

## How to choose a breeder

I know that you have been waiting for news for quite some time. If you are hoping for a puppy before ours are expected, you can check for other breeders on the CKC Puppy link page, <https://www.ckc.ca/Choosing-a-Dog/PuppyList/Breed.aspx?breedCode=EMD> and at NEMDA <https://nemda.org/entlebucher-breeders/> the breed parent group in the USA. It is not at all unusual to wait up to 2 years for the right puppy. And it is totally worth it.

There are some less scrupulous breeders that may be able to provide a puppy sooner, but please be careful.

- Always ask if they belong to NEMDA, the breed club. If they are not members, I'd ask why? After all, wouldn't you want to connect with the other breeders about health research, bloodlines, successes and disappointments?
- Next ask about health testing. Every dog involved in reproduction should have a current (within a month max) brucellosis test. Our breed should have hips, elbows and patellas xrayed and, submitted to OFA. These tests are graded as Good or better to pass. The dogs all need a current CAER eye exam, within a year prior to breeding. And you should ask about their PRA-prcd status - a genetically tested eye malady. Recently, the club has advised we include a Gonioscopy with the annual eye exam to check for Glaucoma. Ask specifically about Ectopic Ureter - it's not easy to diagnose, cannot yet be genetically predicted and leads to dribbling urine and early death.
- Ask about previous litters - how many pups born? stillborns? died before 8 weeks? How well did the pups meet the breed standard? How uniform were the litters? Have previous pups shown any health issues, behaviour or temperament problems? Are there pups that you can visit?
- How related are the mating pair? Ask about their CoEfficient of Inbreeding. You want it to be below 6%. What have the adult dogs done in terms of showing, competition or work? Where do they excel? You should always be able to meet both parents and see the whelping location.
- Ask about their whelping, feeding, deworming and vaccination plans. Are puppies microchipped before going to homes? How are they socialized? Will they have a vet exam before heading out?
- If they are a responsible breeder, they will have lots of questions for you as well.

Entles are quite rare and although great dogs, they need homes that can provide sufficient outlet for energy and enthusiasm. They are not for everyone. I strongly suggest that you visit an Entle in person - if possible several at different ages, to get a better idea of their energy and personality.