



Bar TT Entlebuchers

Before You Breed Your Dog

When you purchased your puppy from Bar TT Ranch Entlebuchers, we mentioned the importance of breeding to preserve genes in this rare breed. If you are now considering this option, here are a few things you need to complete before you breed.

The National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association (NEMDA), is the breed club in North America, available online at <https://nemda.org/>. They have a group of breeders, (<https://nemda.org/NEMDA-Breeders>), called the BCOE group who have committed to maintaining the high standards needed for our breed. The requirements are updated periodically and are available online at <https://nemda.org/Breeders-Code-of-Ethics>. Please check for the latest update.

The requirements for breeding under the NEMDA BCOE are to complete health testing, with passing scores for all required tests and if possible, the suggested tests as well. At the moment the required tests include;

Hips, Elbows and Knees

- Xray of Hips, Elbows and Patella (usually done by your regular vet, the xrays are sent to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Canine Health Information Centre, (OFA) for evaluation and recording. OFA specifies the positioning for the xrays which help to identify the risk of hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia and patellar luxation.
- Download and complete the order form (<https://www.ofa.org/application-forms>) and take it to your vet appointment. A copy is provided at the end of this document. Be sure to initial to release all results to the public database, regardless of result. This makes the results available online for breeding considerations.
- Read more at OFA, <https://www.ofa.org/diseases/hip-dysplasia>, <https://www.ofa.org/diseases/elbow-dysplasia>, and <https://www.ofa.org/diseases/other-diseases/patellar-luxation>.

Eye Genetics

- Genetic test for PRA-prcd (must be done through PawPrints of similar company, your vet takes a small blood sample and spins it down to plasma, which is sent to PawPrints. Only the PRA-prcd test is required. PRA-prcd test results limit breeding partners to eliminate blindness due to this disease. Carriers must be bred to dogs with a clear test.
- Create an account at Paw Print Genetics
<https://www.pawprintgenetics.com/accounts/signup/?next=%2Fproducts%2Ftests%2Fdetails%2F89%2F>

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- Then search under Entlebucher breed and order the test kit.
<https://www.pawprintgenetics.com/products/tests/details/89/?breed=96>
- The kit will arrive at your home with instructions. It is very simple – a cheek swab that is returned for analysis. The results will be emailed to you within a few weeks.

Eye Health

- CAER eye test with a certified Ophthalmologist. This test identifies possible heritable eye disease such as cataracts.
- Available certified ophthalmologists are listed by address at <https://www.acvo.org/ophthalmologist-search>. Type in your address and find the one most convenient for you.
- Go online to OFA and create the test order form at <https://www.ofa.org/application-forms>. Take the completed form to your appointment. Some veterinary clinics are enrolled to receive the form and complete it online.
- After the test, the clinic will provide you with the report of results. You need to send this into OFA as indicated on the form. This will register the results in the OFA database with your other health tests.
- **NOTE:** This test must be **updated annually** as the condition of the eye can change over time. If you are thinking about breeding, make sure this test is current.

Currently, the following tests are suggested but not required;

- Intraocular Pressure, Gonioscopy and Tonometry (a more detailed eye test, done by a specialist Ophthalmologist, these tests identify potential risk of glaucoma or other heritable eye disease). This test can be done at the same time as your annual CAER exam, **BUT the IOP must be the first test** or it becomes invalid. Remind them at the clinic when you arrive that you need the IOP first.
- DNA characterization for OFA database (a simple blood test sent to OFA for analysis.)

Finding certified professionals to perform the tests can sometimes be challenging. When you make your appointment, make sure you specify the test you require (as noted above). Ask specifically if the clinic has the necessary instruments for the Gonioscopy as I have found that reception is not always accurate.

