



## **Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.**

**Board of Directors  
May 2-3, 2010  
Bavarian Inn Lodge  
Frankenmuth, Michigan**

### **Agenda**

- 1. Reading of the minutes of last meeting**
  - Approval of the April 15, 2010 minutes
- 2. President's Report (Roger Frey)**
- 3. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President's Report (Mary Lou Roberts)**
- 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President's Report (Kathy McIver)**
- 5. Recording Secretary's Report (Mary Lou Cuddy)**
- 6. Corresponding Secretary's Report (Pat Randall)**
- 7. Treasurer's Report (Mary L. Price)**
- 8. AKC Delegate's Report (Mary W. Price)**
- 9. Charitable Trust Management Board (Clyde Dunphy)** (Monday afternoon or evening)
- 10. Committee Reports**
  - Breed Steward Committee (Joan Locker-Thuring - Monday evening)
  - Breeder Education Committee (Monday morning)
    - Kennel Management Heart Survey presentation
  - General Education Committee (Nicki Dobson - Monday morning)
    - Update on development of Fun Day handbook (from October 31-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting) (Mary Lou Roberts)
  - NCA Historian (attachment page 1) (Mary Jane Spackman - Monday afternoon/evening)
  - Regional Club Committee (attachment page 2)
  - *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (attachment pages 3-5)
  - Rescue Education and Awareness Committee (attachment pages 6-13) (Donna Zink – Monday evening)
    - New Buyer Program
  - Specialty Show Coordinating Committee (Robin Seaman)

- Steering Committee (Roger Powell, Mary Jane Spackman – Monday late afternoon/early evening)
- Technical Resources Committee (Barbara Finch, Marylou & Dan Zimmerman - Sunday p.m.)
  - Dogfish Software – Dan Zimmerman
- Versatile Newfoundland Committee (attachment pages 14-16) (Monday afternoon)
- Working Dog Committee (attachment pages 17-18)

## 11. Executive Session

- Approval of NCA Applicants
- Committee Survey Reports
- Committee Appointments

## 12. Unfinished Business

- Discussion Item: Should the Board revisit the policy concerning communications between NCA committees? (from the March 18, 2010 meeting)
- Discussion Item: Continue review and finalize the recent Board-approved *Constitution and Bylaws* for submission to the AKC and the State of Connecticut. (from the April 15, 2010 meeting)
- Discussion Item: Continue discussion on the committee survey results. (from April 15, 2010 meeting)
- Discussion Item: Continue discussion regarding regional clubs holding silent auction/fundraising activities at the National Specialty. (from the April 15, 2010 meeting)
- Discussion Item: That the Board move forward on the following motion from the October 31-November 2, 2008 face-to-face meeting: “Mary Lou Roberts moved and Mary Lou Cuddy seconded to form a small *ad hoc* Technical Preparation Committee to consider the possibility of having the NCA provide services for regional clubs, including but not limited to the technical preparation of newsletters and the technical maintenance of web sites (content to be provided by the regional club). The motion passed unanimously. 1 Absent (MR)” (Mary Lou Roberts)
- Discussion Item: That the Board review the following action, “By unanimous consent, the Board forwarded a proposal for a Technical Preparation Committee to the Regional Club Committee for review and discussion.” (Mary Lou Roberts)
- Discussion Item: Approval of the *Newf and You*. (attachment pages 19-35)

### 13. New Business

- Motion: If any survey of committee member satisfaction (such as the one sent to all committee members in Spring 2010) is disseminated in the future, the same people who construct and approve the questions and who make decisions based on the responses (namely, Board members) should be eliminated from eligibility to respond to the survey. (Mary Lou Roberts)
- Discussion Item: To determine how to move forward with the database project including what strategy the NCA has to provide for consistent management and continuity to long term projects or those that may require high levels of expertise to execute and manage. (Lynne Anderson-Powell)
- Discussion Item: Discussion about sharing information with regional clubs in general and specifically sharing information about supplying fire departments with oxygen masks for pets. (Maredith Reggie)
- Discussion Item: Discussion concerning the scope of responsibility of the Committee Liaison. (Maredith Reggie)
- Discussion item: Should the Board discuss areas of possible conflict of interest prior to making committee appointments? Conflict of interest, according to the AKC Board conflict statement "direct and indirect interests will include, but not be limited to, monetary investment or gains, partnerships, business affiliation, association, representation or consultancy with such interest resulting in payment or receipt of any remuneration or reward, cash or in kind, direct or indirect. For the purpose of this policy, members of an immediate family are: husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law." \* (Kathy McIver)

#### Practical Tips ( from BoardSource)

- Conflicts of interest are sometimes quite obvious and other times more obscure. To provide better guidance, consider including examples of what constitutes a conflict of interest for the organization. These examples may be lengthy, organization-specific, and/or distinguish between real, perceived, or potential conflicts.
- On the administrative side, determine who will maintain proper documentation of signed conflict-of-interest disclosure statements, as well as who has responsibility for determining whether or not an actual conflict of interest occurs. Often, these responsibilities are shared between the chief executive and a board committee.
- Busy and engaged people are involved in various activities in the community, and these affiliations are likely to collide at times. At least annually, consider requiring board and others to disclose — in writing —

any relationships that might constitute a conflict of interest. By openly and preemptively disclosing these potentially conflicting connections, the organization is better able to carry out proper due diligence. "

- Discussion Item: Discuss where the NCA should be in 20 years, 15 years, 10 and 5 years. Once we have accomplished this, what do we need to do to successfully meet our goals? (Kathy McIver)  
Rationale: Since I've been on the BOD, we keep saying we need to do this.

## **14. Adjournment**

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## NCA HISTORIAN

**From:** Mary Jane Spackman <mjspackman@verizon.net>  
**To:** KM <cachalot54@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Mon, April 12, 2010 6:36:05 PM  
**Subject:** RE: agenda deadline

**Hi Kathy**

Could the following be placed on the agenda – it is very brief and I think relatively simple:

Honorary Members

I would like the NCA Board to consider honoring a founding and honorary member of the NCA, Elizabeth Loring Power, who is credited with revitalizing the Newfoundland breed in this country with a perpetual trophy to be given at each National in recognition of all that she did for the breed and the NCA. I would suggest a trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> in the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch classes to honor the legacy that Mrs. Power gave to our breed.

In addition to the short bio (below) that I wrote on Mrs. Power. I would also like to note that Mrs. Power is mentioned for her legacy to the breed and the mentorship she provided to honorary members; Kitty Drury, Dryad Kennels, Mrs. Charles Roberts, Harlingen Kennels, and Mrs. Bea Godsol, Coastwise Kennels. These are bios that I have completed to date for the Historian articles and one consistent theme is the respect shown to Mrs. Power by these individuals. This is what brought Mrs. Power into my vision and I believe she is due the respect of a perpetual trophy in her honor.

Mrs. Davieson D. Power

Mrs. Power, Elizabeth Loring Power, brought back the Newfoundland to this country and was the owner of Waseeka Kennel in Ashland, Massachusetts. Mrs. Power fell in love with the Newfoundland breed in the early 1920s. She visited numerous Newfoundland breeders in England visit and telegraphed her father saying, "Please build kennel for Newfoundlands." When she returned to the newly-built kennel, she brought home Harlingen Viking Waseeka, Harlingen Jess, Harlingen Neptune of Waseeka, and Harlingen Vesta. She also brought Seagrave Belle, a Landseer. The four Harlingen Newfoundlands were the sons and daughters of Ch. Siki and Queen of Hearts, and they are the basis for all Newfoundlands in this country today.

Among Elizabeth's most famous dogs were Ch. Waseeka's Wayfarer, Ch. Mark Anthony of Waseeka, and another import, Ch. Seafarer, who won seven Bests in Show, the first Newfoundland to do so.

Elizabeth was a founding member of the NCA in 1930 and served as secretary and then president of the club. In addition, she was one of the judges at the first Newfoundland Specialty, judging dogs and Best of Breed. It was always a privilege to show to her. Elizabeth had a gift of knowing what to breed to what. Her legacy for breeding not only benefited the Newfoundland but Corgis, English Setters, and horses, all under the Waseeka prefix. Today the revitalization of the Newfoundland in America is due to the breeding foundation laid by Elizabeth Power.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Mary Jane Spackman,  
NCA Historian

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## **REGIONAL CLUB COMMITTEE**

**From:** Steve Britton <britone@centurytel.net>  
**To:** cachalot54@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Mon, April 12, 2010 3:19:08 PM  
**Subject:** Re: agenda deadline

Hi Kathy:

The only thing to report from the RCC is we have met our obligation to the Board of Directors as far as meeting in each quarter.

We have no agenda items to submit to the Board of Directors at this time.

Sincerely,

Steve Britton  
Chairman

## REQUEST FOR ACTION ON THREE ITEMS

TO: NCA Board of Directors

From: *Newf Tide* Policy Committee (NTPC)

Members: Patti Emmerling, Julie P. Siefert, Beth Sell, Jeannette Voss, Ken Wildman

Maredith Reggie, Editor, *ex officio*, Aura Dean, Chair

Date: April 14, 2010

The NTPC respectfully requests that the NCA Board take action on the following three items. These three items are all submitted with the unanimous approval of the committee.

**A. Submission Policy:** Although not specifically detailed in the Policy Manual, the following procedure for submitting articles to *Newf Tide* has evolved and been practiced for many years. The *Newf Tide* Policy Committee requests that this procedure, as outlined herein, be adopted as the policy governing submissions effective June 1, 2010.

1. An individual or a committee submits an article to the editor of *Newf Tide*.
2. The editor determines if the article is appropriate for publication with input, as needed, from NTPC.
3. If the content is acceptable but under the purview or scope of a committee (or a different committee if submitted by a committee), as a courtesy, the editor will send the submission to that committee for review, comments, and suggestions. NTPC aids the editor in determining if a submission should be sent for committee review.
4. If there are suggested changes to the article, either by the reviewing committee and/or the editor, the article is returned to the original committee and/or author for review and/or revision prior to publication.
5. If an author/committee does not agree with the editor's disposition of an article, an appeal may be made to the NTPC; if that does not resolve the question, a final appeal may be made to the NCA Board of Directors.
6. The article is printed in *Newf Tide*.

**B. Approval of application to the US Post Office for an additional mailing site.**

Rationale: The printer has requested that *Newf Tide* make application to the USPS for an additional mailing site. The cost is \$89. The fee will be refunded by the printer. The purpose of

the additional mailing site is to permit the magazine to be mailed from the printer's local post office in Montezuma, Iowa rather than trucking it to Des Moines, Iowa. This will be more time efficient and cost effective.

C. **NTPC would like the Board's guidance** about coverage in *Newf Tide* for the Newfoundlands of non-NCA members. *Newf Tide* is the publication of the Newfoundland Club of America.

TO: NCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM: Aura Ellen Dean, Chair, *Newf Tide* Policy Committee  
RE: Post Publication Report: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2010  
DATE: April 14, 2010

The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter issue of *Newf Tide* contained 92 pages, plus covers and was mailed from Des Moines, IA on or about March 22, 2010.

1630 copies were printed. 1240 were mailed to members and 195 to subscribers. Extras were shipped to the Membership Chair (40), Back Issues Volunteer (25), Circulation Coordinator (40) and REACt (40). A priority copy was mailed to all board members, including those newly elected, NTPC and full-page advertisers(3).

Three inserts were placed in this issue: Notice of Annual Meeting; Judges Ballot (2011-2013) and Breeders List Application. All easily detachable for membership ease in responding.

The cost of printing was \$6,011.54.

Electronic label files were provided to the printer on or about March 8, 2010 by the Membership Chair and the Subscription Coordinators. Sutherland Printing's mail coordinator used US Postal software to check the accuracy of these addresses. No errors were reported for this issue. This service has helped to cut down on returned magazines and reduce the costs. Our postal permit requires us to pay the postage on magazines that are returned because they cannot be delivered. Our postal permit also sets the number of mailings per year at 4.

At least four days of delay were experienced due to the blizzard conditions in parts of the country. Both the US Postal Service and Federal Express were not able to deliver as expected.

There were only six pages of advertising in this issue. The color ads, however, on the inside pages of the front and back covers continue to be easily sold and are a quality addition to the magazine.

There were no significant problems in the publication process.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Aura Ellen Grace Dean, Chair, *Newf Tide* Policy Committee

## REPORT ON NEW BUYER PROPOSAL: NEWF TIDE COUPON REQUESTS

### Rescue Education and Awareness Committee (REACt) Apr. 9, 2010

**Committee purpose:** *“to address the address the issue of rescue proactively by finding ways to educate breeders and the buying public and to develop an arsenal of weapons and strategies to combat the ruthlessness of puppy mills and other forms of indiscriminant breeding.*

#### BACKGROUND: ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, AS APPROVED

*Background:* The outcome of the member survey that was conducted in 2007 brought a very disquieting realization. What became apparent was that the source of new members that develop and sustain the NCA as breed enthusiasts, as well as that proportion who will become future breeders who strive toward the standard, appears to be diminishing along with the proportion of member breeders. What we saw in the results of the survey was that the network that sustained the Club was broken by the internet, so that not only were Newfoundland puppies rapidly available by those breeding outside the Club, but there was not a mechanism of interacting with the buyers of these puppies, to offer the potential for learning and development that was provided through the former network. The parent club is essential to maintaining the standard for the breed, which has been developed for the purpose of identifying and maintaining the traits of the breed, and for furthering the improvement of health status. In order to preserve the standard, we need to have the appropriate infrastructure for the Club, and in order to sustain the Club, we need to reach those buyers who may become future breed enthusiasts. Whatever the source of our first Newfoundland, and most of us began under less than ideal circumstances, when we are presented with the opportunity to learn and develop, some of us become breed enthusiasts.

Our concerns are twofold:

- 1) that those buyers whose source is the internet do not have a connection to NCA or its regional clubs, and without that, they do not benefit from the resources that are available to help them successfully rear a puppy, learn how to train or care for a Newfoundland or locate assistance if they are no longer able to care for their dog
- 2) that this pool of buyers, which has grown to a large proportion, are too far removed from the network to develop into members who sustain the Club and the breed.

**Proposal:** REAC(t) has identified a method of opening channels of communication with this set of buyers. There are three parts to our proposal.

1. We propose that the flyer included with registration packets be reorganized to allow inclusion and positioning of a “coupon.” This coupon (example attached) would make two offers to those registering their puppy:
  - a. An offer to first-time buyers to receive a free copy of Newf Tide, one per household.
  - b. An offer to all new buyers to join a newsletter distribution list that would provide issues of a Life Stages document, staged to match the age of the puppy at bimonthly intervals through the first year of age.

**Details for 1.:** By positioning the coupon in a registration packet, not a litter registration, we hope to increase the opportunity for new owners to become aware of NCA and its resources. With some rearrangement, the coupon could be set in a corner of the existing insert.

**Details for 1.a.:**

The Newf Tide issue used for mailing would be a back-issue. Depending on the number of coupons returned, it could increase the need for the quantity ordered. The estimated value for the back-issues is \$5-10 per issue, but there are at present only around 200 issues available. Cost with mailing for new issues is around \$12 per issue. Whether there is a potential per-issue price reduction for an increased order quantity is being examined. What we propose is that a planned trial be established for a period of 3-6 months, using existing back-issues and some left-over stock from the next two issues. This will allow us to evaluate the impact and better project funding needed and examine potential sources of funding. Cost for the 6-month trial would be an estimated \$3,000 and would end at 6 months or sooner if the available quantity for the trial was depleted.

With 3,415 Newfoundlands registered per year, based on the June 2006 statistics, if 30% of the owners requested Newf Tide issues, the annual cost to maintain the program at \$12 per request would be approximately \$12,000 per year or approximately \$3,000 per quarter (300/quarter.) This may be lowered if there is a quantity price break in publication, and 30% response may be optimistic. We need the trial using existing back-issues in order to better evaluate the costs and impact, and to then determine whether there is measureable success and whether there are additional funding opportunities or means of cost-reduction.

The benefits of mailing an issue of Newf Tide are:

- A tangible item displaying many current photographs of typical well-bred Newfoundlands, along with their member kennel names (not dog farm kennel names or breeding stock names), with information resources on NCA, regional clubs, Rescue and health issues is in the hands of the buyer, which may lead the buyer to further research or inquiry.
- The issue of Newf Tide, as a high-quality document, may be displayed and viewed by friends and relatives, who then also have the opportunity to become aware of NCA and regional clubs and Rescue.
- Increased awareness of Rescue could lead to more interest in adopting an adult or making contributions.
- Increased interest in NCA and regional clubs, which would lead to an increase in membership and increased participation in NCA or regional club activities
- The database for mailings offers us a contact list for this pool of buyers, which offers us a base for future surveys and prospective funding from a sponsor.
- Breed dedication requires extra commitment and interest; those who respond with the coupon will be a more focused group than a broad mailing since submitting a coupon crosses at least a minor "energy of activation" barrier.

**Details for 1.b.:**

Lori Littleford proposed introducing a [Life Stages document](#), an e-newsletter format, to correspond to development stages over the first year of a Newfoundland's life. Lori presented the first issue as an example. (attached) This program would also be voluntary, based upon sign-up.

For this document, we propose to use existing Board-approved content to the extent possible. Mary Lou Zimmerman has confirmed that distribution of the staged documents can be accomplished with the use of existing resources.

There is no additional cost associated with this component of the proposal.

**Addendum, in cover message:** With the cover letter, we can include some short, focused references to develop interest in the users for some of the web site content.

**Summary:**

At this time, we are asking for the approval of the concept, so that we may allocate our resources effectively. We are seeking:

- 1) the Board's support in redesigning the layout of the insert to include the coupon
- 2) approval for a trial for the distribution of back-issues of the Newf Tide
- 3) approval of the concept to develop the remaining issues of the Life Stages documents

Note: Newspapers are still an active means of distribution for puppies, and we still need to be active in reaching those buyers. There is another proposal under development to address this area.

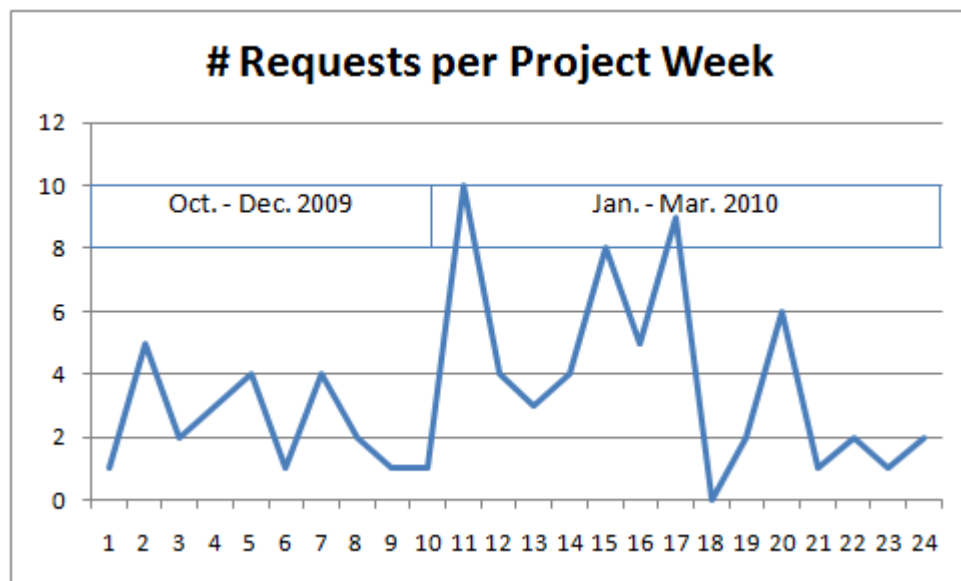
## PROJECT REVIEW PERIOD SUMMARY:

### IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

This proposal was unanimously supported within the committee, and was approved by the Board, with a requirement to have the newsletter subscription on the coupon and a copy of the regional club listing with the cover letter and issue of Newf Tide. The Board approved an amendment to the project to release the coupon without the newsletter subscription address until that part of the project was complete. The materials for this part of the project (the coupon modification to the insert, the cover letter and the regional club listing) were developed with input from the Board and all materials were approved in final form during the August and September 2009 Board meetings. The budget was reduced to \$1,500 for this period. The approved coupon was submitted to AKC in late September, and printing began in mid-October.

Back-issues of Newf Tides were shipped from Beth Sell for distribution in sets of two flat-rate postage boxes on an as-needed basis, approximately 30 issues per shipment. Aura and Beth were both particularly instrumental in the implementation during the initiation and implementation of this project.

March 31, 2010 was used as the closing date for the project data for the review period. This is a total of 24 weeks, with an average of 3.3 requests per week. There was a sharp increase in requests after the end of 2009, which has tapered drastically in recent weeks. (Week 10 ends Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010.)



Requests were received from 31 different states and from British Columbia. One person declined to provide mailing address information, apparently thinking that this was an online document. Most states had from 1-3 requests. Seven states had four or more, with Ohio having a much higher rate of requests. (See the tables on the following page.) This information will be useful in deciding where to allocate resources in educational efforts. We were pleased with the geographic distribution of the requests.

## REQUESTS PER REGION:

Midwest	24
North Central	10
Northeast	18
Northwest	7
Southeast	8
Southwest	11
Canada	1

## 4 OR MORE REQUESTS/STATE:

IL	4
MA	4
MI	6
OH	12
OR	4
PA	5
TX	5

Based on information from Mary for 2009, there were 958 litters for a total of 2649 Newfoundlands registered with AKC. This is 2.8 Newfoundlands registered per litter, up slightly from previous years. In a six-month period, there are approximately 1325 Newfoundlands bred. Of these, 80 buyers requested copies of Newf Tide, representing 6% of Newfoundlands registered. Some of these puppies are kept by NCA members, who do not typically request an issue from the coupon, and a few buyers have acquired more than one Newfoundland in this time. The coupon code is set up to allow us to account for unique litters, and of the 77 valid coupon codes, requests came from 75 unique litters. These requests represent 15% of all litters bred in a 6-month period. (Note: Viewed on a population density basis, TX ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of the 31 states represented, at 0.2 per million. The top ten follow this order: **ME, OR, OH, IA, NH, ID, MA, MI, MN, PA**, with Maine being highest at 1.5 Newfs per million and PA 10<sup>th</sup> at 0.4 per million.)

PROJECT COSTS AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Depending on the weight of the issue, the issues are mailed in catalog mailers or by flat-rate envelopes. The cost of envelopes and postage ranges from \$3-4 per mailing for lighter issues, and the flat-rate envelope for average or heavier issues is \$4.90 per mailing for 2010. The last set of 40 issues was shipped directly from the printer at a cost of \$26.83. This issue had 96 pages, and the cost per issue was \$4.64. For purposes of estimation, we will use an average cost per issue of \$5 plus \$6/issue for total shipping cost. The total cost of this project to date has been approximately \$1150, with issues to fill requests through early May, the date for the next production order. We have placed a notice about the coupon offer on the NCA main page and would like to find additional opportunities to increase interest in coupon submission. On a continuing basis, with better planning for orders and allowing for a small increase in responses, the cost is expected to range between \$2,500 - \$3,000 per year.

EXPERIENCES & OPPORTUNITIES

- The coupon is worded as "Offer limited to one copy per household." This was to be in keeping with the legal definition of "household." There was one request from a buyer who moved shortly afterward to a new address and submitted a second request. This is not expected to be a common occurrence, so no change is planned to the wording.
- We published information about the project and its purpose in NCA e-notes, and it has been published in at least two annual reports and was mentioned in a Gazette article by Karen Steinrock. Only one NCA member has submitted a request at this time. We would like to keep

the appearance of the coupon and its wording simple. We will add a section to our Committee page that gives an overview of the project. Karen is interested in doing a follow-up article on this project as well.

- International requests: We had only one request from Canada. With members in Canada, and with some newer interests in Newfoundlands in Mexico, we would like to continue to offer copies to these bordering countries for AKC-registered Newfoundlands. For other international requests, an option may be to offer the issue with shipping to be pre-paid by the requester. International requests other than Canada are anticipated to be rare. Few requests from Canada are anticipated.
- Expiration date: Due to the purpose of this project, if it is approved on a continuing basis, an expiration date for the coupon may not be necessary. However, if the project were terminated, valid coupons could still be presented for a long time. Perhaps an expiration date of one year should be added.
- Registrations for adult dogs: There have been a few requests where a transfer was done for an adult Newfoundland to someone who is new to the breed. Whatever the starting point for a new buyer, we feel that they may benefit from exposure to club information and activities, and that we may benefit from their interest in the breed.

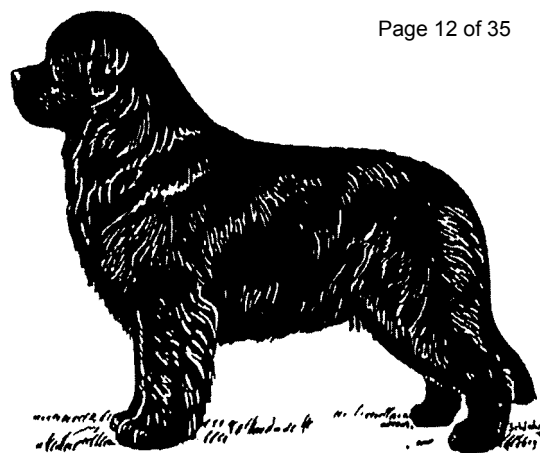
## CONCLUSION

There is consensus in our committee about the value of this activity for several reasons. We believe that it offers the buyers additional resources to build interest in an active relationship with their Newfoundland. We feel that it builds inroads between new buyers and NCA and its regional clubs, which will support both the buyers and the club. We feel that the learning potential as we develop this pool of buyers is very important. Having a tangible copy with photos of Newfoundlands who are good breed representatives along with content that is both interesting and educational allows the buyers as well as other people to learn more about the breed in a positive, indirect manner without requiring an effort to search online and without the competition from other "informational" sites online. We believe that of the 6% of buyers who receive this, we are reaching those who may take a more active interest in their Newfoundland and in the breed, and we feel that encouraging interest in this pool of buyers is essential to the future of our breed as well as the future of our club.

At this time, we do not have a good way to objectively assess the effectiveness of this project in reaching the longer-term goals, such as increased participation in regional club activities and events, increased regional club membership, increased NCA membership or the ultimate goal of decreased relinquishment of Newfoundlands to Rescue. In comparing to subscriber information, one requester has become a subscriber to Newf Tide. We will be able to compare to published NCA membership applications, but due to the length of time between initiation of interest and the point at which an application is published, there is no useful information for the initial review period. With the increasing number of requests, this will become very difficult unless the new applicant information is available for comparison in a spreadsheet format.

We propose continuation of this activity within our committee on an ongoing basis.

# Congratulations on your new Newfoundland



## Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the wonderful world of Newfoundlands. The Newfoundland Club of America, Inc. (NCA) is a not-for-profit organization formed in 1930 to encourage and promote the quality of purebred Newfoundland dogs and do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. NCA has many regional Newfoundland clubs that create a network of support to Newfoundland dog owners.

## History

The Newfoundland is a large, strong, heavy-coated, active dog equally at home in the water and on land. He is a multipurpose dog, capable of heavy work. In Newfoundland he was used as a working dog to pull nets for the fishermen and to haul wood from the forest. Elsewhere he patiently did heavy labor of all kinds, powering the blacksmith's bellows and the turner's lathe. The oily nature of his double coat (which effectively keeps him from getting wet to the skin), his webbed feet, his deep, broad chest and well-sprung ribs make him a natural swimmer. He has true lifesaving instincts and is renowned in this role. There are many conflicting stories as to the origin of the Newfoundland. The breed as we know it today was developed largely in 19th century England and America. The Newfoundland is an ancestor of the present day Labrador and Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, which follow the Newfoundland in their natural swimming ability.

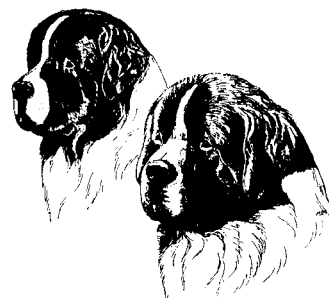
## Care and Housing

While the Newf at first may appear somewhat placid, he is actually a fairly active dog. He enjoys and needs daily exercise. A Newf may find a small yard a good home, providing it is kept clean and he is given a good level of exercise. Do not leave a Newf in the sun, especially in a parked car, unattended. Grooming is essential. Brushing often means less bathing. Take care to see that growing puppies don't do a lot of jumping, running, or playing on slippery surfaces, or have their limbs pulled. Their fast-growing joints and bones are still soft and may be permanently damaged.

## Obedience

An untrained dog, no matter what its size, is a liability in modern society. For their own safety and owner's sanity, all dogs require some form of obedience training.

Being intelligent canines, most Newfs are readily trained. The ideal time to begin the training is when the puppy is two months of age-which means you start the day you get the puppy. One person in the family, preferably an adult, should assume the major responsibility for training, but all family members should know the commands, use them consistently, and know how to reward the puppy with praise and encouragement when it has responded to a command. In addition to early training at home, it is advisable to take your puppy to a training class.

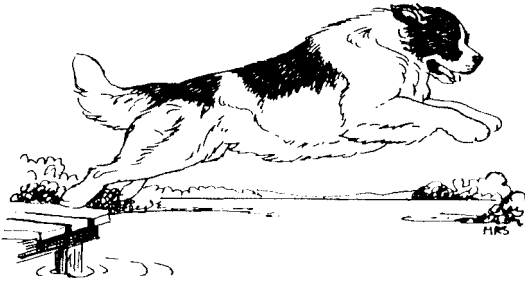


## Breeding

Before considering the breeding of a Newfoundland, you should carefully review the responsibilities you would be taking upon yourself. Any breeder of AKC registered dogs has a responsibility to the AKC to keep full and accurate records of all litters. Any breeder also has a responsibility to follow the litters to see that the dogs are in good homes and to evaluate the success of his breeding program. The only valid reason for breeding is to improve the breed. A study of both dogs' ancestries is essential as is a full evaluation of both dogs' littermates. It is important not to breed Newfs with serious hereditary faults such as hip dysplasia, heart abnormalities, etc., or with breed standard faults. All dogs should X-ray free of hip dysplasia and be cleared of heart defects before any breeding is considered. Newfoundlands of poor temperament should definitely not be bred, regardless of other characteristics.

## Events

There are many different events for you and your Newfoundland to participate in and enjoy. Conformation, obedience, agility, junior showmanship, tracking, draft and water tests, backpacking, and specialty carting are among the various activities in which you can participate.



With the exception of AKC licensed or sanctioned dog show conformation classes that are aimed at the selection of breeding stock, all events are open to altered dogs. Various educational efforts of NCA, including the publication of *Newf Tide* (an award winning quarterly magazine), cover every aspect of Newfoundland ownership. The NCA and regional clubs actively support canine health research and provide adoption assistance for Newfoundlands.

### The AKC Standard

The standard is a written guide that describes the ideal Newfoundland in appearance and behavior. In part, the Newfoundland standard calls for:

"The Newfoundland is a sweet-dispositioned dog that acts neither dull nor ill-tempered. He is a devoted companion. A multipurpose dog, at home on land and in water, the Newfoundland is capable of draft work and possesses natural lifesaving abilities.

The Newfoundland is a large, heavily coated, well balanced dog that is deep-bodied, heavily boned, muscular, and strong. A good specimen of the breed has dignity and proud head carriage.

Average height for adult dogs is 28 inches, for adult bitches, 26 inches. Approximate weight of adult dogs ranges from 130 to 150 pounds, adult bitches from 100 to 120 pounds. The dog's appearance is more massive throughout than the bitch's large size is desirable, but never at the expense of balance, structure, and correct gait. The Newfoundland is slightly longer than tall when measured from the point of shoulder to point of buttocks and from withers to ground. He is a dog of considerable substance which is determined by spring of rib, strong muscle, and heavy bone."

### Temperament

Sweetness of temperament is the hallmark of the Newfoundland; this is the most important single characteristic of the breed.

### Other Sources of Information

There are many local, national, and international sources of information about dogs in general and the Newfoundland in particular. You can obtain the address or phone numbers for many of these from the American Kennel Club (AKC) (1-919-233-9767 or <http://www.akc.org>). You may find clubs in your area such as all-breed, obedience, agility, tracking, herding, or other specialty organizations. They are excellent sources of information. The Newfoundland Club of America, Inc., publishes a General Education packet of information that contains a list of books on our breed, membership information, regional club and rescue information, and the booklet "*The Newf and You.*" This packet can be ordered by sending \$5.00 to:

Newfoundland Club of America  
P.O. Box 2614  
Cheyenne, WY 82003

To subscribe to our quarterly magazine, send \$55.00 in US funds only please, payable to Newfoundland Club of America, to:

*Newf Tide*  
P.O. Box 335  
Washington, ME 04574  
[Newftide@hotmail.com](mailto:Newftide@hotmail.com)

The NCA maintains a web site that contains a tremendous amount of information. Point your browser to: <http://www.newfdogclub.org>

or contact the NCA Corresponding Secretary:

Pat Randall  
7238 Highway 162  
Hollywood, SC 29449



## Don't pass up this coupon for a *free* issue of *Newf Tide*!



For a *free* issue\* of *Newf Tide*, send your request, coupon code, and your mailing address by US Postal mail to:

NCA *Newf Tide* Offer  
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\*Offer is limited to one copy per household.

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## VERSATILE NEWF COMMITTEE

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Bruce Karger <brucekarger@verizon.net>

**To:** cachalot54@yahoo.com

**Cc:** bethanykarger@verizon.net; jollyrogernewfs@verizon.net

**Sent:** Thu, March 18, 2010 11:42:38 AM

**Subject:**

Kathy, thx for taking the time for our conversation last night and your understanding of the frustration of VN committee in tracking and insuring the proper recognition of these wonderful dogs. To use the analogy I used last night, this is not a situation where the VN committee is saying "I like my Model T, will start the engine with the crank, and will not use that new fangled key!" Rather, the NCA just bought a brand new Lexus and paid extra for a GSP system. However at times, the GPS system directs the VN committee to drive in to a lake when the GPS is used. There is something wrong with the GPS.

The new data base is the GPS system.

At your request, a little about my background..... After teaching high school Algebra 1 / 2, Trigonometry and Business Math for 7 ½ years, I joined IBM. After training, I was a Systems Engineer with a concentration in data base design. During this assignment, I worked on technical sales solutions for companies such as US Steel, PPG Industries, HJ Heinz Corporation, Mellon Bank, Ford Motor Company, and General Motors. After 6 years, I joined the management team to manage both sales and technical people in providing technical solutions to our customers. After 11 years, I moved to the IBM Business Partner management group working with IBM Business Partners in selling solutions to small and medium business in the US and Canada.

With that as a background, Bethany (VN Committee Chair) asked me to be her "technical advisor" and be a silent member of the VN Committee. As such, I designed a spreadsheet to gather the data for each new dog completing the requirements for a VN. I also worked with Office MAX to create an automated way for supplying Office MAX the data and the VN Certificate template, and then with them created an automated method of creating the VN certificates each year.

Using the current NCA Policy Manual on the NCA web site with guidelines for the VN Committee chair, the data spreadsheet duplicates the information required and duplicates the process. At my suggestion, a minor addition was made to the process that allows for the capture of the data from a scanned / emailed copy of each mandatory certificate rather than the requirement to "snail mail" 2 copies.

This saves a lot of time and money for the NCA member and permits the VN Committee to capture the data electronically.

So, as you can see, the VN Committee has developed an enhanced process to the policy as outlined in the NCA Policy Manual. For each dog meeting the VN requirements each year, total time effort is an average of 20 minutes to capture the data. This does not include the time for providing Office MAX with the data, obtaining the hard copy certificates, and proofreading prior to presentation at the annual meeting.

As we also discussed last night, the VN Committee has discovered some issues in data accuracy with the current implementation of the newly developed data base. Some of the issues discovered are:

- 1) Some dogs were not identified by the data base program who had actually earned a VN in 2009.
- 2) Many NCA titles are missing.
- 3) All non NCA / AKC titles that are recognized by the NCA are not in the data base. This includes CGC from the AKC, all Canadian Titles, etc.
- 4) One dog was identified as earning a VN in 2009, but actually earned the VN in 2006. The data base program captured titles that were requalifier titles. The actual titles and dates are missing in the data base.
- 5) The data base does not delineate between a requalified title and the original title. Without this delineation, it is a manual "process of elimination" for the VN Committee to determine the exact dates of the titles to be printed on the VN Certificate.
- 6) One dog identified by the program as earning a VN in 2009 had data that showed the dog earning a WRDX prior to earning its WRD. This is obviously incorrect.
- 7) One dog identified by the data base program showed an owner. However, after 3 emails and a phone call to that NCA member, the VN Committee received that required Data from a completely different person. The data base identified an incorrect owner.

As a result of these type of errors, the VN Committee took it upon themselves to go outside the guidelines with the NCA Policy Manual. The committee created a new process to contact every person, verify every title and data required for a VN, gather all of other titles earned and recognized by the NCA, and then verify the correct ownership. This additional verification effort more than tripled the amount of time the VN Committee had to spend in data gathering, data entry and data verification. The VN Committee also had to have the E-Notes editor include a VN data request in a recent edition. The committee hopes that everyone actually read the E-Notes and that 2009 VN qualifiers have come forward. The VN Committee is still not confident that all eligible dogs have been identified.

Once all of the above was completed, I took it upon myself to review approximately 40 dogs for which I was familiar with the titles. These dogs were from the 2008 VN recipients, 2009 VN recipients, all of my own dogs (both VNs and non VNs), and some Jolly Roger dogs for which Bethany and I have offspring and know the titles.

I found an error rate in excess of 40%.

- 1) For every single VN we have had, only 1 dog had any working title (it happened to be a re-qual) and did not identify a single title for the VN.
- 2) I found one dog that was listed as earning the same title TWICE on the same day. The actual situation was the dog earned on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and re-qualified the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.
- 3) For many of the dogs, at least 1 NCA title was missing.
- 4) 3 dogs showed earning a TDD but never having earned a DD.

For all non VN dogs, the error rate was almost 85%. A common theme in the errors were for titles earned prior to 2007. Of the 8 of my own dogs, only 1 had the correct data. Even dogs who have earned titles since 2007 had errors.

In summary, the VN Committee is making a formal request of the NCA Board that the committee be permitted to follow the policy are outlined in the NCA Policy Manual until such time as the program supplying data extracted from the data base be at least 95% accurate. The committee feels that these recognition programs are not only an honor to the owner and their dog, but an important part of NCA's overall awards programs and will be an important part of the NCA's history. Asking for accuracy seems to be a simple request.

Bruce Karger

## From Section 13 of Draft Test Regulations – Entry in Team Division

### Old wording:

To transfer the entry, the handler must submit to the Draft Test Secretary a copy of the dog's Draft Dog title certificate or a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Draft Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners. A change of entry from Individual to Team Division must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. the night before the test.

### Proposed new wording (addition is underlined):

To transfer the entry, the handler must submit to the Draft Test Secretary a copy of the dog's Draft Dog title certificate or a signed statement listing the name of the dog, the date and location of the Draft Test passed, the judges' names, and the name and address of the owners, a copy of the dogs AKC registration and a completed Draft test entry form for each dog. A change of entry from Individual to Team Division must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. the night before the test.

## From UNDERWATER RETRIEVE, Standard of Performance

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### Old wording (contradictions are underlined):

This exercise starts on the beach. The dog will willingly accompany the handler into the water. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar. The point of the dog's elbow will measure the required depth. When dog and handler are in position, a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" A judge will then instruct the handler, "You may begin". The handler will toss the object into the water at least three (3) feet in front of the dog and parallel to shore. The object to be retrieved will be no more than twelve (12) inches long and 4 inches tall. When submerged, it should extend no more than four (4) inches from the bottom and should be weighted evenly so that it will sink immediately.

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The handler may not touch the dog after the object is thrown. The handler may be beside the dog so that the dog can immediately deliver the object to hand. The handler's position should not block the view of the judges. The dog will have a total of three minutes from the time the object is first thrown to retrieve it from the bottom and deliver it to the handler.

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The handler has the option of throwing the object as often as necessary, but the total time for the entire exercise is not to exceed three minutes. Each new throw must be at the required depth and at least three (3) feet in front of the dog. The judges will signal completion of the exercise.

A dog may paw or submerge its head on this exercise, but it must pick up the article and deliver to hand.

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Suggested Time Limit: Three (3) minutes. Timing starts when the judge instructs, "You may begin".

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**Proposed new wording (additions are underlined, strike throughs were removed):**

This exercise starts on the beach. The judge will state "Are You Ready" and "You may proceed into the water". The dog will willingly accompany the handler into the water. The handler must have hands off the dog and/or the dog's collar at this time. The point of the dog's elbow will measure the required depth. When dog and handler are in position, at depth, a judge will ask, "Are you ready?" A judge will then instruct the handler, "You may begin". The handler will toss the object into the water at least three (3) feet in front of the dog and parallel to shore. The object to be retrieved will be no more than twelve (12) inches long and 4 inches tall. When submerged, it should extend no more than four (4) inches from the bottom and should be weighted evenly so that it will sink immediately.

The handler may not touch the dog after the object is thrown. The handler may be beside the dog so that the dog can immediately deliver the object to hand. The handler's position should not block the view of the judges. The dog will have a total of three minutes from the time the judge's state "You may begin" ~~the object is first thrown~~ to retrieve it from the bottom and deliver it to the handler.

The handler has the option of throwing the object as often as necessary, but the total time for the entire exercise is not to exceed three minutes. Each new throw must be at the required depth and at least three (3) feet in front of the dog. The judges will signal completion of the exercise.

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## THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND YOU

### INTRODUCING THE NEWFOUNDLAND

The Newfoundland is a large, strong, heavy-coated, active dog equally at home in the water and on land. He is a multipurpose dog, capable of heavy work. His unique gentleness, even temper and devotion make him an ideal companion for child or adult.

In Newfoundland he was used as a working dog to pull nets for the fishermen and to haul wood from the forest. Elsewhere he patiently did heavy labor of all kinds, powering the blacksmith's bellows and the turner's lathe. The oily nature of his double coat (which effectively keeps him from getting wet to the skin), his webbed feet, his deep, broad chest and well-sprung ribs make him a natural swimmer. He has true life-saving instincts and is renowned in this role.

Despite his heavy coat, a Newf adapts to warm as well as to cool climates. In warm climates the long outer coat remains, but the undercoat thins out to some degree. The warmer the weather, the more careful one must be to provide plenty of shade and fresh water. Do not leave a Newf in the sun, especially in a parked car, unattended.

There are many conflicting stories as to the origin of the Newfoundland. It is agreed only that he is one of the older breeds of dogs in existence today. He may not have originated in Newfoundland, though skeletons of giant dogs have been discovered in Indian gravesites in Newfoundland dating from the 5th century, AD. One of the more appealing speculations rests on the legend that when Leif Erikson discovered North America about 1000 AD, he had aboard his boat a large black dog resembling a Newfoundland, called "Oolum." It is recorded that early in the 19th century some Norwegians kept and used Newfoundland-like dogs for bear and wolf hunting. The first record of the Newfoundland dog on the island whose name he bears dates from 1732 when an unknown author wrote, "The Bear Dog of a very large size is very watchful, his business is to guard a court or house,

## THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND YOU

A Pamphlet for the New and Prospective  
Newfoundland Owner

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The Newfoundland is a large, strong, heavy-coated, active dog, equally at home in the water and on land. He is a multipurpose dog, capable of heavy work. While at first the Newf may appear somewhat placid, he is actually a fairly active dog that enjoys and needs daily exercise. Despite his size, he can reside comfortably in a small home or apartment, providing he is given ample opportunities for exercise.

Newfoundlands are renowned for their unique gentleness, even temperament, loving nature, and devotion. Historically, they have displayed a keen sense of responsibility and life-saving instincts, and their acts of heroism, both on land and on sea, are recorded in history, myths, and legends. These attributes make a Newf a good choice as a companion for children and adults alike.

While Newfs are well known for their gentle disposition, personality and temperament can vary throughout this breed, just as with humans. While the Newf has strong guardian instincts, he is not a watchdog in the Schutzhund sense, and harsh treatment and inattention will produce resentment and poor behavior in any dog. In addition, one should see that a Newf (or any dog) is not abused or harassed by children or adults. A growing puppy may be more subject to injury than his size would lead you to believe. Never allow a child to climb on a growing puppy or ride on an adult Newf.

The oily nature of the Newfoundland's double coat effectively keeps him from getting wet to the skin, and combined with his webbed feet, deep, broad chest, and well-sprung ribs, makes him a natural swimmer. Despite this heavy coat, he adapts to warm as well as to cool climates. In warm climates, the long outer coat remains, but the undercoat thins out to some degree. The warmer the weather, the more careful you must be to avoid overheating. Also provide a Newf with plenty of shade and fresh water and do not leave him in the sun or unattended in a parked car.

and has a thundering voice.” It is possible, too, that some Great Pyrenees were bred to this Newfoundland dog by the Basque fishermen sailing between Newfoundland and their homeland. The breed as we know it today was developed largely in 19th century England and America. The Newfoundland is an ancestor of the present day Labrador and Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, which follow the Newfoundland in their natural swimming ability. The rough-coated St. Bernard owes its coat to the Newfoundland.

The Standard, as set by the Newfoundland Club of America and approved by the American Kennel Club, calls for a dog which impresses the eye with great strength, dignity and pride. The Newf in motion gives the impression of effortless power. Good proportion is important for a smooth, strong drive. The Newfoundland has a water-resistant double coat. The outer coat is coarse, moderately long and flat. The undercoat is soft and very dense.

While the Newf is found in a variety of coat colors, color is secondary to type, structure and soundness. The recognized colors in the AKC approved Newfoundland Standard are black, brown, gray, and white and black. Black, brown and gray may appear as solid colors or solid colors with white at any, some or all of the following locations: chin, chest, toes, and tip of tail. Also typical is a tinge of bronze on a black or gray coat and lighter furnishings on a brown or gray coat. Brown or gray Newfs are not considered unusual. A white and black dog has a white base coat with black markings. Typically the head is solid black or black with white on the muzzle, with or without a blaze (a white stripe extending from the muzzle between the eyes onto the head). There is a separate black saddle and black on the rump extending onto a white tail. Clear white or white with minimal ticking on the white and black dog is preferred. Other color combinations of the Newfoundland may occasionally be found, but they are not recognized in the AKC approved breed standard.

A Newfoundland puppy normally grows at a very rapid rate. The average height for adult dogs is 28 inches and for adult bitches, 26 inches. The approximate weight of adult dogs is 130 to 150 pounds, of adult bitches 100 to 120 pounds. Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of balance, structure and correct

Historically, in Newfoundland, he was used as a working dog to pull nets for the fishermen and to haul wood from the forest. Elsewhere he patiently did heavy labor of all kinds, powering the blacksmith’s bellows and the turner’s lathe.

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gait.

While the Newf at first may appear somewhat placid, he is actually a fairly active dog. He enjoys and needs daily exercise. A Newf may find a small yard a good home, providing it is kept clean and he is given a good level of exercise. Newfs make good pets with their gentle, loving nature. Since the Newf has historically displayed a keen sense of responsibility, he makes a good choice as a companion for children of any age. However, one should see that a Newf (or any dog) is not abused or harassed by children or adults. A growing puppy may be more subject to injury than its size would lead you to believe. NEVER allow a child to climb on a growing puppy or adult Newf to ride it. While Newfs are well known for their gentle disposition, personality and temperament can vary throughout this breed just as they do with humans. While the Newf has strong guardian instincts, he is not a watchdog in the Schutzhund sense. Harsh treatment and inattention will naturally produce resentment and poor behavior in any dog.

Once the Newfoundland breed has caught your fancy, you should take time to learn as much as you can about the breed before you invest in a cute puppy. There are many ways to further your education: going to dog shows, attending meetings of the nearest regional Newf club, and comparing Newfs whenever possible. Love does seem to be a warm puppy, but slow down and see if an adult Newfoundland is what you want to live with for the next ten years or so. Acquiring any dog should be a family decision made with the intention of keeping the dog forever. Telling a child, "You can have a dog as long as you take care of it, but if you don't, we'll get rid of it," is not fair to the dog. It is also a poor lesson for the child - it tells him a once loved, living creature can be easily disposed of when it becomes a bit of a bother. If you have any doubt about your ability to afford the dog or to take proper care of it, don't get one.

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A white and black dog has a white base coat with black markings. In the past, these have been called Landseers because their coloring is typical of Newfoundlanders painted by Sir Edwin Landseer. The head is solid black or black with white on the muzzle, with or without a blaze (a white stripe extending from the muzzle between the eyes onto the head). There is a separate black saddle and black on the rump extending onto a white tail. Clear white or white with minimal ticking on the white and black dog is preferred. Other color combinations of the Newfoundland may occasionally be found, but they are not recognized in the Standard.

A Newfoundland puppy normally grows at a very rapid rate. The average height at the shoulder is 28 inches for adult dogs and 26 inches for adult bitches. Adult dogs typically weight between 130 and 150 pounds and bitches between 100 and 120. Large size is desirable, but never at the expense of balance, structure, and correct gait.

Once the Newfoundland breed has caught your fancy, you should take time to learn as much as you can about the breed before you invest in a cute puppy. There are many ways to further your education, such as going to dog shows and meeting Newfs and their owners at regional club meetings. You will also find valuable information about the breed on the Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) website.

Love does seem to be a warm puppy, but slow down and see if an adult Newfoundland is what you want to live with for the next 10 years or so. In addition to their size, Newfs also come with lots of shedding and drool. (Be wary of breeders who claim their dogs don't drool!) Acquiring any dog should be a family decision made with the intention of keeping the dog forever. Telling a

child, “You can have a dog as long as you take care of it, but if you don’t, we’ll get rid of it,” is not fair to the dog. It is also a poor lesson for the child—it tells him a once loved, living creature can be easily disposed of when it becomes a bit of a bother. If you have any doubt about your ability to afford the dog or to take proper care of it, don’t get one.

## **SELECTING YOUR NEWFOUNDLAND**

The Newfoundland Club of America and most of the regional clubs provide referrals to Newfoundland breeders. Selecting the right breeder can be the most important step you will take. While we cannot select one specific breeder for you, NCA can provide some suggestions to help you.

An excellent way to begin is to go to a dog show. To find out when and where a show will be held in your area, try the following sources: your regional Newfoundland club; ask a local veterinarian if he has clients who show dogs that you may contact; or contact the American Kennel Club for the name and phone number of a dog show superintendent. About a week before the show, call the superintendent and ask if, when, and how many Newfs will be shown. At the show, let the exhibitors know you are there and - after the judging of Newfs is finished - ask lots of questions. Most of them will be glad to tell you about their dogs and the dogs’ breeders. Some may be breeders themselves. Good Newfs are not identical in either appearance or personality, and you will probably prefer some types more than others. Look the dogs over carefully, both during and after judging. That’s what the show is for. When your ideas have crystallized to some extent, phone or write a few breeders. Do not be taken in by fancy ads; beware of a breeder who promises very much more or less than others, or whose price quotations are very much higher or lower than others. But remember that Newfoundland puppies can vary in cost depending on age and potential quality.

If possible, visit the breeder personally to select your puppy, even if this means a long drive. A visit will enable you to meet the breeder and see the conditions in the kennel. Although elaborate equipment is not a necessity, the facilities can should be spotlessly clean. A good breeder will also question you during the visit

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Another excellent way to meet breeders is at a dog show. To find out when and where a show will be held in your area, check with the regional Newfoundland club in your area, refer to the American Kennel Club website ([akc.org](http://akc.org)), or do an internet search for “dog show superintendents.” When you find a conveniently located show, check the appropriate website about a week before the show to learn the time Newfs will be shown and how many are entered. At the show, talk to the exhibitors—after the judging of Newfs is finished—and ask lots of questions. Although not all exhibitors will be breeders, most of them will be glad to tell you about their dogs and the dogs’ breeders. When you watch the dogs being judged, you will notice that not all Newfs are identical in either appearance or personality, and you will probably prefer “the look” of some better than others.

While searching for a breeder, do not be taken in by fancy websites or ads. Beware of a breeder who has not done health checks on the sire and dam. (These records can be seen at [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org).) Also beware of purchasing a puppy, sight unseen, over the Internet. A reputable breeder will want to establish a relationship with you before placing one of his puppies in your

about your plans and your own facilities for a Newfoundland. He may be rightfully concerned if you do not have a fenced yard, because he doesn't want to hear shortly that your Newf was hit by a car. Also, beware of the breeder who wants to sell you a puppy less than eight weeks of age. Reputable breeders will typically keep the puppies until at least eight weeks of age when they will have been examined by a veterinarian for inherited health defects. They will have been given at least one series of vaccinations and be declared free of all parasites.

Many Newf owners are delighted with dogs they bought sight unseen from breeders they have never met face-to-face. Indeed, some of the best-known kennels have shipped puppies all over North America and even to remote corners of the world. If a visit to a breeder of interest to you is not practicable, plan to write some letters or spend some time on the phone. A good breeder is proud of his reputation and will be happy to supply you with references to satisfied customers and to persons of long standing as Newf fanciers, who know him and his stock. Such persons can also give you valuable information as to the breeder's previous accomplishments, and the primary features he stresses in his breeding program.

You are far less likely to obtain satisfaction in dealing with a commercial outlet or a pet store. Good breeders will never sell to pet shops or puppy mills. Indeed, these establishments usually obtain stock which cannot be sold on a breeder's reputation. Yet, typically, they charge more for a very mediocre or poor specimen than a good breeder will ask for one of his outstanding prospects. A reputable breeder will follow the development of his stock, while a dealer will have no interest after the completion of the sale. The Newfoundland Club of America prohibits its members from selling to pet shops.

A Newf puppy from an AKC registered litter will be eligible for individual registration with the American Kennel Club, the principal registry for purebred dogs in the U.S. When buying a puppy, one should be given either an AKC registration application with the litter number on it, or the AKC registration certificate with the individual dog's registered name and number on it, properly signed. AKC has available two different registration

care. He not sell a puppy to just anyone with a credit card as though the buyer were purchasing some inanimate object. Reputable breeders have a life-long interest in the dogs they produce. Also beware of a breeder who promises more or less than others, or whose price quotations are much higher or lower than others. Remember, however, that Newfoundland puppies can vary in cost depending on age and potential quality.

If possible, visit the breeder personally, even if this means a long drive. A visit will enable you to meet the breeder and the dam and to see the litter and the conditions in which the puppies are being raised. Although elaborate equipment is not a necessity, the facilities can and should be spotlessly clean. A good breeder will also question you during the visit about your plans and your own facilities for a Newfoundland. He may be rightfully concerned if you do not have a fenced yard, because he doesn't want to hear that your Newf has run away or was hit by a car.

Many Newf owners, however, are delighted with dogs they bought sight unseen from breeders they have never met face-to-face. Indeed, some of the best-known kennels have shipped puppies all over North America and even to remote corners of the world. If a visit to a breeder of interest to you is not practicable, plan to spend some time on the phone or emailing. A good breeder is proud of his reputation and will be happy to refer you to satisfied customers and to long-standing Newf fanciers, who know him and his dog.

If you and the breeder decide that you will be taking a puppy from a litter, the breeder will help decide which puppy should become a part of your family. Breeders know the personalities of their puppies and this is essential to taking home a puppy that will fit your life style and expectations. Beware of the breeder who wants to sell you a puppy less than ten weeks of age or wants to sell you two puppies from the same litter. Reputable breeders will typically keep the puppies until at least ten weeks of age. By that time, they will have been examined by a veterinarian, given at least one series of vaccinations, and declared free of all parasites. Also a cardiologist will have examined them for inherited heart problems.

You are far less likely to obtain satisfaction in deal-

certificates: Regular AKC registration (white certificate with purple border) and Limited Registration (white certificate with orange border). Regular AKC registration entitles the dog to compete in all AKC events, and the offspring of a dog for which full registration is granted will be eligible for registration. Limited Registration may be used by the breeder to prevent indiscriminate breeding, regardless of that individual Newf's potential for breeding or showing. No offspring of a dog for which Limited Registration has been granted is eligible for registration. Each Limited Registration certificate for such dogs shall carry notice of the limitation, and the limitation shall continue, regardless of any change in ownership, unless and until the owner(s) of the litter at birth shall apply to AKC for removal of the limitation. If for some reason the breeder or seller cannot provide the AKC registration application at the time of sale, demand a written promise of when it will be provided. The breeder should also provide such pertinent data as whelping date, sire, dam, pedigree, immunization and worming records, and recommended diet and feeding schedule.

The pedigree is a four or five-generation history of your dog's ancestry (a family tree). A conscientious breeder who has spent much time studying and working with the breed should offer to explain the qualifications of the parents and why they were a proper mating. It is nice to have a Newf from champion parents, but it is even more important that the parents be of proven breeding quality. Many great breeding quality dogs have never been shown, but do produce quality puppies when properly mated.

AKC registration and/or pedigree in no way indicates the quality of the puppy. Puppies can be evaluated as possessing show potential or as pet quality. Breeders differ in their approaches to evaluating puppies. A show prospect puppy is one that possesses the potential of meeting the breed standard approved by the AKC, exhibiting virtues of the breed with the absence of faults. Such show prospects may or may not eventually make good breeding stock. A breeding quality dog should generally be a superior representative of the breed, as well as being free of all serious hereditary defects or faults (even if the faults would not be visible in a show ring). A good breeding quality Newf is

ing with an Internet breeder, commercial outlet, or a pet store. Good breeders will never sell to pet shops or puppy mills. While these establishments frequently obtain stock that cannot be sold on a breeder's reputation, they typically charge more for a mediocre or poor specimen than a good breeder will ask for one of his outstanding prospects. A reputable breeder will follow the development of his stock, while a dealer probably will have no interest after the completion of the sale. The Newfoundland Club of America prohibits its members from selling to pet shops.

A Newf puppy from an AKC registered litter will be eligible for individual registration with the American Kennel Club, the principal registry for purebred dogs in the U.S. When buying a puppy, you should be given either an AKC registration application with the litter number on it, or the AKC registration certificate with the individual dog's registered name and number on it, properly signed. AKC has available two different registration certificates: Regular AKC registration (white certificate with purple border) and Limited Registration (white certificate with orange border). Regular AKC registration entitles the dog to compete in all AKC and NCA events, and the offspring of a dog with full registration is eligible for registration. On the other hand, dogs on Limited Registration may compete in all NCA and AKC events, except conformation, and their offspring cannot be registered. Regardless of an individual Newf's potential for breeding or showing, a breeder may use Limited Registration the dog from being bred; however, the breeder can change the registration from Limited to unlimited if circumstances warrant.

Insist that the breeder provide a written contract when a puppy is purchased. If for some reason the breeder or seller cannot provide the AKC registration application at the time of sale, a written promise of when it will be provided should be part of the contract. The breeder should also provide such pertinent data as whelping date, sire, dam, pedigree, health records, and recommended diet and feeding schedule.

The pedigree is a four or five-generation history of your dog's ancestry (a family tree). A conscientious breeder, who has spent time studying and working with the breed, should offer to explain the qualifications of the parents and why they were a proper mating. It is nice

usually determined only after the dog has matured and has been evaluated for hereditary defects. Pet quality dogs are just as enjoyable as family companions. They are not meant for conformation showing, should not be bred and should be spayed or neutered. Thus, one should not buy a pet quality Newf if one plans to use it for conformation shows or for breeding. However, pet quality Newfs may compete in obedience and in water or draft tests.

The puppy will hopefully mature to a temperament and appearance somewhat similar to his parents. Is that what you want in a dog? Do the parents conform to the standard of the breed? Pick a puppy with a good head, top-line, and movement and, of course, a personality that you like. You must allow for changes, which will occur as the puppy matures. Most Newfs go through some awkward stages, especially during the first year, and at times seem to be all ears, all legs, or awkward because of uneven growth. Be patient most will mature to be beautiful adults. The first year the puppy will get his height, the second year he acquires muscle and rib spring, and the third year he reaches maturity. Remember, there is no sure-fire method of selecting the puppy who will be successful in the show ring. At first glance, all the puppies may look alike to you. But look closely. They are all at least a little different in looks and movement, and each has a personality all his own. Above all, choose a puppy in good health. The breeder can provide assistance in the selection, but quality is only an educated guess when the puppy is but eight weeks old.

Many breeders have sales contracts or agreements. As with any contract or agreement, these should be read carefully and discussed in detail with the breeder before signing. Most breeders will offer a contract or agreement concerning puppies crippled with hip dysplasia or found to have a heart defect. Such contracts or agreements may also cover neutering, or care required to be provided by the buyer. As there is much discussion and controversy concerning this subject, the buyer should discuss these items on an individual basis with the breeder. Newfoundlands are also to some degree subject to heart defects, hereditary in nature. No bloodline is absolutely free of all hereditary problems, but a breeder should be ready to discuss

to have a Newfoundland with champion parents, but it is even more important that the parents be of proven breeding quality. Many good breeding quality dogs have never been shown, but do produce quality puppies when properly mated.

AKC registration and/or pedigree in no way indicate the quality of the puppy. Puppies can be evaluated as possessing show potential or as pet quality, but breeders differ in their approaches to evaluating puppies. A show prospect puppy is one that possesses the potential of meeting the breed Standard and exhibiting virtues of the breed with the absence of disqualifying faults. Such show prospects may or may not make good breeding stock. A breeding quality dog, generally a superior representative of the breed, is usually determined only after the dog has matured and has been evaluated for hereditary defects. Health records are available on open databases, such as those maintained by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and the NCA.

Pet quality dogs are just as enjoyable as family companions and dogs shown in the conformation ring. Usually they should be spayed or neutered. If you plan on showing in conformation or breeding, discuss this with your breeder. Spayed and neutered Newfs may compete in AKC performance events and in NCA water or draft tests.

The breeder will assist you in selecting a puppy, but you should be attracted to the sire and dam of your puppy, because the puppy will probably mature to be somewhat similar to his parents in temperament, appearance, and personality. At first glance, all the puppies may look alike to you. But look closely. They are all at least a little different in looks and movement, and each has a personality all its own. Above all, choose a puppy in good health. Unfortunately, quality is only an educated guess when the puppy is only ten weeks old, and if you are interested in showing, there is no sure-fire method of selecting the puppy that will be successful in the show ring.

You must allow for changes as the puppy matures. Most Newfs go through some awkward stages, especially during the first year, and at times seem to be all ears, all legs, or awkward because of uneven growth.

openly any dogs in his kennel and their pedigrees. as they are affected by hip dysplasia and heart defects. All breeds have tendencies toward various hereditary defects that require consideration in choosing a puppy, . (But do not be misled into believing that mongrels are superior in this respect they lack only a basis on which the likelihood of hereditary disease can be evaluated.)

The AKC requires that breeders keep full and accurate records of their litters. Any breeder should be interested in the progress of all the puppies he sells. If for some reason you find that you are unable to keep your Newf, the first person you should contact is the breeder. The breeder can often help find a new home for the Newf and in any event will want to have the name and address of the new owner. If you are unable to contact the breeder, please contact NCA or the regional club in your area for help in finding a good home for your Newf.

Be patient; most will mature to be beautiful adults. The first year the puppy will get its height, the second year it acquires muscle and rib spring, and the third year it reaches maturity.

Your breeder will have a sales contract or agreement, which you should read carefully and discuss in detail before signing. Most contracts contain provisions for dealing with health problems that may develop and care required to be provided by the new owner, such as diets and neutering. As there is much discussion and controversy concerning this subject, the buyer should discuss these items on an individual basis with the breeder. Newfoundlands are also to some degree subject to heart defects, hereditary in nature. No bloodline is absolutely free of all hereditary problems, but a breeder should be ready to discuss openly any dogs in his kennel and their pedigree. All breeds have tendencies toward various hereditary defects that require consideration in choosing a puppy, .

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### **HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS**

Newfoundlands, like all purebred dogs, are vulnerable to some extent to particular health problems, most of which also occur in other large and giant breed dogs. (Do not be misled into believing that mongrels are superior in this respect; they lack only a basis on which the likelihood of hereditary disease can be evaluated.) Since these major health problems are not always outwardly evident in young dogs and have at least a modest genetic component, responsible breeders test (e.g., x-rays, blood tests) breeding stock prior to breeding.

No bloodline is absolutely free of all hereditary problems. In particular, the Newfoundland Club of America

considers it necessary to test for four disorders (hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, cystinuria, and heart disease (particularly sub-aortic stenosis). Many breeders also test patellas, eyes, and thyroid. Only one of these, cystinuria, has a simple inheritance and a genetic test allowing breeders to completely avoid producing the disease. The others have complex inheritance in which there will be no complete guarantee that a puppy will not develop a problem as it grows into adulthood. Thus, in spite of pre-breeding clearances on both sire and dam, it is still possible that one or more of these diseases will occur.

### **Hip Dysplasia**

Hip dysplasia refers to a syndrome in which malformation of the hip joint occurs during development. The end results are arthritic changes and remodeling in the joint, which may lead to substantial disability and pain, particularly as the dog ages. There is considerable variability in the degree of difficulty individual dogs experience. Some with very poor x-ray results have few, if any, mobility problems, while others, with seemingly mild arthritic changes, experience more severe symptoms.

There are a variety of treatments available. Many dogs do well with conservative treatment—e.g., a variety of pharmaceuticals, such as adequan and glucosamine/chondroitin, as well non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (e.g., rimadyl, previcox, aspirin). Other dogs with more severe disability may be candidates for several surgical approaches, up to and including total hip replacement. None of these approaches is without the potential for problems, and it is important to have the advice of a veterinarian, usually an orthopedic specialist.

It is quite clear that there is a genetic predisposition for hip dysplasia in some dogs, though there is also an environmental contribution. Inheritance is usually described as “polygenic” meaning that at least several, and possibly many, genes contribute to the vulnerability, and parents with clear hips can produce offspring with dysplasia.

### **Elbow Dysplasia**

Elbow dysplasia, technically, like hip dysplasia, is abnormal development of the joint. Unlike hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia is thought to result from one of

three distinct syndromes—fragmentation of the medial coronoid process (FCP), ununited anconeal process (UAP), osteochondrosis dissecans (OCD)— all of which can result in secondary arthritic changes and mobility problems. Like hip dysplasia, all apparently have a substantial, but distinct, genetic component, and breeders are dependent on the evaluation of x-rays to determine the status of dogs prior to breeding, since clinical signs may occur at a later age. Full expression of any of the three disorders will usually require surgical intervention.

### **Heart (SAS)**

Though other cardiac problems (e.g., PDA, pulmonic stenosis, dilated cardiomyopathy) occur in the Newfoundland, the one of most concern is subaortic stenosis in which a ring of tissue encircling the descending aorta creates increased velocity and turbulence of blood flow. In its severe forms, it is a serious, sometimes fatal, problem and breeders generally have breeding stock evaluated by a cardiologist. Although any ambiguous finding with auscultation (stethoscope) is usually followed with an echo-cardiogram, many breeders believe all potential breeding stock should be checked with an echo-cardiogram, which can provide a much more definitive diagnosis.

Although the genetic component is as complex as that of hip and elbow dysplasia, with careful screening, a large majority of problems can be detected in puppies by 10 to 12 weeks of age. Many Newfoundland breeders are reluctant, therefore, to place puppies before this age. As with hips and elbows, it is possible that two “clear” parents can produce an affected offspring. Regardless of age, heart evaluations should always be done by a cardiologist.

### **Cystinuria**

Cystinuria is a urinary disorder in which the dog is unable to resorb the amino acid, cystine, from the urine. The resulting increases in urinary cystine concentration may result in stone formation. This can have potentially fatal consequences, particularly in males.

Unlike the other health problems, the inheritance of cystinuria is straight forward. Further, to some extent because of this simplicity, there is a genetic test available, which directly detects the mutation that causes

the disorder. Since use of this test allows breeders to detect carriers of this recessive gene, breeders can avoid ever producing this disease.

### **Health Registries**

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) maintains a registry for health testing results in purebred dogs. Radiologists associated with the OFA evaluate hip and elbow radiographs, and the organization also maintains a database of evaluations by other specialists (e.g., heart, cystinuria, thyroid, patella, eyes). The NCA endorses the use of this and other registries, particularly with respect to the four major disorders discussed above. It recommends that breeders submit results to be openly published, regardless of whether the results are positive or negative. The NCA also maintains a database of health testing results.

### **What Health Considerations Mean to the Puppy Buyer**

There are several lessons to take away from information regarding health status. First, with the exception of cystinuria, breeders cannot give an absolute guarantee that these problems will not occur in the puppies they produce. Though the frequency varies, there are no “lines” in which these problems are completely absent. Breeders can, however, minimize the probability of seeing these problems in the puppies they produce by rigorous testing and reporting of health results.

Further, most breeders will have specific clauses in their contracts specifying the conditions for reimbursement, etc., should a problem arise. Any puppy buyer is advised to discuss these issues with breeders, and breeders should be willing to openly discuss their breeding strategy and the status of their dogs. Health clearances of breeding dogs can be verified at the OFA ([www.offa.org/](http://www.offa.org/)) and NCA ([www.newfdogclub.org/](http://www.newfdogclub.org/)) websites. Remember that communication with the breeder is exceptionally important. If you can't talk about it while you're considering a puppy, it's unlikely you'll feel comfortable if a problem arises later on.

### **CARING FOR THE NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY**

The average life span of a Newfoundland is about ten years. With reasonable care and periodic checkups, you will find that a Newf is a strong and robust dog. Problems found in Newf puppies are often caused by

### **CARING FOR THE NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY**

The average life span of a Newfoundland is about 10 years. Some problems found in Newf puppies can be caused by the inexperience of new owners. Don't hesi-

the inexperience of new owners. The correct way to start is to buy a healthy puppy and to keep him that way by regular trips to the veterinarian, good quality food and careful observation for symptoms of diseases or other ailments. A good book on Newfoundlands or a general dog care book is a worthwhile investment.

**VETERINARY CARE:** Find a reputable veterinarian who is experienced in large breeds. Your breeder or regional Newfoundland club may be able to help you find the right veterinarian in your area. Take your puppy to your vet as soon as possible after you get him. Even if he has a recent health certificate, a double check is valuable, and you will get good advice on puppy care, shots, local health problems, etc. Avoid unnecessary contact with other dogs until your puppy's immunities are established. Your Newf may need a booster shot for distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvo virus and corona virus. Rabies vaccinations will have to comply with your state's law, or your veterinarian's recommendation. Also, you should have your dog examined for worms (roundworms, whipworms, tapeworms and hookworms) every three months as a puppy and twice a year thereafter. Heartworm is a problem in areas where there are mosquitoes, so you should consult your veterinarian regarding testing for and prevention of this disease. A definite aid to both worm and fly control is to meticulously pick up your dog's stools every day - and more often for a puppy. Flea and tick control is essential, as they are a source of many problems. Extermination of these parasites in infested areas, such as bedding, is as important as on the dog itself. Dogs should be treated for fleas and ticks the same day you treat your home, your dog's bedding, yard, etc.

**GROOMING:** In any climate, grooming your Newf not only makes him look nicer by controlling mats and shedding, but also cleans his coat and skin, and reduces odor. Use a long-toothed steel comb and a wire slicker brush with bristles bent at the end. Work against the grain back to front, then reverse. Be sure the hair is brushed down to the skin, being careful not to scratch the skin. Mats of dead hair accumulate behind the ears and inside the hind legs. After the permanent coat develops, shedding occurs but twice a year

tate to talk to the puppy's breeder should problems arise. Keep your puppy healthy by scheduling regular visits to the veterinarian, providing a good quality food, and carefully observing your puppy for symptoms of diseases or other ailments. A good book on Newfoundlands or a general dog care book is a worthwhile investment.

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Avoid unnecessary contact with other dogs until your puppy's immunities are established. Follow your veterinarian's recommendation about booster shots for diseases such as distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvo virus, and corona virus. Your veterinarian will also advise you about rabies vaccinations, which must comply with state regulations.

**GROOMING:** In any climate, grooming your Newf cleans his coat and skin, controls mats and shedding, reduces odor, and improves his appearance. Although grooming can be done on a table especially designed for that purpose, many owners prefer to groom while sitting with their dog on the floor.

Prepare your puppy to have his nails cut by frequently touching his feet and nails in many different situations. If you are unsure how to cut nails, seek assistance from your breeder, veterinarian, or another, more-expe-

- spring and fall. Newfs need extra care and observation to combat parasites and skin problems. Grooming is essential. Brushing often means less bathing. When you do give your dog a bath, be sure to remove ALL the soap to avoid skin irritation. Rinse and rinse again. If toenails are not kept at a moderate length through exercise, they should be clipped, but learn how to do it properly before you try it. Consult a local groomer, or your veterinarian for assistance.

**SAFETY AND SHELTER:** Take care to see that growing puppies don't do a lot of jumping, running, or playing on slippery surfaces, or have their limbs pulled. Their fast growing joints and bones are still soft and may be permanently damaged. Love is one thing, but excessive handling is another and should be avoided. The only correct way to pick up a puppy is to insert one hand between the front legs, the other hand between the hind legs until they touch and then lift evenly, thus supporting the entire weight of the puppy.

Your new puppy needs a lot of sleep. You will want to avoid heavy exercise (including cart pulling) with a Newf less than 18 months of age. This heavy exercise can damage the puppy's body. Avoid strenuous exercise right after meals and during warm periods. It is wise not to let dogs hang their heads out of car windows as various eye injuries can result.

Most Newfoundlands enjoy swimming. It is excellent exercise for it strengthens muscles without putting weight on the joints. Most Newfs prefer calm waters, such as lakes and streams, to rough pounding ocean surf.

Do not let your Newf run loose as he could be hit by

rienced Newf owner.

Many grooming tools are available, and you will probably experiment before finding those that suit you best. Many owners prefer a long-toothed steel comb and a wire slicker brush or pin brush. Work against the grain back to front, and then reverse. Be sure the hair is brushed down to the skin, being careful not to scratch the skin. Pay special attention to the hair behind the ears and inside the hind legs where mats of dead hair typically are found.

After the permanent coat develops, shedding occurs twice a year; in neutered animals, however, the coat grows profusely and shedding is a year-round condition. Grooming is an excellent time to check your Newf for parasites or skin problems.

When bathing your dog, use a good quality shampoo and be sure to remove all the soap to avoid skin irritation. Rinse and rinse again. Towel dry to remove as much moisture as possible. Although not necessary, many owners enjoy blowing their dog dry.

**SAFETY AND SHELTER:** When you bring your puppy home, many breeders recommend having a crate for your puppy. Some breeders require it. Your puppy will quickly learn that this crate is his den, which is a great aid in housebreaking and keeping the puppy safe when you cannot be with him. Your puppy will need a lot of sleep, and it is also a great place to go to bed. As adults, many Newfs sleep in their crate with the door open. If a crate is not available, provide a sleeping rug or pad although many Newfs will select a cool tile floor. (Some have been known to cool off by sleeping in an empty bathtub!) A dog sleeping outside should have a well-insulated house or shelter available.

If your puppy will be spending time on slippery floors, cover the floors with numerous, small rubber-backed rugs. Discourage jumping, running, or playing on slippery surfaces because this can permanently damage the fast-growing, soft joints and bones of growing puppies. When picking up a puppy, insert one hand between the front legs and the other hand between the hind legs until your hands touch and then lift evenly, thus supporting the entire weight of the puppy. Avoid heavy exercise, including cart pulling, with a Newf less than 18 months of age, because this heavy exercise

a car or stolen and may incur the ill will of neighbors. Remember that the biggest dog in the neighborhood often gets the blame for the deeds of all the other dogs around. In most cities, dogs must be in a confined area and walked on a leash. All dogs enjoy a walk at least once a day. A six-foot leather or cotton web leash and a training collar are required in obedience classes. A slip collar, chain or nylon, of correct length is standard training equipment. Never chain or tie your dog. And never leave a collar on an unattended dog.

A dog sleeping outside should have a well-insulated house or shelter available. A dog sleeping inside needs a draft-free place and a rug or pad to keep him off the hard floors, which can cause calluses. However, many Newfs will select a cool tile floor.

**FEEDING:** It is quite common to hear those who do not know the breed say, “My, but he must eat a lot.” Probably because he is so placid, the full-grown Newf is a comparatively small eater. However, when he is growing most rapidly, between the ages of three and eighteen months, the Newf is a heavy eater. At this time he will consume several cups of kibble plus such other materials as your breeder recommends you give him each day. Initially continue feeding your puppy what the breeder was feeding. Do not drastically change your puppy’s diet. Dry food (kibble) is less expensive than meat or canned dog food and can provide a good quality diet for an adult dog, so one may slowly progress toward such a diet. Adult Newfoundlands will eat about four to eight cups of dry dog food per day (or about one fifty-pound bag of dry food per month). The amount of food an adult Newf requires is not proportional to his weight, but to his size and activity. An eight week-old puppy will normally eat three times per day; after five or six months the puppy will eat twice a day. Ideally an adult Newf should be fed a two small meals a day rather than one large meal. Never fatten a puppy to butterball condition, rather keep it a -a little on the lean side. Over feeding will not make your puppy larger than his genetic makeup intended him to be. Overweight at any age reduces the life span and may provide fertile ground for other problems. Always remove uneaten food promptly. The amount of food suggested on dog food labels is generally exces-

can damage the puppy’s body.

Most Newfoundlands enjoy swimming. It is excellent exercise that strengthens muscles without putting weight on the joints. Most Newfs prefer calm waters, such as lakes and streams, to rough pounding ocean surf.

Common sense can prevent many problems. Avoid strenuous exercise right after meals and during warm periods. Do not leave dogs unattended in a warm car or let them hang their heads out of car windows. Never let dogs run loose. In most cities, dogs must be kept in a confined area and walked on a leash, and all dogs enjoy a walk at least once a day. Never chain or tie your dog outside. Never leave a collar on an unattended dog as it presents a choking hazard.

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Initially, do not change drastically your puppy’s diet but continue feeding your puppy what the breeder was feeding. If you decide to change the puppy’s diet, do so gradually.

An eight week-old puppy will normally eat three times per day; after five or six months, the puppy will eat twice a day. Never fatten a puppy to butterball condition, but keep him on the lean side, which is better for his rapidly growing body. Overfeeding will not make your puppy larger than his genetic makeup intended him to be. At any age, you should be able to feel a Newfoundland’s ribs without exerting undue pressure. Overweight reduces the life span and may provide fertile ground for other problems.

If eating kibble (dry food), an adult Newfoundland will eat about four to eight cups of dry dog food per day (or about one 50-pound bag of dry food per month). The amount of food an adult Newf requires is not proportional to his weight, but to his size and activity. Ideally an adult Newf should be fed two small meals a

sive for large breeds. In short, take care of your new puppy just like you would any new baby in your family.

### **THE NEED FOR TRAINING**

An untrained dog, no matter what its size, is a liability in modern society. For their own safety, all dogs require some form of obedience training. Being intelligent canines, most Newfs are readily trained. The ideal time to begin the training is when the puppy is two months of age - which means you start the day you get the puppy. Between the age of two and four months, the puppy should be taught to walk on a loose lead, come when called and stay when told. If you use praise as a reward and plenty of encouragement, the puppy will be a willing and adept student. By starting early, you can teach the puppy the commands you want him to know and avoid the development of bad habits. This type of training can be done at home with the aid of a good book on obedience training. Newfoundlands should definitely receive early obedience training, or they may outgrow their trainer's ability to handle them before they mature and realize they have gentle qualities. If you intend to water train your puppy, it is advisable to introduce the puppy to water by the age of four months, but do so with care and consideration. If you want your dog to learn to retrieve, you should introduce the puppy to the fundamentals before it is eight months of age.

One person in the family, preferably an adult, should assume the major responsibility for training, but all family members should know the commands, use them consistently and know how to reward the puppy with praise and encouragement when it has responded to a command. In addition to early training at home, it is advisable to take your puppy to a training class. Almost every training organization will accept puppies at six months of age and some have special programs for puppies between two and four months of age.

A Newf puppy at eight weeks of age can generally be housebroken, if you are willing to be consistent and watchful. However for a few more months accidents can happen, not because of disobedience but because young dogs still do not have muscles that always cooperate. Since puppies sleep most of the time, it is easy to anticipate their needs. As soon as the puppy

day rather than one large meal. Always remove uneaten food promptly.

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An untrained dog, no matter what its size, is a liability in modern society. For their own safety, all dogs require some form of obedience training. Being intelligent canines, most Newfs are readily trained.

Begin training the day you get your puppy. The destructive potential of puppy teeth is enormous, and it is important that a puppy learn the meaning of "no" or "leave it" at once. Provide his own special toys for chewing and say a stern "no" or "leave it" when he picks up anything else.

At a minimum, the puppy should be taught to sit, down, stand, walk on a loose lead, come when called, and stay when told. If you use praise, food, and plenty of encouragement, the puppy will be a willing and adept student. By starting early, you can teach the puppy the commands you want him to know and avoid the development of bad habits. A good book on raising puppies and obedience training can be helpful.

One person in the family, preferably an adult, should assume the major responsibility for training, but all family members should know the commands, use them consistently, and know how to reward the puppy with food, praise, and encouragement. In addition to early training at home, if possible, enroll your puppy in a puppy kindergarten class, which is an excellent way to socialize your puppy and reinforce your home training. Most formal obedience classes require dogs to be six months of age. Without early training, however, a Newfoundland may outgrow his owner's ability to handle him before he is ready for formal obedience classes, which usually require dogs to be six months old.

If you intend to water train your puppy, it is advisable to introduce the puppy to water by the age of four months, but do so with care and consideration.

A Newf puppy can generally be housebroken at eight weeks of age, if you are willing to be consistent and watchful. However, for a few more months, accidents can happen—not because of disobedience, but because young dogs still do not have muscles that

wakes from a nap, finishes eating, or after vigorous play, take it out to relieve itself; and any time you observe the puppy circling and sniffing the floor, take it out to relieve itself. You must be vigilant, but once an accident has occurred, scolding the puppy is ineffective. Just clean up the accident and deodorize the spot. Continue to positively reinforce good behavior, ignore accidents and your puppy will be housebroken quickly. Similarly, rubbing its nose in the accident does no good at all., and swatting the puppy with a rolled-up newspaper only creates a dislike for rolled-up newspapers and perhaps paperboys. The destructive potential of puppy teeth is enormous and it is important that a puppy learn the meaning of "No" at once. Provide his own special toys for chewing and say a stern "No" when he picks up anything else.

Remember, CONSISTENCY AND PATIENCE ARE THE KEY TO ALL TRAINING.

#### **A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT BREEDING**

Before considering the breeding of a Newfoundland, you should carefully review the responsibilities you would be taking upon yourself. As mentioned earlier, any breeder of AKC registered dogs has a responsibility to the AKC to keep full and accurate records of all litters. Any breeder also has a responsibility to follow the litters to see that the dogs are in good homes and to evaluate the success of his breeding program. The only valid reason for breeding is to improve the breed. In order to accomplish this goal, a mating must follow careful study. A thorough knowledge of the breed and its standard is a starting point. A study of both dogs' ancestries is essential, as is a full evaluation of both dogs' littermates.

It is important not to breed Newfs with serious hereditary faults such as hip dysplasia, heart abnormalities, etc., or with breed standard faults. All dogs should X-ray free of hip dysplasia and be cleared of heart defects before any breeding is considered. Newfoundlands of poor temperament should definitely NOT be bred, regardless of other characteristics.

Finally, do not plan to breed your Newf as a way of picking up pin money. Breeding is strictly a labor of love and an expensive one at that. Ask any breeder!

always cooperate. Since puppies sleep most of the time, it is easy to anticipate their needs. As soon as the puppy wakes from a nap, finishes eating, or after vigorous play, take him out to relieve himself. Do the same any time you observe the puppy circling and sniffing the floor. Respond to a successful trip outside with heavy praise. Since a dog wants to keep his den clean, a crate can be a useful housebreaking tool.

You must be vigilant, but once an accident has occurred, scolding the puppy is ineffective. Just clean up the accident and deodorize the spot. Similarly, rubbing his nose in the accident does no good and swatting the puppy with a rolled-up newspaper only creates a dislike for rolled-up newspapers. Continue to positively reinforce good behavior and ignore accidents and your puppy will be housebroken quickly.

Remember, consistency, patience, reward, and praise are the keys to all training.

#### **A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT BREEDING**

Before considering the breeding of any Newfoundland, you should carefully review the responsibilities you would be taking upon yourself. Most important, a breeder should have a life-long commitment to any dogs he has produced. This mean he would take back and accept responsibility for any dog of his breeding at any age that could no longer be cared for by its original owner.

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And if you want to show your children the facts of life, we recommend films. Don't use animals.

### **THE NEWFOUNDLAND CLUB OF AMERICA AND THE REGIONAL CLUBS**

The Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) is composed of people who share a common interest in the welfare of the Newfoundland dog, whether they be owners, prospective owners or just admirers of the qualities of the breed. NCA formulates policies regarding Newfs and publishes a quarterly magazine, NEWF TIDE. NCA also maintains a Breeders List, and many regional clubs assist the sale of Newfs through their regional breeders lists. NCA and the regional clubs sponsor other activities, which provide Newf fanciers with channels for appreciation of the Newfoundland's qualities and enhanced enjoyment of their Newfs. Among these activities are conformation shows, obedience trials, tracking and water tests, draft tests, junior showmanship, carting, sledding, backpacking and just plain socializing. The regional clubs meet regularly to hold fun matches, host specialty shows, present educational programs, participate in local community projects, and exchange information with other regional clubs. For further information regarding NCA activities and membership, please contact the American Kennel Club (AKC) for the name and address of the current corresponding secretary of the NCA or visit the NCA's web site at [www.newfdogclub.org](http://www.newfdogclub.org).

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The NCA formulates policies regarding Newfoundlands, maintains a database and website; publishes a quarterly magazine, Newf Tide, and distributes a monthly email newsletter, NCA e-notes. The NCA also maintains a Breeders List, and many regional clubs assist in the sale of Newfs through their regional breeders lists. NCA and the regional clubs sponsor many activities that provide Newf fanciers with channels for appreciation of the Newfoundland's qualities and enhanced enjoyment of their dogs. These activities include conformation shows; obedience, rally, and agility trials; water tests and draft tests; junior showmanship competition; carting; parades; backpacking; and just plain socializing. The regional clubs meet regularly to hold fun matches, host specialty shows, present educational programs, participate in local community projects, and exchange information with other regional clubs.

For further information regarding Newfoundlands, the NCA, or regional clubs, please visit the NCA's web site at [www.ncanewfs.org](http://www.ncanewfs.org).