each kennel, which is required by SKG/SCS, as well as the health of each litter in Switzerland.

CHRISTINE LANGENEGGER, a former secretary by profession, is a very integral member of SKES, as she is a member of the Breed Commission, but also administers the Puppy Placement program and is responsible for advertisements and other publicity. Christine is a very thoughtful and professional woman who has been of enormous help to us and may we add here, she also speaks English. At home Christine also
finds time to maintain a large house, garden, kitchen garden, fruit trees, and animals (sheep, chickens, cats, and at the moment only one dog).

Her work as liaison between the breeder and the adoptive family is ongoing. Since only two breeders have websites, it is likely most breeders will need her assistance. When a breeder does not have an adoptive family lined up, Christine will find families from a list of requests.

Her dogs: "Derik von der Untergass" died last year at 13 ½ years old. He was a big strong dog with great character that is still missed very much. "Dara vom Trub", her bitch is 10 ½ years old, she has had 31 puppies in 6 litters. Sadly, in 2003 Dara lost one eye to glaucoma, otherwise she is still very healthy, clever and cheeky!

HOSTS EXTRODINAIRE!

MAJA AND FRITZ KLEINJENNI, were not only our magnificent hosts at their 250 year old farmhouse B&B in Aeschi, they transported us to visit several breeders of interest, showed us the differences in style of chalets from canton to canton throughout the countryside and cooked delicious food for us.

Following in her father's footsteps, Maja is an experienced breeder of Entlebuchers. In addition, Maja's kennel has earned the SKG "Goldenes Gutezeichen" certification (certificate of merit for excellence). This certification is given by the SKG/SCS to breeders who maintain their kennels at the highest level, as well as creating an environment in which the puppies can thrive by offering such things like puppy play stations, balls, tunnels, varied surfaces to run on, etc. This quality of care by the breeder insures the health of the mother and the puppies. They have 4 truly loveable and well-behaved Entlebuchers in their home, Erla (12 ½), Asta (8), Niro (4) and Sira (16 mos.), ready to bark a greeting.

Not only was Maja our loyal translator for the Ankörung, she was also our diligent English liaison with the Swiss club when needed. She made sure we
had copies of all forms and that we understood the duties of an SKES breeder. We are indebted to Maja and Fritz for making our adventure in Switzerland such an unbelievable experience.

**SUMMARY – Part 1**

Our original thought on visiting Switzerland was to see the EMD through Swiss eyes. We thought the Ankörung would be our enlightenment. Silly us! The Ankörung was just the tip of the iceberg.

Meeting the people and sharing our common interest of the EMD helped cultivate good will and was the key that opened the door for fuller understanding.

What we quickly realized was how little we knew about Switzerland, the Swiss people, Swiss philosophies, and Swiss culture. What took us 2 weeks to learn was, that you can’t separate the EMD from its environment. All of these components go into a greater understanding of the Swiss EMD.