



NEMDA

Official Newsletter

Entle **paw**k

NATIONAL ENTEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG ASSOCIATION

Volume 2 March 1999

From the President

Hello to All,

I would like to mention as we start our second year of existence as a group of Entlebucher Sennenhund admirers, that the club appreciates all of our members and their patience as we learn and grow. Our Membership is growing nicely and our goals are starting to take shape. If anyone has an interest and the time to volunteer, please, we welcome your assistance. Thank you all again!

Entle's



On Call

by Jane Torma

I would like to start the new year off with some good news!

Those of you who subscribe to "Dog World" magazine are probably familiar with their regular "Science and the Dog" feature. The second half of the September 1998 article included seven paragraphs that gave me great hope. Dr. Simon Petersen-Jones, DVM, PhD, Assistant Professor, Comparative Ophthalmology at Michigan State University has developed a genetic test for progressive retinal atrophy in Cardigan Welsh Corgis. Dr. Petersen-Jones developed the test with Dr. David Sargan of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. As you all know, progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) is the major genetic health problem with our Entlebucher and a very hard one to overcome without a test developed for our breed. Because the recessive gene can be different in different breeds,

unfortunately a test that works for one breed may not work for another. The Entlebucher has late onset PRA inherited autosomal recessively, which means that dogs carrying the gene are not necessarily affected themselves, but when bred with another healthy carrier dog, can produce PRA affected dogs. They also produce more healthy carrier's like the parents and can even produce a perfectly healthy, clean and clear dog (which looks even to a board certified ophthalmologist exactly the same as the healthy carrier). A genetic test would allow an entire litter to be tested before a breeder places pups in new their new homes. Diagnosing which pups are clean and clear, healthy carrier, or will develop PRA later in life Once we know which ones are clean and clear and only breed them, PRA will be a thing of the past in the Entlebucher! I have talked to Dr. Petersen-Jones and he is willing to help us but needs our help in return.

What can we do? First, Please have your dog examined every year by a Board Certified Ophthalmologist. Like a human ophthalmologist they are trained specifically for diseases of the eye. The late set PRA that the Entlebucher has can be hard to diagnosis (commonly missed by your regular veterinarian in early stages). As a matter of fact, to help out your ophthalmologist please take a copy of the article by Dr. Bernhard Spiess.

Ask you ophthalmologist for a CERF test or exam. It is not very expensive, usually under \$50.00. If the ophthalmologist sees something unusual but does not feel confident diagnosing PRA even with the aid of Dr. Spiess's article, you will next need to have an electro retro graph (ERG) which is more expensive, usually under \$100.00, but will diagnosis PRA if far enough along. But an ERG does NOT identify a dog that is a healthy carrier, so please do not get confused on that procedure being any kind of sound diagnostic test for the total eye health of your dog.

If your dog does have PRA you can now help Dr. Petersen-Jones! I have the paper work from him on what he needs. The first page can be given to your

veterinarian on how to correctly take blood samples, pack and ship to Michigan State. He also needs a copy of the latest CERF examination along with your dogs pedigree indicating the relationship to PRA-affected dogs or known PRA-carriers. The second page is information form that you need to fill out. Dr. Petersen-Jones will keep all information in strictest confidence! Finally, contact all other people that you know that own a close relative to your dog and have them do the same (even if the dog is an unknown healthy carrier or perfectly healthy clean and clear). He needs to compare the differences in their genes. If your dog does not have PRA, but you want to help. This work is expensive and time consuming. We would appreciate ideas on how to raise money for use in research specifically for the Entlebucher, or how can we as a club financially earn money to help? Other more established clubs routinely give donations to aid in research that will help their breeds overcome their health problems (yes, every breed has some sort of health problems) and we want to help develop the Entlebucher genetic test for PRA! **Editors note - There are forms at the back of the newsletter to describe and send in the test for PRA!*

Entelligent

Getting a Jump on Things

One of our Ohio members, who has Lucy, asked me to address a problem all Entle owners, at one time or another, are faced with: jumping up.

Dear Lucy and other Entles who need a little reminder.

Jumping up is only OK -- when:

1. When playing with another dog;
2. Your friend gets down on all fours and asks you to jump and play. Remember, be very careful with children.
3. You need to stop an intruder or protect your friend from harm;
4. Being teased with something fun like a ball or frisbee; again, be careful with kids.

5. Your friend asks you to jump up for some other reason you don't understand.

As an Entle, you, your other dog friends, and dogs in general, love to jump up, but you need to show some self control to make your human friend happy. And isn't that your ultimate goal? We humans have only figured out a few ways to tell you we don't want you to jump up.

1. We can raise our voice and say "No!" Sometimes that gets your attention, but not always because you're just so excited.

2. We can put a leash on you and hold it tightly while you pull eagerly to greet your new friend. That's fun!

3. We can leave slack in the leash until just the right moment when you are airborne, then yank hard. That knocks you off your feet and gets your attention. (That must be really embarrassing to land on your butt with new friends watching.)

4. We can totally remove you from the situation and you will be excluded from any activities. That would be a drag, especially if you were ignored no matter how much you whined and howled and scratched.

5. We can ask our friends to turn away and not greet you, perhaps with arms across their chest. And if you're sensitive, that may hurt your feelings, but not much more than that.

6. We can raise our knee up into your chest, usually a fun game, unless you're still little--then it might make an impression.

7. We can kick you in the chest and make you squeal which hurts us more than it hurts you!

8. We can step on your toes. A most unpleasant experience.

9. We can catch your front legs and keep you standing until you wish you hadn't jumped up.

10. We can tackle you in mid-air and wrestle you to the ground and force you to submit and become totally passive. The ultimate humiliation!