NEMDA's Breeders' Code of Ethics

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The National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association
Breeders' Code of Ethics (BCOE)

1 — BCOE Welfare and Ethics

1.1. Breed Welfare
The members of the National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association (NEMDA) share a deep concern for the welfare and future of the Entlebucher Mountain Dog (EMD). The Breeders' Code Of Ethics (BCOE) is established in accordance with the objectives set out in the NEMDA Constitution as the standard of practice for the responsible and ethical ownership and breeding of the EMD.

1.2. The Breeders' Code of Ethics
The Breeders' Code of Ethics (BCOE) specifies the principles and standards prescribed to ensure quality breeding practices set out to preserve the health and breed standard of the EMD. This document details the requirements and responsibilities for breeders of both male and female Entlebuchers. With their signature, BCOE breeders pledge their agreement and commitment to the BCOE. NEMDA endorses the BCOE breeders through an active public breeder webpage and litter announcement.

2 — Expanding Breed Knowledge and Continuing Education

2.1. Learn Basic Knowledge of the Breed
Breeders shall make every effort to learn as much as possible about health, genetics, structure, movement, behavior, and other heritable traits of the EMD. And shall use this knowledge to produce sound, healthy dogs that adhere to the breed standard.

2.2. Annual Continued Education
Annually, breeders are encouraged to pursue diverse and multiple educational opportunities to build an informed breeding program.

- All BCOE breeders and partners shall make every effort to participate with their Entlebuchers in the Comprehensive Entlebucher Breed Assessment (CEBA), both temperament and conformation evaluations.
- Breeders are encouraged to share their CEBA evaluation results when looking for a breeding pair.
- BCOE breeders are expected to take part in NEMDA educational opportunities such as Entlefest and the National Specialty, along with BCOE events and seminars.
- Online courses, books, mentoring from other breeders, and social media are other great resources.
- Conformation dog shows, performance events and activities, are encouraged as valuable breed assessments of the dog's structural function and working ability.

3 — Breeding to Advance and Preserve the Breed

3.1. Breeder Responsibilities
Breeders bear great responsibility for the future of the EMD breed and shall plan each breeding with the paramount intention of advancing and preserving the breed. Breeder includes both owners of male and female dogs.

3.2. Breeders' Goals
Breeders shall strive for the betterment and healthy perpetuation of the EMD.

Breeders have an obligation to:

- Make sure each breeding stock passes their required health testing.
- Breed only physically and temperamentally sound stock.
- Learn the strong and weak points of their own stock according to the breed standard.
- Make a concerted effort to breed for genetic diversity.
- Never repeat a breeding which produces potentially fatal and/or serious, lifelong heritable defects.
- Never double up on a known serious fault that will affect the health, temperament, and structure of the breed.

3.3. Genetic Diversity & Breed Preservation

Genetic diversity is actively encouraged. Breeders should strive to understand the genetics of the current Entlebucher population as a whole when making choices in breeding pairs.

Breeding decisions should:

- Take place with the understanding that genetic diversity is a major key to the health and welfare of the breed.
- Take advantage of the NEMDA Pedigree Database for calculating coefficient of inbreeding and trial pedigrees. This resource is an invaluable tool in making informed breeding decisions.
  https://EntlebucherDatabase.nemda.org
- Take advantage of different pairings for each breeding. And when possible, select dogs that are less frequently used.
- Select potential breeding dogs from each litter to carry on into the future.

3.4. Keeping Entlebuchers Hormonally Intact

BCOE Breeders are highly encouraged to assist in educating their new puppy owners of the health benefits of delayed neutering/spaying. Keeping puppies hormonally intact (regardless of breeding or competition status) past their physical maturity is about 18 months in Entlebuchers.

4 — Breeding Health Requirements – Certifications and Recording

4.1. Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) Certification

The OFA created the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) by partnering with participating parent clubs to research and maintain information on the health issues prevalent in specific breeds. Each Entlebucher will receive an OFA CHIC certificate after each health testing below has been recorded into OFA. A copy of the OFA CHIC certification must be sent to the Breed Committee.

OFA Health Testing Requirements
OFA Radiographic Hip Evaluation. Results must be recorded with OFA.
ACVO Eye Examination. Results must be recorded with OFA.
Veterinary Evaluation of Patellar Luxation. Results must be recorded with OFA.
DNA based prcd-PRA test from an approved OFA lab. Results must be recorded with OFA.

4.2. Health Requirements

Prior to the first breeding, each Entlebucher must meet the health requirements below.

4.3. OFA Hip Rating/Certification

Prior to breeding, each Entlebucher must have hips radiographed by a veterinarian and certified by the OFA as Fair, Good, or Excellent. All stock entered into a breeding program between 18-24 months of age MUST have OFA preliminary results of fair, good or excellent after 12 months of age. If both bitch and dog in a breeding have only preliminary ratings at least one *must* have a good or excellent rating. All stock MUST have final OFA certification after 24 months of age even if a preliminary rating was submitted.

4.4. Patellar Rating/Certification

Prior to breeding, each Entlebucher must have patellas examined by a veterinarian after 12 months of age and recorded with OFA. OFA patellar luxation certification must be either (Normal, Grade 1, or Grade 2). A dog with a Grade of 1 or Grade 2 certification may only be bred to a dog that is certified with Normal patellas.

4.5. Annual Eye Certification

Annually and prior to breeding, each Entlebucher must have their eyes examined by a board certified ACVO Ophthalmologist and certified free from inherited eye disease by the Companion Animal Eye Registry (CAER). OFA Eye certifications that are Normal or Normal with Breeder Option (W/BO) are eligible to breed. It is highly advisable not to double up on the same Breeder Option when selecting mates.

4.6. Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

Prior to breeding, each Entlebucher must have a DNA based prcd-PRA test completed with an OFA approved lab or must be first generation clear by parentage certified through OFA. The breeding pair must meet the requirements listed below.

- EMDs testing Normal may be bred to Normal, Carrier or Affected
- EMDs testing as Carrier may only be bred to Normal
- EMDs testing as Affected may only be bred to Normal

5 — Breeding Requirements - AKC Registration and DNA

5.1. Registration and Identification

EMDs must be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) or the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). All breeding stock must have permanent identification with a nationally recognized microchip.

5.2. AKC DNA Parentage Identification Requirements

It is mandatory that all NEMDA BCOE breeding stock have AKC DNA parentage identification.

- Breeders can order DNA sampling kits directly through AKC.
- The AKC DNA number must be submitted to the Breed Committee.

6 — Breeding Age Requirements

6.1. Minimum Breeding Age and Required Documentation

Dogs and bitches may be bred after 18 months of age. All certifications and health requirements listed above MUST be completed and submitted to the Breed Committee prior to breeding. If the breeding is based on a preliminary OFA Hip assessment, a final OFA Hip rating MUST be obtained after 24 months of age.

6.2. Maximum Breeding Age

Bitches shall not be bred after their eighth birthday. Males may be bred after 8 years of age if healthy. Active, healthy longevity is considered a valued asset to the breed.

7 — Breeding Verification, Terms, and Conditions

7.1. Verify Breeding Requirements

Prior to every breeding, each breeder must verify that each dog being mated shall meet the following requirements and are compatible with their health testing:

✓ Official registration (AKC, CKC, FCI) – *Section 5.1*

✓ AKC DNA parentage number – *Section 5.2*

✓ Meets age requirements – *Sections 6.1 and 6.2*

✓ Orthopedic Foundation Association (OFA) health certifications – *Sections 4.1 through 4.6*

- Hip requirements
- Patella requirements
- Annual eye exam
- PRA-prcd

7.2. Foreign Breedings

When breeding to a foreign (i.e. other than US or Canadian) owned EMD, BCOE breeders may accept the hip, eye and other health certification recognized by that country's breed club but must require no less than the minimum standard as set out in this document. These reports and certificates are to be provided to the Breed Committee.

7.3. Requirement for Multiple Sire Litters

More than one male may cover a bitch during a heat cycle only if DNA testing for parentage is performed on all whelps prior to their sale and registration. American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club registration requirements for multiple sired litters shall be followed.

7.4. Terms and Conditions for Matings
Terms and conditions of the mating must be clear to all parties prior to mating. A written contract is strongly recommended. Stud services should be clearly outlined as to cost and conditions.

8 — Annual BCOE Health and Reporting Requirements

8.1. Annual Eye Exam and Reporting
Annually, all breeding dogs must complete a CAER eye exam and submit the results to OFA and the Breed Committee.

8.2. BCOE Reporting and Recording
Breeders must contact the Breed Committee regarding any new additions or retired breeding stock.
All breeding stock must be recorded in the NEMDA Pedigree Database at:
https://EntlebucherDatabase.nemda.org

8.3. Reporting Illnesses and Diseases
Breeders must submit a report to the Breed Committee due to any known illnesses and diseases that are serious or chronic that would inhibit their Entlebucher from breeding.

8.4. Death Reporting - Known or Unknown Cause
In the event a breeding EMD dies of an unknown cause, breeder shall make an attempt to have a necropsy performed.

All breeders have an obligation to report the date of death and any known or unknown cause of their breeding stock to the Breed Committee.

9 — Litter Record Keeping Requirements

9.1. AKC Registration
Within six months after a litter is born, all Entlebucher litters from BCOE Breeders must be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) or the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC).

9.2. Record Keeping
Breeders shall keep and pass on to buyers, accurate health, breeding, registration, and pedigree records. Breeders must keep accurate records of all litters produced, all dogs/puppies sold, pedigrees, and stud service contracts as required by NEMDA, American Kennel Club or Canadian Kennel Club.

9.3. Microchip Registration
All puppies will be implanted with a nationally recognized microchip prior to placement and register the owners contact name with the microchip organization.

9.4. Litter Submissions - NEMDA Pedigree Database
Within six months after a litter is born, BCOE breeders must enter their litter into the NEMDA Pedigree Database at https://EntlebucherDatabase.nemda.org.

10 — “Elective” Breeding Health Recommendations

10.1. Elective Health Recommendations
Breeders may want to go above and beyond the BCOE mandatory health exam requirements as a tool for tracking health, making personal breeding choices, and providing more information to the breed as a whole. Elective health exams may include:

- OFA Elbow Certification
- OFA Shoulder Certification
- OFA Cardiac Certification
- PennHip Rating (not to be replaced by OFA Hip Certification)
- Gonioscopy Examination
- Thyroid Testing
- Ureter Placement & Function

10.2. Glaucoma and Gonioscopy Examination
It is a breeder's responsibility to educate themselves about glaucoma and the frequency it occurs within the family history of the breeding pair. Breeding stock should have an initial baseline Gonioscopy and their pressures checked, as early of age as practical, and repeated in the future as recommended by the Ophthalmologist.

The Gonioscopy reports should be sent to OFA and to the Breed Committee to contribute for future use as veterinary Ophthalmologists discover more in this field.

10.3. Ectopic Ureters
It is a breeder's responsibility to educate themselves about ectopic ureters and the frequency it occurs within the family history of the breeding pair.

To learn more about your dog's ureter placement and function, find a board-certified veterinary ultrasound specialist, also known as a board-certified veterinary radiologist or ACVR Diplomate (American College of Veterinary Radiology) and utilize the screening protocol from the University of Zürich.

10.4. OFA CHIC DNA Repository – For Research
Breeders should contribute a blood sample (preferred) or cheek swab sample of their breeding stock to the OFA CHIC DNA Repository in order for researchers to access the DNA for future health and genetic studies.

10.5. Semen Evaluation
It is standard practice to seek out a veterinarian specializing in reproduction to evaluate each stud dog's semen prior to a breeding in an effort to increase breeding success.

10.6. Brucellosis Testing
Good breeding practices include testing breeding pair (both bitch and dog) for brucellosis within 90 days in advance of each breeding.

11 — Breeder's Lifetime Responsibilities

Breeders bear a lifetime responsibility for the well-being of their EMDs and their offspring, as well as, contribute to the NEMDA Pedigree Database for the future of the breed.

11.1. NEMDA Pedigree Database Recording
Breeders should update all Entlebuchers they own for any new health testing reports, diagnosis, and breeding status on their dog's profile in the NEMDA Pedigree Database at:
https://EntlebucherDatabase.nemda.org.

Breeders should encourage puppy owners to update their dog's information into the Database.

11.2. Care to Bitch and Puppies
Owners of both bitches and stud dogs shall breed only when in a position to assure proper care to both bitch and puppies; and when reasonably certain that there is a sufficient number of good homes available for the puppies.

11.3. Well-Being of Bitch and Back-to-Back Breedings
Owners of breeding stock bear the responsibility of evaluating if their bitch has recovered sufficiently to permit back-to-back breeding. It is the breeder's responsibility to determine how each individual bitch's breedings are planned, taking into consideration the bitch's physical and mental well-being and the breeder's ability to manage whelping and rearing litters.

11.4. Hereditary "Health" Defects
Breeders shall educate all potential buyers of genetic health defects known to occur in EMDs as well as in their lines.

Breeders shall exercise great care in breeding an Entlebucher who, although free from hereditary health defects, produces afflicted offspring. Breeders shall monitor the progress of dogs of their breeding program to track any genetic health defects and improve their breeding program.

If any hereditary health defects occur in the lines of the individual dogs used for breeding, breeders shall make every effort to disclose this information to owners of all pertinent related dogs. On an annual basis, breeders have the responsibility to contact their puppy owners to track their health.

12 — BCOE Retired Breeders & Retired Breeding Stock

12.1. Retired Breeders
Retired BCOE breeders in good standing with NEMDA will receive 'BCOE partner' status and are encouraged to mentor other breeders.

12.2. Retired Stock Annual Eye Examination
It is recommended that retired stock continue to be tested annually for genetic eye diseases. When retired stock completes CAER exams, results are to be provided to OFA and to the Breed Committee.

12.3. Health and Death Reporting
In the event a retired breeding EMD dies of an unknown cause, breeder shall make an attempt to have a necropsy performed.

All breeders have an obligation to continue to report the health and death records of their retired breeding stock to the Breed Committee.

13 — Puppy Placement and Buyer Expectations

13.1. Support to Owners
Breeders shall be available to their buyers for whatever advice and reasonable aid and assistance they may need for the lifetime of any offspring they have produced. If a Buyer/Owner cannot keep a dog, the Breeder will assist with re-homing. If necessary, the Breeder may involve the NEMDA Rescue Committee (rescue@nemda.org).

13.2. Puppy Placement and Sales Agreement
Breeders shall be discriminating in the sale of their puppies and carefully choose the homes which may be best suited to the unique responsibility of owning an EMD. A written sales agreement specifying responsibilities of both Buyer and Seller is recommended. Any health or temperament condition, which requires monitoring by the new owner and/or a veterinarian, must be clearly explained and agreed upon at the time of sale or transfer.

13.3. Puppy Placement - Future Breeding Stock
Breeders are encouraged to place one or more pups from a litter of unique sire and dam pairing into trusted homes where the owners agree to become BCOE members. Upon the successful completion of mandatory health testing, male or female candidates will become future breeding stock.

Any puppy sold with the express or implied possibility of future breeding must come with a full explanation to the Buyer of the responsibilities, ethics and risks involved in breeding.

13.4. Selling and Advertising
Breeders shall not sell to dog wholesalers, retailers or pet stores, or known/suspected puppy mills. Breeders shall not donate dogs or puppies as prizes nor knowingly allow any dogs of their breeding to fall into animal shelters or rescue organizations outside of NEMDA facilitated rescue. All advertising of puppies and dogs, written or oral, shall be factual, forthright and honest in both substance and implication.

13.5. Protection from Breeding Activities
All puppies should be protected from breeding activities until they have met health and age requirements. Breeders can safeguard this with their puppy owners by:

- Frequent and clear communication to discuss owner's expectations.
- Providing a Limited Registration with the American Kennel Club or a Non-breeding Registration with the Canadian Kennel Club.
- Withholding Registration papers.
- A written contract.

It must be explained to buyers that a puppy/dog with Limited Registration may not be exhibited in AKC conformation shows, but they can participate in all other AKC performance activities.

13.6. Buyer's Expectations
Breeders shall discuss prospective buyers' expectations, disclosing any physical faults and health issues the dog may have or which are known in its lineage. Breeders shall emphasize the necessity of the buyer's lifetime commitment to their dog first and foremost as a companion animal.

13.7. Resale Restrictions
Breeders shall not broker EMDs, foreign or domestic, or purchase EMDs for resale purposes.

14 — Conduct

14.1. Breeder Conduct
Breeders shall resolve to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of NEMDA, and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be beneficial to the club, the breed and the reputations of both. Breeders shall not defame other club members, breeders, exhibitors or those persons' dogs.

14.2. Ethical Standards
When confronted by a situation not covered by this Code of Ethics, the Breeder's conduct shall exemplify the way he/she would like to be treated under the same circumstances and reflect the highest ethical and professional standards.

15 — Breeder Request for a Variance to the BCOE

15.1. Variance Request - Advance Notification
A variance is a departure from the BCOE requirements. Prior to a breeding, a BCOE breeder may request a variance to the Code of Ethics in writing to the Breed Committee. In consultation with the NEMDA Board, the Breed Committee will decide whether to approve, modify, or deny the request. The Board and the Breed Committee will balance the circumstances of the request against its obligation to protect the reputation of NEMDA, the well-being of any involved dogs and their offspring, and the fitness of the breed as a whole. Within 60 days, the Breed Committee will notify the breeder in writing with the decision and its rationale. A copy of this letter shall be kept in the permanent records of the Club.

16 — Terms of Agreement

16.1. Terms and Signature
Violations of the NEMDA Breeders' Code of Ethics (COE) will be subject to NEMDA disciplinary procedures and may be grounds for expulsion.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by this Code.

Date: _____

_____ _____

Signature of Owner/Breeder ***Print Name of Owner/Breeder***

_____ _____

Signature of Co-Owner/Breeder ***Print Name of Co-Owner/Breeder***