IN PREPARATION FOR THE ANKÖRUNG
As a veteran of many Ankörungs, Maja Kleinjenni knows how busy the day in Münsingen can be. Understanding that we wanted to film the Ankörung, Maja prepared the comments below to better help us understand what the Ankörung judges would be looking for and how they set up their tests.

The comments below were given to us by Maja Kleinjenni as a review of what the judges are considering when testing the Swiss Entlebucher Mt. Dog for Character.

Maja’s Pre-Ankörung Review
I. Will not allow breeding dogs with deficiency or symptoms as follows:
   - Grosse Unsicherheit = Dogs with big insecurities
   - Ängstlichkeit = Dogs with big anxiety
   - Nervosität = Dogs with nervousness
   - Angstbeisser = Dogs with anxiety biting

II. Will not allow a dog that is insecure, is anxious or nervous- take notice to see how quickly that dog becomes reassured. This recovery time reveals that adaptability of a dog. The quicker the adaptability means a more secure dog.

III. We request a dog with the following qualities of character/nature—
   - Wesenssicher = Safe in his substantiality (solid)
   - Temperamentvoll = Full of temper (spirit)
   - Unerschrocken = without trepidation
   - Aufmerksam= Attentive
   - Wachsam = watchful and vigilant
IV. The stimulus oversensitive = (Reizschwelle) and the hardness (Har) shall be medium.

V. The instincts for secirotu (Schutztrieb) protection and fight for defense (Verteidigung) must be present.

VI. The Entlebucher Mountain Dog is reserved with persons he doesn’t know.

**ANKÖRUNG Morning**

The Swiss Entlebucher Ankörung that we observed was held at the SKG Kynologischer-Verein, (Training Facility) in Münsingen, Switzerland, Canton of Bern. This is where all potential Swiss breeding EMD are evaluated.

We arrived at 9am on this drizzly morning and found people and Entlebuchers bustling around. SKES club members were setting up the stations where dogs would be measured, where blood would be drawn for the PRA test, where eye exams for cataracts and glaucoma were given by the ophthalmologist. The record books were on one table and official forms to be filled out were near-by. People were meeting up and talking with friends. Well-behaved Entlebuchers were everywhere and seemed to be enjoying all the attention. The chefs were preparing luncheon inside the clubhouse that would feed 50 guests that day ...humm. Maybe that’s why the Entles were so happy - the smell of delicious food!

Even though there were just 1 dog and 4 bitches going for the Ankörung this morning, this is the average number of dogs that usually participate (Spring of 2004, there were 3 females and 3 males. Fall of 2004, there were 2
females and 3 males. Spring of 2003, there were 4 females and 2 males. Fall of 2003 there were 2 females and 3 males. Spring of 2002, 1 female/1 male. In fall 2002, 3 females/1 male.) There were many other Entlebuchers here for their yearly eye exams, the PRA blood draw and just general socializing. The people were quite involved with helping where ever possible. There was a calm, efficient, focused air to the Ankörung.

The Character and Conformation tests were held simultaneously. We observed two dogs, Jacob v. Kornried, and a female, Eika von der Baumgasse.

What comes next has also been filmed, so if the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words” is true, the filmed version of the Ankörung will fill in any gaps that this report may have left out.

ANKÖRUNG EVALUATION
Intro
McDowell Lyons: “The Dog in Action” states, “A standard describes a dog in parts and its physical attributes. It does not deal with mentality or other characteristics, which are related to that. In the show ring, we judge these physical features singly and in comparison with one another. In the field, we judge them on performance or ability to function.”

Unlike the American system, which evaluates a dog's physical attributes in the show ring and the ability to function in the field, the Swiss have created a venue to examine the whole dog. They call this venue the Ankörung. The beauty of the Ankörung is that it speaks to the whole dog, the complete dog, by addressing the physical, the mental, and health elements of breeding dogs in one location, in one day.

CHARACTER TEST
The Test
The examination for the Character test was held in a large, grassy park-like field. This testing area was adjacent to a pedestrian thoroughfare, which
saw lots of activity from walkers, bikers, dog walkers, and horses. Although there was a berm on one side of the field and trees on the other minimizing distractions, there was always the sense that this was not an isolated spot.

Judges for the Character part of the Ankörung were: Head Judge, Hans-Beat Mosimann (Obedience trainer), Kurt Sauter, and Franz Luescher. All of these judges have at least 5 to 6 years apprenticeship before certification from SKG/SCS.

Part I Relationship Exercise

A. As the dog enters the testing field the judges spend a few minutes recording the history of the dog. They verify name & address of owner; ask about any illnesses or accidents the dog may have experienced and about the environment in which the dog lives. Is the dog from the city or the country?

• Summary: Judges are looking to see what exposure and breath of experience each dog has had.

Eika

B. First exercise - Approximately 10 volunteers walk in a random manner in a specific area. At the same time the owner, with dog off-leash, walks among the volunteers. As the owner walks dog through the maze of volunteers each person will reach out to pet the dog. The dog will greet the volunteers briefly and then again join up with its master.

• Summary: Judges looking to see if the dog is confident and relaxed in meeting strangers, yet focused enough to return to owner.
C. Owner will play with dog off leash without toy.

  • Summary: Judges looking to see if master & dog have established a good relationship as a team.

D. Owner will now select one of the many toys, balls, etc. to play and interact with the dog off leash.

  • Summary: Judges want to see that the master knows how to establish play with the dog and that the dog is responsive. Tug-toy is good in this instance. It was explained to us that there is greater value in play where the dog is connected to the master instead of a ‘retrieving’ oriented play.

E. The judge will now take the same item and try to create a playful interaction with the dog.

  • Summary: Judges at all times are looking for a personal relationship between human and dog.

F. In this part of the test the owner is asked to do a casual off-leash heel, up and back.

  • Summary: The judges are looking to see if the dog is attentive to the owner or if the dog has a mind of its own. Is the dog leaving the area? Is the dog sniffing the ground? Is the dog running off to play with other dogs?

G. People form a large circle around the owner and dog. The dog is sitting along side of owner. At the command of the judge, all 10 people walk to the center of the circle to form a very tight wall around dog and owner. Then the volunteers walk very slowly back to their original position.
H. Now, from the same position in the large circle, the volunteers, at the command of the judge, all run to the center of the circle to crowd the dog and owner. The dog, in most cases, should stay seated by the owner. Then the volunteers run backwards to their original place in the circle.

I. While still in the circle around the dog, the volunteers all start clapping to create additional stimulus.

- **Summary:** The above 3 exercises have increased the stress and stimulation to the dog's environment. The judges are looking to see how quickly the dog adjusts to this new situation.

J. Dog and owner then go against a wall and at this point the volunteers move in to surround the owner and dog. The owner hands the leash with dog to the judge. As the owner leaves to hide behind a tree, the crowd closes ranks so the dog cannot see where its master is going. Within moments the dog is released to find its master.

- **Summary:** Judges are looking for a strong bond between the owner and the dog.
Part II
This part of the test, dealing with distractions, was held in a grassy area about 25 yards from the previous testing area.

Distraction Exercise
Throughout this exercise the dog is off-leash while in a casual 'heel' along side its master. While in this position, both master and dog walk continuously between point A and point B. During this section of the examination, the judges are very careful to introduce each distraction item along side the dog. They try never to approach the dog from behind.

In a series, the following items are introduced one at a time: a crumpled sheet of clear plastic to walk over, a plastic gallon jug with pennies shaken, tin cans strung together with a long piece of twine and dragged on the ground, Styrofoam clappers, cow bell rung, air horn (wouldn’t work!), whistle blown, balloon expelling air to make squeaky noise, open and closing an umbrella, and a shaken piece of metal sheeting that sounds like thunder.

This part of the exercise ends with a white sheet held up in front of the dog like a curtain, then dropped. The dog is then asked to walk over the curtain.
Summary: Judges are looking to see if the dog is curious, but not fearful. They are looking for the dog to maintain a relationship with its master by continuously returning to a casual heel position.

Part III
This part of the trial is another 25 yards from the previous two exam sites, but still in the same field.

Fear-Aggressive Response Exercise
A. Owner sits on a low box with dog on a leash at its side. From a distance, the judge will approach the master and dog with his hand held high, with active and aggressive body language. As he approaches the owner and dog, the judge will reach in to tap the owner on the shoulder with fast and jerky movements. He will do this several times as he circles the owner and the dog.

B. In this exercise, the owner takes the dog to a new area. In this new area, the master ties the dog to a stake in the ground. Once that is done, the owner goes to an area out of sight, usually behind a large tree. As the judge approaches, he starts clapping two sticks together above his head and circles around the dog in a 20-foot perimeter. After the judge has completed his circle around the dog he will drop his sticks and approach the dog. At that point he will go up and reach down and pet the dog. Owner returns to dog, praising it.

Summary: Judges are checking for protective and aggressive levels each dog may exhibit. They may also be testing for any instincts the dogs may have to bite, in this more physically threatening situation.

This marks the end of the examination. Now the judges take time to discuss each part of the test with each other. Once they have come to a final
decision they will date and sign the report, Wesensbeurteilung, (we have this document in German awaiting translation).

When this is done, the judges take a moment to go over the results of the test with the owner. This dog passed!

Eika & Jacob
Eika passed each exercise with flying colors, proving she was a well-adjusted dog. Her performance was textbook perfect, as Eika and her owner exhibited great teamwork. She was curious, but her focus was never far from her owner. Jacob, on the other hand, was a carefree spirit with an independent streak, who was more interested in leaving the exercise to explore new friendships of the canine variety, than interact with his owner.

Interestingly enough, although both dogs passed this test, their performances couldn't have been more different! To our surprise, the judges said that because this test is not a performance test, but a character test, they couldn't find fault with Jacob's temperament. The fault lay with his owner for not being firm enough in his training practices. The judges said he was a 'lazy chief'!

With owners in tow, Jacob & Eika headed back to the clubhouse for the second part of the Ankörung: the conformation test.

CONFORMATION
The judges for the conformation part of the Ankörung were: Head Judge Mr. Schweitzer, Mrs. Margreth Siegenthaler, Mrs. Schweitzer, and Marie-Louise Bill. All of these judges have been certified by the SKG/SCS.
CONFORMATION DEFINED
Conformation as defined by McDowell Lyon: "The degree with which the various angles and parts of the dog agree or conform with one another and the general purpose or pattern demanded of the individual breed."

Anna Katherine Nicholas states, "Every Standard aims to describe the ideal specimen of the breed. In varying detail, they set specifications for every part of the dog’s structure from occiput to paw. These specifications generally include: weight, overall size, and ratio of height to length; a detailed description of the head that includes shape and size of skull and foreface, with the proportions necessary for correct balance; size, shape, and placement of eyes and ears; nose color and nose placement (when the breed is short faced); jaw formation, teeth and bite; length and thickness of neck; shoulder placement; forelegs, pasterns and feet; towline; hindquarter assemblage, tail placement and carriage; amount, quality and texture of coat; color and markings where important; degree of bone substance and musculature; and the manner in which the dog should gait."

It is the purpose of the structural part of the Ankörung to examine each dog in a comprehensive way to see how each individual dog conforms to the Breed Standard. Those who conform to the breed Standard in a high degree will be admitted into the breed pool.

Measuring the dogs for height and length was the first order of business. Understanding ratios was of most importance. We were told that each dog is physically measured with a wicket for height. That measurement is recorded. If the judge feels the dog is longer or shorter than the 8-10 ratio the judge can ask to have the dog’s length measured. Another ratio, which is checked physically, is the ratio of the head to muzzle, which is 9-10.

Once meterage has been determined, the judges set themselves the task of physically examining each dog from occiput to paw. Inch by inch they left no part untouched. Here they are studying the dogs’ skeletal anatomy for correct assemblage.
From exterior they moved to interior. From there the judges opened each dog’s mouth and actually looked at every tooth, often looking several times. The judges are looking at the health and number of permanent teeth. Although it is not unusual to find missing dentition in all breeds, some stud dogs pass down this mutation. More important than this they are looking at formation of bite. Level and scissors bite are acceptable, while overshot and undershot are not.

The breed Standard is represented by the official document, “Bewertungsurkunde für Ankörung”, and is the tool used by the judges to examine and record the physical history of each dog. We have this document in German. This document denotes to what extent each dog conforms to the Standard in 40 categories. Loosely translated, these categories are:

1. Type
2. Bone
3. Core (Body)
4. Head
5. Upper head (Top of the head)
6. Stop
7. Length of muzzle
8. Width of muzzle
9. Flews (Gum overhang)
10. Dentition (Bite)
11. Teeth
12. Shape of eyes
13. Color of eyes
14. Eyelids
15. Position of ears
16. Posture of ears (Hanging)
17. Shape of ears
18. Neck
19. Chest
20. Shoulder
21. Elbows
22. Lower line (Tuck-up)
23. Top-line (Back)
24. Croup
25. Tail
26. Tail Carriage
27. Tail Defects (Faults)
28. Stance of front legs
29. Front pasterns
30. Front Leg (Angle)
31. Paws (feet)
32. Stance of back legs
33. Hocks
34. Rear angulation
35. Gait/Movement
36. Pigmentation
37. Coat
38. Brown color
39. Color of hair (in regards to the amount of white)
40. Color distribution (asymmetry, boots, nape of neck)

It may be interesting to note that within each of these 40 categories, corresponding 'faults' are represented. In each category, the Breed Standard is represented with the words typical, normal, or correct. Any element, which would be considered a deviance from the Standard, is also listed specifically. For example: the Standard for correct type is ‘Compact’. And Compact sits in bold type among --

* too light; light; medium; **Compact**; sturdy, rough, heavy; and podgy.

The judge will know that **Compact** is the standard. Another example, in the category of eye color would be;

* too light; light; brown; **Dark brown**.

**Dark brown** would represent the Standard.

A high degree of conformance (possibly 39-40 matches) to the Standard will dictate a dog's 'Overall Impression' to be one of EXCELLENT. A lesser degree of conformance (possibly 37 -38 matches) will give a dog the rating of VERY GOOD. If the dog's conformance were only by a small degree, the rating would be GOOD, or SATISFACTORY, which would not merit entrance
into the breed pool. INSUFFICIENT may denote the dog is not physically developed. In this case the owner can petition for a re-evaluation.

**KINETIC CONFORMATION**
The second part of the conformation appraisal is Kinetic Conformation or Movement. Regarding Movement, Mc Dowell Lyon writes, "The very expression working dog indicates the necessity for good movement whether in draft, mountain climbing, herding stock, home guarding, barn hustling or police and army service."

During this part of the Ankörung the judges are observing the movement of each dog. They are looking for the efficient mover. Is the dog’s gait ground-covering? Is the dog’s gait free and fluid? Does the dog move with strong drive from the rear?

The Swiss judges consider the Entlebucher a broad-fronted breed. The Head Judge, Mr. Schweitzer, told us that a profuse fore chest (prosternum) encourages endurance, good forequarters, and good shoulder layback, which contribute to correct and efficient movement.

While evaluating movement, the judges focus primarily on each dog trotting up and back. On intricacies of the trot McDowell Lyon tell us, “The trot is known as a diagonal gait, for the right front and diagonal or opposite rear coordinate, as do the left front and its diagonal rear. This provides two legs, front and back, as support for the body and can be compared to the bicycle, which is more difficult to balance than is the tricycle.”

McDowell Lyon reminds us, “These supports are on diagonal corners of the body and, unless the dog does something to prevent it, support would move unsteadily from side to side - wobbling or rolling. The dog can and does correct for this in efficient movement.”

And finally, Robert W. Cole lists other factors that were brought to our attention by the Swiss judges below.
• The degree of reach forward and the extension rearward of each leg (Asset to covering more ground).

• If there is any leg interference under the body (when the dog’s movement is coordinated well the front foot is out of the way of the approaching back foot and allows travel in a straight line).

• The degree of the front pastern flexes and the rear pastern opens (Allows dog to exert trust rearward when foot is on the ground).

• The height each foot lifts off the ground (Each foot should lift high enough to clear uneven ground, but not so high as to be pronounced or hackneyed).

• The carriage of the head (The head should be level and relaxed).

• The levelness of the topline (There should be a firmness of topline while front assembly reaches forward and rear assembly extends to the rear)

• The carriage of the tail (The tail can be carried over, but not touching the back and must not be curled tightly).

• The diagonal leg coordination (The dog’s front feet are timed slightly ahead, in cooperation with back feet).

JACOB and EIKA

JACOB V. KORNRIED

The first dog was Jacob v. Kornried. Jacob was a lovely, friendly, male just about two years old. He was very 'cute' and seemed to be very close to Type. The two things that concerned the judges most were Jacob’s head/muzzle ratio and his movement. Correct head/muzzle ratio is 9-10. Jacob’s muzzle was structurally shorter than the correct ratio, which gave him a ‘cute’ look rather than the more classic look. Also, when it came to movement, the judges felt that Jacob had a ‘hackney’ trot, which is a high lifting of the front legs or prancing. He
lacked ‘reach’.

Looking at Jacob’s evaluation sheet there were only about four items that were not to Standard, which gave him a final rating of GOOD. Unfortunately, the rating of GOOD will not place Jacob into the breeding pool.

**Eika von der Baumgasse**

The second dog we saw was a female named Eika von der Baumgasse. Eika was just over 2 years at time of the Ankörung. Eika corresponded to the Standard, though the judges felt she was ‘fine’ in Type with medium bone. Because Eika’s well-balanced body, head and general Type were in harmony, the judges gave Eika a rating of VERY GOOD. If Eika had been larger and of heavier bone, then she would have received a rating of EXCELLENT. Eika had damaged one of her canine teeth and the judges were looking very carefully at her mouth.

Jacob’s final rating was GOOD and he will not be going into the breeding pool.

Since Eika’s final rating was VERY GOOD, she will be placed in the breeding pool.

“We cannot approach overall perfection by stressing a few characteristic features such as size, coat, expression of head, the color of eyes or the set of ears if we let these submerge functional conformation or any part of it. Do not breed just a dark eye or a button ear; first breed a sound dog and then go for the dark eye and the button ear. Put functional soundness above everything else whether the dog goes a field or spends his life curled in your lap. And he will get more out of life and you will get more out of him.” by McDowell Lyon
SUMMARY - PART 3

In bringing this report home to the CEBA committee, the board and the officers of NEMDA, we understand that Switzerland is not the U.S. and differences in countries may dictate different approaches. However, it is always important to study the success of others.

What are the successes in the Swiss program? First and foremost is SKES’s commitment to transparency and shared information. Second, SKES makes a commitment to support policies and regulations that promote the greater good over personal gain. This in turn protects the health and welfare of their Entlebuchers. Third, through due diligence, SKES has fostered accountability to the Breed Standard (health, genetics, temperament and conformation) with the Ankörung. This has increased their breed pool to a healthy 35 females and 15 males.

If you caught all the hints throughout our report, there is a body of information in German that goes into the mechanisms of the SKES prototype. We feel that translation is priority one. This is a big job that’s going to need the help of many.

We hope this report encourages CEBA committee members to:
• Read it again
• Think about it
• Formulate questions
• Create a forum for discussion, such as a meeting
• Decide whether this system should be utilized by CEBA and to what extent

Let’s get started!

THE END… Hallelujah!