

PAR HIT HOME
By Andrew and Andrea Franklin

When we purchased Artus, I have to admit that PRA, hip dysplasia, temperament, etc., weren't even on our minds. We just wanted that cool dog I found on the Internet (remind me to write another installment about how important breeder screening is with Entles!) Wisdom greater than ours determined that we were a good fit and Artus arrived with the understanding that he would be tested and bred if all tests came back ok . . . but, sadly they didn't.

Artus tested PRA positive last summer. There was a lot of initial worry and frustration as we came to grips with the fact that our dog is going blind. This has given way to the obvious realization that this has got to be a bigger issue for the owners than the dogs. Entlebuchers are so charismatic, intuitive, and smart that they are equipped to deal with this better than we are. And we all know, if you love this breed, you HAVE to love them unconditionally! I feel pretty confident in predicting that lack of sight won't slow down our turbo charged Artus.

So, there is the good side. But the real issue has to do with the owners of Entlebuchers. I fear that many of us may be saying "that isn't my problem, because I'm not breeding my dog and it is fine." Unfortunately, this attitude will only hurt the breed. Like most things in life, ignorance is not bliss when it comes to PRA! There is a doctor at Michigan State who is testing afflicted dogs to identify the gene that causes PRA. EVERYONE who owns an Entlebucher should have its eyes tested at the age of two, whether breeding their dog or not. If the tests come back positive, send in a blood sample to Dr. Peterson-Jones. When you have a doctor actively doing research to help weed out PRA, an association like NEMDA helping to cover the cost of sending in positive PRA blood samples, it would be really sad if everyone didn't do something that is so simple to help this wonderful breed.



My Angels

By Orlo Ellison and Christy Schweizer

Angel, stay.

Angel, heel.

Not you Angel - you stay for real.

Angels dance, and Angels talk

And sometimes Angels take a walk.

But training two angels at a time

With one in front and one behind.

Is very confusing for my simple mind.

With so much love from these two sweet girls,

I must be the luckiest guy in the whole wide world.

So never mind, let's skip training today.

Besides, both Angels are perfect anyway

