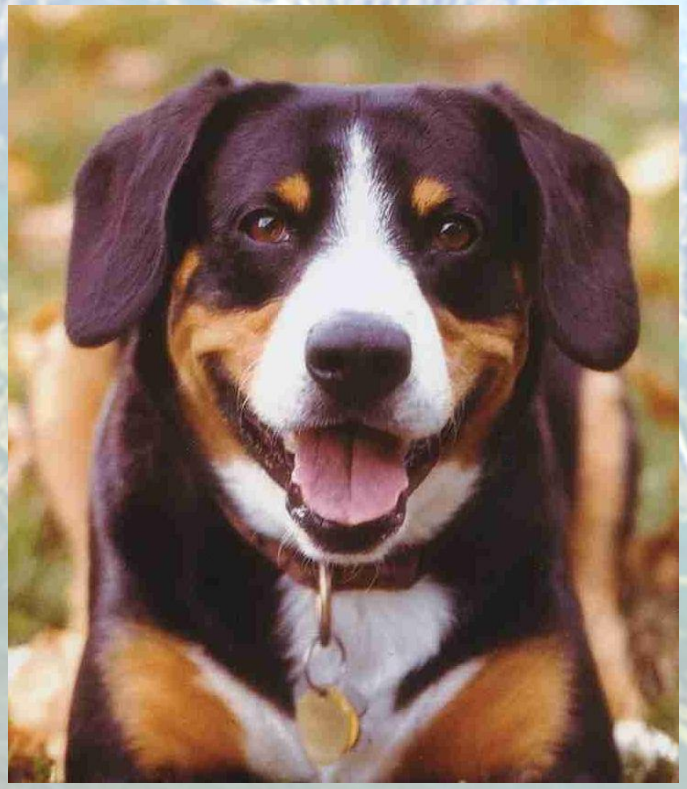
The Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Presented by:
NEMDA- National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association
AKC Parent Club
**Revised 10/2025*

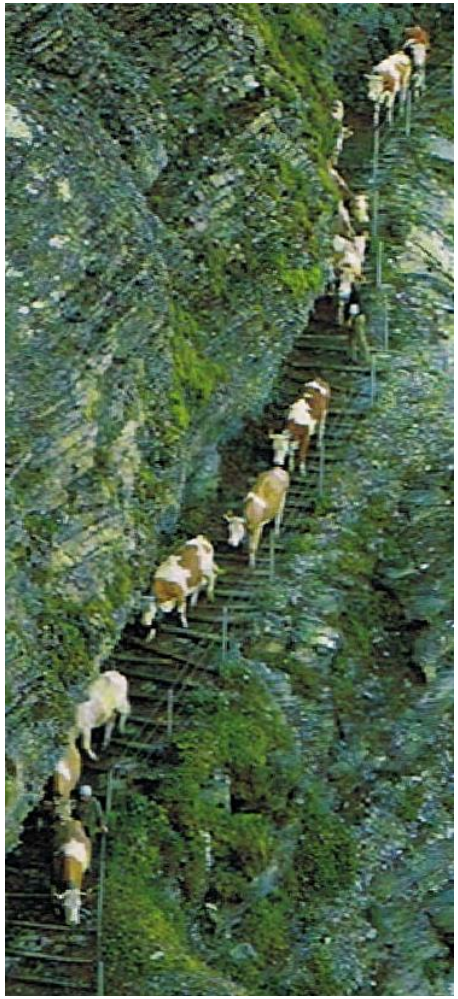
Historical Background



- Entlebucher Mountain Dog- Entlebucher Sennenhund or Entlebuch Cattle Dog
- Smallest of the Swiss Mountain Dogs
- Pronunciation: Ent-LEE-BOO-cur or ENT-leh-boo-cur
- Named for Entlebuch, a region in central Switzerland, where the breed was developed
- Entlebuch is just 22 square miles; An agricultural area with focus on crops, fruit and cattle breeding.



Sennenhund from *Senn,* Swiss alpine herdsmen (or dairymen); hund from the German word for dog.



Navigating an alpine trail





Traditional dress of the 1940's

As farm dogs, Entlebuchers were used to drive cattle.

The greatest risk to the cows was not predators but navigating the terrain of the Alps.

Entlebuchers were critical to the success of the dairymen.

• The first description of “Entlebucherhund” dates back to 1889.

• The two smallest Swiss Mountain Dogs, the Entlebucher and Appenzeller were primarily cattle drovers (and the same breed).

• The dogs born with natural bobbed tails evolved to become the Entlebucher.

• The congenital bobtail, for various reasons is the rarest tail type.

• In 1913, four small bobtailed mountain dogs were exhibited at a show and introduced by Professor Albert Heim who is credited with the discovery of the four Sennenhund breeds.



Babeli - DOB 1924



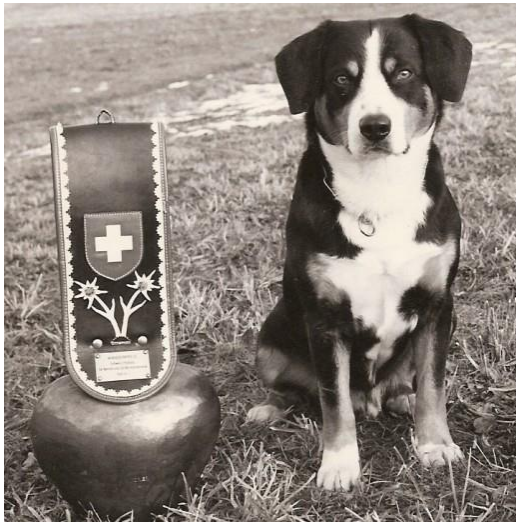
Spiro - DOB 1926



Ali - DOB 1961

• WWI delayed breed development until sixteen dogs of breed type were found in 1926.

• First Entlebucher breed standard was written in 1927.



Ari - DOB 1964

• First Entlebucher Mountain Dog imported to the US came from Switzerland to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1975.



Waran - DOB 1970



Enetbach Kennel – 1960's

The Entlebucher Mountain Dog Today





- Medium-sized breed prized for its agreeable nature
- Active family dog, watchdog and sports competitor
- Agile, energetic, enthusiastic and possess a strong work ethic
- Intense need to bond and be involved in all aspects with their family/owners.

Versatile Working Dog



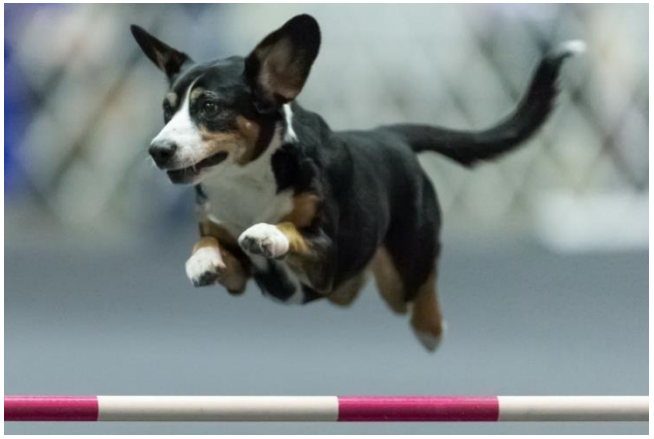




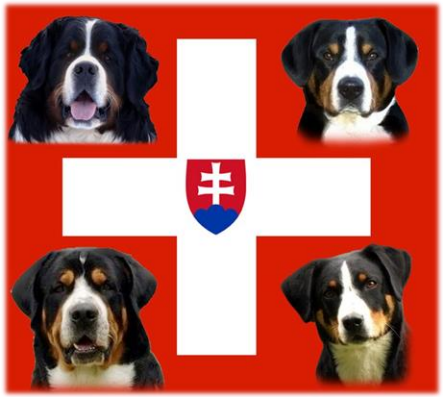








Breed Standard **Effective June 13, 2023**



General Appearance

The Entlebucher Mountain Dog (Shepherd Dog from Entlebuch, or Dog of the Alpine Herdsman) is native to Switzerland, and smallest of the four tri-colored Swiss Sennenhund breeds. Swiss farmers historically used the Entlebucher to move cows from pasture to pasture in the Alps. Their keen intelligence, speed and agility also made them useful for managing other large animals, like horses and hogs.



Greater Swiss



Bernese



Appenzeller



Entlebucher

The Entlebucher is

- **medium-sized**
- **compact**
- **strongly muscled**
- an **elongated** drover





Alert, clever with friendly facial expression

The Entlebucher has

- a short, hard and shiny coat
- bright black with symmetrical markings of **white on blaze, muzzle, chest and feet**
- **shades of rich fawn to mahogany** are present **on** the **eyebrows** and **between the black and white markings**.



Prized for his **agreeable nature**,
ease of training, and **devotion to family**,
the Entlebucher possesses
an **excellent work ethic**,
and the ability to work alone or
in harmony with his master.



Given a job,
he transforms from a lively,
high-spirited playmate,
to a serious, tireless,
self-assured dog of
commanding presence.

Although **primarily a drover**,
Entles excel at competitive sports and
are **willing, enthusiastic partners**
in any athletic canine activity
chosen by their master.



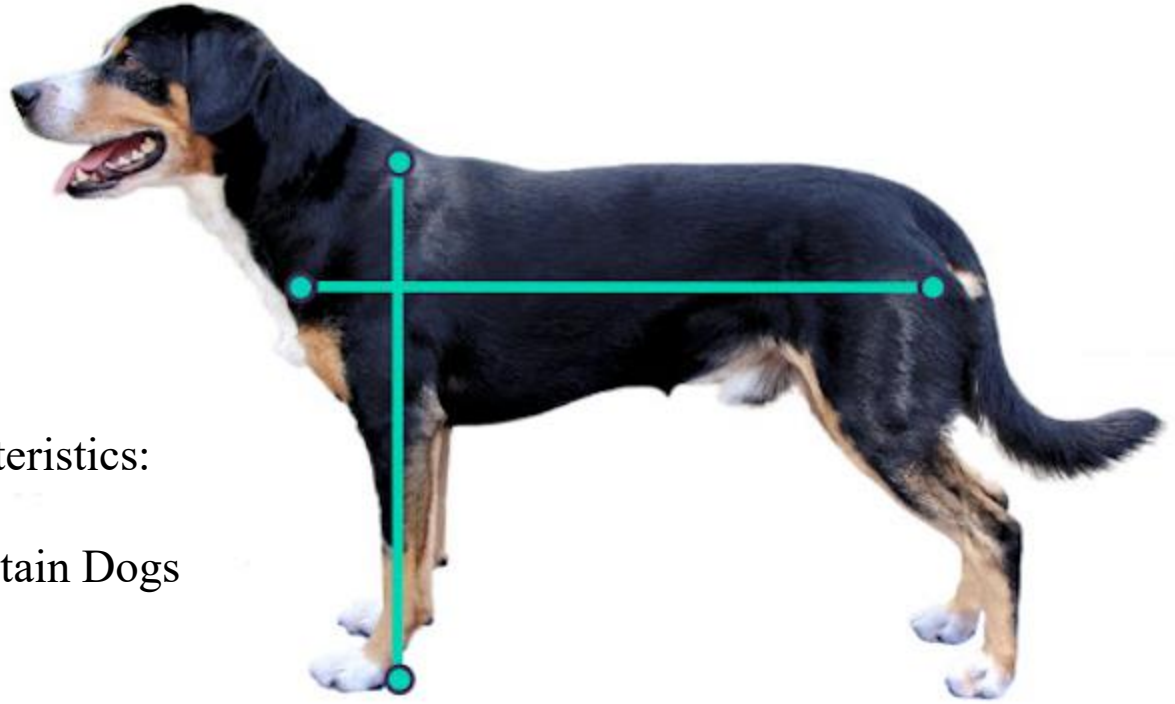
Purpose and heritage
have resulted in an **intense bond** between
the Entle and its master yet
the Entlebucher should not be considered
a breed for the casual owner.



Entles will remain **active and highly energetic** their entire lifetime.
Due to their guardian traits, thorough socialization is required during puppyhood.
Typically, Entles are indifferent to, or somewhat aloof with strangers.

Size & Proportion

Ratio of height at withers to length of body: 8:10
Measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers



Dogs – 17.5 to 20.5 inches
Bitches – 16.5 to 19.5 inches
• DQ for under/over size

Important to keep in mind
Two essential defining characteristics:
- **medium** size dog
- **smallest** of the Swiss Mountain Dogs

Size alone should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness, and temperament.

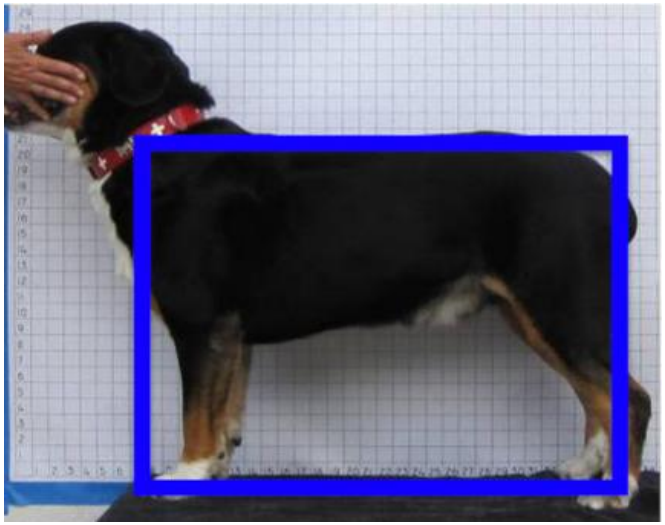
- Too small generally lacks the power required
- Too large may lack desired agility and mobility

Entlebucher Ratio Variations

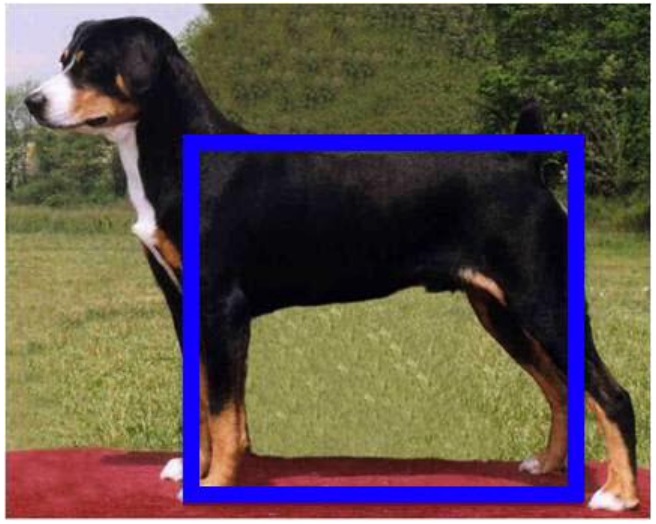
Correct Ratio is **8 : 10** (Measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers)



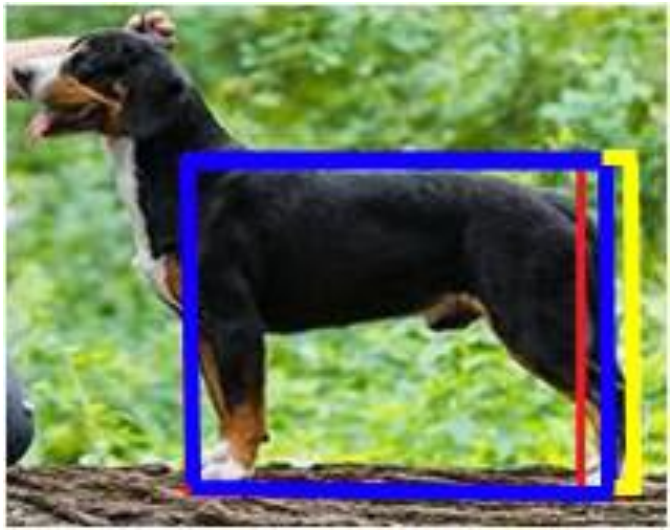
Correct – elongated but not exaggerated



Too long – exaggerated length 7.5 : 10



Too short – square appearance 9.0 : 10



8.5 : 10
8.0 : 10
7.5 : 10

Rectangles depicting too short correct too long

Substance - Range of Males

Strongly muscled, agile, **balanced dog** with ample bone; but never overdone. **Size** alone **should never take precedence over type, balance, soundness and temperament**.

*Ample is defined as sufficient to satisfy a requirement or need; in this case relates to our breed's function as a cattle drover and general all-purpose farm dog.

Top Photos: Ample bone





Over Done





Light bone

Substance - Range of Females

Note that **too small** a dog **generally lacks** the **power** required and **too large** a dog **may lack** the **agility and mobility desired in a herding dog**.

Top Photos: Ample bone





Over Done

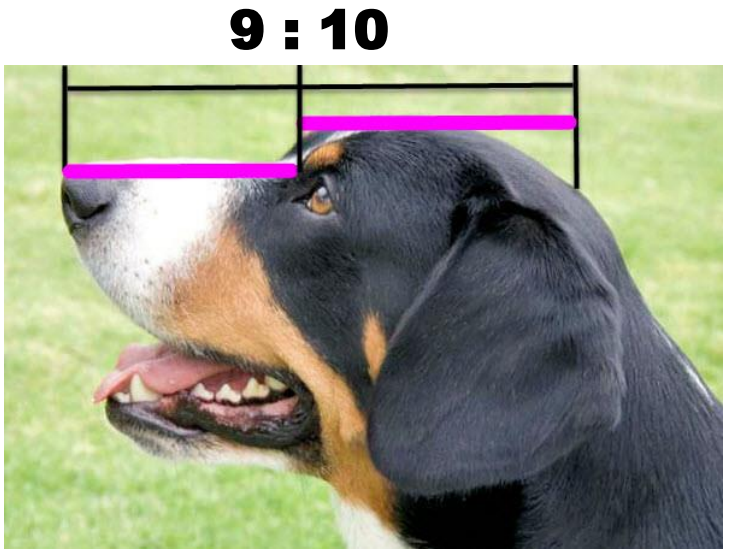




Light bone

Head

In harmonious proportion to the body, slightly wedged-shaped; clean.
Head planes of muzzle and skull more or less parallel.
Ratio of muzzle to skull 9 : 10.



Head planes correct - parallel
Ratio muzzle to skull (at Occipital bone) 9 : 10

Expression: Alert, attentive, and friendly.

Eyes: Must be **brown**, **darker eye preferred**.
Slightly small, **roundish shaped**, with **well fitted**, **black pigmented rims**.





Dark, roundish shaped eyes with well fitted black pigmented rims



Disqualifying fault:
Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes.

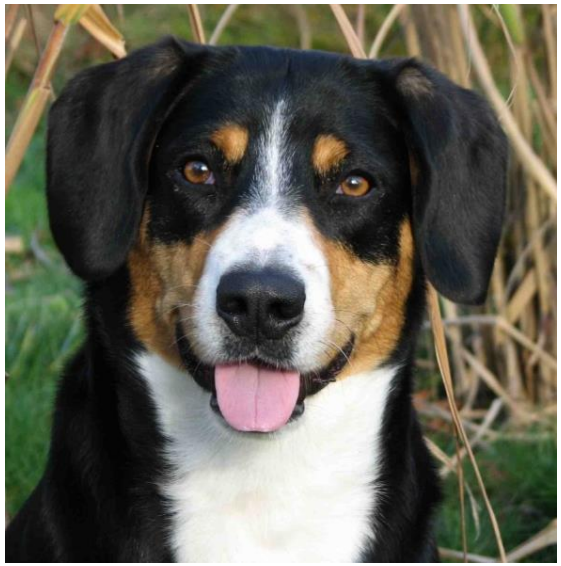
Skull: Flat on top, broadest between set-on of ears, slightly tapering towards muzzle. Occipital bone barely visible. Frontal furrow barely pronounced with minimal stop.

Muzzle: **Strong**, **well chiseled**, clearly set off from slightly pronounced cheeks, tapering but not pointed or snipey. Bridge of nose is straight. Whiskers to be left natural.

Nose: **Black**.

Lips: **Close fitting** to jaw, with complete black pigmentation.

All photos correct to Standard







Ears: Not too big, set on high and wide. When alert, are slightly raised at set-on, turned forward; in repose lay flat and close to head and form a nearly level plane with top skull. **Firm**, **well developed ear-cartilage**. Flaps pendulous, **triangular**, **rounded at tips**.

All photos are equally appreciated as correct ear set & size








Illustrations of Entlebucher Head and Eye Traits not preferred to the Standard



Eyes not well fitted, baggy appearance



Eyes too light



Protruding eyes and Snipy Muzzle



Steep stop



Domed head



Snipy Muzzle

Illustrations of Entlebucher Ear Traits not preferred to the Standard



Fly-away, not level plane with topskull



Narrow and high ear set



High ear set



Long, Houndy ears



Low ear set



Ears too wide and long, eyes not well fitting

Bite: **Scissor bite preferred**, even bite tolerated.



Disqualifying faults:
Overshot or undershot jaw;
Wry mouth.

Entlebuchers may be missing premolars.
We do not consider it a fault at this time.
We are watching the occurrences
in our small gene pool.



missing premolars.

Neck, Lines & Body

Pleasing smooth merge of neck into topline.
Neck: **Medium length**, **strong and clean**, **merging smoothly** with the body.
Top line: **Sturdy and level**.
Body: **Strong**, slightly **elongated**, **length** to be **in rib cage** and not in loin; **length to height ratio 10 to 8** measured from point of shoulder to point of rump and ground to withers.
Chest: **Capacious**, **broad**, **deep**, and **reaching to the elbows**; well sprung ribs.
Underline: Slightly tucked up.
Back: **Straight**, **firm**, **broad**
Loins: Strong, flexible
Croup: Slightly sloping, relatively long



Sturdy level topline, straight firm back



Croup slightly sloping, relatively long.

Tail

Tail: **Natural tail** or **docked tail** is **equally acceptable**.
Natural tail set-on in continuation of the gently sloping croup.





Natural Tail - Hanging (Relaxed)




Natural Bobtails – Acceptable at any length, fuller appearance




Docked Tail – blunt appearance

Tail – cont.

In motion can be elevated





Entlebucher Brace Team

but never touching the back.

"Touching the back" refers to the Appenzeller trait of the tail being carried tightly curled over the croup.



Ring-tails
highly discouraged.

Ring-tail tightly curled touching croup: Not Preferred



Tail Set vs Tail Carriage





Straight Tail – Correctly Held (Mid Level Alert)



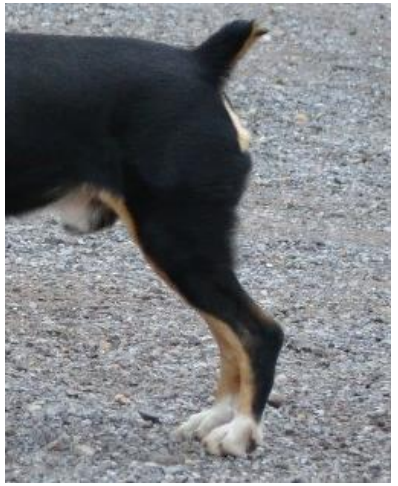
Tucked Tail – Undesirable
(Insecure, Stressed)





Tail Carried High – Correctly Held
Left shows arousal, can have a saber appearance
Right shows alert / excitement

Check for the correct tail set.
Tail docking can mask tail set.



Forequarters



- **Strongly muscled** but not too heavy
- Shoulders are laid back, flat lying, well muscled and never loose
- **Upper arm length equal** or **slightly shorter than shoulder blade**
- Angle of shoulder blade forming an angle of 110 to 120 degrees.
- **Elbows lying well onto the body**, turning neither in nor out



All are nice examples





Forelegs are short, **sturdy**, **straight and parallel**; neither too wide nor too close together. Seen from side placed well under the body. Pastern seen from front in straight continuation of the forearm; seen from side slightly angulated and relatively short.

Paws point straight forward; **compact**, **slightly rounded** with **well-arched toes**. Pads coarse and robust.

Dewclaws: May be removed on the front legs.

Nails: Short, strong; any combination of black or white.







Hindquarters

Well-muscled. Hind legs not too close together; **from behind, straight and parallel**.
Upper thigh: **Fairly long**, broad and strong.
Lower thigh: **Approximately equal length to upper thigh**; clean.
Stifle: **Well angulated**.
Hock joint: Strong; turns neither in nor out.
Hock: Relatively short, **perpendicular to the ground** when dog is **standing** naturally; from the **rear**, **parallel to each other**.
Rear dewclaws: **Should be removed**.
Rear feet: Overall description same as front.





Coat

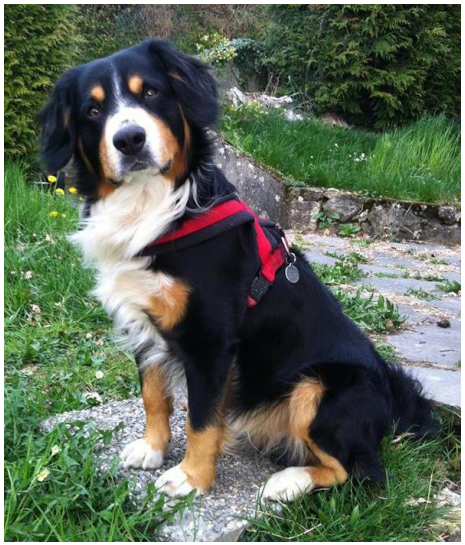
Double coat. Topcoat short, close fitting, harsh and shiny. Undercoat dense; of varying color. Wavy or soft coat tolerated but not preferred.

Disqualifying fault: Single coat.

Undercoat is most **easily visible** on the head **behind the ears and** in the **neck area**, **and near** the **hind end**. All undercoat colors are acceptable.



*Note – Sometimes the undercoat is not as visible due to seasonal shedding, warmer climates or time of year. Please take those factors into consideration looking at undercoat.



Rare recessive long coated Entlebucher

Color

Tricolor. **Basic color must be black with tan** (fawn to mahogany) **and white markings**, as symmetric as possible. Tan markings are above the eyes, on cheeks, muzzle, either side of the chest, under the tail, and on all four legs. On legs, the tan is between the black and the white. Small tan oval islands on cheeks are desired.

White markings include a distinct small blaze, which runs without interruption from top of head over bridge of nose and can wholly or partially cover the muzzle. White from chin to chest without interruption. An inverted cross on chest desirable.

In full-length tail, white tip is desirable. White on all four feet.







Inverted cross on chest

Markings

Color and markings should ***not*** take precedence over overall soundness, balance and temperament. **Undesirable but tolerated** - small white patch on the nape of the neck (not more than 2 inches), high boot, socks and bib.



Acceptable White on Neck



Undesirable White – Over 2”



Undesirable White – Over 2”



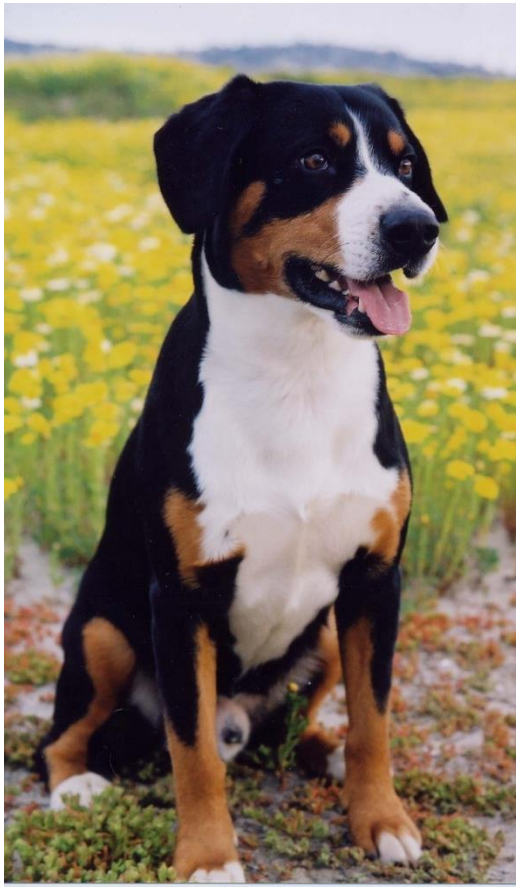


Examples of high boot, high socks

*A high boot and/or socks are considered when the white is higher than the dog’s pasterns, especially on the front feet.

*** Note - Differences in blaze width can alter the look of the head and expression**. The amount and placement of white can also change the look of the dog in movement.

Please **be mindful of visual illusions** that may be created by markings; **reward overall soundness, balance and temperament as it relates to function**.











Markings on this page are correct to standard showing different looks.

Marking Variations



Graying female



Minimal blaze



No blaze



Broken white on chest



Group of Entles (males & females)



Relatives from the same kennel

Gait

Ground covering, free, **fluid movement with good reach and strong drive from rear**. As the speed of the gait increases, legs converge - the rear more pronounced.



Good reach, movement with level back.
Strong drive from the rear, level topline





Legs converge front view

Temperament

The Entlebucher is a **confident** cattle dog, neither shy nor vicious; **may be reserved with strangers**. He is lively, active, persistent, self-assured and determined.

Cheerful and capable of learning, he is loyal and protective of family, herd and property. He is highly intelligent, **versatile** and adaptable with a strong willingness to work; is quick and responsive to commands from his owner making him especially suited as a companion, herding and general all-purpose dog.







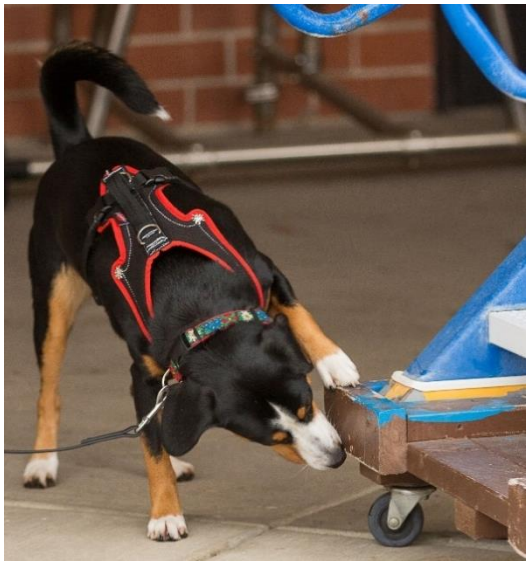
Versatile and Adaptable

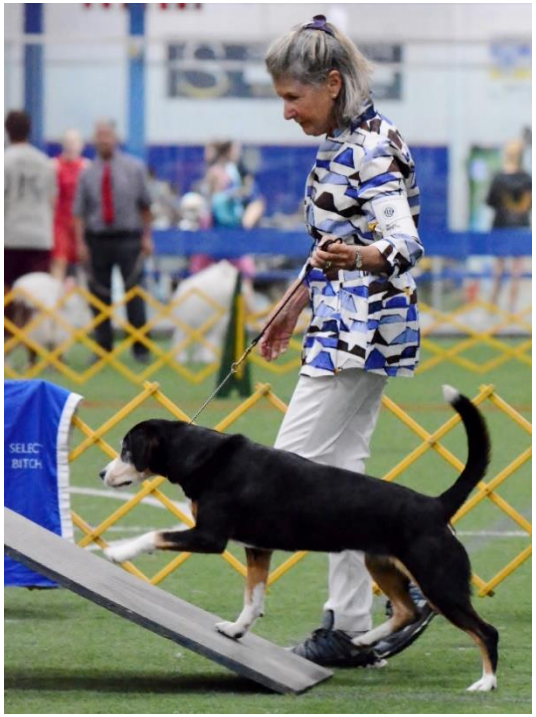














Faults & Disqualifications

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points must be considered as a fault.

The seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

Disqualifications

- **Oversize: A male over 20.5 inches, or a bitch over 19.5 inches**
- **Undersize: A male under 17.5 inches, or a bitch under 16.5 inches**
  - Minimum height does not apply to dogs/bitches under 12 months (1 year) of age
- **Absence of under-coat**
- **Blue eyes or yellow hawk eyes**
- **Overshot or undershot jaw**
- **Wry mouth**

Priorities of the Entlebucher



Overall impressions
The Entlebucher should appear:

- **Balanced**, **moderate** and just medium-sized - not exaggerated in any area.
- **Upper arms equal or slightly shorter than shoulder blade**.
- **Length of forearms** should be **in proportion** when compared **to** the **depth of body**.
- **Compactly built** - firmly put together with efficient use of space.
- **Athletic and fit** for the job of a cattle drover and all-purpose farm dog.
- **Age appropriate**: Generally, Entlebuchers can take up to 3 years to fill out.
- **Gender appropriate**: Females should look feminine; males should look masculine.
- **Self-assured and good-natured**.



Thank you for your interest in our breed!
For more information on the Entlebucher Mountain Dog breed, or to arrange a zoom or in person mentoring session, please email: breeding@nemda.org

Entlebucher Mountain Dog Breed Mentors

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* Judge's Education Coordinator

List Updated 6/20/2024