

The Newfoundland Club Inc.



Information Booklet for New Members

Dear New Member,

Welcome to the Newfoundland Club.

For your information we have put together a booklet, so you can familiarise yourself with the activities and services the Newfoundland Club provides for its members.

There is a whole range of activities we offer to our members, and you are welcome to participate in any, all, or none of them.

Membership of the Newfoundland Club is a voluntary choice, and as such how much (or how little) you decide to participate is entirely up to you.

We hope your association with us will be a happy one.

CLUB MAGAZINE

Our club magazine (The GENTLE TOUCH) for all members, is there to keep you informed of forthcoming events, and is also a valuable source of information regarding the (mis)behaviour of all our Newfs, as well as health tips etc..

Many a sad, glad or amusing story has featured in our issues, and members are most welcome to write to the Editor with any contribution they may have.

A lot of people are wary of putting pen to paper and expressing their feelings/views, however you'd be surprised how many budding authors are hiding out there! And you don't know if you're one of them, unless you give it a try.

The Gentle Touch is to a large degree as interesting as members help to make it. So.... Don't be shy, if your Newfie does anything of interest, tell the editor about it. Submit an article, large or small, it doesn't matter, just send it in, and you'll be surprised how often you will hear "my Newf has done this (or that) too!". And if you really do not feel like writing – ring the Editor, and it will be turned into a nice story!

The Gentle Touch provides a gratis VALE service. If your Newf, through old age, accident or illness, dies, we will insert a commemorative (VALE) notice free of charge.

We hope you will not have to avail yourself of this service for many years to come.

CLUB RULES

As our Club is an Incorporated Society, we have to abide by rules and regulations, laid down in our Club Constitution. You can download a copy of this Constitution via our Club Website under "Library". If you do not have access to the Club Website, please inform the Club Secretary, and you will be sent a "paper copy".

Water trial Rules, Carting and Haulage Rules are obtainable from the Club Secretary, (whose name is featured in the front of each Gentle Touch, and at the end of this booklet.)

If you intend to participate in Water Trials and Carting/Haulage Trials it pays to obtain the rules and become familiar with them. Don't be put off if you get confused by it all, it happened to most of us, but once you've "mastered" them you will have gained much confidence.

Some people like to know the rules and regulations - others don't care a hoot. The choice is entirely yours!

CARTING - MANOEUVRABILITY/FREIGHT HAULAGE

A much enjoyed activity by both humans and Newfs. Our Club runs carting competitions for those members interested in competitive carting. There are also regional competitions.

While it may sound difficult, it isn't, really! As long as your Newfie is basically obedient and has reached the age of 18 months, you should be away laughing!! Don't be shy, give it a try. Advertised in the Gentle Touch under calendar of events of each branch.

In addition, once again when your Newf has reached the age of 18 months, you might like to have a go at cart rides which we often provide for young children. We get invited regularly to provide cart rides at School Galas and other local events. Your Newfie will love this activity, and you will be SO proud of him/her. Once again, advertised in the Gentle Touch, or you will be contacted by phone if the event is scheduled at short notice.

The revenue from cart rides is an important source of income, which is needed from time to time for Rehousing (see under REHOUSING), also to fund the running of Championship and Open Shows, Water Trials and Carting Competitions, plus the acquisition of new equipment.

WATER TRIALS

Newfs and water are synonymous and Newfs being the show-offs that they are, usually eagerly participate in water trials.

Again, once your Newf (and YOU) get the hang of rules and regulations, it's not really all that difficult. It pays for your Newf to have at least basic obedience under its belt, as this is part of Water Trials.

When watching your first Water Trials you will notice that sometimes a dog with great ability and an excellent track record will muck around and not obey a single command, while a brand-new competitor will whiz through the exercises without blinking an eyelid, nor making a single mistake. That's the beauty of taking part in Water Trials. It's "serious" but should mainly be fun.

There is something enormously appealing in seeing a bunch of Newfs having a ball at the beach or river. Rivalry or possessiveness about a beach is seldom a problem, which means that, after the trials are over, there's usually a swim for all Newfs together. A great way to spend a day with your Newf(s), fellow Newfs and their owners.

Advertised in the Gentle Touch.

NEWF CONTROL

While a Newfoundland has an inborn eagerness to please its owner/s, it is still of great importance to instil a certain amount of discipline in your Newf.

An unruly pup is not too bad to handle - a 60-65kg+ undisciplined Newf can be a GREAT PROBLEM..

Unless you have been a dog/Newf owner for years and know how to instil obedience in your new pup, it will pay to attend a Dog Obedience Club. Information is available from your local council(s).

SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS

Each year your branch will organise several "fun days", which include BBQ's, games and a general get-to-know-each other. These get-togethers are especially helpful to new members, and the atmosphere is always very friendly.

Each year the Wellington, Midlanz and Auckland branches hold an outdoor Christmas Party for its members and their Newfs. This is in the form of a BBQ, silly things like egg & spoon races, sack races etc., and they are a highlight of the year.

Individual branches also hold annual "Match Days" (Newfies vs other Giant Breeds). Any Newfie, entire, spayed or neutered, show dog or pet, NZKC registered or not, can enter these match days - and they are FUN. Those Match Days invariably turn out to be nice, friendly and stress-free. Advertised in the Gentle Touch.

SHOWS

Each year the Newfoundland Club organises one or two Championship Shows for Newfoundlands and their owners. If you have not tried showing before, give it a go, you'll never know how well your boy/girl will do in the show ring until you try. It's kind of fun, it's nerve wrecking but gratifying (if you win)..

Championship Shows are advertised in the N.Z. Kennel Gazette and in our Club magazine. To be able to participate in Championship or Open Shows, your Newfoundland needs to be registered with N.Z.K.C., ie not sold as a pet, or without papers. Dogs and bitches shown in Championship/Open Shows must be "entire" ie not spayed or neutered. You too, need to be a member of NZKC. (Since this booklet was first written, NZKC has changed the rules and sterilised Newfies can be entered in "Specialty Shows - which in our case means Newfoundland Club Championship/Open Shows)

Anyone requiring help with training your Newf for showing, please contact the Secretary of your particular branch, and s/he will steer you in the right direction.

Our Club also organises an Open Show some year, usually/often during the All Newf Weekend. Once again, keep an eye on your club magazine and the Kennel Gazette.

If you have plans to show your Newfie, it usually pays to enter in Ribbon Parades first. These are more informal and teach you a lot about showing your dog/bitch. Our three branches run their individual Ribbon Parades, but you can also enter Ribbon Parades run by All Breeds Clubs (usually advertised in the major newspapers). Participation in Ribbon Parades is possible for Newfoundlands not registered with NZKC as well as spayed bitches and neutered dogs: entering Ribbon Parades does not require NZKC membership for you either!

HOSPITAL/REST HOME/HOSPICE VISITING

Quite a few members and their Newfs are active in this very worthwhile "therapy". Newfoundlands, with their inborn sense of decorum, can bring joy to countless sick, elderly or dying patients.

Even the silliest young Newf will turn into a softie when confronted with severely intellectually and/or physically handicapped children and will endure long sessions of being patted and drooled on!

For the elderly people in rest homes, these visits are often a god-send, as so many of these people actually used to own a dog and now, sadly, have to live without their beloved pet. For these people it is a lovely opportunity to stroke a soft coat, and tell you of the beloved dog they used to own. Makes you want to cry sometimes!

Hospice visiting, while inevitably sad, is also exhilarating because YOU know you're doing something very worthwhile. Also, the atmosphere in hospices is actually very lovely.

CHRISTMAS PARADES

It has become tradition in our branches to participate in at least one Christmas Parade in our respective areas each year.

Bathed, groomed, titivated and decorated, your Newf can proudly march in the Christmas Parade, with you, proud as punch on the other end of the lead.

The public absolutely adores seeing our Newfies in these parades, and hundreds, if not thousands of little and big hands will stroke your Newfie as you walk along and the wave of excitement when our dogs come into view is something to be experienced!!! Real lump in the throat material!!!

REHOUSING

Should, heaven forbid, the need arise for you to part company with your Newfie, it will be comforting to know that our Club runs a very efficient and effective Rehousing Service. Our branches usually have plenty of eager prospective new owners lined up, and you can rest assured that, when we rehouse a Newfie, his/her welfare will be of the utmost importance when selecting a new owner.

If, on the other hand, you feel you would like to give a home to a Newfie who needs to be rehoused, please contact the Rehousing Officers. You will find their names in the front of the Gentle Touch, as well as on the Club Website.

There is an unwritten but clear understanding that Club members will have preference over “outsiders” when a Newfie becomes available.

Over the years it has unfortunately happened that some Newfies actually needed to be RESCUED from a sad existence or cruel circumstances. This is something we dread happening, but it DOES happen from time to time. It is for a situation of such great need that we need to earmark a certain amount of money each year. Vet’s bills and food bills, or DIETS can be very expensive and sometimes we have no choice but to foot the bill (i.e. where owners disappear leaving the Newf behind, or when a Newf is retrieved from a Council Pound or the SPCA).

In the last 20 or so years Newfoundlands have become more popular and the need for rehousing has risen. Too many people will unfortunately acquire a Newfie pup without realising the amount of time, dedication and effort required, and consequently and sadly, we end up having to find new homes for quite a few of these lovely dogs each year. Having said this, in the last couple of years less Newfs need rehousing, although the ones we are asked to find a new home for, are invariably the older dogs, or the abused.....

ALL NEWF WEEKEND

Each year, Newfs and their owners from all over the North Island converge on the centre of the North Island in droves. In recent years the All Newf Weekend has been held in Taupo, but this can change over time.

The weekend is packed with activities: Carting Competitions, Water Trials, Open Show/Ribbon Parade, getting together with other Newf owners and catching up with old friends and making new ones.

The atmosphere is relaxed, the friendly banter flies thick and fast and often not too much sleep is had.

Highly recommended for Newfies who want to give their human pets a weekend’s break!

GENERAL HELP/ADVICE/LISTENING EAR

If things get “hairy” and you have a problem regarding the feeding, health, grooming or behaviour of your Newf, or you simply want to tell someone how absolutely smashing your Newfie is, NEVER hesitate to contact any committee member of your local branch or main body committee.

Those of us who have been in the “Newf business” for a while will never turn away a new member who needs a listening ear, or give some down to earth advice. Your local secretary will steer you in the right direction if you are not sure who to contact!

Newfoundland ownership is a specialised field and we can all remember those early days when we could so easily have gone to pieces with worry, and wished there was someone who could put our minds at ease. So, if in doubt or worried, contact us!.

To assist you with the care of your Newfoundland, we have included the following information:

TIPS ON THE CARE OF YOUR NEWFOUNDLAND

Unless you have been a Newfoundland owner before, the following tips may be of use to you in the management of your Newfoundland:

GROOMING:

Equipment required: Metal comb (stripping comb or rake), scissors (sharp and preferably short bladed) as well as thinning scissors, slicker brush

A Newfoundland's coat should not be difficult to maintain, provided it is groomed regularly. Start early - in fact as soon as you bring your puppy home. Start off with a gentle brush with the slicker brush in those early days. While a Newfoundland should enjoy being brushed (groomed) it should NOT be turned into a game, as this can lead to unacceptable behaviour (e.g. play biting, running away, objecting). If started early and executed calmly and friendly, grooming becomes a much anticipated (hands on) routine. Regular grooming will make frequent bathing unnecessary.

The Newfoundland, once the puppy coat is replaced and during its second winter will have a double coat (which protects the Newfoundland from extremely cold water and cold temperatures).

Your Newfoundland will moult twice a year - once in Spring and once in Autumn. The first time your Newfoundland moults, unless you are accustomed to it, will blow your mind: the amount of fur which comes off a Newf seems enough to knit a woolly jumper!

During these moults it is extremely necessary to groom REGULARLY, and remove all the dead, loose hairs which, if left, will turn into horrible knots and mats. Most uncomfortable for your Newfoundland!

You will find that, during these moulting times, hair will find its way into every niche, nook or cranny of your house - the fridge, the washing machine, your bed even!

BATHING

If your Newfoundland is groomed regularly, frequent bathing should not be necessary, and should actually be avoided. Frequent bathing will strip the coat of its natural oils, and can make it dry and harsh.

If it becomes necessary to bathe your Newfoundland, choose a warm day (in winter use the bath!). Use tepid water; and a good quality dog shampoo. Or find a friend/acquaintance) with a proper dog bath.

From experience the easiest way to apply shampoo to your Newfoundland's coat is to pour some shampoo in a plastic jug and mix it with warm water. Wet the coat thoroughly with warm water, apply shampoo, work shampoo thoroughly through the coat not forgetting under the chin, the arm pits, between the hind legs, on the tail and "bib". Try to keep your Newfoundland still and in one place while you labour away - and once you're satisfied the coat is clean, rinse, rinse, rinse! Shampoo will come out of the coat best with tepid water, and should always be used on the very young and elderly Newfoundlands, but in summer especially, finishing off with a cold rinse "revives" your Newfoundland. Always dry the inside of the ears (and make sure no water gets in there in the first place!) but don't poke your fingers into the ear too far!!

A Newfoundland's coat can hold an enormous amount of water, so after a good shake (step back there for a minute!), towel dry your Newfoundland. And tell your friends and relatives to start saving their old towels because you are going to need them!!

ALWAYS rinse your Newfoundland with fresh water after a trip to the beach (or even to a river/lake) to rinse salt water/greebies out of the coat which could, if left, cause skin and coat problems. When dry - and oh so shiny - give a quick brush and watch your Newfie sparkle.

TRIMMING

Unless your Newfoundland is going to be a show dog, their coat needs relatively little trimming. Exceptions are:

THE EARS: Your Newfoundland is not an Afghan, and the hair on the ears should not reach below the lower line of the ear flap. Trim excessive long hair down with scissors, then neatly tidy up with the trimming scissors. Trim the hair on the ear relatively short. Adult Newfoundlands often grow excessive hair behind the ears, this should be trimmed short to increase ventilation of the ear canal, thus avoiding ear problems, which can become quite difficult to cure and would cause your dog great pain and discomfort. So: better prevent, than having to cure.

THE HEAD: Some Newfoundlands have an abundance of hair growing on the top of their head. However, your Newfoundland is NOT Rod Stewart, or worse a punk, so trim this hair short and keep it that way. Looks much nicer anyway!

THE FEET: Pull the hair between the toes upwards, and neatly trim with thinning scissors. With a pair of sharp scissors trim along the outline of the pads (make sure your dog is standing or lying down very still), not forgetting the thick wads which grow between the pads. This tickles! However, if left, these wads will drag in an enormous amount of water, dirt and mud.

If you have not been diligent, and your Newfoundland has developed some knots, the best first course of action is to try and prise these knots apart with your fingers. If you have left them too long and they have turned into hard lumps (tut tut!!) it is often kinder to cut them out, rather than try and comb them out. The pulling on their tender skin can cause great pain. Best of all of course, is not to let these knots develop at all!

Some Newfoundlands develop luscious "bibbs" (the long hair on the chest down from the bottom of the chin to between the front legs) which will flap from side to side when they walk. Should this be the case, trimming off some of the longest hair will make your Newfoundland feel better - and look better.

EXERCISE

Newfoundlands can live quite happily in relatively small gardens/dwellings - provided they get exercised on a daily basis.

Puppies should not be exercised extensively, however in order to build a sound muscular system which will hold their bones together, some controlled exercise is beneficial. Never to extend to more than 10 minutes at a time. Never more than twice a day. Never on hard surfaces. Never in the form of running around with Fifi the poodle from next door, Never up and down stairs. Always carry your puppy up and down stairs, until he becomes too heavy to lift, always lift him in and out of vehicles. A well-trained Newfoundland will wait to be lifted in and out of cars, vans and utes, and has less chance of developing bone troubles. A Newfoundland's bones will calcify at appr. 14-15 months of age, until then, they are very prone to damage which will be hell for your pup and hell for your bank account. Best of all: buy a dog ramp!

Never let your puppy jump up on people, furniture or beds, and always ensure that children treat your puppy gently. Many a Newfoundland has suffered at the hands of children and because they are so stoic and will not show how much pain they are in, will not complain, but suffer in silence.

Swimming is the best form of exercise for your pup (and dog) as the water supports the weight, thus avoiding strain on ligaments and joints. If you take your puppy out before it has completed its course of injections (at about 3 ½ - 4 months), do not walk it in parks or along roads (distemper/Parvo virus danger), but take your puppy to the beach and CARRY IT TO THE WATER'S EDGE.

Once a pup reaches the age of 9+ months, the exercise can be increased. Walking should always be on a lead, and should be on soft surfaces (grass, sand) and avoid concrete pathways etc. as much as possible.

NEVER JOG with your Newfoundland. If you're into jogging, either leave your Newfoundland at home or get an Afghan or a Border Collie. Newfoundlands can not run long distances at high speed and will either damage their joints or over-heat (which sure as hell can kill them very quickly.)

Never, ever, exercise your Newfoundland close to meal times. 1 hour before a meal is OK, and so is an hour to 1½ hrs afterwards. Exercising with a full stomach can, and does cause torsion of the stomach/bowel, which in many cases is fatal. 20 minutes after your dog's stomach has turned, lack of blood supply will cause fatal die-off of internal organs, and your dog will be history. Not nice!!

Newfoundlands, in common with other large/giant breeds, may suffer from some debilitating bone disorders, e.g. hip dysplasia or Osteochondritis of shoulders, elbows or hocks. Any lameness in a giant breed dog requires immediate attention from your vet, as with careful management potential problems can be minimised.

Always inquire about hip and elbow scores in the breeding lines of your chosen breeder when selecting a Newfoundland. It is also wise to inquire about heart disease and cystinuria (kidney disorder)

GENERAL HEALTH

Vaccinations.

Always ensure that your puppy has a full course of vaccinations against deadly diseases like Distemper, Parvovirus, Canine Hepatitis and Kennel Cough. The last booster is usually given at around 16 weeks of age. The pup should have a booster a year later, but whereas once upon a time it was felt that a dog needed yearly boosters all its life, some vets are now turning away from this practice for sound reasons. Recent studies indicate that yearly boosters can cause immune disorders.

Worming.

Your puppy should have been wormed regularly while still with his/her Mum, but sometimes puppies can be exceptionally "wormy". When your pup produces worms in his/her faeces, develops diarrhea for no apparent reason or has a ravenous appetite but loses weight, take him to the vet and have the appropriate worm medication administered.

Fleas.

Even the most diligent owner can end up with a pup/dog with fleas, especially in the hot summer months, or when mixing with other dogs as well as cats. It is important to consult with your vet, should a puppy have a flea problem because an army of fleas can suck the living daylight out of a small pup very quickly. Always use the flea medication recommended.

A very good all-year around flea preventative - once your Newfoundland is fully grown - is the inclusion of two garlic pearls a day (pearls are garlic, contained in oil in small capsules) simply dropped in with their food. Garlic gets into the bloodstream. Fleas HATE the taste of garlic and will hopefully go "next door" and leave your Newfoundland alone.

Eczema and "hot spots".

Oh, the dreaded hot spots! Almost a conversation piece among some dog owners. "mmmm, has yours got any hot spots yet?" "No?" "surely s/he must have some, mine has," etc.

Admittedly some Newfoundlands are more prone to skin problems than others. But anyone's Newfoundland can "break out". Good sources for starting off hot spots are: FLEAS, mosquito/sand fly bites, badly groomed coat (loose irritated undercoat, mats and knots) and BOREDOM.

Your Newfoundland gets bitten by a flea, a sand fly or mosquito, and ouch, that hurt. Nothing better to do, so we'll nibble on it for a while. Ouch, that made it worse, bite the spot a bit harder, and before you know where you are, there is an angry, red, raw patch the size of an (old) 10c piece. Left unnoticed, or allowed to continue (the biting) and by the next morning that 10c piece can have increased to a 50c piece or even much larger, the red raw has been replaced by puss and voila!! You have your original hot spot1

It pays to ask your vet for a bottle or tube of eczema ointment which, if kept in the fridge, should last a long time. At the first sign of a "spot", attack it with the ointment. If, however, you have been negligent and have not noticed the large patch of wet eczema, antibiotics will be needed, thus necessitating a trip to the vet.

STRESS

As in humans, stress can be a real problem for a dog as sensitive as a Newfoundland. They are extremely people-oriented and form a strong bond with the humans in their lives. As a result they need lots of cuddles, talking to, stroking, and be shown affection. Stress caused by separation is a real fact, causes anxiety and should therefore be kept to a minimum. Confining a Newfoundland for long periods to a kennel (at home or at boarding kennels) can cause genuine stress, resulting in genuine illness or destructive behaviour or excessive barking.

FEEDING

As, these days, there are so many different ways available of feeding your Newfoundland, no specific diet will be discussed here, however, take advice from your breeders, other experienced Newfoundland owners AND YOUR VET.

WATER

Never, ever, leave your Newfoundland without an adequate supply of water. Some Newfoundlands will play with their water bowls, tipping them over, or carrying them around, thus depriving themselves of water in the long hours their owners may be at work. Work out a Newf-proof water container, even if this means attaching the bowl to an unmoveable object, as Newfoundlands without water, especially in hot weather, can suffer enormously.

YOUR "NEWFIE":

So you fell in love with a Newfie puppy and acquired one. We all did! However, the lovely puppy of today is going to be a gangly "teenager", a big adult with wants and needs, and one day an old dog.

Please be sure that throughout all the stages of his/her life you give her/him the care and love s/he needs. Do not cast him aside when the novelty wears off, or something else takes your fancy. You would not do that with your children, surely, and a Newfie is just another big hairy kid!

Especially during his growing up period he will sometimes test you sorely just like a pre-schooler, or that spotty teenager lounging in front of your T.V. Make sure your Newfie learns the rules of his home, and be consistent with these rules, and be kind.

And, if you should decide that it's just too much hassle to have a Newfoundland around, don't banish him to the kennel in the backyard, please, and forget about him. If you really cannot be bothered, please contact your breeders first, and if they will not take him/her back, contact the Rehouse Officer of your particular branch, and let them find him/her a home where those unique qualities will be appreciated.

REFERENCE BOOKS:

The following specialty books are available in New Zealand:

THIS IS THE NEWFOUNDLAND Edited by Mrs. Maynard K. Drury.
The Official Publication of the Newfoundland Club of America.

THE COMPLETE NEWFOUNDLAND by Margaret Booth Churn.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND HANDBOOK by Betty McDonnell and Jo Ann Riley

THE NEWFOUNDLAND Edited by Carol Cooper.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST

You have chosen to share your life with a very special breed of dog. A Newfoundland is kind, very intelligent and, treated correctly, a joy to be owned by.

They make you smile with their kindly behaviour and their philosophy of life.

They can make you tear out your hair and make you want to scream when they totally clutter up your house and cover your floor in hair and muddy foot prints, or chew up your favourite Manolo Blahniks (yeah right!), but never, ever, should they leave you indifferent!.

How much you get out of your association with your Newf is entirely up to you.

ENJOY YOUR NEWF - EACH ONE IS UNIQUE!

Branch Secretaries:

Auckland: Jenny Watts ph. 09 239 0741

Midlanz: Neil Clarke ph. 07 843 7464 (Neil is also the Club Secretary)

Wellington: Louise Burrin ph. 04 563 5242