



Bar TT Entlebuchers

Welcome to Bar TT Ranch Entlebuchers

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Thank you for your inquiry about Entlebucher puppies at Bar TT Ranch. As you have probably already discovered, Entlebuchers are quite rare and there are not many breeders.

Have you met an Entlebucher in person? I know it can be challenging to find one, so let me know where you live and I'll try to find someone who is willing to host you for a visit. The Entle community is pretty close so most owners and certainly breeders are happy to show off their great dogs.

Next, if you haven't already, please take a minute to review our website, www.bar-tt-entlebuchers.com. You will find photos of our dogs as well as information about their heritage, health and care. Most importantly, consider how an Entle will fit into your family routine. They are fairly high energy dogs, although a good session of fetch or some trick work will have most of them asking for a nap in just 15 to 30 minutes.

Entlebuchers are sprint athletes – high energy and extremely quick over a short distance. Then they need a little time to rest and recover. They can walk or trot along beside you all day on the trail and are happy to tag along as you work around the yard or farm. Entles are very people oriented and will bond closely with their main caregiver(s). They are not prone to running away – they will just run to find you! So don't be surprised when they follow you into the bathroom!

We currently have two Entles – our male, Nelson Hercules v Eagleheart is now almost 4 years old. He was recently health and fertility tested and completed his first mating with a visiting female this past summer. He is now the proud Papa of 8 wiggling puppies. Our own female, Nakita Josephine de Jude la Cathare is almost 2 years old now. We hope to breed her and Nelson on her next cycle – perhaps in November.

Both of our dogs have completed their health clearances as required by the breed parent club, NEMDA (The National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association, <https://www.nemda.org/>) and OFA (Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals, <https://www.ofa.org/advanced-search?quicksearch=nelson%20hercules>). Nelson is now CHIC certified with OFA, meaning that he has passed all breeding requirements. Nakita requires a confirmatory hip xray after two years of age to complete the requirements, but was evaluated as 'Good' on her preliminary exam at 18 months, <https://www.ofa.org/advanced-search?quicksearch=nakita%20josephine>.

Health testing for Entlebuchers includes x-rays to assess hips, elbows and patellas for the potential of osteoarthritis, caused by loose and subluxating joints as well as annual eye exams (cataracts, glaucoma etc) and a genetic test for a heritable eye condition called Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA-prcd).

In the past, some dogs have had trouble with knees and elbows, (ACL and MCL injury). These problems are partially genetic and also environmentally caused. We test to avoid genetic influence as much as possible. and will help you provide a good environment to support healthy joints. Our dogs have not had any joint concerns.

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Ectopic ureter is another rare but difficult problem in Entlebuchers. In this case, a malformation of the ureter connection to the bladder causes urine leakage. It can be surgically managed but is expensive and not always successful. We are not sure what causes this, but genetics is likely part of the problem. Our breeding lines have not had this problem to date.

Arthritis is common in older dogs of all breeds and is not a simple problem – as many of us know personally. Juvenile arthritis can be very limiting for dogs and families. Its impact can be influenced by extreme athletics, day to day activity and diet. We do our best to breed for healthy joints but that is not the total answer. Our dogs have not had any complaints, nor am I aware of any in their lines. Keeping dogs lean and on healthy diets provides as much protection as possible.

The genetic test for PRA-prcd assures us that no more dogs need ever develop this blindness causing disease. Glaucoma and cataracts are still a possibility with age, but our dogs have been screened for genetically caused eye disease. Again, we have not seen issues in our dogs nor am I aware of any in their lines.

We work with NEMDA to determine emerging health issues. A health survey of all dogs is done every 10 years and each year, breeders report back on any illness or injury that has afflicted their dogs or their puppies. At the moment, cancer seems to be the most common cause of death – so diet and lifestyle are important. If you choose to purchase one of our pups, you will be required to provide us with annual health updates to maintain this database for the breed.

Our puppies will be raised in the house with the sights and sounds of normal family life. The pups will be familiar with our stud dog, Nelson and our horses. I am recruiting local families to expose the puppies to young children - they are generally happy to come and snuggle puppies. We expose the puppies to meet as many different people and pets as possible and then ask that new families continue this for their first several months at home. If they see crutches during that critical period, they will not worry about crutches in the future. This is true of different looking people, sounds and sights, so the more that they can experience of their future life, the easier their (and your) life will be.

Although we are new to dog breeding, our horse experience and my ongoing study, especially that with AVIDog, <https://www.avidog.com/> will have us well prepared for the challenges ahead. I eagerly started horse breeding about 5 years ago, with textbooks, online study, mentors and visits to other foaling events. It has been an exciting time breeding horses and I've learned a lot that will continue to be helpful with dogs during whelping. Of course, a close, qualified veterinarian is a huge help. I am confident that the AVIDog program will provide me with the information I need and the network I can call on for advice and help.

Entlebuchers are very intelligent and versatile dogs. Although they were originally used for herding the cattle in the Alps of Switzerland, most now live in warm homes with loving families. Many are successful at agility, obedience or other performance sports. They can do almost anything – once they understand what you want. I have shown our dogs in conformation dog shows and also compete in obedience. I am

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getting Nelson to help while moving cattle on the ranch, and find he is starting to save me a lot of steps. We have tried agility and nosework. They love it all – time with you is special. They love the attention and the treats.

If my estimates are correct, and Nakita goes into heat in November, that would lead to puppies in January. They would then be ready to head to their new homes in March or April. Since we are snowbirds, (we enjoy winters in Cottonwood, AZ and summers in Bergen, AB), I am planning to whelp puppies in warm Arizona this winter. Of course, the timing isn't exactly up to me. Nakita will let us know her plans and we will go from there. I will post any updates on the NEWS page of the website.

Once you have studied the website and perhaps NEMDA a little more, please let us know if you are still thinking an Entlebucher puppy is right for your family. We can then forward you a Puppy Application. After we review your information, if your family looks like a good fit for an Entlebucher, we will move to the next steps – getting to know you better. We will ask you to provide information that will help us match you with the right puppy. If we are not sure an Entle is right for you, we will discuss our concerns and direct you to a more suitable option.

Our puppies will be evaluated at 7 to 8 weeks old and then matched with our waiting families. Each puppy will go to its best possible home, matching their needs for activity, affection and care with the family's desires and capabilities. We will provide more information about this in the future.

Entlebucher puppies often require a bit of a wait. But be assured it is well worth the time. These are great dogs for active families. You may never look back!

Sincerely,

Laureen Little

Bar TT Ranch Entlebuchers

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