

For more information about the NCA Regional Club which serves your geographical area contact:



## *The Most Commonly Asked Questions About the* **NEWFOUNDLAND**

For more information on the Newfoundland check your library for the following books:

*The Newfoundland* by Margaret Booth Chern

*This is the Newfoundland* by Kitty Drury

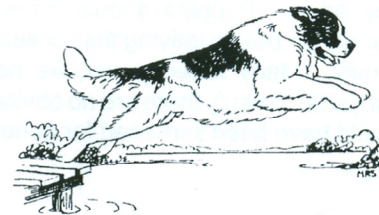
*The Newfoundland* by Betty McDonnell and Jo Ann Riley

*The Newfoundland: Companion Dog, Water Dog* by Joan Bendure

or visit the Newfoundland Club of America online at  
[www.ncanewfs.org](http://www.ncanewfs.org)

or

[www.newfpuppy.com](http://www.newfpuppy.com)



**1. How much do they eat? How much does it cost to feed a dog that size?**

Contrary to their size, the Newfoundland does not need a lot of food to grow properly or to maintain a weight appropriate for its size. On the average, a growing puppy eats approximately 2 cups of food 3 times daily at age six months. Most adults eat 2-3 measuring cups of food twice a day. It is very important to keep dogs on the lean side to foster their overall health and well being. An overweight dog is prone to numerous diseases.

Each breeder has preferred diets and amounts of food. One dog fed 2 cups of a good quality dog food (nutritionally complete and balanced), morning and night, will use one 40-pound bag a month. Depending on the brand of dog food you use, this translates to approximately \$30 per month. Supplementing the diet with meat and nutritional vitamins will escalate this cost.

**2. Does it cost more to take a large dog to the vet?**

It certainly does. Giant breeds require more anesthesia, so surgeries are generally more expensive. Additionally, medications are dispensed by the weight of the dog.

**3. Is there a variety of Newfoundland that does not drool?**

NO. The Newfoundland is a deep-muzzled, soft-mouthed dog. Conformation such as this will drool. Some dogs will drool less than others, but no Newf is dry-mouthed.

**4. Does a Newfoundland need a lot of grooming?**

YES. In order to keep the dog free of mats and tangles, a Newfoundland should be groomed on a regular basis, at least weekly. Regular grooming reduces the incidence of tick infestation or other skin problems. Nails and ears should be cared for at the same time.

**5. What are the most common health problems?**

The most common health problems seen in Newfoundlands are hip and elbow dysplasia and heart problems. Additionally, ear infections, hot spots, bloat, thyroid, and skin problems may arise. Puppies should have a complete physical examination by a veterinarian before leaving their breeder and immediately upon joining your family. Many breeders require new puppy owners to see their own vet for a physical to verify there are no obvious health problems. All breeding stock should have been screened for genetic problems.

**6. Are Newfoundlands good with children?**

Yes. Dogs and children should be monitored and never left alone, especially with a growing, untrained puppy. Children should never be allowed to torment a puppy. Teach your child that a dog is a living, feeling animal that needs to be treated gently and kindly, and you will create a life-long friendship.

**7. Do Newfoundlands need to swim?**

No. Newfoundlands do not need to swim, but they do enjoy it. Many Newfoundlands are raised never setting foot in the water.

**8. Is "Champagne" a rare color?**

The Newfoundland Standard, approved by the American Kennel Club accepts the following coat colors: black, white and black, gray, and brown/bronze. The breed standard describes the "ideal" Newfoundland that breeders are striving to produce. Unacceptable colors exhibited in the Conformation Show ring. Cream (champagne), gray and white, brown and white, and black and tan Newfoundlands are less common but not rare.

**9. What is the difference between "show" and "pet" quality?**

A show quality dog is a dog that has no obvious faults and, in the breeder's opinion, has the potential to complete the requirements for an American Kennel Club Championship. A pet quality dog contains a trait or traits that are not acceptable in the show ring. Light eye color, misaligned teeth, high tail set, and incorrect coat are just a few examples. These faults do not disqualify a dog from being a most loving, wonderful friend. These dogs are welcome to participate in American Kennel Club Obedience competition and may enter Newfoundland Club of America working events, such as Draft and Water Tests. Pet quality Newfoundlands should not be bred, as faults can be passed on to generations of puppies.

**10. How large are Newfoundlands?**

While some dogs may be quite large, most female Newfoundlands average between 100-120 pounds and most males are 130-150 pounds. Remember, bigger is not necessarily better or healthier.

**11. Do Newfs make good watchdogs?**

Yes, but not in the same manner as Dobermans or Rottweilers. While Newfs have a strong protective instinct, it is their size and deep bark that intimidates most intruders. Newfoundlands should never be tied out in a backyard nor chained to a porch or dog house.

**12. How long does a Newfoundland live?**

The average life span for a Newfoundland is 8-10 years.

**13. How much does a Newfoundland puppy cost?**

The cost of a puppy varies, but you can generally expect to spend in the range of \$800-\$1500 for a puppy from a reputable breeder. Adult Newfoundlands are sometimes available through the Newf Rescue Service of Regional Newfoundland Clubs. The placement cost for these dogs is approximately \$150.